

aiaVT



The aiaVT newsletter is published by AIA Vermont,
the Vermont Chapter of the
American Institute of Architects.

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\$980,000 in incentives available for renewable energy

Montpelier, VT – Commissioner David O'Brien announced on August 29 that the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) will provide \$500,000 to the "Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program" to support photovoltaic, solar hot water, and small-scale wind installations. The Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program will also receive an additional \$238,000 of incentive funds for solar electric and solar hot water systems from Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power for customers in their service territories. Combined with money from the initial Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program a total of \$980,000 will be available for incentives.

Governor Douglas signed the Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program into law in June 2003. Since its inception the program has provided \$1,373,920 in incentives to support the installation of 345 renewable energy systems. The Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation administers the Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program.

The incentive program will provide grants to individuals, businesses, farms, schools, and municipalities for a portion of the cost of installing small-scale solar and wind systems. Some notable changes being made to the program include allowing farms to qualify for a larger wind incentive of \$4.50/Watt up to a maximum of \$20,000 (schools and local/state government are already eligible for this level of incentive). Also low-income multi-family housing buildings will be eligible for a solar electric incentive of \$3.50/Watt up to \$35,000.

cont.

"Landscape Design in the Rural Environment"
Garret Eckbo, Daniel U. Kiley, James C. Rose
Architectural Record 1939

Link:
in the Cause of Architecture:
An Online Journal of Ideas from Architectural Record
<http://archrecord.construction.com/inTheCause/onTheState/0406kiley-2.asp>

"There is a sentimentalism in America about 'the country' as a place to live," says Mr. Will W. Alexander in a report on rural housing. "Fresh air, the minds of many of our people—particularly city people—is thought of as a satisfactory substitute for a decent income, wholesome food, medical care, educational opportunities, and everything else which the city dwellers think as necessary. . . ." Such a romantic attitude is all too apparent among American designers, who fail to see that the "old swimming hole" needs lifeguards and pure water, that the baseball field needs illumination, or that the farm boy may be quite as interested in aviation or theatricals as his city cousin. On the other hand, there is the danger that—once recognizing these needs—the building or landscape designer (because of his own urban background and experience) will uncritically apply urban design standards to a rural problem.

The irreducible requisite of any successful planning is that the forms developed will direct the flow of energy in the most economic and productive pattern. This is the
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two opportunities to have your work published

Show Students Your Pre-Design Technique: We all know that before starting to design a new building, it is good to define the problem that it is intended to resolve. However, there are few published examples of pre-design analysis to help students and interns learn the process, contends Barry D. Yatt, FAIA, professor at The Catholic University of America. Yatt is seeking examples of effective pre-design analysis presentations for a textbook addressing assessment of mission, cost, planning, environment, urban design, existing construction, program, code, operations, and aesthetics. Projects chosen will be identified and acknowledged thoroughly in the textbook. For more information, contact Yatt by e-mail: yatt@cua.edu

Do you have projects featuring great ideas for universal design or aging in place? Author Wendy A. Jordan is writing a book for the general public on building and remodeling, and is seeking a range of good-looking accessible accommodations for kitchens, bathrooms, entries, and multi-level spaces. Professional-quality photos are a plus. For more information, call 202-363-5563. Submit inquiries, short project descriptions, and/or photos to Jordan: wendyajordan@hotmail.com

**FEATURED ENERGY-EFFICIENT PROJECT:
UPPER VALLEY HAVEN
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT**

Photo Credit: Carolyne L. Bull

"The Haven was a great opportunity to provide the owner and community with a building that promotes sustainable and energy-efficient design while reducing operating costs."

Mr. M. Hunter Ulf, AIA
Principal, UK Architects, P.C.

www.encyvermont.com

Efficiency Vermont
your resource for energy savings

The new incentive funding is expected to support the installation of approximately 210 new renewable energy systems throughout the state, which could generate an estimated 425 MWh of electricity annually.

"This program demonstrates our commitment to clean, renewable, distributed energy generation," said O'Brien. "Also by offering funding to farms, schools, local and state government facilities, and low-income multi-family housing, assistance is being provided to those who need it the most and will in the end benefit all Vermont citizens."

The \$500,000 being provided by DPS is a portion of the \$1.3 million in Clean Energy Development Funds that was appropriated by the VT Legislature and approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee for spending prior to December 1, 2006. The Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) was established in 2005 through ACT 74 and is funded through proceeds due to the state under the terms of two memoranda of understanding between the DPS and Entergy. The purpose of the CEDF is to promote the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources for the long-term benefit of Vermont electric customers. The CEDF will receive payments between \$6.0 - 7.2 million annually from Entergy through 2012.

Anyone interested in applying for incentives should go to the Renewable Energy Resource Center website (www.erc-vt.org/incentives) to obtain a list of qualified Solar and Wind installers and to download the reservation incentive forms. This information can also be obtained by calling the RERC hotline toll free at 1-877-888-7372. The RERC website also has a "Clean Power Estimator" to help customers evaluate the economics, energy production, and environmental benefits of installing a solar or wind system.

criterion in the design of the power dam, the automobile, and the modern cotton field: it should also hold in landscape and building design, where the energy and vitality directed is that of human beings. But to organize the rural areas into the most productive pattern requires an intimate knowledge of the characteristics, rhythm, and potentialities of rural life. For if it is true that people differ little in the fundamental living needs of food, shelter, work, and play (regardless of the locality in which they live), it is equally true that the physical aspects of that locality (its topography, fertility, accessibility, exploitation, and industrialization) influence and condition the extent to which, and the method by which, it can be adapted to the needs of its people.

Homesteading and the rugged individualism of the pioneers determined the general characteristics of the rural scene. This system necessitated staking out claims and living in relative isolation to defend and improve these claims.

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arthur gibb



connie snow

Yestermorrow Design/Build School is pleased to announce its upcoming course in *ecological planning, design and construction*

October 15-20, 2006

At the Yestermorrow campus in Warren, VT

So what is green design? This course will explore the broad range of issues of what is variously called ecological, green, environmental, and sustainable design. Through lectures, seminars, field trips and a design charette we will develop a framework for understanding the issues and making value-based design decisions. Tours will include residential and commercial buildings, renewable energy systems, and biologically based water treatment systems. We will address the impacts of our built environment on the natural environment and impacts on our health and well-being. We will study various systems, including LEED, for establishing design processes and evaluating results. This course is intended as a broad survey course and is suitable for architects, engineers, architecture and environmental studies students, builders, developers, and facilities managers.

Tuition: \$725

Instructors:

Keith Giamportone

Jim Newman

Jeff Schoellkopf

Jim Edgcomb

Learning Units: 35 AIA Continuing Education Learning Units available

To register, or for more information, please call 802-496-5545 or email designbuild@yestermorrow.org.

forum on sprawl announces first annual smart growth award winners

On September 6, 2006, the Vermont Forum on Sprawl announced the winners of its first Annual Smart Growth Awards. The awards recognize the people, projects and plans that encourage development in or around Vermont's downtowns and villages, not surrounding farms and forest land.

"The Forum established these awards to show how Vermonters are working together to create successful smart growth projects around the state," said Noelle MacKay, Executive Director for the Vermont Forum on Sprawl. "Our award selection committee was thrilled to receive such a great response to our request for nominations in the first year," said MacKay. "All of the projects nominated met our criteria for smart growth, making the selection process difficult," she added.

The Forum selected Connie Snow, Executive Director of the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust, as the first recipient of its Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership. Gibb served his community and state in many ways, including as a state legislator and Environmental Board Chair.

Arthur Gibb dedicated much of his life to ensuring that Vermont is a better place for future generations of Vermonters. He was deeply involved in passing legislation to ban billboards, enact the state's bottle deposit law, regulate junk yards and modernize statutes governing local and regional planning. He passed away in 2005 at the age of 97.

cont.

The family became the social and recreational unit, supplemented by the school and church in the village which grew up for trading purposes. But, as Mr. David Cushman Coyle has pointed out, with changing technology and local depletion of mine, forest, and soil, we find a new type of rural population which no longer fits into the pattern of living developed by the pioneer. Recent surveys show:

1. Mechanization of agriculture has cut in half the man labor required per bushel of wheat in 1919. In one county of western Kansas, it is cut to one quarter.
2. The nation's supply of farm land is steadily decreasing. The National Resources Board reports that as a result of soil erosion, 35,000,000 acres of farm land have been made entirely unfit for cultivation, while another 125,000,000 acres have had topsoil largely removed. A good deal of land to be inherited by farm youth is practically worthless, and will be abandoned.

cont.

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winooski



odell parkway, south burlington



groton



putney

Snow has used the qualities she shares with Gibb – vision, creativity and collaboration – over the last nineteen years to provide housing and revitalize Windham County communities. She has earned the respect of Vermonters who seek her counsel on making our communities better places to live and work.

The City of Winooski and its partners won a Smart Growth Award for their \$160 million project, representing the culmination of years of public and private sector collaboration to revitalize Vermont’s 3rd largest city. The project is comprised of commercial/retail facilities, a mix of affordable, market-rate and luxury housing, an enclosed municipal parking garage hidden from street view, a re-engineered traffic pattern and a Riverwalk that links to a 104 acre natural area.

F & M Development Company, LLC won a Smart Growth Award for the O’Dell Parkway Neighborhood in South Burlington. This development transforms a suburban-style shopping plaza into a high density, pedestrian-oriented residential neighborhood with a mix of market-rate, senior and affordable housing. It offers convenient access to grocery stores, pharmacies, household goods, bus transportation, and recreation paths.

The Town of Groton, Housing Vermont and the Gilman Housing Trust won a Smart Growth Award for their revitalization of five historic buildings in the village center. This project created 19 attractive and affordable apartments, and provides space for a new town library, general store and a number of small businesses.

The Putney Planning Commission won a Smart Growth Award for its plan “Visualizing Density in Putney Village.” The Town created this visual plan to explore growth and development options in their village. The plan shows how various types of development would look on key parcels in Putney Village, and will guide the town as it considers how to plan for growth.

cont.

- In spite of decreasing birth rate, we have a large surplus of rural youth in proportion to farms available, and our expanding farm population is squeezed within a shrinking area of farm land. In 1920, for example, 160,000 farmers died or reached the age of 65; and in the same year, 337,000 farm boys reached the age of 18. In 1930, the surplus of boys with no prospects was 201,000. Vital statistics indicate that with the decrease in infant mortality, this surplus will increase.*
- The present and future farmer is also the victim of an accumulating drain of money from the farm to the city. He sells in a city market controlled by the buyer, and buys in a city market controlled by the seller. The farm youth is educated in rural districts, and then finds it necessary to migrate to the city to make a living. Dr. O. E. Baker, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, estimates that this movement of population from 1920 to 1930 carried to the city human values that had cost over 12,000,000,000 dollars in private and public cash spent by rural districts.*

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hardie workshop scheduled for late october

Gregory Supply is having a Fiber-cement Siding Product Knowledge seminar/lunch led by the James Hardie Corp. on Thursday October 26th @ 12:30 at their Williston location conference room.

If anyone else is interested, please email mikel@gregorysupply.com

About Fiber Cement Siding from James Hardie:

“Whether you’re building a new home or remodeling, James Hardie siding provides low maintenance, but unlike vinyl, doesn’t sacrifice the beauty and character of wood. James Hardie fiber-cement siding resists rotting or cracking and it resists damage from rain and hail. Our house siding is also available pre-finished with a 15-year paint warranty. Best of all, James Hardie siding is non-combustible, with a limited, transferable warranty for up to 50 years. No wonder it’s protecting over 3.5 million homes in North America alone.”

correction

In our last issue, the piece titled “Project Photographs – How to Work Successfully with Your Photographer” featured some photographs of various photographer’s work. A photo credit was confused as follows: John Anderson Studio should have been credited for Gary Hall’s aerial shot, and although John Anderson Studio designed the Skygates at the airport, the architect was Freeman French Freeman. Apologies.

aiaVT welcomes

matthew bushey, *aia*, burlington
marty gray, *p.a. of burlington*
miccal mcmullan, *assoc. aia*, burlington
james sykes, *assoc. aia*, williston
claudio veliz, *aia of chester*

congratulations, up-grade:

asher nelson, *aia*

To learn more about these award-winning projects, please visit www.vtsprawl.org. The Vermont Forum on Sprawl works with communities to balance growth and conservation as they plan for their future.

Barry Lampke

Development & Communications Director
blampke@vtsprawl.org

Vermont Forum on Sprawl

110 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
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(802) 862-4487
www.vtsprawl.org

5. The exhaustion of the farmland in some areas—such as Oklahoma or Kansas—and the simultaneous development of a highly mechanized agriculture in others—California, Texas, or Florida, for example—has meanwhile given birth to a new rural phenomenon—the migratory agricultural workers. This group constitutes a quite special and pressing problem over and above that of the rural population generally. Special characteristics of rural life

What do such trends as those listed above imply in the design of rural recreational systems? A recognition of the facts that first and foremost the country must be redesigned for country people—i.e., neither from the viewpoint of nor for the benefit of the urbanite. Second, in view of constantly changing social and economic conditions, that such systems should provide a plastic and flexible environment for both local and migratory farmers. Third, that such systems should be closely integrated with both urban and primeval areas, providing the greatest possible intercommunication between all three. Finally, that the following special and fairly constant factors of rural life be recognized:

cont.

9/10.06:5



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 from the AIA website, www.aia.org
 You can order paper documents by calling
 AIA New Hampshire, 603-357-2863.
 A price list is on line at
www.aianh.org/tools/contractdocs.shtml

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 articles for available space and deter-
 mine appropriate content prior to
 inclusion. Submissions must be
 received by the 15th of the month
 prior to publication.

1. The periods during which recreational facilities can be used by most rural inhabitants are more seasonal than daily. Whereas the city worker usually has a certain number of hours each day with a summer (or winter) vacation of short duration, the farmer has a majority of free time during winter months. This implies an emphasis on enclosed and roofed facilities.
2. Since rural labor is largely physical, and requires the use of the larger muscular system, it is reasonable to supply facilities for recreation which afford experience which is physically, mentally, and psychologically different from the major labor experience, i.e., folk dancing, swimming, arts and crafts, dramatic production, folk pageantry, etc.
3. The present relative isolation of farm families and dependence upon automotive transportation make it desirable for the entire family to seek recreation at one time. This places emphasis on the school, church, and country park as centers for recreation, and requires facilities for participation by all age and sex groups at one time.
4. Since the mobile fraternity has become such an important part of the rural scene, special facilities are necessary for the migratory laborers, the tourists, and the vacationists. It is necessary to provide for these groups, and integrate their activities with those of the more permanent residents without destroying the economic and social balance. The need here is for multiple-use and flexibility in design with particular emphasis on a system integrated with the highway, shore front, waterways, and spots of scenic, natural, and historic as well as scientific interest.

*Thus it can be seen that rural recreation is based on an entirely different set of conditions than urban, and it can be approached only by detailed study of specific local requirements in their relation to the region. In general, one can say that whereas in the cities the need is for more free space (decentralization), the rural need is for more intensive use of less space (concentration) to permit and provide for the social integration of a widely distributed population. But the latter does not imply mere urbanization of the country any more than the former means mere ruralization of the city.**

Roads are first

*The first and most essential element of any rural recreational environment will necessarily be an adequate highway system. Yet, despite the gigantic advances in highway construction in the past decade, the fact remains that most rural communities are without a road system adequate for their needs. Consciously or otherwise, the majority of federal and state construction is designed to facilitate communication between one city and the next. "With the bypass or through-highway principle on the one hand, and the freeway or border-control principle on the other, we have the tools to adapt our future network to meet recreational needs . . . but that is only part of the highway problem. There are still the problems of local access and touring. . . . We must not only provide good trunk-highway access, but also good local-access roads. These local roads must serve directly the various cities, towns, and villages; and must open up recreational lands.***

Consolidated communities mean better recreation

Closely allied with the problem of transportation is that of rural housing. As long as the traditional pattern remains—thinly scattered houses, one to each farm—it is quite possible that a genuinely satisfactory recreational environment will not be evolved. In this connection, it is interesting to note quickly social integration has followed physical integration in the new towns by TVA, FSA, and in the Greenbelt towns of the former Resettlement Administration. As a matter of fact, leading cultural economists are advocating similar consolidation—the regrouping of farmers into villages from which they can work their land within a radius of 5 to 10 miles of them. (This type of village is of course prevalent in Europe and in isolated spots of America). There is already a general trend towards consolidation and reorganization of schools and school districts. And the recent western projects of the Farm Security Administration—while of course signed for the landless migrants—clearly indicate the physical advantages of a similar concentration of housing facilities.

cont.

What types of recreation are required?

WPA research reveals that the age rural community needs provision for the following types of recreation:

1. Crafts and visual arts, graphic plastic. (These might well be organized around the rapidly developing science and manual arts curricula in most rural high schools.)
2. Recreational music, including door concerts, popular orchestras, g singing, etc.
3. Dancing—ballroom, folk, social square, tap, ballet, etc.
4. Recreational drama, including marionettes and puppets, plays, motion pictures, pageants, festivals, etc. The outdoor theater is recommended as an ideal form; it also encourages children in their own improvisations.
5. Childrens' play center, including such equipment as slides, horizontal bars, swings, see-saws, trapezes, marble courts, sand box (preferably adjacent to the wading pool with an island m children can play and sail boats).
6. Sports and athletics (conditioned by the major labor), Including base softball, football, basketball, tennis, archery, horseshoe pitching, swimming and water sports, snow and ice sports, hiking, camping, and nature study.
7. Other activities and special events: picnics require an area of several acres with outdoor fireplaces, barb pits, wood supply, and provisions waste disposal (can also serve as a wayside camp for motorist). Occasional field days, community nights, agricultural fairs, carnivals, traveling circuses can occupy the largest free used for sports at different seasons.

What sort of facilities are implied?

All these activities require special equipment centering around the district school, rural park, or other location signed to serve the rural inhabitants rather than the urban overflow. The usefulness is multiplied by complete well designed flood lighting, since outdoor activities come in the summer—precisely when the majority of rural inhabitants are busiest during the day.

Although there is perhaps no single form which meets so well the various needs of the rural community, the door theater has never been satisfactorily reinterpreted as a present recreational form in its own right. Developed as an integral part of the rural park, and in a dynamic, three-dimensional pattern, it provides for all constant use by all age groups. Actual productions require the assistance practically all types of craftsman which are physically, mentally, and psychologically different from the major labor experience. With stages at different levels, following the natural contours, and seats ingeniously arranged to accommodate both large and small audiences (top, right); with the present perfection of sound amplification; with "scene-shifting" by spotlights instead of curtains, a type as flexible as the auditorium without its expense intricacy is achieved. Its utility is flexible as its organization, since it accommodates both large and small productions, festivals, pageantry, improvisations, summer-theatre groups, exhibitions, meetings, picnics, and talks.

Many opportunities are overlooked, by sticking too closely to arbitrary and static concepts of recreational planning For example, the local airport is a form which deserves attention because of the interest and activity which surrounds Already a center of Sunday afternoon interest for many an American farm family, it orients the rural population a larger social concept of the world outside, as well as satisfying the characteristic American interest in the technical. The same thing might be said about the old canal, the abandoned railroad engine, and the automobile junk pile—all of which hold an endless fascination for small children.***

Towards scientific landscape design

With the exception of urban infringement in the form of summer colonies, tourist camps and hotels, and commercial recreational facilities designed mainly for the use of urban motorists, little provision for recreation exists outside America's cities. Indeed, urban invasion-in the form of commercialized amusements, billboards, suburbanization and the "naturalism" of "preserving rural beauty" by screening out rural slums with a parkway prevents an indigenous and biological development of rural beauty. It is thus that we handicap ourselves with a static and inflexible environment, and lose the opportunity of developing forms which express the needs of the people and the qualities of the region.

This is particularly unfortunate as concerns landscape design. The country is thought of as a restorative for the exhausted city dweller, and a land of plenty for the farmer. When help is offered by well-meaning urban societies it is, as often as not, "for the preservation of rural beauties" which look well on a post card. Another group is afraid of destroying the "delightful in. formality" by intelligent and straightforward reorganization of nature for the use of man. They resort to "rustic" bridges, and "colonial" cottages which will "blend" with nature. Obviously this point of view can be held only by those who do not live on the land.

We may as well accept the fact that man's activities change and dominate the landscape; it does not follow that they should spoil it. Writing on the redesign of the American landscape, Paul B. Sears has said:† "Not only must the scientist of the future work in awareness of social and economic processes, but he must clear a further hurdle. . . . The scientist must be aware of the relation of his task to the field of aesthetics. What is right and economical and in balance is in general satisfying. Not the least important symptom of the present decay of the American landscape is its appalling ugliness. . . . The landscape of the United States, with its two billions of acres for a potential population of one hundred and fifty million, or even two hundred million, can be made a place of plenty, permanence, and beauty. But this most assuredly cannot be done without the aid of science. Nor can such aid be rendered by men of science unaware of the task which confronts them."

*See "Landscape Design and the Urban Environment" by Eckbo, Kiley, and Rose, ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, May 1939, pp. 70-71. Return to text.

**From a paper by Roland B. Greely read at the Outdoor Recreation Conference, Amherst, Mass. March 11, 1939. Return to text.

***Recently, a recreational expert, showing some distinguished visitors in Washington the advanced planning of children's play areas in one of the greenbelt towns, was somewhat chagrined to find them quite deserted. But, as they started back to Washington, they passed the town's children playing on a dump used for fill along the roadway. One of the ladies of the party turned to the expert and inquired brightly: "And I suppose you will plan something for these children, too? Return to text.

†"Science and the New Landscape," Harper's Magazine, July 1939, page-207. Return to text.