



The city – an organism that gives and takes



Introduction to the workshop theme:
Marc Angélil, ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

The city is a lode of materials and energy, resources waiting to be fully mined. The Green Workshop, facilitated by Marc Angélil, Cary Sires, Keller Easterling, John E. Fernández, Marco Sánchez, Mark Wasiuta, and Michael Sorkin, investigated ways of better using the resources of the city to reduce the ecological footprint of the construction industry. The participants opened their summary report with a comment on the title, which observes implicitly that cities indeed represent a resource and that this resource has not been fully exploited. The city should be understood as an organism that functions not with a linear metabolism based on consumption but with a continuous metabolism based on recycling.



The participants formulated five axioms to summarize their findings: one must strive toward cities without a linear metabolism, without pollution, without exploiting nature, without destruction, and without sprawling informal districts.



Presentations at the Green Workshop investigated some surprising opportunities.



Presenting a case study: Sarah Dunn and Martin Felsen, Urban Lab Chicago, USA.



Presenting the findings of the workshop: Cary Siress, University of Edinburgh, UK.



The Green Mobile Workshop took the participants to the informal district of Chimalhuacán whose roots date to the 13th century.

For once, edges were at the center: the Green Mobile Workshop, facilitated by Arturo Ortiz Struck and Rozana Montiel, took the participants to the fringes of the city.



Chimalhuacán is a district with urgent needs and great potential that is beginning to be developed.

The group visited Ciudad Jardín Bicentenario, a former landfill for 10 million tons of waste that is now being transformed into a new social, commercial, and recreational center which will provide over 5,000 jobs. Also on the itinerary were Tlatel Xochitenco, a development that includes schools and a landfill, and Chimalhuacán, a largely informal district that is being upgraded to give the inhabitants new prospects for a much higher quality of life.



The workshop participants were also introduced to Lago Nabor Carrillo, a lake which provides water treatment, flood control, and irrigation water for Mexico City.



Chimalhuacán is among the poorest informal districts in the outskirts of Mexico City.



A new commercial and recreational center is being built on an abandoned site in Ciudad Jardín Bicentenario.



The program included a visit to Lago Nabor Carrillo, a vital lake for Mexico City.