

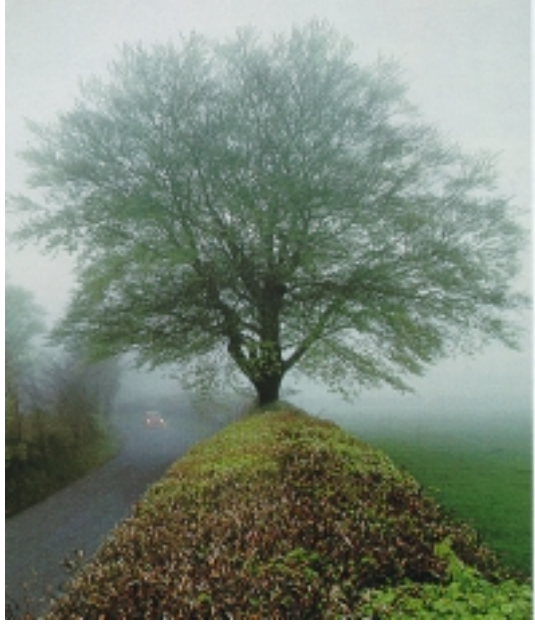
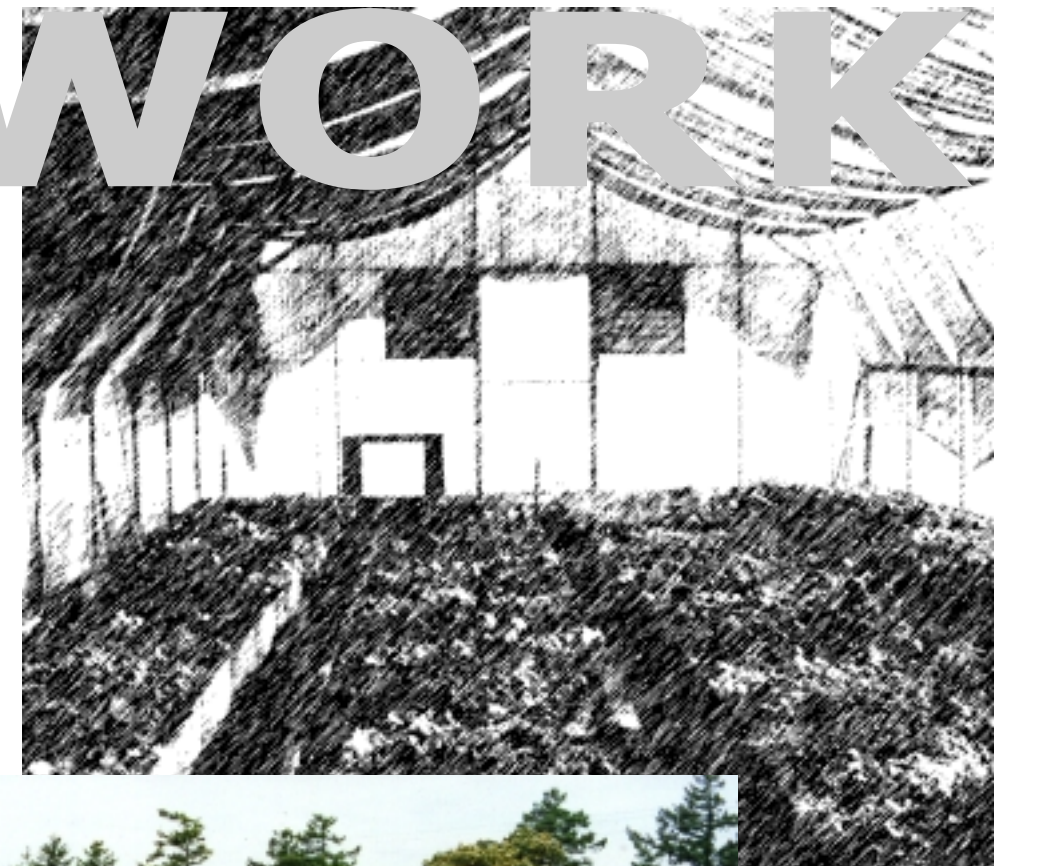
economy DESIGN FRAMEWORK



inspiration

"The local community must understand itself finally as a community of interest - a common dependence on a common life and a common ground. And because a community is, by definition, placed, its success cannot be divided from the success of its place, its natural setting and surroundings: its soils, forests, grasslands, plants and animals, water, light, and air. The two economies, the natural and the human, support each other; each is the other's hope of a durable and a liveable life."

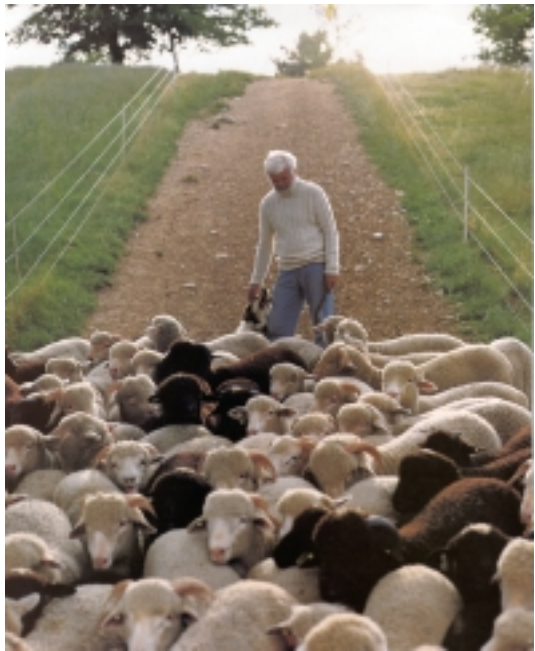
WENDELL BERRY



definition

e•con•o•my *n.* 1. careful management of resources to avoid unnecessary expenditure or waste; thrift. 2. a means or instance of this; saving. 3. sparing, restrained, or efficient use, esp. to achieve the maximum effect for the minimum effort. 4. the orderly interplay between the parts of a system or structure: *the economy of nature*. 5. *Archaic.* the management of household affairs; domestic economy. [via Latin from Greek *oikonomia* domestic management, from *oikos* house + *-nomia*, from *nemein* to manage.]

Economy is a useful term to guide the development of this design project as it underscores the importance of careful management - management of resources in a manner that is both restrained and respectful. True economics requires careful measurement, analysis, response, and an informed involvement that if done well considers systems as wholes not parts and looks to the future, working with timeframes that extend beyond conventional 5 or 10-year terms. An economic approach necessitates discipline - a discipline concerned with the future health and viability of the community.



precedent

I have selected three precedents that support an "extended" interpretation of economy. All three are managed in a way that generates the revenue necessary for their continued existence. But what is different is that by-and-large their management is restricted by a set of principles that place health, education and leadership above their need to generate revenue. Conventional economic interests take a backseat to their principles and their beliefs. And it is this belief that permeates everything that they do. It creates and affects, in the words of Wendell Berry, their "household" economies.

These precedents in their own way have interpreted what it means to be an economist in the 21st Century. And their interpretations, though different are quite compelling. The Center for Urban Agriculture provides an outstanding example of how a working farm can prove otherwise and survive and thrive within a suburban neighbourhood. Landsake counters the "tragedy of the commons" and The John Lyle Center is a living classroom that is preparing a new class of economists for the challenges of this Century.



Center for Urban Agriculture
Fairview Gardens, Goleta, CA

The Center for Urban Agriculture is a non-profit organisation, established in 1997 to preserve and operate the historic Fairview Gardens Farm. The farm's 5.7 ha produce over a hundred different fruits and vegetables distributed through a subscription farming program, on-farm produce stand, wholesale and speciality restaurant sales and attendance at local farmers markets. The farm feeds approximately 500 families, and employs over 20 people. Additional funding is required to support the farm's cultural programs, which include festivals, workshops, tours, lectures, cooking and gardening classes, on-farm apprenticeships, and nation-wide school and community outreach and consultation. The Center's mission is to demonstrate the economic viability of sustainable agricultural methods for small farm operations; research and interpret the connections between food, land and community well being; and nurture the human spirit through on and off farm educational programs and public outreach.

Fairview Gardens is an example of the potential that small integral urban farms and gardens hold for urban communities. With community support the Center convinced the farm's owners and city officials that the highest best use for the farm was not housing but to grow food. The Center accomplished this through the development of on-farm programs that revealed how agriculture can nourish the spirit as well as the body, and how the farm had become an important place of interest and beauty in an increasingly banal and ecologically barren community.

Land's Sake is a non-profit organisation in Weston, Massachusetts that is responsible for managing most of the town's 910 ha of conservation land. Besides growing organic fruits, flowers and vegetables, Land's Sake harvests firewood and timber from the town's extensive community forest, collects and makes syrup and cider from the town's sugar maple and apple trees and runs a variety of environmental education programs. The organisation employs a full-time staff of three, along with dozens of young people of various ages and education, and a few volunteers

Land's Sake was established in 1980 to provide a secure institutional home dedicated to the caring of community land while providing employment and educational opportunities for local young people. Land's Sake's non-profit status has allowed for direct contracting with the Weston Conservation Commission to care for community land, free of the limitations imposed on municipal agencies. Their non-profit status has also allowed them to work and care for private land - a flexible arrangement that helps to establish connections between public and private lands.



John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies
Cal Poly University, Pomona, CA

The John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies (The Lyle Center) is an interdisciplinary university-based setting for education, demonstration and research in regenerative and sustainable systems. Students from any discipline at the Cal Poly campus can participate in courses. Currently, a community of 20 students resides on the site working with regenerative systems as part of their daily lives. The Center was originally designed to accommodate a total of 100 student residents.

The comprehensive design of the 7.3 ha facility provides a living environment for faculty, students and visitors to study passive solar designed buildings, renewable energy capture, water recycling, nutrient cycling, food growing systems, aquaculture, native habitat and human communities.

The Lyle Center is dedicated to the education, demonstration and research of sustainable systems and technologies. These three objectives are interdependent and all contribute to the projects underway at the Center. These projects include alternative energy production, integrated waste management, natural area preservation, human and social systems, built form, aquaculture, and sustainable food production.



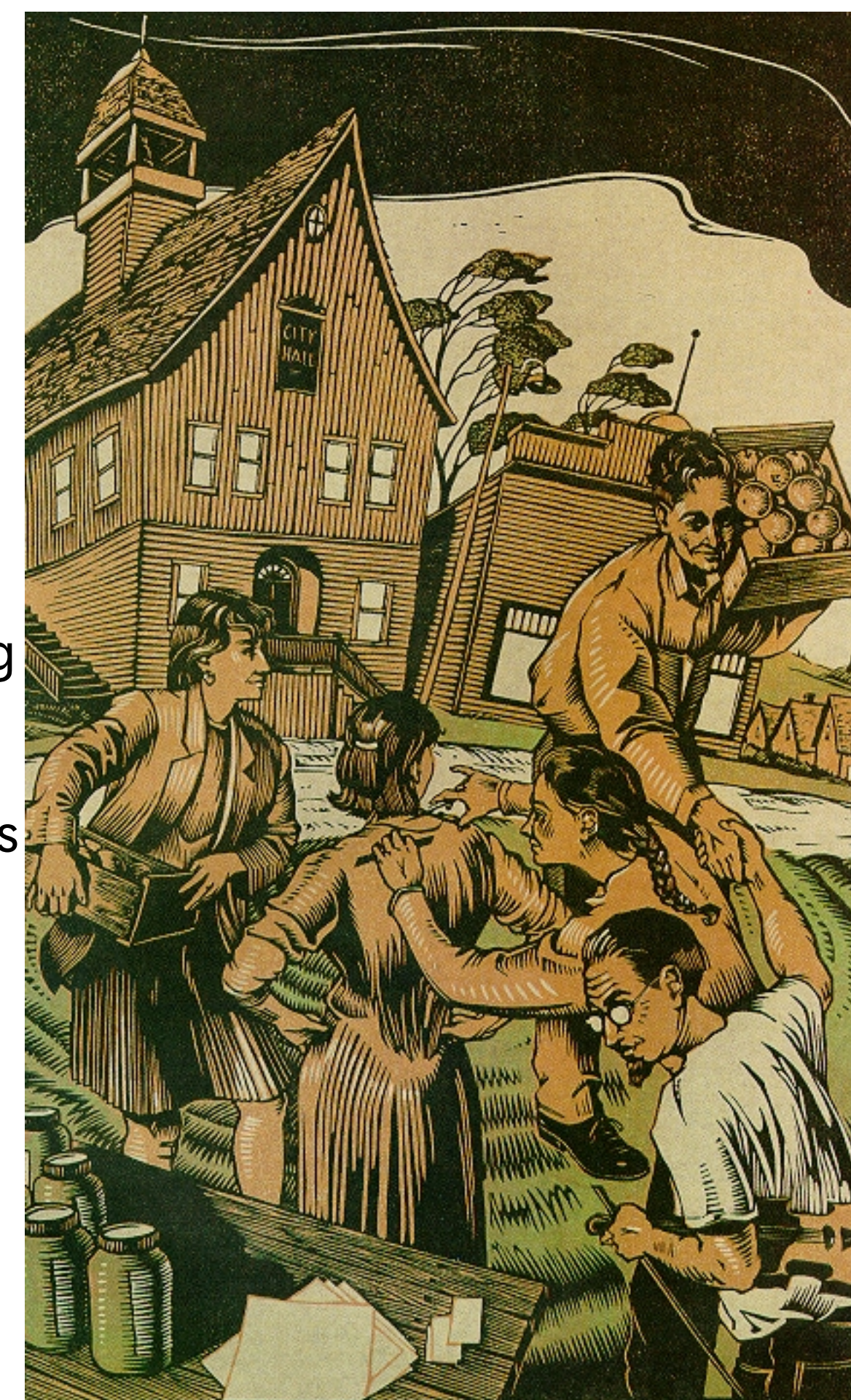
Land's Sake Community Farm
Weston, MA

challenge

To conduct our affairs with humility in a manner that supports the true definition of economy - the careful management of resources in a way that maximizes health and benefits for all.

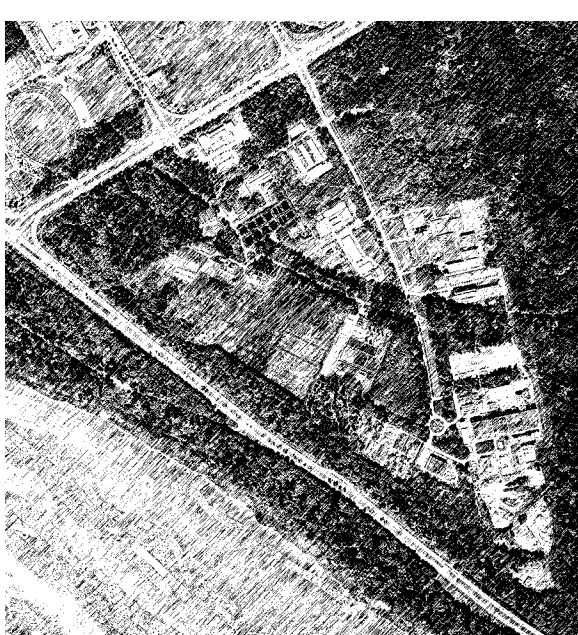
approach

1. Develop and use local, non-polluting, renewable energy sources.
2. Build-in accountability. Use full lifecycle or ecological accounting methods to guide decision making.
3. Close nutrient and energy loops, enhance feedback mechanisms and support and encourage system redundancies.
4. Strive to support the health and longevity of all system elements.
5. Support local needs first.
6. Maximize synergistic connections and relationships.
7. Utilize consensus decision-making management methods.



What we have before us, if we want our communities to survive, is the building of an adversary economy, a system of local or community economies within and to protect against the would-be global economy. To do this, we must somehow learn to reverse the flow of the siphon that has for so long been drawing resources, money, talent and people out of our countryside with very little if any return... We must figure out new ways to fund, at affordable rates, the development of healthy local economies. We must find ways to suggest economically - for finally no other suggestion will be effective - that the work, the talents and the interest of our young people are needed at home.

WENDELL BERRY



UBC SOUTH CAMPUS FARM

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER, BC

Design Framework

DRAWING 6

base::design::detail D. MASSELINK 01.2001