



#PodcastsInTheClassroom

Episode Question Ideas

New York, New York: The Big Apple Adapts to Climate Change

https://www.americaadapts.org/episodes/new-york-new-york-the-big-apple-adapts-to-climate-change?fbclid=IwAR2Bb6iG2TqJPNlxMSzWxYUUYZ2sYjjw44k_QJUX8ZoZIJvWYkWXADNyqEY

Full Episode Questions

- In this episode, Signe Nielsen describes many adaptation efforts occurring in New York City, from her perspective as a landscape architect. Describe an adaptation effort in your city. Can you describe an effort being taken in your city within your field of study?
- Hurricane Sandy was a driving force in shifting the direction and timelines of adaptation planning in New York. What are the benefits and drawbacks of these extreme events with acute impacts driving these measures?
- Signe uses Pier 55 as an example of success, with the caveat that it has been a difficult journey. Summarize Signe's example of Pier 55 in 3-5 sentences. What made Pier 55 unique? Why is Pier 55 an example of good adaptation in New York City? What were the struggles of Pier 55 development?
- Imagine that you are a student on a curriculum board for your program. You've been asked to summarize your training on climate change and provide feedback to the program directors. How much training do you receive on climate change? Do you have suggestions for ways to do more? What do you feel you need more training on? How would you recommend your
- In what ways does your work (big or small) with adaptation take into consideration social cohesion and the quality of life of individuals or communities? What can others learn from your work?

Segment Questions

- First 5 minutes of episode: Doug and Signe's conversation begins with a discussion of the three principles for designing for the future. What are they? Why are they important in landscape architecture? Are they relevant to your field? Why or why not?



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- At 39:40, Signe Nielsen discusses managed retreat. Is this a new term for you, or has it been an issue/topic of discussion in your community? What different points of view influence how you think about managed retreat?
- At 45:30, Doug reads a quote from Signe Nielsen. They are talking about a false sense of security. Describe a situation around you in which you observe people with a false sense of security about climate change and its impacts or the need for adaptation. How would you tackle this situation? What would be your approach to dealing with the problem?
- At the end of the episode, Doug and Signe discuss the ethics of climate change and adaptation work. Is there a code of ethics that relates your field to climate change directly or indirectly? How so? Do you feel that members of your field of study follow this code?

Related Open Education Materials

Learn more about issues raised in this episode! You may find the following open educational resources from MIT OpenCourseWare of interest.



[11.941 Urban Climate Adaptation](#)

Professor JoAnn Carmin shares the materials she used to teach MIT students about climate change challenges and adaptation strategies urban centers might implement. Educators have access to image galleries, media assignments with examples, and written assignments.

Image Caption: Informal water connections: Vulnerability and resiliency. (Image courtesy of Julia Tierney. Used with permission.)



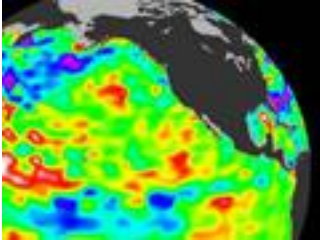
[11.027 Global Cityscope: Disaster Planning and Post-Disaster Rebuilding and Recovery](#)

Cherie Miot Abbanat shares assignments from her course designed to help students understand disaster cycles. Research and reflection are core aspects of the course, and educators have access to effective memo writing examples, along with an extensive reading list to share with students.

Image Caption (if needed): Residents begin to assess the damage after Hurricane Maria hit the island of Dominica in September 2017. (Photo courtesy of [Roosevelt Skerrit](#) on Flickr and is in the public domain.)



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[2.016 Hydrodynamics](#)

Professor Alexandra Techet shares the materials she used to teach undergraduate MIT students the fundamental equations of fluid mechanics. Educators have access to her syllabus, PDF files of her course notes, and problem sets with solutions.

Image Caption: This December 31, 2005 image of wave height relative to normal levels - blue being below normal, and red and white being above normal - suggests that the tropical Pacific Ocean is beginning to exhibit the characteristics of a La Niña condition (Source: [NASA Ocean Surface Topography from Space](#)). (Image courtesy of [NASA JPL](#).)



[4.125 Architecture Studio: Building in Landscapes](#)

Professor Jan Wampler shares lectures videos and design assignments (with examples) from this course for architecture students learning to create spaces that “establish continuities between the built and natural world.” Community is a focus of the course materials.

Image Caption: The Rockport Quarry. (Image by Jan Wampler.)



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