
University of Pennsylvania



Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

Adam Levine

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From Creek to Sewer: A Philadelphia Story

Cut-and-fill is a basic tool of landscape architects, but the scale of cutting and filling done in 19th century cities is almost unfathomable. This fascinating lecture, profusely illustrated with period photographs, maps, drawings and plans, will trace some of the major alterations in the original Philadelphia landscape, and reveal the various justifications used by city officials for these projects. The most significant topographical change in many cities was the systematic obliteration of most of the surface streams--a process that, in Philadelphia, went on for more than 150 years. Buried deep underground in pipes as large as 20 feet in diameter, these former streams--some with watersheds that covered thousands of acres--became main drainage arteries in the city's 3,000 mile sewer system. In Philadelphia, as in many cities, this massive alteration to the original hydrology and landscape is a little-known story that is still relevant today.

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2003

Time: **NOON - 1:30 pm**

Place: **Auditorium at Wistar Institute**

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36th Street Walkway

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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