

Thursday, July 23, 2009 (file cac228)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: Culture, architecture, food and garbage

Background: The generic catchall topic of "culture" is flooding the literature market and bookstores who typically assign a section to the subject that embeds many topics of interest for the general plan. Architecture literature is filled with topics relating to sustainability and green features. Garbage has been a hot topic for counties who hope to balance their budgets by accepting urban waste for a fee.

Ref A: E. Freyfogle (editor), *The new agrarianism; land, culture and the community of life*, Island Press/shearwater book, 2001

Ref B: *Green homes for dummies*, Wiley 2009

Ref C: C. Strongman, *the sustainable home*, Mere

Ref D: M. Burch, *The complete guide to building log homes*, Sterling 1990

Ref E: G. Williams, *Be your own architect*, Tab 1995

Ref F: M. Pollan, *In defense of food*, Penguin 2009

Ref G: J. Moussef Mason, *The face on your dinner plate*, Norton 2007

Ref H: K. Weston, *Food Inc*, Participant Media, 2009

Ref I: H. Rogers, *Gone Tomorrow, the hidden life of garbage*, The new press 2005

Highlights and commentary:

1. In Ref A, Freyfogle presents the viewpoints of 13 authors on full or part time agrarian practices on a wide range of scales and locations in a historical context. He provides an overview of successful and unsuccessful communities. This book provides a good background on communities explored by D. Christian in his recent book on *Finding Communities* that I reviewed in Cac 221.
2. In Ref B you can find a cookbook full of approaches to green living that fit well into the LEED building concepts.
3. Ref C looks at long term sustainability from an architectural viewpoint with many contemporary illustrations.
4. Ref D is helpful for modifying kit homes, interacting with professional architects and integrating title 24 and related regulations into new designs.

5. Ref E is the latest in a series of similar books that Pollan has written to recognize the foibles of our current food production/distribution system and health aspects of food. References G-I are in a similar vein.
6. Ref H hits hard on problems of garbage disposal and the effects of recycling.