



Front loaders process tons of food that has been discarded. - Elaine S. Povich (Stateline Articles)

# **Sovereign Integration: Designing for the Integration of Agriculture within Urban Contexts**

Michael Broyles

## **Conversation**

Our food system is organized as a decentralized industrial process. With nearly 10% of the population impacted by food insecurity, how can we work toward a re-centralized, sustainable food network at the human scale?

## **Stakes**

Food insecurity often results in individuals making a decision between household financial obligations and the prospect of a meal, yet our housing models fail to consider the potential within the residential form. Our urban fabric, therefore, remains globally food dependent and at the mercy of complex industrial infrastructure and logistics.

## **Betterment**

The proposition of an architectural form with an integral agricultural element that provides possibilities for individuals to endeavor toward self sufficiency and regain sovereignty over part of their lived experience.

## **Profile**

I grew up in a small village in western New York, living with my grandparents while my father was away on deployment. Each evening my grandfather would pull vegetables from his garden or drive to a nearby farm neighbor to purchase freshly harvested produce. Those memories were thrust to the forefront at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic as farmers nationwide were forced to destroy hundreds of thousands of pounds of food, leaving citizens with little options and inadequate local resources. This peaked my interest regarding how, with so much potential land, we cannot, at least, be on the fringe of self sufficiency, and what would it take to achieve.

