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University of the Built Environment
and Metropolitan Development

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A New Hope: From Deadlocks to Grand Schemes for Philadelphia's Central Delaware Riverfront

Commentator:

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Public
Lecture

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Kesselhaus

Am
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For more than 250 years, the Delaware River was Philadelphia's economic engine and lifeline to the world. Following World War II, the riverfront fell into disuse as industry, investment and population left the city. Cut off from the city by an Interstate highway, the waterfront languished for more than 40 years despite successive attempts to redevelop. This lecture will examine the economic, political and social forces that hindered the renewal of Philadelphia's primary industrial riverfront and the landmark public planning process that altered the way Philadelphia is starting to redevelop its significant natural asset.



Harris M. Steinberg is the founding executive director of PennPraxis – the applied research arm of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania – and is an adjunct associate professor of city and regional planning at the university. Harris' work at PennPraxis centers on large-scale civic visioning projects including the landmark 2006-2007 Civic Vision for the Central Delaware which engaged more than 4000 Philadelphians in the creation of a new vision for Philadelphia's Delaware waterfront.

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