



# RTPI

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## SIR PATRICK GEDDES COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE 2011



# Food and Cities

by

# Carolyn Steel

on

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 17.45

in

Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, National Galleries  
of Scotland, the Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL

**Sponsored by**



Sir Patrick Geddes' influence as a pioneer of town planning received worldwide recognition. His work in Scotland, France, the Near East and India based on the principle of "Place-Work-Folk" remains relevant to contemporary issues of sustainable development, regionalism and locality, economic and community regeneration, environmental quality and social inclusion.



Carolyn Steel MA (Cantab) Dip Arch RIBA is an architect, lecturer and writer. Her chief interest is in exploring the inner lives of cities, and her work has focused on developing a lateral approach to urban design that looks at the everyday routines that shape cities and the way we inhabit them. Since qualifying from Cambridge University in 1984, Carolyn has combined practice with teaching, writing and research. She joined Kilburn Nightingale Architects in 1989, since when she has completed several buildings for the Central School of Speech and Drama. Her academic work has focused on the everyday lives of cities, and her lecture series *Food and the City* is an established part of the architectural degree at Cambridge University. She has run successful design units at Cambridge, London Metropolitan University, and at the London School of Economics, where she was inaugural studio director of the Cities Programme. She was a Rome Scholar in 1995-6, researching the historical urban order of the Ghetto. She has presented on BBC TV's 'One Foot in the Past', has written for Blueprint Magazine and is a regular columnist for Building Design.

Carolyn has run design studios at the London School of Economics, London Metropolitan University and at Cambridge University, where her lecture course 'Food and the City' was an established part of the degree programme.

Carolyn's book *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives*, published by Chatto and Windus in 2008, won the Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Award for Non-Fiction and was recently featured on a special edition of Radio 4's The Food Programme. Feeding cities arguably has a greater social and physical impact on us and our planet than anything else we do. Yet few of us in the West are conscious of the process. Food arrives on our plates as if by magic, and we rarely stop to wonder how it might have got there. The book follows food's journey from land to city, through market and supermarket, kitchen and table, waste-dump and back again, to show how food affects all our lives, and impacts on the planet. The final chapter asks how we might use food to re-think cities in the future – to design them and their hinterlands better, and live in them better too.

During 2010 Carolyn was a visiting research fellow and lecturer at Wageningen University, where she was working with Han Wiskerke, Chair of the Rural Sociology Group, to explore sitopian themes around Food and the City.

## Programme

- 17.45            Arrival and registration
- 18.00            **Welcome** by David Suttie  
Convenor, RTPI in Scotland
- 18.05            **Introduction**
- 18.15            **Lecture** by Carolyn Steel, followed by questions
- 19.15            **Vote of thanks** by Ben Tindall  
Chairman, Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust
- 19.25            Drinks reception

### Supported by



**The Sir Patrick Geddes  
Memorial Trust**

### This lecture has been organised by:

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# Sir Patrick Geddes Lecture – Food and Cities

Event code: 37627

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

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