
Everyone Harvests: Edge City Hanoi

RENEE CHOW

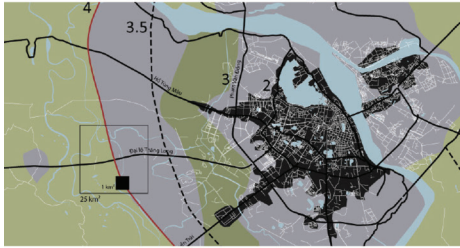
University of California, Berkeley

There's an area next to Hanoi's outermost ring road that epitomizes many of the challenges facing the developing world, including competing needs for housing, sustainable food, water, energy, jobs, transportation and infrastructure. How does a rapidly growing Asian city, facing issues of sustainability and quality of life, also address the region's food production needs?

Everyone harvests zeroes in on the urban-agricultural tensions specifically facing Hanoi, a city of 6.5 million people and growing, as well as other developing regions worldwide. Experts project that by the year 2050, 80% of the world's population of 9 billion will reside in urban centers. Food production must increase by about 70% globally and by nearly 100% in developing countries to feed the planet's inhabitants. The research and design challenge was to develop a community of 100,000 in one square kilometer where people can live, work and still maintain food production at a variety of scales.

Edge City reconfigures the urban growth limit line to make way for a productive coexistence between the city and the agricultural fields that surround Hanoi bringing together food production and the systems needed to process and distribute that food. Edge City is a fingered interface at the edge of the urban boundary to reconnect fresh food production and consumption economies, replacing Hanoi's proposed outer ring highway model with a dynamic corridor of production, storage, packaging, processing and distribution.

Students involved: Monica Way, Ned Reifenstein, Anna Konotchick, Stephen Stewart, Michelle Gonzales, Leo Zhou and Jennifer Siqueira



Growing at the Urban Edge

The capital of Vietnam faces enormous pressure as its population grows and its rural hinterland urbanizes. While already a major metropolis, greater Hanoi's land area is still 50% agricultural, and 56% of the population is non-urban. Increased development of peri-urban areas to house its own population and large numbers of rural-to-urban migrants is inevitable.

Edge as Line

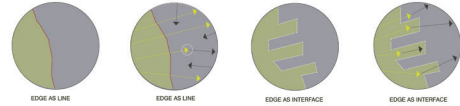
As a limit to sprawl, current planning in Hanoi risks treating this urban edge as a boundary, with "urban" on one side of a ring road and "agriculture" on the other. Such an approach disconnects urban development from the agricultural landscape, exacerbating inadequate water management, separating communities from the fields, and leading to future encroachment on agricultural land.

Edge as Interface

Edge City instead is a project of connections, leveraging the agricultural economy to design an urban fabric that integrates the urban/agricultural edge. It views Hanoi's vast agricultural hinterland as a resource to be engaged, not replaced. Built out of the agricultural landscape but also taking cues from Hanoi's existing urban fabric, the project creates a place of clean water, healthy food, vibrant economy and linked communities.

Interconnected Systems

Edge City does not rely on a traditional master plan of streets and land-uses. Instead layers of interconnected systems—water, access, landscape, dimension—define the project.

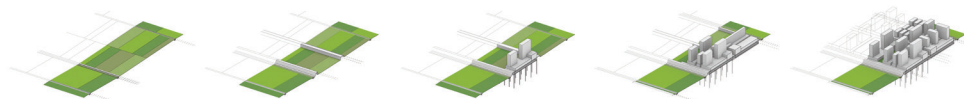


EVERYONE HARVESTS: EDGE CITY HANOI



Building on an Agricultural Landscape

An initial set of infrastructure investments in levees and clean water for farming sets the framework for gradual growth into a productive urban and agricultural landscape.



Today
Infrastructure of canals, wetlands and service roads makes entire site available for healthy farming and clean water



Growing
East-west levee roads connect to existing villages, while processing and distribution facilities collect along a north-south spine.



Working
As more facilities collect along spine road, residential and commercial development occurs incrementally along east-west connectors



Living
Filled out built zones alternate with agricultural zones, and cultural facilities flourish along the central canal

