

DANIEL PHILLIPS, PhD ('21), FAAR

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Daniel Phillips is an urban ecologist, and landscape practitioner. His highly collaborative research and design critically and curiously examines the performance and perception of marginalized urban ecosystems at multiple scales, from the gutter to the watershed. Current projects span many disciplines, contexts and cultures, and are focused on topics ranging from the dynamics of spontaneous vegetation in the American Rustbelt, to the informal wastewater networks of South Asian megacities.

EDUCATION

BFA, Environmental Design

Otis College of Art & Design (2008)

PhD, Landscape Architecture

University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability
Expected 2021

CREATIVE PRACTICE

COMMONSTUDIO, Co-Founder 2009-Present

COMMONSTUDIO is a collaborative practice between myself and my partner Kim Karlsrud (a land-based artist). We employ a broad understanding of "Commons" and create collaborative initiatives, interventions and installations exploring the complexities of urban ecosystems and their inhabitants. See more at thecommonstudio.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Unity College, 2020-present

- Graduate instructor (online), Urban Sustainability

New School of Architecture and Design, 2015-18

- Instructor, Design Thinking (virtual)

Jana Urban Space Foundation, 2016-17

- Consultant, Urban Watershed Initiatives

Greenaid Seedbombs, 2010-14

- Founder and Director

COMMONgood, 2012-14

- Co-Founder and Community Coordinator

Otis College of Art and Design, 2010-12

- Instructor, Integrated Learning Department.

FletcherStudio, 2009-11

- Landscape Architect

Roger Sherman Architecture and Urban Design

- Project Architect

AWARDS & HONORS

Project H Design

- Los Angeles ChapterHead

Headlands Residency recipient, 2017

- Headlands Center for the Arts
- San Francisco, 2 weeks

Designer in Residence, 2016

- Salmon Creek, Albion, CA

Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship, 2016-17

- Project title: "Biodiver(city) in Bangalore"

Prince Charitable Trusts Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture, 2014-15

- The American Academy in Rome

Top Eco-Entrepreneur Award, 2015

- GreenMatch.com

Community Bridge Award, 2013

- Social Venture Network

Finalist, Buckminster Fuller Challenge, 2009

- Project: (C)urban Ecology

DESIGN COMPETITIONS

WPA 2.0 (2009)

- Terrabank (submission with Fletcherstudio)

Buckminster Fuller Challenge (2009)

- Semi-finalist, (C)urban Ecology

Core 77 Design Awards (2012, 2014)

- Runner up in Educational initiatives
- D3-Design Thinking for public schools

EXPERTISE AREAS

Geographic Information Systems

- Using various software and data sources to answer questions related to regional development, natural resource planning, spatial + ecological design. Can conduct complex spatial analysis at multiple scales and present findings in visually compelling, accessible ways to diverse stakeholders

Urban Hydrology

- Multiscale modelling of water quality + quantity

Novel Urban Ecosystems, spontaneous vegetation

- Urban botany, biodiversity
- Field ecology methods for cities
- Qualitative/perception studies of urban environments

SKILLS

*=Basic

**=Intermediate

***=Advanced

Adobe Suite

- Photoshop***
- Illustrator***
- Indesign***

GRANTS & FUNDING

- Premiere**

Spatial/Geographic/Hydrological analysis

- ArcGIS Desktop Pro***,
- QGIS*
- SWMM 5.0 (EPA)*

Statistical + Data Analysis

- R*
- SPSS**
- Excel***

3D Modelling

- Rhinoceros 3D**
- Sketchup***
- Autocad**

Online Learning and Instruction Platforms

- Canvas**
- Blackboard**
- Bluejeans***
- Zoom***
- Google: Drive, slides, hangouts, sheets, docs***

Physical Modelling (wood, cardboard, metal)***

Rapid prototyping (2D/3D)**

Sketching/Analog landscape representation**

William D. Drake Prize, 2020

- Matthaei Botanical Gardens, University of Michigan
- \$1,500 for botanical specimen collection and preservation

Rackham Research Grant, 2018-2019

- Horace Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- \$4,500 for international research

Arts Engine Microgrant, 2019

- University of Michigan
- \$1,000

Catalyst Grant, 2019

- Project title: Mow Town (Co-PI's Daniel Phillips, Mark Lindquist, Anton Reznicek)
- Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan
- \$10,000

Fast-Track Grant recipient "Rustbelt Herbarium", 2018

- Graham Sustainability Institute
- \$2,500

IISF Award, 2017

- International Institute, University of Michigan
- \$3,600 for international ecological research in India

Pollinator Grant, 2017

- Project Title: STRAINS
- Harnisch Foundation

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- \$1,000

Awesome Without Borders Grant, 2017

- Awesome Without Borders Foundation
- Project Title: STRAINS
- \$1,000

Jamwal, P., **Phillips D.** & Karlsrud, K. (2019) "A lab-based study of basic aggregate material for the treatment of combined dry weather flows in open storm drains," *Water Science and Technology*.

Phillips, D. "Downstream Defense: Provisional Green Infrastructure in Bangalore", *Proceedings from the ATREE Work Seminar* (2017)

Phillips, D., Karlsrud, K, et al. "The Metropoliz Future Forest and The Case for Collaborative Ecology" (book chapter) MAAM: museum of the other and elsewhere in Metropoliz_città mestizo. De Finis, Giorgio, ed. Bordeaux, 2017

Phillips, D; Jamwal, P; Biswas, D. "Provisional Green Infrastructure: A decentralised in-stream treatment approach to urban watershed woes?" *Economic and Political Weekly* (accepted, pending publication)

Phillips, D; Lindquist, M. "Just weeds? Comparing assessed and perceived biodiversity of urban spontaneous vegetation in informal greenspaces in the context of two American legacy cities. " (under review)

Phillips, D; Erdim, F. "Assessing depaving potential within the Fourmile Creek Watershed in Des Moines, Iowa using classical suitability analysis." (in development)

Phillips, D; Lindquist, M; Goodspeed, R; Nassauer, J.I. "Provisional Green Infrastructure in Indian megacities: Outlines of a new typology, insights from early-stage innovators, and implications for upscaling and diffusion in the context of urban informality"(in development)

Phillips, D; Jamwal, P; Burton, GA. "Assessing the treatment efficiency of local aggregates as biofilters in a horizontal flow constructed wetland in planted and unplanted conditions" (in development)

Phillips, D.; Lindquist, M; Gronewald, A. "Scaling Provisional Green Infrastructure to the catchment: Using an iterative GIS/SWMM modelling process to evaluate the cumulative water quality impact of upscaling scenarios in an Indian megacity." (in development)

Phillips, D., Fletcher, D., 2010, "From Picturesque to Process: Post War Housing Landscapes in California."

Phillips, D. [We're Not "Solving" Wicked Problems Through Design and Science, Is That OK?](#)

Thenatureofcities.com, July 2019

**PUBLICATIONS: PRINT &
ONLINE**

SELECTED PROJECTS

Phillips, D. "In order to better shape urban biodiversity, let's reconceive the possibilities it already holds."

Part of a global roundtable discussion via thenatureofcities.org
October 2018

Phillips, D. ["There's no such thing as a Vacant Lot"](#)

Part of a global roundtable discussion via thenatureofcities.org
October 2018

Phillips, D. ["Bangalore Pile Study: Curiosity and Intervention in the Margins of a Megacity"](#) thenatureofcities.com, July 2018

Phillips, D. ["Ecologies of Elsewhere: Giving Urban Weeds a "Third Glance"](#)

thenatureofcities.com September 2017

Phillips, D. [It's a flower, it's a weed – it's an ecosystem!](#)

Citizen Matters (Bangalore) May 2017

Phillips, D. ["Piranesi, Pasolini, and Punk Rock: Reflecting on The Meaning and Potential of Urban Wastelands"](#)

Commonstudio blog, October 2016

Phillips, D. "BeWilder: 5 Cases for Ecological Urbanism",

Commonstudio Blog, April 2014

The Metropolis Future Forest (2015-ongoing) (LINK)

- Rome, Italy
- Intervention in collaboration with Firat Erdim, Olivia Valentine, and the residents of MAAM, an informal community in the periphery of Rome.
- This long-term experiment explores the use of spontaneous urban vegetation (IE "weeds") to transform a post industrial site into a novel forest ecosystem.

The Global Urbarium (ongoing)

- Global scope
- Multimedia research project comprising digital urbarium on [iNaturalist](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Bringing the traditional practice of "herbarium" specimen collection into the 21st century using citizen science and social media, the project attempts to reframe the conversation (and challenge negative stereotypes) surrounding "weeds" in cities.

A Roma, 2015

- Rome, Italy
- Interactive Installation
- Revealing alternative urban narratives through the ecology of scent in the eternal city.

INSTALLATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

Greenaid Seedbombs, 2009-2014

- Multiple cities
- Intervention
- Focused on playfully activating underutilized urban spaces through community engagement and tactical seed distribution.

Know your palms, 2013

- Los Angeles, California
- Intervention
- Encouraged Angelenos to take a closer look at their iconic flora.

Abject Object, 2012

- Los Angeles, California
- Initiative
- A series of products and workshops providing a means to skills, income, and a creative outlet for homeless women in the Skid Row district of Los Angeles.

(C)Urban Ecology, 2009

- Los Angeles California
- Intervention (speculative)
- Re-imagining the typical curb and gutter infrastructure as a site for micro-remediation of polluted storm water.

Come In, Los Angeles Architecture + Design Museum (A+D), 2016

- Invited
- Curated by Danielle Rago

Cinque Mostre, American Academy in Rome, 2015

- Invited
- Curated by Peter Benson Miller

Gestaltung 1, Hamburg museum, 2014

- Invited

Spontaneous Interventions, Chicago Cultural Center, 2013

- Curated by Cathy Lang Ho

American Pavilion, Venice Biennale, 2012

- Curated by Cathy Lang Ho

Terra Obscura, U600 Pop-up Gallery, Los Angeles, 2011

- Curated by the Upper Six Hundreds Artists Collective

California Design Biennial, Pasadena Museum, 2010

- Invited

Post Penumbra, U600 Pop-up Gallery, Los Angeles, 2010

- Curated by the Upper Six Hundreds Artists Collective

The Alchemy Archives, U600 Pop-up Gallery, Los Angeles, 2009

- Curated by the Upper Six Hundreds Artists Collective

Project H, Recent Work, Artecnic, Los Angeles, 2009

- Invited

INVITED TALKS

"Ecologies of Elsewhere"

- Vernon Stone Lecture Series
- Iowa State University, 2019

"There's no such thing as a Vacant Lot"

- Duncan Anderson Lecture Series
- California State University Long Beach, 2019

"Collaborative Ecologies"

- Sonoma State University, 2017

"Downstream Defense"

- Asoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, 2017

"Lessons from The Metropolis Future Forest"

- Museum of The Other and Elsewhere, 2016

"Creative Ecologies: A Shop Talk"

- The American Academy in Rome, 2015

"The Legacy of George Perkins Marsh"

- Villa Aurelia in Rome, 2014

"Salons for New Voices"

- Art + Design Museum Los Angeles, 2012

"The Power of Small Plans"

- Power Conference, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2011

"Social Design in Los Angeles"

- Pasadena Museum of California Art, 2010

"Project H LA"

- University of California Los Angeles, 2010

"Design Evolution"

- Adidas Portland campus, 2009

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA51) April, 2020

- "Assessing Novel Ecosystem Biodiversity in Detroit's Unmaintained Landscapes"
- Co-PI Mark Lindquist, PhD

ATREE Work Seminar, 2017

- "Downstream Defense: Tactical Interventions Within Bengaluru's Urban Watershed"

TEACHING

USEP 505: Sustainable Design: Green Spaces and Urban Nature (Forthcoming in Fall 2020)

- Unity College (Remote Education Masters program)
- Faculty of Record
- Developed all course content and evaluation metrics

EAS741: Metro Studio, Winter 2018, Winter 2019 (2 consecutive terms)

- University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), Ann Arbor

TEACHING (Cont.)

- Graduate Student Instructor, with Prof. Joan Nassauer
- Prepared weekly class materials, aided in the development of student design projects with verbal feedback and desk crits.

EAS687: Landscape Ecology and Planning, Fall 2019

- University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), Ann Arbor
- Graduate Student Instructor, with Jennifer Lawson, CSW
- Helped administer course objectives related to Geodesign, Complex multi-scale GIS analysis
- Conducted desk critiques for individual student project development
- Troubleshooting and developing ArcGIS workflows (including model builder)

EAS571: Urban Design Studio, Fall 2018

- University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), Ann Arbor
- Graduate Student Instructor, with Dr. Mark Lindquist
- Aided in the development of context analysis and student design projects with frequent verbal feedback, tutorials in illustrator and Rhino 3D, and desk crits.

Depaving Des Moines (Master Class), 2019

- College of Design, Iowa State University
- Intensive undergraduate masterclass created and facilitated with 80 architecture students as a part of the core studio curriculum. Comprising site/context analysis, conceptual development and pavement removal to create a demonstration site within the floodplain of Fourmile Creek watershed in Des Moines (in collaboration with Daniel Phillips, and Firat Erdim.
-

Site, Non-Site, Website (symposium), 2019

- Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
- Brought together graduate students from across the region of southeast Michigan for discussion and sharing of methodologies related to site-specific practices in art.

Design Thinking (online lecturer) 2016-19

- New School of Architecture and Design (administered by Laureate Education)
- Developed and facilitated online educational content for multiple units of undergraduate students at UPES in Dehradun, Uttarakhand (India). Class focused on iterative creative processes and human-centered design methodology.

D3 (Dream It, Design It, Do It), Program manager, 2010-14

- The New Learning Institute (with funding from the Pearson Foundation)
- Developed project-based learning program for urban youth and

SELECTED PRESS

VOLUNTEERING + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REFERENCES (additional letters available on request)

toolkits for educators to incorporate creative methodologies into their classrooms. Pilot programs were deployed across a range of contexts in Los Angeles, CA and Minneapolis, MN.

“Collaborating with Catastrophe”, Spring 2012

- Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA
- Co-Instructor of record, Integrated Learning Department
- Developed course material, facilitated student projects for this elective cross-disciplinary course. Working in teams, students designed various multi-scalar systems and strategies for disaster resilience in Los Angeles.

Design for Social Impact (Lecturer, Integrated Learning), 2010-12

- Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA
- Developed original course materials and acted as faculty of record for the Integrated Learning Department. Students focused on interdisciplinary real-world projects in collaboration with local non-profit organizations.

Interview, Let It Grow, Suzanna Knight, 2017

Interview, Project Spotlight (Greenaid Seedbombs). My Green City, R. Klanten, S. Ehmann, K. Bolhöfer, 2011

“Greenaid Fosters Johnny Appleseeds for the 21st Century”

- Fast Company online, 2010

“10 Ideas to Change the World”

- CNN online, 2010

“Greenaid arms the masses with Native Seeds”

- Metropolis Magazine, 2009

Founding Member and consultant, 2009-12

- The Upper Six Hundreds, Los Angeles California
- The Upper Six-Hundreds is an Artist Collective that stages pop-up art exhibitions in unconventional spaces throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

LA Chapter Head, 2008-2012

- Project H Design
- Working directly with founder [Emily Pilloton](#), I founded this local chapter of Project H, a global non-profit, organizing interdisciplinary volunteers to work on a range of local projects, including a long-term initiative with the Downtown Women’s Center, a homeless shelter for women located in the notorious “skid-row” district in LA.

Joan Nassauer, FASLA, FCELA

- Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability
- Co-editor in Chief, Landscape and Urban Planning
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Mark Lindquist, PhD, ASLA

- Assistant Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability (Landscape Architecture Program)
- Principal Investigator- Landscape Informatics Lab
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Jennifer Lawson, C.S.M.

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Harini Nagendra, PhD

- Professor, Azim Premji University
- Author of “Cities and Canopies” and “Nature in the City”
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David Maddox

- Founder & Editor in Chief, The Nature of Cities (thenatureofcities.com)
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Stanton I Jones, MLA, ASLA

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