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into urban homes and apartments.

The rise of the peri-urbanite and the urban farmer is happening with great esteem. An estimated 800 million people around the world are involved with urban farming. Thus, cultivating, processing and distributing food in an urban sphere could be the future vision for catering to people's food requirements.

With the advancement of urban farming comes a whole new observation of the community. Decades ago, Marshall McLuhan popularised the term "global village," a new movement where the world becomes even smaller and the global village becomes a commuter taxi filled with information. Information and aid is what, nowadays, gears our lives.

Creative Consultant, Jaco Jansen Van Rensburg believes that farmhouses and their language are becoming more important as cultural ambassadors leading to new thinking in terms of constructing homes. These facilitate and meander towards helping the urban farmer enrich and curve around structures of steel and concrete, feeding even more into a new reflective state surrounding farming, and the way farming will be 20 or 40 years from now.

The inspired "Protofarm 2050" project, commissioned by The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) at last year's World Design Congress in Singapore, is a project that certainly has an Orwellian truth and vision about it. The brief given was to generate forward-thinking prospective situations on any topic. This year's Cape Town-based Design Indaba chose farming as a topic, looking to absorb information about food security and resourceful environmentalism. The next logical move was to commission a group of radically pioneering thinkers to this project. And so Futurefarmers, 5.5 designers, Dunne&Raby, Revital Cohen and Frank Tjepkema were to generate the vision of farming in the year 2050.

By looking at this uniquely

collaborative vision of what could be, Futurefarmers proposed using old container ships to create floating farms and gardens where diet, water and psychological needs are taken into perfect, unified consideration. Designers 5.5 created city guidebooks with urban recipes (eating rats and cockroaches included). Dunne & Raby believe in designing for the overpopulation and embracing a new kind of activist who wants to keep

innovation and forward thinking by turning protofarming into a viable and usable reality? By looking at urbanites the solutions swarm. Building an inner city conservatory with vegetables and green shrubs on your balcony and a greenhouse that is in your courtyard; these become realities and viable options when your thinking translates into action. Philosophically, positive change in the world originates from spiritual



species wild. Also looking into synthetic biology where plants are modified to become digestible and nutritious and humans' digestive systems are engineered to absorb cellulose. Revital Cohen feels that form follows function and that by replacing your appendix with an artificial energy generator, the human body will become the farm: thus the appearance of Homo evolutus, where man creates and designs his own evolution. Frank Tjepkema forward thinks to a self-sufficiency that leads to self-containment, where farms can exist completely off the grid, for example, making theme parks useful by turning them into farms and thus providing thrilling eco-tainment.

In an African context, how can we as South Africans proactively utilise

development in the individual filtering across into cultural, technological and environmental development. South African designer Haldane Martin argues that even furniture can encourage spiritual development through digital technology.

Thus the onus rests on you, the brogue-wearing, couch-sitting individual processing your ideas of a new life. The emotional satisfaction of picking fruit from your home garden as opposed to off the supermarket shelf becomes an elixir. In a revolution for the self-combining form, achieving gratification is the next step towards happiness; finding a stomping ground that is beyond the obvious going green, buying green or even thinking green, but takes back the power by being truly self-sufficient. ❁