

# Site Spectacle Seed Sprout

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Site Spectacle Seed Sprout is a conceptual proposal to initiate a more socially conscious approach to deconstruction and urban renewal in the city of Detroit. The project provides an alternative response to the current city-center based system with its traditional top-down, trickle-down development models, inadequate demolition program, and slow, scattered blight beautification.

Site Spectacle Seed Sprout starts from the field condition of empty houses and lots interspersed with inhabited homes that characterizes many Detroit neighborhoods. We contend that these scattered “voids” are not vacuums, but a collection of resources ready to be reused—first: space, empty or available; second: material, in various degrees of re-usefulness and salvageability; third: potential energy, the first two combined with the energy of existing community and momentum towards a new future. Similar to a log cabin built from the trees around it, or the ecology of that same forest repurposing decaying elements as fertilizer for new growth, we believe that the future of the city can be planted from materials already existing.

We propose a simultaneously orchestrated deconstruction of houses across the city, an urban plan in action, a continuum from site to spectacle to seed from which the new city will sprout. The process of removal is not a

fixed end but a series of beginnings—techniques and tactics for manipulating existing built forms—that can be repeated continually to create a dynamically changing urban landscape. The programmatic seeds aim towards sustainable self sufficiency and a dispersed network of urban activity to maintain the city’s current size as viable. Throughout the process, Site Spectacle Seed Sprout transforms a labor usually taboo and hidden into a scattering of house-shaped luminaires, glorifying the process of the city’s metamorphosis. The houses metamorphosed juxtapose new use with physical memory, collapsing time in a single place.

Traditional development models involve local residents only as fodder for planning charettes while actual decision making is done from above. Site Spectacle Seed Sprout instead puts the city’s renaissance directly in the hands of the community. The project takes form as a manual for community enfranchisement, a series of instructional documents straddling the line between IKEA and Sol LeWitt that give neighborhoods the tools to build their own futures.

Six seed typologies—ranging from social to sustainable to entrepreneurial—each entail a specific unbuilding process and resultant form. Residents are trained and supported by the city as they perform deconstruction. The

remaining structure, materials, and proceeds from any salvage or scrap sales are theirs with which to rebuild. Local ownership of redevelopment promotes ongoing stewardship. Dependence on Detroit for utilities, social services, and even transportation is reduced as individual communities are strengthened and reinvigorated.

We contend that by reconsidering normative renovation and creative deconstruction happening in the city, the two can be combined to increased polemical effect and greater community good. We propose that through a system of acupunctural seeding and rhizomatic planning, we might invent a form of urban renewal that strengthens existing communities to resist both peripheral atrophy and choking gentrification. Lastly, we believe that the most effective and responsible way to revitalize a city is through its people. We present Site Spectacle Seed Sprout. It is not ruin porn, and it is not historic preservation. It’s a future in which regrowth and healing go hand in hand through a process of decompositional regeneration.

# SITE SPECTACLE SEED SPROUT

A CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL FOR DECONSTRUCTION AS A MEANS TO REGROWTH

SITE SPECTACLE SEED SPROUT starts from the field condition of abandoned houses and empty lots interspersed with inhabited homes. We contend that these scattered "voids" are not vacuums, but a collection of resources ready to be reused. Similar to the way a log cabin is built from the trees around it, or the way the ecology of that same forest repurposes decaying elements as fertilizer for new growth, we believe that an act of subtraction is merely a reorganization of matter, and that the future of the city can be seeded from materials already existing in the city.

Traditional development models involve local residents only as fodder for planning charrettes while actual decisions are made from top down. SITE SPECTACLE SEED SPROUT proposes instead to put the city's renaissance directly in the hands of the community. The project takes form as a series of instructional documents that give neighborhoods the tools to build their own futures.

Throughout the deconstruction process, SITE SPECTACLE SEED SPROUT transforms a labor usually taboo and hidden into a scattering of house-shaped luminaires. The scattering of programmatic seeds aims towards sustainable self-sufficiency and a dispersed network of urban activity. The resultant structure, materials, and proceeds from any salvage or scrap sales are theirs with which to rebuild. Local ownership of redevelopment promotes ongoing stewardship. Dependence on Detroit for utilities, social services, and even transportation is reduced as individual communities are strengthened and reinvigorated.

SITE SPECTACLE SEED SPROUT is not ruin porn, and it is not historic preservation. It's a future in which regrowth and healing go hand in hand through a process of decompositional regeneration.



SITE	1	2	3	4	5	6
SPECTACLE	1 SOCIAL/WATER	2 GREENHOUSE	3 THEATRE	4 LIBRARY	5 MARKET	6 SWIMMING POOL
SEED	1 SOCIAL/WATER	2 GREENHOUSE	3 THEATRE	4 LIBRARY	5 MARKET	6 SWIMMING POOL
SPROUT	1 SOCIAL/WATER	2 GREENHOUSE	3 THEATRE	4 LIBRARY	5 MARKET	6 SWIMMING POOL

