

Nico Larco: "Sustainable Urban Design: A Framework"

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While sustainable urban design has been developed and richly debated in the last few decades, it is still largely a disparate subject covering a broad range of disciplines and scales. Much of the discussion regarding sustainable urban design has either focused on narrow aspects of it, or, when discussing the field at large, has failed to relate its distinct parts. This makes it difficult for practitioners and researchers to identify and prioritize what needs to be addressed and evaluated. This is true of the general literature, of research studies, and of rating systems developed both in the US and Europe.

This talk presents an overall framework for sustainable urban design that addresses specific goals and organizes these goals based on scales of intervention. This framework attempts to map out the range of issues related to sustainable urban design and its specific elements and organizes them in a way that engages the design process and allows comparison across scales and across outcome goals.