

Mary Dellenbaugh  
Anhalt Hochschule (FH) – International Masters of Landscape Architecture Program  
NSE Network Kolloquium Meeting, March 2010, Berlin

Abstract –Masters Thesis in Progress: **The role of landscape architecture and urban design in the reunification of Berlin: An examination of landscape architecture projects and urban development along the Berlin wall corridor from 1989 to 2009, and their ramifications for urban sustainability**

The fall of the Berlin wall on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1989 was only the beginning of the reunification of Berlin. While the opening of the border between the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) represented the beginning of the removal of political and physical boundaries, the division of Berlin lived on in the form of a long scar on the landscape. The resulting challenge and opportunity for landscape architects and urban planners was to develop projects to further the physical reunification of Berlin, and make a former site of division into a place of unification, commerce, residence, and community. The purpose of this project is to assess the effect of those landscape architecture and urban development projects on Berlin's urban sustainability over several spatial levels. To this end, the author has developed a methodology for assessing urban sustainability based on thorough interdisciplinary research on the topic of sustainability.

In developing a rubric and methodology for assessing urban sustainability over various spatial levels, the author drew upon experience gathered from various disciplines, including systems dynamics, ecology, economics, architecture, and sociology, based on the theory that there are unifying principles to sustainability that cross-cut disciplines. The author specifically examined the extent to which these principles can be applied to an urban context. In a spatially-defined field like landscape architecture, sustainability integrates principles of system integrity, inputs and outputs, and social, economic and ecological factors with spatial characteristics like connectivity and integration across multiple spatial levels. This project was developed as a flagship project to test if the development of such a methodology is possible, to identify complications in the development of a tool, and to test the end product of such a process against an easily-definable spatial situation.