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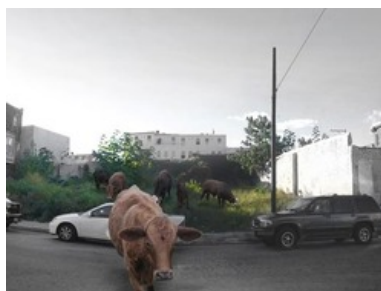
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## From Blight to Petting Zoo: The Feral City

By Alexis Madrigal December 12, 2007 | 12:39:35 PM Categories: [Agriculture](#)

Architects want to turn Philadelphia's abandoned buildings and lots into a patchwork of farms that will come, as [Geoff Manaugh of BLDGBLOG](#) put it, "complete with crops grown for local consumption and soil remediation, and with an eye toward future tourism, including surreal petting zoos, hay rides, and even corn mazes."



The pictures are surreal in that third world juxtaposition way, but let's be honest, much of north Philadelphia [already is](#).

Visions of the feral city are often dystopic and daark (think *12 Monkeys*) but these architects are imagining half-wild cities that work in new ways. It's exciting to see future visions for American cities that are not just ever more disfigured photocopies of London.

There will be no shortage of testing grounds across the postindustrial north, either. As the dean of the University of [Detroit Mercy School of Architecture](#), [points out](#): "A city the size of San Francisco could fit in the total area of Detroit's empty buildings and vacant lots."

Image: [Front Studio](#), where you can also find out more on the project.

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Moo ... Move ... Moo  
Did you hear that?

Posted by: **Kouroth** | Dec 14, 2007 8:12:13 AM

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