

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Urban food production: Increasing resilience, livability, and a sense of community in Brazil, Cuba, and New Zealand.

- **Format:**

Verbal Presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

The production of food inside or at the fringe of cities has historically been an important part of a city's urban mosaic. Last century, escalating urbanization and the increasing cost of land made the production of food inside urban areas less feasible in many areas. On the other hand, it is known that, during times of privation, production of food inside urban areas has played an important part in contributing to a city's diet. Recently, community gardens, vertical farms and other urban food production initiatives have been flourishing in different parts of the world. Some of these projects and concepts have remarkable claims about resilience, sustainability and increasing the sense of community attached to them. Often these claims are without quantifiable basis. This investigation endeavors to expose potential myths about this new trend in urban design, while contributing to discussion about the benefits of food production in urban areas, its potential to add to efforts to increase resilience, urban livability and enhance a sense of community. In order to achieve this, case studies from three different parts of the world are presented: Sao Paulo in Brazil, Havana in Cuba, and Wellington in New Zealand. The

emergence of food production in urban areas in Sao Paulo, Havana and Wellington are driven by markedly different social, economic and ecological factors, service different populations, are of different sizes with varied ownership models. A comparison between them highlights several differences; from the ways that they are run to outputs and community engagement.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Dr Fabricio Chicca – Building Science Programme Director at Victoria University of Wellington. Graduated with an Architecture and Urban Design in 1997 and completed his Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Design in 2007. Following his studies he had a successful 13 year professional career in the international real estate market where he worked as a project manager, urban designer, architect and real estate developer. Throughout his professional career, Fabricio was responsible for large-scale developments and worked for multinational companies. His PhD thesis, defended on March 2013, thoroughly explored sustainability in urban areas. Additionally, Fabricio has also studied the tangible and intangible values of the real estate market, urban agriculture and project management.

Dr. Malbritt Pedersen Zari is a Senior Lecturer in Sustainable Architecture and Interior Architecture at Victoria University's School of Architecture in Wellington, New Zealand. Her areas of expertise are biomimicry, regenerative design, biophilic design, urban ecosystem services, and the practical intersection of ecology with urban and architectural design. She has published extensively in these areas as well as in the relationships between climate change, biodiversity loss and the built environment.