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## **Metro Regional Government**

Integrated Habitats Winners Series  
Mailer #1

# Urban Ecotones

Complete Draft

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# Urban Ecotones

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## Front Cover Page

(Entry title)	Urban Ecotones Transitional Spaces for Commerce and Culture
(Award Category)	Commercial development and lowland hardwood forest
(Award)	1st Place

### Images

- Four beautiful abstract images of the four "big ideas"
- "Ghost" background section from the Board art to create a feeling of how much more there is to see.
- Logo for Integrating Habitats competition
- Logo for Metro Nature in Neighborhoods

### Floating type headings of the "big ideas"

**Parking Lot Evolution**

**Split the Big Box**

**Stormwater Beauty**

**Compost into Economic Capital**

**Ecoroof View Cafe**

**Stormwater Garden**

**Green Fingers of Habitat**

## Double Inside Pages

(General Main Heading)

### Snapshot of a Winner

#### Images

□ Thumbnail of both Boards

*Ecotone: the transitional area between two ecosystems that contains more diversity and biotic activity than singular habitats*

*(Philosophy/Ethos Statement)*

Today's decisions grow into tomorrow. A design vision stretched over the next 30 years offers time-based, economic and ecological systems based on a shift from fossil fuel dependency. In the process, structures and habitat grow together. Needs of people, wildlife and the planet are balanced over time in what we build today. The thresholds where development meets natural systems are approached as environments of unique richness.

#### Big Ideas:

1

##### **Parking Lot (r)Evolution: Autos into Urban Agriculture**

Fast-forward to 2025. As the need for parking is reduced, opportunity arises for creative re-use. Spaces are easily converted to alternate functions such as community gardens. A 3,600 square foot area with 12 parking spaces and a drive aisle is transformed into nine community garden plots. Accompanying the transition is a new Center for Urban Agriculture, offering education and resources for local food production and preparation.

2.

##### **Split the Big Box: A Forest Runs Through It**

Instead of a big box store in the center of an immense parking lot, a Green Building Center is constructed to one side, giving way for the middle of the site to be transformed into a lowland hardwood forest, replete with habitat linkages for birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and terrestrial mammals.

3

### **Stormwater Beauty: Trails through Swales**

Stormwater from parking surfaces travels through wide planted swales to a replicated wetland pond for on-site infiltration. These are part of a regional trail corridor, with bike paths and habitat linkages emerging from the trail. A raised pedestrian bridge through the habitat conservation area (HCA) allows for habitat connectivity for people and wildlife. The ponds evolve into wetland ecosystems.

4

### **Compost into Economic Capital**

A 16,000 square foot composting operation and a 6,000 square foot composting facility are part of a compost farm. Here, construction fill and yard waste are transformed into a saleable product—garden and greenhouse compost, which can be sold as a nursery product, or used to enrich plants in the site's Production Greenhouse and Garden Center.

### **Smaller Ideas:**

5

### **Ecoroof View Cafe**

A rooftop cafe and terrace have views of adjacent woods and wetland ecosystems, including a dramatic sloping ecoroof that is vegetated for habitat, stormwater and aesthetics.

6

### **Stormwater Gardens**

Stormwater wetlands are an aesthetic entry to the Green Home Center entrance, while also treating building and site runoff.

7

### **Green Fingers of Habitat**

Habitat is encouraged to infiltrate the site through green fingers, while maintaining strong core habitats and significant corridor connectivity.

### **Potential species tie-in images (already on the Boards):**

- Varied thrush
- Yellow warbler
- Inbella tiger moth
- Honey bee

- Pacific chorus frog
- Coyote

### Quotes used:

"Big box development poses a rather difficult challenge to design a sustainable concept. Urban Ecotones divides the development in two and allows a center with a rather thin connection between the two developments to be a green marshland with two small natural runoff lakes. The concentration was on keeping the center of the development free as a natural habitat—a big box solution successfully developed."—*Stefan Behnisch, juror*

"This proposal works at every level, from understanding the transition between two ecosystems—in this case, nature and human activity—to creating composting stations, nurturing a greenhouse and providing stormwater management strategies."—*Susan S. Szenasy, juror*

### Additional Quotes:

"A really outstanding job. I would actually break a 10-year moratorium to go to this big box store."—*Tom Schueler, juror*

"This [competition] was about integrating habitat. It seems like integrated, interdisciplinary teams that had an architect, landscape architect, planner, ecologist—they're the ones who were able to say something about *all* the different elements that go together to create our environment."—*Brooke Muller, project advisor*

## Inside Poster Pages

### Images:

- Two entry Board complete images

### Panel on left to include:

(Award)	1st Place
(Award Category)	Commercial development and lowland hardwood forest

## **Big Box Retail Goes Green**

Fossil fuel shortages will transform the way we shop. Giant commercial big box retail along commercial corridors will become obsolete. These voids become opportunities for new ways of living. Big box parking centers can find new uses. Innovative home building stores can thrive as service-oriented community centers. Commercial development can meet natural systems in ways that creates places of regenerating critical habitat at a city-wide scale.

*(entrants)*

**GreenWorks PC**

**Bruce Rodgers Design Illustration**

**Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects**

**ESA Adolfson**

**SWCA Environmental Consultants**

**Portland, OR**

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(team—any reason they're not in alphabetical order?)*

Jason King

Brett Milligan

Bruce Rodgers

Scott E. Thayer

Michael S. Great

Justin C. Hunt

John Gordon

Christie Galen

Coral Mirth Walker

Kim Gould

## **Best Quote:**

"It's a true collaboration—of the science, the knowledge, the understanding. What you see is this wonderful progression of this environment being restored over the years. You can have decades of growth. By the end you see how nature really has reclaimed its space. There is a long-term understanding that this isn't just about now. It's in the parking lots, converted eventually into small gardens and then even a little building. There's the possibility of redevelopment of a monoculture into a multi-use, multi-function area. I must commend these designers for working together in a presentation that not only makes sense but is also very beautiful." — *Susan Szenasy, juror*

**Jurors**

**Stefan Behnisch**, principal, Behnisch Architects, Germany and California

**Josh Cerra**, \_\_\_\_\_

**Joan Iverson Nassauer**, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Michigan

**Tom Schuele**, Center for Watershed Protection, Maryland

**Susan S. Szenasy**, Editor in Chief, *Metropolis*, NY

**James H. Winkler**, President, Winkler Development Corp, Portland, OR

**David Yocca**, Director, Conservation Design Forum, Illinois

Back Page (same for all 16)

**The Challenge: Blend. Balance. Integrate.**

**Integrating Habitats** is the result of a premier international design competition aimed at generating innovative ideas and site designs that protect and enhance water quality, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. The award winners present a bountiful resource of elegant, functional designs for conceptualized sites that blend natural area access, site planning, environmental preservation and resource conservation in construction and development.

**Metro Regional Government** serves 1.4 million people who live in the 25 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. Metro's model code Title 13, "Nature in Neighborhoods," brings the regional government and local jurisdictions together to help ensure that the region's wildlife and people thrive in a healthy urban ecosystem.

**Metro Council**

David Bragdon, President

Rod Park, District 1

Carlotta Collette, District 2

Carl Hosticka, District 3

Kathryn Harrington, District 4

Rex Burkholder, District 6

Robert Liberty, Deputy President, District 6



**Design Success Quote Used:**

"We are on the cusp of a mega-trend of exploding interest in the relationship of habitat to green building. This is not merely a regional interest, but a global interest in which our region is the leader."—*James H. Winkler, juror*

**Design Success Quote Additional Possibilities:**

*[Note that there are easily 16 possible "success" quotes so unless we need to keep the back page the same we can change this with each one]*

"The winning entries demonstrate that both people *and* other organisms get better places to live when we apply what we know about urban design and what we know about habitats to the same places."—*Joan Iverson Nassauer, juror*

"The winners should whet everyone's appetite for cities in which the beauty of nature is made commonplace—at the big box store or around the neighborhood."—*Joan Iverson Nassauer, juror*

"The collaborative efforts of the competition applicants who put their intellect on the line, in an effort to create something new and as-yet unfronted at this scale, have created a tremendous body work for all of us to study, grow from, and advance together as a combined the science, design, and planning community"—*Josh Cerra, \_\_\_\_\_*

"Integrating Habitats is a stellar example of how creative minds and caring hearts can change the world."—*Susan S. Szenasy, juror*

**Logos:**

Metro

Nature in Neighborhood

***Sponsors***

Portland BES

Clean Water Services

Clackamas City Water Env. Services

Port of Portland

City of Gresham

Salmon-Safe

**Website Link**

For more information about Integrated Habitats and the latest information on exhibitions, etc.