



## PLACEMAKING NETWORK: SPRING 2016 SEMINARS

Co-sponsored by the Committee on Resilient Environments (CORE), the Committee on the Environment (COTE) and the Foundation for Modern Architecture

### What's Wrong With the Sustainable Design We Have Today?

BSA Space, 290 Congress Street, Boston  
Monday, April 25, 6-7:30pm

Plenty, says Michael Mehaffy, a leading authority on the emerging field of "Agile Design" and its potential for disruptive impact on architectural practice and placemaking. *Architect* magazine says that Mehaffy seeks to "radically change the way people think." Ward Cunningham, the inventor of Wiki and a pioneer of Agile Methodology, says Mehaffy "lucidly describes what's coming in the world of design and what needs to come."

Taking theory into action, Mehaffy has developed new open-source design technologies based upon Christopher Alexander's "Pattern Language" concept. Mehaffy has collaborated closely in this work with Alexander, and with Ward Cunningham – a pioneer not only of Wiki and Agile, but also of open source software development and Pattern Languages of Programming. During Mehaffy's talk, he will share the practical lessons for urban architecture and development, as well as others learned from Portland, Oregon, his home base, that may help us here in Boston.

The issues discussed could not be more urgent. Evidence is growing that "bolt-on" technological approaches will not be enough to solve the seminal challenge of our time: climate change, along with the related issues of resource depletion, ecological destruction and contamination. Growing numbers of people now recognize that we must fundamentally rethink how technology in general, and design technology specifically, will work to meet those challenges. But what is the alternative? Where are we headed in the future of design?

And how might the histories of science and technology help us think strategically about the choices ahead?

Join us for a thought provoking and inspiring discussion with **Michael Mehaffy**, author of *Design for a Living Planet*, and **Jennifer Light**, MIT Professor of Science, Technology and Society, and author of *The Nature of Cities*.



**Michael W. Mehaffy, PhD**, is an author, researcher, educator, and practitioner in urban design and strategic urban development, with an international practice based in Portland, Oregon. He recently presented major research on climate change and urban design at COP21, the climate change conference in Paris. He is consultant to the UN for Habitat III, the bi-decennial conference on global urban policy. He has held teaching and/or research appointments at six graduate institutions in five countries. Mehaffy is the author, with Nikos A. Salingaros, of *Design for a Living Planet*, and editor of the just published *A City is Not a Tree: 50th Anniversary Edition*, by his longtime colleague Christopher Alexander.



**Jennifer S. Light, PhD**, is Professor of Science, Technology and Society, and also Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, at MIT. She is the author of several books about past efforts to solve city problems using scientific methods and technological tools. Professor Light holds degrees from Harvard University and the University of Cambridge. Her work has been supported by the Graham Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Institute for Advanced Study, and honored with the Catherine Bauer Wurster Prize from the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.

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The Placemaking Network Seminar Series is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

To RSVP and to learn more, visit [www.architects.org/committees/placemaking-network](http://www.architects.org/committees/placemaking-network)

The Boston Society of Architects' Placemaking Network meets monthly for seminar presentations on the subject of Placemaking, to discuss what makes public spaces successful, and to examine how architects, landscape designers, urban planners, artists, and public officials can work together to create great public places, to turn SPACE into PLACE.

**BSA Placemaking Network Committee Co-Chairs**

Christina Lanzl PhD / [christina.lanzl@urbancultureinstitute.org](mailto:christina.lanzl@urbancultureinstitute.org)

Robert Tullis AIA / [rtullis@generalinvestment.com](mailto:rtullis@generalinvestment.com)