Abstract (300 words):

When I moved from Huntington Beach, CA to New York City I discovered that I was closer to nature in the city than I had ever been living in the suburbs . . .

The county of San Diego, CA has a population roughly equivalent to that of the Island of Manhattan, while the city I refer to as “Los Orange Diego” (LA, Orange and San Diego counties) equals about seven Manhattans (2005 estimates). Based on a series of Pecha Kucha’s delivered to the San Diego Architectural Foundation from 2006 to 2011, this presentation imagines what San Diego and Southern California could have been had it adopted a footprint and density similar to that of Manhattan. Then, recognizing the existing condition, it explores the transformation over time of typical suburban street – in this case the house I grew up in – into a neighborhood with a population density equivalent to that of New York’s Greenwich Village over a period of twenty years, by invoking a narrative of zoning changes and entrepreneurialism.

The title refers to a particular image in the presentation of cows grazing in the SD neighborhood of Hillcrest, three miles north of downtown, supporting the theme that with
a density and linear footprint such as NYC, everyone could live within two miles of either
a nature preserve or farmland. If accepted for the conference, the presentation will be
expanded to explore similar themes relative to Tucson and its surroundings. A paper
associated with the topic may be possible, if provided sufficient space for associated
graphics.

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

Charles Crawford is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the NewSchool of
Architecture & Design, where he is graduate coordinator and teaches design studio,
theory and representation. He is a licensed architect in California and a graduate of
Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and earned a
certificate from Ecole des Beaux-Arts Americanes in Fontainebleau France. Prior to
teaching full-time at NewSchool, Charles was an adjunct professor at Woodbury
University, Burbank, Southwest Community College and NSAD. He began his professional
career at Eisenman Architects and worked for Zaha Hadid, Moule and Polyzoides, and
Skidmore Owens & Merrill. In 2002 Charles moved to San Diego as an Associate Partner
at Safdie Rabines Architects where he was project architect for the Scripps Institute of
Oceanography Seaside Forum in La Jolla, CA and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook in
Los Angeles, CA, along with several private residences. His most recent conference
paper, Two Roosters and a Rabbit: On the (im)Possibility of Reading, was presented at
the ACSA conference in Toronto, 2015.