Lessons from Costa Rica

- In 2011 the United Nations named Costa Rica the world’s leading country in pesticide use
  - Water in surrounding towns is toxic and undrinkable
- The pineapple industry is responsible for most deforestation in Costa Rica
- 1/4 of pineapple profits go to international companies, less than 10% go to laborers
- There is a species of bamboo native to Central America! Great for natural building
- Húeetares people of Costa Rica pass down indigenous knowledge through traditional foraging and medicinal practices, among other ways

Approaches to Sustainable Urban Development:

1. Natural building/passive building
   - Place responsive/location specific design
   - Geographic availability of resources
   - Pattern languages
   - Place identity
2. Soil restoration in public space
   - Gardens & parks
   - Sequestering carbon
3. Increase access to nutrition & wellness through urban environmental justice
   - Community members build local economy
   - Bottom-up vs top-down
   - Envisioning agricultural systems not based on the oppression of people
   - Principles of permaculture: people care; fair share; transition ethic