

ROOM TO GROW:  
EXPLORING INTERSTITIALITY THROUGH THE LIFE AND DEATH OF AN URBAN GARDEN

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No system of control can ever be totalizing, can account for every circumstance of the everyday. There are cracks, or interstices, in the discourses, spaces, and institutions of the urban. This research explores the phenomenon of interstitiality, of that which exists in the interstices: it seeks to understand how interstitiality occurs, its connection to informal/formal relations, and its implications for planning practice. Whereas other spatial research has focused on one aspect of interstitiality and discussed it as exclusively positive or negative, this research addresses both the resilience and vulnerability inherent in interstitiality. Through the story of an urban garden in Edmonton, this research identifies a triple dialectic of interstitiality: discursive, spatial, and institutional interstices interact with each other to create the overall condition of interstitiality. This research provides insights into how interstitiality functions within informal and formal co-evolution, and how this informs broader spatial governance.

**Key Words:** Interstitiality, Urban Gardens, Space, Discourse, Institutions, Informality