Rural Design is an interdisciplinary process using a regional approach for managing rural change, defining rural issues, and creating solutions to resolve them.

See our web site: http://ruraldesign.cfans.umn.edu for a full list of our services and array of our work.

CRD is an award winning, multi-disciplinary research and design studio that empowers communities to find innovative solutions to problems in rural areas in Minnesota, the Midwest, and globally.

Center for Rural Design
University of Minnesota
CRD empowers communities to make well-informed decisions by providing community and landscape analysis and fostering public participation. CRD helps communities to envision and plan a future that is right for them. CRD works closely with local steering committees and conducts public workshops to best facilitate the project process.

Our mission is to work with people to protect and improve rural landscapes, cultures, and communities through innovative design strategies.

We strive to reconnect people to their landscapes, cultures, communities, and environments.

**Landscapes**


CRD addresses problems using a regional approach that considers a landscape or community within its larger context. Looking outside a community’s political boundaries provides insight into a region’s assets and challenges, and it expands opportunities to connect effectively to environmental, transportation, and social systems.

**Cultures**

Scott County: Defining the Rural Character and Design Guidelines for the Detailed Planning Area, Image Preference Survey.

CRD strives to highlight areas of cultural significance and reveal how culture shapes an area. Cultures differ from place to place, urban to rural, and farm to residential. Culture shapes a community’s value system. Gaining insight into a community allows for values to be prioritized and plans to be developed.

**Communities**


CRD empowers communities to make well-informed decisions by providing community and landscape analysis and fostering public participation. CRD helps communities to envision and plan a future that is right for them. CRD works closely with local steering committees and conducts public workshops to best facilitate the project process.

**Environments**

Environmental Practices on Dairy Farms

CRD works in many different environments and with the interface between them - urban to rural, agricultural to residential, human to natural. The places where these environments overlap create the greatest challenges but provide the most rewarding opportunities. Design helps to define the ‘best fit’ between human use and natural function.

*Landscapes, cultures, communities and environments are integral to the CRD’s work. Each impacts the other and each are continuously changing.*