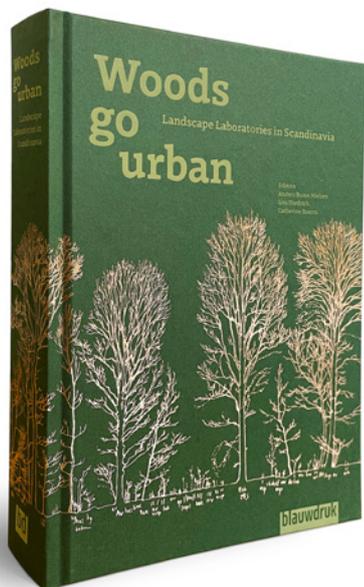


Out now!



WOODS GO URBAN - LANDSCAPE LABORATORIES IN SCANDINAVIA

Let's bring the woods into our 'cities'

The planet is urbanizing. More than fifty percent of humanity lives in cities. Not all of those cities resemble the densely populated city centers of, for example, historic Paris or towering Manhattan. Most of our cities are made up of loosely built-up areas where urban and countryside meets in a mix of residential districts, shopping centers, residual nature, industrial areas, highways, agricultural lands, farms and villages.

We need to increase the vegetation cover in these highly populated regions to adapt them to climate change and to support a wider range of ecosystem services: the conservation of biodiversity and the development of recreational areas. Parks and other types of green spaces need to become more wooded and urban woods must become a new dominant category of public space in urbanizing regions.

Cities of trees

People are naturally inclined to congregate in communities. So are trees. Most trees live together in forests, woodlands, or simply woods. We often say to one another, let's go to the woods. But what if it was the other way around? If the woods came to us, into our cities? In academia, planning, policy, as well as in society at large, claims about the benefits of urban woods are multiplying.

Laboratories in the woods

More than thirty years ago, three landscape laboratories were created in Sweden and Denmark to provide space for experiments with alternative forest development. Since then, the laboratories have evolved. They continuously developed as an expression of the place-contextual dialogues and experiments between academics, students, practitioners and residents. The laboratories represent an innovative approach in which design and management merge seamlessly into creative management in space and time. All this in the search for answers to the pressing question of what urban woods can mean and thus become in the future.

'all my attempts, my dreams were gathered in this place called Alnarp, in a magnificent didactic mosaic, a sort of living library'



Bridging knowledge cultures

In *Woods go urban* fourteen experienced landscape architects with extensive academic and professional experience share – for the first time – their knowledge and insights on the creation and management of the landscape laboratories in Scandinavia.

Based on four decades with 1:1 experiments and *hands on* experiences in the landscape laboratories, deep knowledge is presented about how to actually cultivate urban woods in open-ended approaches where production, management, biodiversity, and aesthetics enrich each other.

The experiments and experiences bridges different disciplines: forestry and landscape architecture, urban and rural culture, design and management, lay-person and specialist. As such, *Woods go urban* provides insights for many professions and inspiration for urban regions, and entire nations that aim to transform policy goals and planning documents into creating and managing experienceable and living woods, in every place, now and for the future.

Woods go urban Landscape Laboratories in Scandinavia

A unique insight on creating urban woods organized into three parts.

* Part I Making and methodology

The history of the landscape laboratory approach and the fundamental concepts upon which it is based; it also presents the three landscape laboratories that set the stage for our experiments.

* Part II Dynamic vegetation design

The dynamic vegetation design approach, as developed in the landscape laboratories, and the many ways this has been 'put into action' in situ and over time.

* Part III Labs for learning and engagement

The last part explores the interaction that has been established between researchers, teachers, students, professionals, and citizens.

Specialist practical knowledge gained through with extensive academic and professional experience of the landscape laboratories in Scandinavia.

A richly illustrated and academically founded book for an international audience of urban actors, public or private authorities, practitioners, researchers, teachers and students.



#WOODSGOURBAN
#LANDSCAPE
#LABORATORIES
#SCANDINAVIA
#CREATIVEMANAGEMENT





Experts about the labs, about the book

Michel Desvigne, director of MDP Landscape Architects, Paris (France)

'The experiments with woodlands carried out at the Alnarp Landscape Laboratory are what I have always wanted to do: variations on textures and densities, a dialogue between geometrical order and measured randomness, a play with time alterations, a composition of forest miniatures.'

I discovered the work of the Alnarp Landscape Laboratory in 2016, listening to a lecture by Roland Gustavsson (...) in the US. This was a shock for me: all my attempts, my dreams were gathered in this place called Alnarp, in a magnificent didactic mosaic, a sort of living library.'

Language English

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Publishers



Dorothee Imbert, Hubert C. Schmidt '38 Chair in Landscape Architecture & director of the Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University (USA)

'(...) Strikingly, the back-to-back presentations of Gustavsson and Michel Desvigne showed two sides of the same coin, or how empirical research can inform the design process. Each used the sequence of intuition, observation, and action—one to manage an experimental forest in southern Sweden, and the other to distribute varying densities of forested bands along the right bank of Bordeaux's Parc aux Angéliques. Gustavsson's use of the forest as a pedagogical and design tool resonated strongly with our programme's commitment to sitework and spatial ecology. (...) Landscape Labs of the World, Unite!'

Cecil Konijnendijk, professor of Global Urban Forestry, University of British Columbia (Canada)

'The Alnarp Landscape Laboratory and its 'children' elsewhere in Scandinavia have made a real impact over the years, including in the field of urban forestry. Urban foresters from across the world have visited the labs and gained inspiration for their own urban woodland management practices. As a result, many of the ideas first tested at Alnarp and in other labs have found their way to various corners of the world. Having had the opportunity to follow the Alnarp Lab especially closely for several years, I have come to understand the importance of landscape-scale demonstration, experimentation, and learning. Discussions with colleagues in the labs, surrounded by trees and other plants, during all kinds of weather and with all senses mobilized, have been so enriching for many of us. I honestly think that the labs have had a greater impact on urban woodland design and management in Europe and beyond than we can imagine.'

