URBAN GREEN TRAIN

Evolution of UA in Europe, North-America and Oceania

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Medieval Urban Horticulture

Gardens nearby the city walls

Moved onto respect areas within walls, greater defence and reserve of food in case of war.

Urban Horticulture during the industrial revolution

Gardens nearby factories.

Improve life of the workers and reduce poverty and malnutrition.

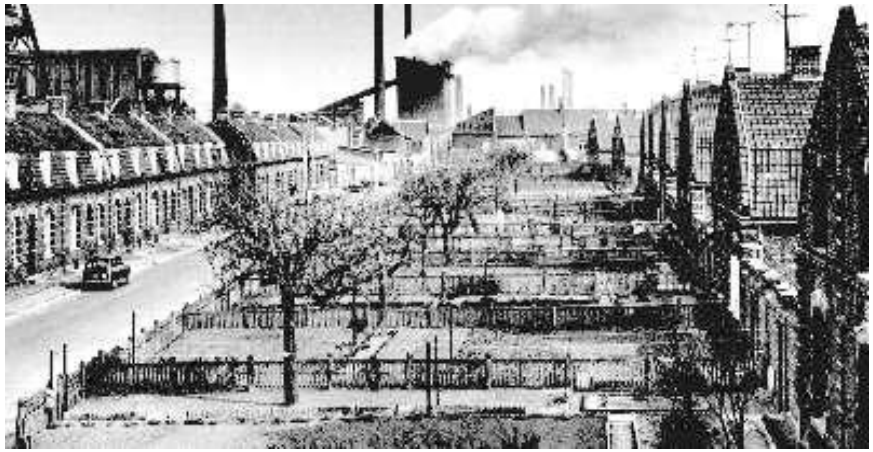
Kleingärten, Schrebergärten (Germany)

First association of people, families and small communities involved in urban gardening, established in 1864, by doctor Daniel Gottlob Moritz Schreber (1808 - 1861). Today, urban gardens are still called "*Schrebergärten*".

Schrebergarten – Josef Hegenbarth, 1930.
Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Kleingärten, 1952
(Deutsche Fotothek)

Jardins ouvriers (France)



Saint Etienne, France, 1930-’40

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Migrant gardens (USA, Australia)

Visalia, California, USA, c. 1940

La Perouse, Sidney, Australia, c. 1950

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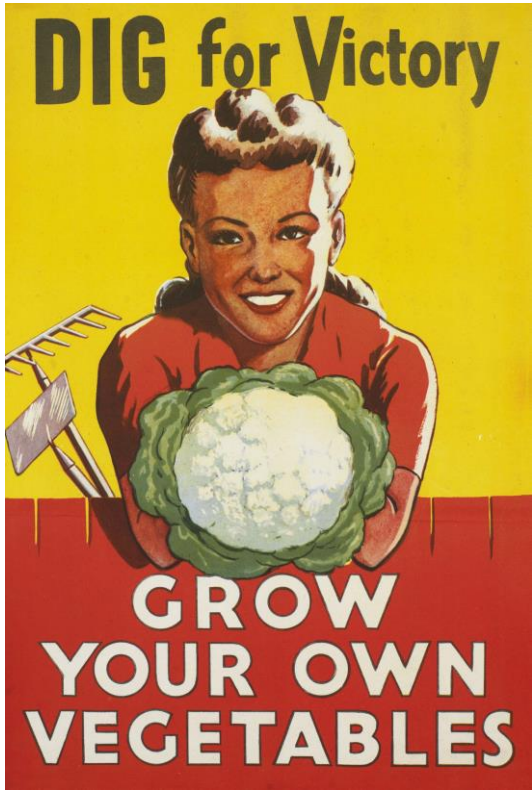
Orti Operai (Italy)

Orti del Dopolavoro – c. 1935 -'40
(Archivi Edison)

Urban horticulture during the 2nd world war

Garden cultivation in cities

For promoting food security for citizens and the soldiers. Promoted by governments



Propaganda for VICTORY GARDENS and DIG FOR VICTORY in USA and England,'40.

Urban horticulture during the 2nd world war

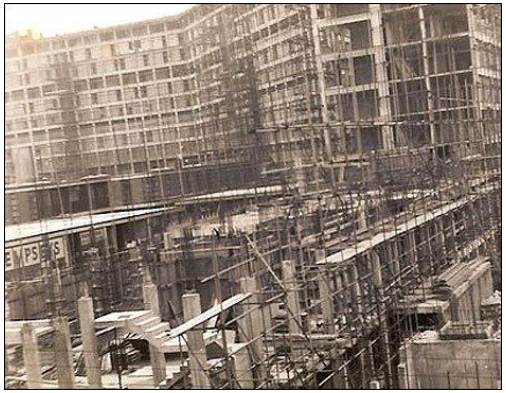
In United States of America, Victory Gardens are promoted

In 1943 20 millions of gardens in USA an production of about 8 million tons, about 10% of the requirements.

Propaganda VICTORY GARDENS in USA,'40.

The fifties

Europe comes out of the war poor, and reconstruction forgot the crucial role played by urban agriculture in the food security in previous years



URBAN PLANNING and the ECONOMIC BOOM pave the way for colonizing all city green spaces and turning them into concrete lands.

The seventies

The ecologist turn.

First community gardens are appearing, as a form for self-determination, self-management and independence from the market

People's Park, in a vacant land in the University of Berkeley

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Liz Christy Garden

In the seventies, the crisis resulted in thousands of empty buildings: more than 25’000 in the only city of New York

Community gardens, such as the Liz Christy Garden, start to appear.

Liz Christy Garden, NYC, 1973.

The seventies

Guerrilla Gardening

Reaction to the indifference of public institution to the decadence and degradation of periurban lands.
First form of non-violent political gardening.

Adam Purple, the father of Guerrilla Gardening.

Adam Purple

Garden of Eden

Realized under the guide of Adam Purple, was removed in 1986 to create social housing buildings

Garden of Eden in the East-Side Manhattan

Adam Purple

Garden of Eden

The artist George Bliss disseminated footprints guiding the visitors to the place where the garden was

George Bliss, NYC.

The eighties

Factors limiting the development of urban horticulture:

1) Media promoted terror for contamination: only food produced in factories is healthy;
2) Cities transforming and fight for available space: prices established by the market rather than sustainability laws.

Diffusion of illegal gardens

The eighties

Features of an illegal garden

1) In marginal and polluted areas, (wastelands, nearby main roads);
2) Only productivity objective, no care is given to aestetic or cleaning;
3) Pesticide intensive production, not organic management.

Bad pubblicity to urban horticulture

The eighties

Illegal gardeners continue their fight (ItaliaNostra, 1982):

1) In Milan, Italy, more than 800 ha, 25% of the local production;
2) Managed by factory workers, but also retired and students
3) Each garden 80 to 120 m^2

Unstoppable growth. City councils cannot ignore it anymore!

The eighties

In Modena, in 1980 the first italian regulation of social garden is established.

However, administration still see UH as something for elder and poors: realised in already green lands, open only to people above sixty years of age, not family presence admitted.

The nineties

… in USA

First institutional and political recognition

800 Community gardens in New York, establishment of the public agency *Green Thumb*, long term authorisation of public lands.

The nineties

… in UK

In UK

Constitution of the **Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens**, promoting multifunctional agriculture in cities.

Garden associated to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, UK.

The nineties

… in Italy

In Italy

Constitution of **ANCESCAO** (National Association of Social Centres, Elderly and Gardens), favouring social agriculture against solitude and marginalization.

Social gardens in Italy

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Social gardens in Italy

Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

Garden as way for innovation

Productivity → Aesthetic

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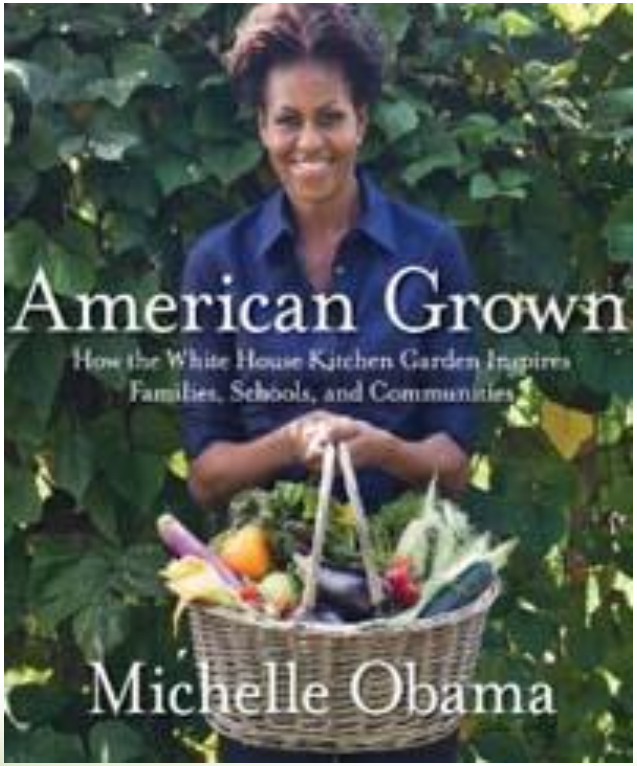
Urban Agriculture in the 21th Century

Michelle Obama, implementing a vegetable garden at the Whitehouse.



Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

LAND ART

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Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

UA for inclusion and socialisation at Ton Steine Garten, Berlin, Germany.

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Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

UA for recreation and wellbeing at Prinzessinen garten, Berlin, Germany.

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Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

UA for inclusion and socialisation at Allmende Kontor, Berlin, Germany.

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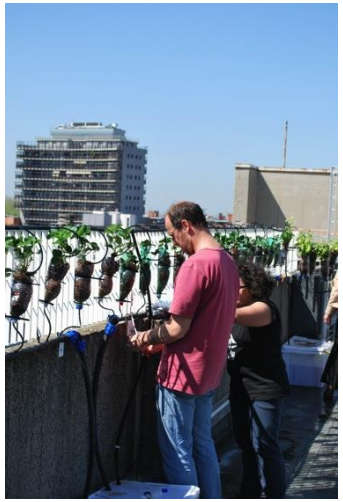
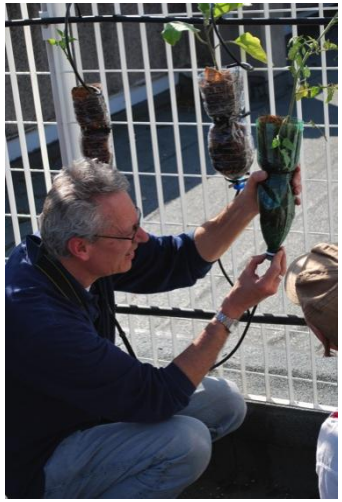
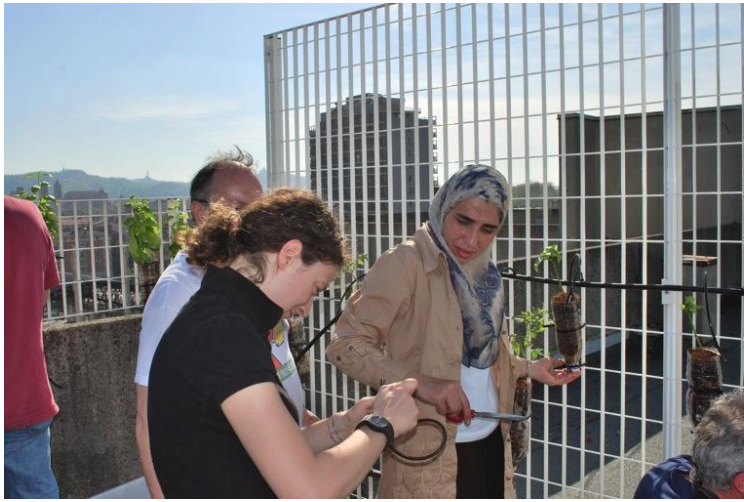
Urban agriculture in the 21th Century

UA for inclusion and socialisation at Gandusio rooftop garden, Bologna, Italy.

Evolution of UA in Europe, North-America and Australia: Bullet Points

- Urban agriculture has been integrated into European cities since medieval time
- During industrialization gardens were found nearby factories for workers leisure and food security
- During the war UA was crucial for food security
- From the fifties, as urbanization grew, UA presence was reduced in most cities
- From the seventies the ecologist turn led to spread of UA initiatives, that were then recognised from administrations starting from the eighties.

Evolution of UA in Europe, North-America and Australia: Bullet Points

- From the beginning of the 21st Century, UA is being promoted as a crucial element in most world cities, for the multifunctional role it can play.