

# INTO

# THE OPEN

This exhibition highlights America's rich history of architectural experimentation and explores the original ways architects today are working collaboratively to invigorate community activism and environmental policy. These new community-minded architects are questioning traditional definitions of practice by conducting unique research into the socio-economic challenges and environmental rifts that define our times. They are going beyond building—defining architecture not just as a physical infrastructure, but also as a social relationship.

Into the Open engages the community both inside and outside museum walls. The 16 projects featured in the exhibition are divided between the National Constitution Center—both here on Independence Mall and continued inside the Center's permanent exhibition space—and the Slought Foundation on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. Immersive, bold, and interactive, the intention of these projects is to inform and provoke—but commentary and participation are essential. We hope that the ideas presented in this exhibition prompt discussion in your own communities, adding yet another layer to the mix: your thoughts, your voice.

Exhibition on view  
July 15 – September 7, 2009

For more information  
[intotheopen.org](http://intotheopen.org)

#### ON VIEW AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

National Constitution Center  
Independence Mall, Philadelphia  
[constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)

— Independence Mall  
The Edible Schoolyard /  
Yale Sustainable Food Project  
Estudio Teddy Cruz

— Posterity Hall  
the Center for  
Urban Pedagogy (CUP)  
Jonathan Kirschenfeld Associates  
The Heidelberg Project  
Rural Studio  
Spatial Information Design Lab /  
Laura Kurgan  
Studio 804

Slought Foundation  
4017 Walnut Street, Philadelphia  
[slought.org](http://slought.org)

The Center for Land Use  
Interpretation  
Design Corps  
Detroit Collaborative Design Center  
Gans Studio  
International Center for  
Urban Ecology  
Project Row Houses  
Rebar  
Smith and Others

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**The National Constitution Center, in partnership with Slought Foundation, will present a series of public programs that complement the Into the Open exhibition and encourage community activism. These engaging, thought-provoking activities will take place at the Center and at non-traditional, urban settings throughout Philadelphia, with public programming partner the Community Design Collaborative.**

## PROGRAMS

### A Vegetable Party

Friday, August 7, 12pm – 4pm  
Independence Mall

A celebration of edible education on Independence Mall. Visitors will learn about the origins of the food Americans consume, and the principles of modern ecology, as the Center showcases the efforts of local urban farmers, chefs, and activists who are working to inform students and the public about what we eat and where it comes from. Participants include The Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Community Design Collaborative, the Philadelphia Water Department, the Pedal Co-Op, Metro Farming, and Slow Food USA.

This event is inspired by the work of Alice Waters and the Yale Sustainable Food Project. Waters, a renowned chef, created this project in response to the lack of nutritious food served in California public schools. As part of Into the Open, a model garden, located in front of the National Constitution Center, will feature local seasonal vegetables and flowers. Campers attending the Center's American Adventure Summer Camp will help plant and tend to the garden throughout the summer.

### Architects in Conversation

Friday, August 7, 5pm – 8pm  
National Constitution Center

Presentations in Posterity Hall and the F. M. Kirby Auditorium by several contributors to the exhibit, including Teddy Cruz of San Diego whose photo narrative of the U.S. / Mexico border currently adorns our front lawn. Other speakers include Jonathan Kirschenfeld (the Floating Pool), Laura Kurgan (Million Dollar Blocks), and Damon Rich (Subsidized Landscape).

### Sustainability Tour

Thursday, August 13, 1pm  
Meeting at National Constitution Center

A guided tour with unprecedented access to several sites in urban Philadelphia to illustrate how "We, the People" can play role in all aspects of our environmental stewardship—from development to use and, ultimately, to preservation. Inspired by the work presented in Into the Open, including that of Alice Waters and the Yale Sustainable Food Project, as well as the Center for Land Use Interpretation, the tour makes stops at Blue Mountain Recycling, Mill Creek Farm, and the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, as it traces the path

of waste and sustainability in our city. The tour concludes at the National Constitution Center with a self-guided experience of Into the Open.

### Repurpose!

Saturday, August 22, 10am – 3pm  
611 North 40th Street, Philadelphia

A one-day community workshop on a vacant lot in west Philadelphia intended to highlight the possibilities of urban revitalization featuring local and national architects from the exhibit. Members of the Mantua neighborhood and the general public alike will learn, among other things, how to create temporary structures out of reclaimed materials such as plastic bottles. Presentations will be made by architects and designers featured in the exhibition.

### For more information on upcoming events

[intotheopen.org/events.php](http://intotheopen.org/events.php)

