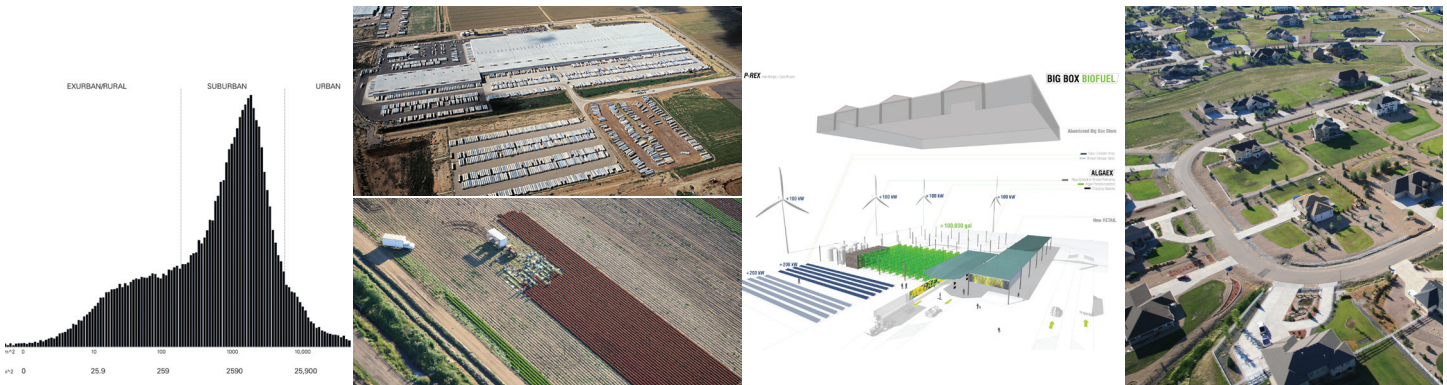


# Lincolnopolis

## Landscape Urbanization, Mobility, Agriculture, Energy at the *Interburban Frontier*

The United States is a suburban nation and will likely remain so for many decades. Demographically, the population residing in suburban areas has surged over the past 30 years, increasing approximately 100% to over 113 million (versus 55% growth for the denser principal city populations), and still growing despite the recession. Many metropolitan areas are adding population rapidly and developing suburban networks that rival or exceed the principal city in both demographic and economic terms. The expansion of suburban households now forms a supermajority of the total U.S. metropolitan area population (62%). Despite these facts, urban pundits and urban designer biases still try to emulate 19th Century European compact city form and mobility models to promote future growth in America. Antithetical to urbanist polemics, we will build on the *real* characteristics of today's growth cities, defined by: multi-nodal metropolitan scale horizontality, composed of multiple agglomerations of density, and containing large suburban/exurban/rural interfaces that are linked through social and economic connections. I have coined the term "Interburbia" to describe this multi-nodal suburban and exurban phenomenon, which is the subject matter of this studio.



While Lincoln is unlikely to see the same projected growth as metropolitan areas in the South or West regions of the U.S., the aggregate scales of Lincoln's metropolitan territory make it a good candidate for experimenting with growth scenarios that could be universally applied to many other locations.

This studio will use Lincoln as a growth scenario laboratory. Scenarios will be developed to double the population of Lincoln to the year 2050 while only applying the very low mean density increases to its existing urban fabric suggested by market history. Ultimately, this results in a new horizontal or multi-nodal city around the old city, forcing tough decisions on a variety of landscape resources and design issues. How will the infrastructures of mobility, water, energy, housing, ecology, and recreation function? Can these systems be designed more holistically to increase biodiversity, use less energy, while still remaining flexible enough to adjust to market demands in the future? Can the new interfaces of agricultural land and suburban/exurban housing replace old paradigms of rural/urban? Students will explore and learn about the following specific urban systems: energy, mobility, landscape and water/ecology, housing, agricultural urbanization. Students will explore and learn about the following specific concepts: landscape urbanism, Systemic Design, externalities, renewables, biodiversity, exurban/rural/interburban interfacing, adaptive reuse, amongst others. Work will be conducted in groups and individually. Concurrently taught seminar is also required.