



spawning grounds in the metropolis' rivers. An estimated population of over 200 coyotes roams throughout the city. Collectively, these animals extend their reach directly into the urban environment as part of their routine feeding and habitation patterns.

Vancouverism's tenet of density is rationalized in part as a technique of land preservation and reduced resource consumption; view preservation connects city dwellers to the surrounding wilderness; the proliferation of softscapes bring exterior ecologies into the city core. But these are, in large part, passive and objectifying strategies that reveal Vancouverism's failure to fully capitalize on its natural environment. At the edge of large scale North American settlement, Vancouver's dramatic local context of forested mountains and ocean inlets and bays places it in direct contact with relatively pristine natural ecologies. The dense, compact, and programmatically varied central core is in fact juxtaposed and intertwined with active and vibrant ecological systems. This interrelationship is an enticing provocation to re-think our understanding of urbanism.

With Vancouver and Vancouverism as points of departure, how can landscape architects, architects, and planners reinvigorate the act of city-making by generating new possibilities for hybrid inhabitations that produce a diversity of desired effects? How can the making of buildings and cities move beyond a passive relationship to ecology and actively engage it as an exciting terrain upon which to orchestrate and construct new possibilities?

What is EcoMet?

If Vancouverism is the model of density and diversity within a livable framework, EcoMetropolitanism is an accelerated version. EcoMet increases density and livability while amplifying and exploiting the relationship to the natural environment by synthesizing the production of metropolitan culture with that of ecologically designed architectural environments. From these tenets, the EcoMetropolis emerges: the hyper dense, super diverse, and radically optimized city.

In the production of metropolitan culture EcoMet borrows from *Delirious New York* and the work of OMA in that it celebrates a Culture of Congestion⁵ in which design decisions are made to "generate density, exploit proximity, provoke tension, maximize friction, organize in-betweens, promote filtering, sponsor identity, and stimulate blurring."⁶ Where Koolhaas' metropolitanism is focused on human experience, EcoMet brings an expanded population of non-human organisms into the mix; proximities and ten-

sions are developed between programs specific to this expanded definition of population. The needs of plants and animals (access, nourishment, domicile, light, precipitation, etc.) within the urban environment are considered equal to human considerations such as entertainment, recreation, and economics. In these terms EcoMet is the heightened programmatic diversification and densification of the city in which mutually beneficial adjacencies are pursued. For instance, a podium roofscape might be designed to accommodate the specific nesting needs of an at-risk bird species, thus providing important habitat opportunities while offering a dynamic programmatic adjacency to the towers' human residents. By intermingling ecological systems within the urban fabric, EcoMet generates a more intense urbanism that produces experiences for an expanded range of inhabitants simultaneous to more traditional goals of sustainability like habitat preservation and biodiversity. This optimized city is made possible because the notion of density is extended into ecological terms and the value assigned to ecology is extended into urban terms.

NOTES

1. Urban Futures Institute, *The Context For Change*, Urban Futures Institute Report 63 (February, 2005) 28. Available at: <http://www.urbanfutures.com/research.html>.
2. Trevor Boddy, interview by Julie Bogdanowicz, in *Vancouverism in Vancouver*, dir. Julie Bogdanowicz and Robin Anderson, 2008. Pasadena: Architectural Film Festival.
3. Lance Berelowitz, *Dream City: Vancouver and the Global Imagination* (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 2005) 1.
4. Trevor Boddy, "Vancouverism vs. Lower Manhattanism: Shaping the High Density City," *ArchNewsNow.com*, September 20, 2005, <http://www.archnewsnow.com/features/Feature177.htm>.
5. Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York* (New York: The Monacelli Press, 1994) 10, 125.
6. Rem Koolhaas, *SMLXL*, (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 692.

top: The Vancouver Planning Department identified twenty-seven view cones that must be preserved to protect what they deemed as significant views of the surrounding forest. The five view cones indicated in the panoramic photograph are results of these visual set-asides.

facing page, center: Vancouverism has emerged from the concurrence of increased population and the implementation of new building codes that mandate light, air and views.

facing page, bottom left: Vancouver's location between water and mountains places the city in direct contact with the relatively pristine nature that surrounds it. As a result, the urban environment supports an extraordinary variety and quantity of non-human inhabitants.

facing page, bottom right: The need to maintain view cones determines location and spacing of residential towers.