What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architecture encompasses the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments. Types of projects include: residential; parks and recreation; monuments; urban design; streetscapes and public spaces; transportation corridors and facilities; gardens and arboreta; security design; hospitality and resorts; institutional; academic campuses; therapeutic gardens; historic preservation and restoration; reclamation; conservation; corporate and commercial; landscape art and earth sculpture; interior landscapes; and more. Landscape architects have advanced education and professional training and are licensed in 49 states.
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2009 Lebanon Comprehensive Plan - msi

Communications and Research

Award of Excellence Winner -
2007 Dublin Community Plan - city of dublin, land use & planning

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Dear Colleagues:

It is no secret that 2009 was a very difficult year for most of us. As it draws to a close, we cannot help but contemplate where we are headed from here. Fortunately, the economic downturn had little effect on green design’s progress towards the mainstream, presenting a unique opportunity for landscape architects. The ideals of stewardship and sustainability have been the foundation of our profession for well over a hundred years and, as such, we are in a position to become leaders in the future of the preservation and creation of the natural and built environments. Simply put, the future of our profession is at a crossroads and we must choose to be leaders or continue to be followers.

Simple, however, is not always easy. As landscape architects, we need to aggressively challenge the status quo including members of our design teams, our local and national politicians and the individuals around us to develop better solutions for the future we face. We need to advocate for better and more sustainable solutions for our environments. We need to seek out and create opportunities on local boards and commissions so we can serve our hometowns with our expertise. We need to be more politically active and continue to use the tools that ASLA provides us, such as the Advocacy Network. Making our opinions heard at the local, state and national levels will have a tremendous impact on our visibility as a profession and the issues we deem important. Take the time to get to know your political leaders personally and inform them of our ideas and ideals for bettering our communities.

As your Ohio Chapter Trustee, I am responsible for representing Ohio landscape architects at the national level and for affecting policies of ASLA. I have the opportunity to hear how our national staff and landscape architects across the country are working hard for our profession. For nearly twenty years, I have had the honor of serving you in a variety of roles within ASLA. I have seen ASLA grow and accomplish things that once seemed impossible. It has taken on many difficult issues and emerged every time a stronger organization, even in times of economic distress. In the last two years, we have had the two largest annual meetings and Expos in the Society’s history and are continuing to grow as an organization. Legislation at the national level has been proposed that specifically names ASLA as being the qualified expert and we are proud to say that we are very close to accomplishing our goal of all fifty states having licensure by 2010. The Sustainable Site Initiative is progressing well and will be tested on numerous case studies beginning early in 2010. Expected to become a part of the USGBC’s LEED system, this initiative will strengthen the current site-related standards required for certification and allow projects without buildings to become LEED certified.

As we all look forward to better times to come, I encourage all of you to get involved and play a bigger part in our communities and the design of our future. I also encourage each of you to become more involved with ASLA. Involvement in ASLA always provides more rewards than the effort put into it and results in great lifelong friends as well. As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns that you may have!

Eric R. Sauer, ASLA
Ohio Chapter Trustee
Award Categories

**Design - Not Constructed**

*Recognizes:* Non-built site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design.

*Criteria:* The jury considered the quality of design and execution of the overall presentation graphics (plans, sections, 3-D renderings, etc); design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers.

**Design - Constructed**

*Recognizes:* Built site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design.

*Criteria:* The jury considered the quality of execution and the built design; design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and design value to the client and to other designers.

**Planning and Analysis**

*Recognizes:* The wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architecture design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.

*Criteria:* The jury considered the quality of the analysis and planning effort; context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; likelihood of successful implementation; and value to the client, the public, and other designers.

**Communications and Research**

*Recognizes:* Achievements in communicating landscape architecture works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and the lesson value to an intended audience. Research identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for the profession.

*Criteria:* The jury considered the effectiveness of message presentation, the innovation in approach or delivery, and the value to the intended audience. For research, the jury will consider how the research is framed; the context and resources of the study; the methods of inquiry; the results of investigation; and the lesson value of the research conclusions to the field at large.
Award Levels

**Award of Excellence**
Recognizes excellent professional achievement in projects which epitomizes the ingenuity, originality and functionality of the profession of landscape architecture.

**Honor Award**
Recognizes superior professional achievement in projects that embody the creativity, imagination and practicality of the profession of landscape architecture.

**Merit Award**
Recognizes meritorious professional achievement in projects exhibiting outstanding achievement in the profession of landscape architecture.

2009 Award Jurors

**Karla Trott**
The Ohio State University, Knowlton School of Architecture
Auxiliary Faculty in Landscape Architecture

**Jim Dziatkowicz, ASLA, RLA**
EMH&T

**Kyle Ezell, ACIP**
The Ohio State University, Knowlton School of Architecture
Visiting Professor of City and Regional Planning

**Gregory Peckham**
Director of Cleveland Public Art
Design-Not Constructed
Awards and Submittals
The new headquarters will transform the bank’s operations and visibility as three office locations in the city merge into one, iconic corporate center. The new seven story glass building, which houses over 1500 employees, will become a civic landmark in the historic city of Amman and the international style of architecture and landscape will project the bank’s vision and leadership throughout the Middle East and reinforce its success as the most successful retail bank in Jordan.
Cleveland State University is located along Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Euclid Avenue, the historic “Main Street” of Cleveland, has recently been transformed into a major transit street, playing a vital role in the connection of many of the City’s major institutions and attractions. For this reason, it is an important part of the image, identity and accessibility of Cleveland State University. It is also the primary point of arrival or “front door” for the majority of its users.
Ripley Ohio was an Abolitionist center and fugitive slave gateway to freedom. The riverside John Parker House - Museum, honors one of Ripley's legendary citizens and Underground Railroad Conductor. By day Parker was an inventor and businessman running his foundry; by night he helped 600+ slaves cross the Ohio, risking all. This community park master plan envisions interpretive exhibits, archaeological dig, gathering space, performance setting for Parker Opera and "Whispering Garden" memorial to fugitive slaves.
The Miamisburg Riverfront Park plan addresses planning and design for a newly reclaimed 10.2-acre greenspace in the historic downtown. The plan provides a programming direction as well as a complete analysis on how the park will interface with the downtown commercial district. Consideration of planning elements beyond the design of the park grounds include traffic circulation, parking, sustainable stormwater practices, refuse management, pedestrian and bicycle integration, and architectural improvements to downtown buildings fronting the park.
Nan Jiao is an exclusive, western-style single family community project, located in Pu Dong, Shanghai, China. A lack of the client’s experience in this type of development had resulted in a lackluster master plan layout that, unfortunately, had already been approved by numerous government agencies. The landscape architect was commissioned to mitigate the negative impacts of the landplan by designing outdoor spaces that promote an elegant lifestyle while complimenting the architectural character of the community.
City Center Mall was once the retail hub of Central Ohio. As the retail landscape shifted toward the suburbs City Center quickly declined. After exploring numerous reuses of the structures, it became clear that the only option was demolishing the mall and redeveloping the site. The City Center Urban Design Study examines the issues and challenges of the site and develops a redevelopment framework for returning a nearly 9-acre urban site to a productive use.
The intent of this project was to demolish an architecturally insignificant building to provide city views from the renovated upper story apartments. The vacated street level space was to become access to underground parking while still providing pedestrian circulation and outdoor amenities.

Being located on a new transit corridor with all new sidewalk paving, the designers intended to utilize the street concept to influence the Plaza.
Design-Constructed
Awards and Submittals
University Plaza functions as the primary gateway to the newly expanding North Academic Campus and as a unique gathering space for students and faculty on the Miami University campus. The plaza occupies the space between Pearson Hall and the recently constructed School of Engineering and Applied Science building. The plaza unites the dissimilar geometries of the buildings with a distinctive and creative design solution.
The 1,050-acre site was formerly a secret uranium processing facility that became national headlines when environmental contamination was detected in 1996. Now it is Ohio’s 1st LEED Platinum project.

The design team of landscape architects, architects, construction managers and DOE staff transformed the contaminated site into a preserve and existing warehouse into the new Visitors Center. The Visitors Center entry garden includes raingardens, interpretive panels, restored wetlands, bioswales, constructed wetlands for sanitary treatment and ecotrails.
The construction of the new six-story, 150 bed inpatient tower was a strategic step in the implementation of a plan to reinforce the hospital’s position as the preferred healthcare provider for the region surrounding Findlay, Ohio. In addition to improving patient care and increasing efficiencies, the new facility helps rebrand the hospital by creating a fresh, contemporary image. The landscape plays a key role in projecting this new image while creating a new sense of place with connections the community.
The Brides Garden is an exquisite terraced garden that can be used by a bride for a relaxing moment prior to her wedding, for hosting small ceremony, or following the vows for wedding photographs. Through careful attention to detail and elegant design, this garden has become a premier ceremonial space, and a wonderful enhancement to the conservatory gardens. In addition, the custom elements of the space are a tribute to local craftsmanship and civic pride.
This project consists of the development of a headquarters and educational center for a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring business owners to succeed with their companies. A rural, 114-acre site was selected for its unique character of agricultural fields, woodlands, streams, a 3.5-acre pond, and a dramatic 80’ waterfall. Sustainable design and strong connections to the natural environment provide respite from everyday life as part of the design solution.

This project is LEED® Gold-Certified.
Design a new high school campus with a 217,000 sf education building, 1142 space parking for students, staff, and visitors, athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, and multi-purpose uses, and a stormwater management system that balances earthwork on site and provides groundwater infiltration, water quality filtration, 100-year flood storage, preservation of an on site forest, and discharges into an existing 12” farm tile and offsite ditch with no discernible impacts during construction or post construction.
Perched atop a hill in rural Montverde, Florida, just west of Orlando, The Bella Collina Clubhouse is a Tuscan inspired ‘Village’. Blending indoor and outdoor spaces through a variety of pedestrian routes and experiences reveals an unfolding sequence of unexpected courtyards, niches and panoramic views of the golf course, adjacent lakes and lush surrounding countryside.
The main goal of the project was to develop the new office site in a sustainable manner, and to act with environmental sensitivity, specifically using sustainable design principals for the site development. With the design for an innovative stormwater management system, the new office development was planned to improve site drainage issues on adjacent properties, and seen as a benefit to the area.
The 1970’s vintage Reserve Square multi-use, high-rise complex was purchased by The K & D Group of Willoughby, Ohio. The building comprised a full city block with streetscapes on all four sides.

The project required street level redesign to replace all paving, landscaping and lighting. The new design for 12th Street became the prototypical section for the new Avenue District, allowing expanded pedestrian spaces, angled parking and storefront sidewalk uses.
Incorporated into a mixed-use development between Big Walnut Creek and downtown Gahanna, Creekside is intended to connect people and spaces, define a community, and revitalize a downtown. The programmable site has three levels. Each level reflects the park’s physical transition from “urban to natural” as structured patterns and man-made elements morph into organic formations and materials; creating a gathering place that celebrates a community and its natural amenities.

Bird Houk Collaborative
Columbus, OH
www.bird-houk.com

Creekside
Gahanna, OH
While the people of Shaker Heights wanted to use Horseshoe Lake Park for running, biking, playing, picnics, barbecues and gatherings, what they loved about it was the majesty of the mature oaks, and the special feeling of a natural place so close to home. The renovated park, achieved without removing a single oak tree, is a place where typical activities become a point of departure into the natural world of the park.
The Columbus Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organization whose mission is “to assist donors and others in strengthening and improving the community for the benefit of all its citizens”. The home of the Columbus Foundation is Ohio’s first Governor’s Mansion on East Broad Street built in 1905. The 20,000 square foot office addition, garden expansion and renovations will allow the foundation to fulfill its mission in a beautiful facility, designed with sensitivity to the existing mansion and grounds.
The Memorial Garden at Liza’s Place is designed to be a direct extension of the comforting atmosphere that comes from within Valley Hospice. Throughout the design, pathways and nature intertwine symbolic of life’s journey. This garden is a place of healing, contemplation, and celebration of life.
Huntington Ballpark is the new AAA baseball stadium for the Columbus Clippers. Carefully woven into the fabric of downtown and the master-planned Nationwide Arena District, the ballpark has set team attendance records in its first year of operation and was named 2009 BallPark of the Year. The finished project is a beautiful facility that addresses downtown, provides amenities and attractions for all ages, and maintains affordability - including free views of the action from city sidewalk.
The Ronald McDonald House Garden is an urban garden serving the families of patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The familiar, homelike elements of the garden, including an open lawn, playground, paver patio, and decorative pond, create a relaxing environment for visitors. Additional elements such as walking loops, gathering spaces, areas of sun and shade, a well defined perimeter and a variety of stimulation for all the senses also provide visitors a sense of wellness.
In the 1990’s approximately 540,000 war veterans resided in Northeast Ohio. As the World War II veterans were quickly aging, the Department of Veteran’s Affair recognized the need for a new cemetery. Four phases of development will ultimately provide burial space for approximately 100,000 eligible veterans and their dependents. With completion of Phase 1, most of the infrastructure to support the cemetery has been realized at a cost of $12 million.
Planning and Analysis
Awards and Submittals
The Redevelopment Plan for the B.W. Cooper Neighborhood in New Orleans, Louisiana represents a transformation of an isolated place of poverty and crime into a vibrant neighborhood that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

The landscape architect led the redevelopment team, including local residents and stakeholders, through an inclusive process that yielded an inspiring vision for this neighborhood. Construction started in 2009 with occupancy anticipated in 2011.
The Riverview Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan provides an urban redevelopment vision for two critical areas in Kingsport, Tennessee. This vision was developed as part of the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (KHRA) winning 2006 HOPE (Home Ownership for People Everywhere) VI Grant Application. The purpose of this planning and analysis project was to articulate a redevelopment vision that will lead to the creation of quality housing and reconnect and revitalize major portions of the city.
introduction  |  design-not constructed  |  design-constructed  |  planning and analysis  |  communications and research  |  sponsors

Merit Award Winner
The Downtown Columbus Public Realm Enhancement Study was born out of a desire to generate creative and activating urban design improvements for areas within the boundaries of the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District (SID). Working with SID staff and a Steering Committee comprised of city officials, business owners, and SID board members, exciting design concepts were developed that the SID can implement, or work to implement, within the next five years.
The landscape architect participated in a design competition for the master planning of the Songya Lake Area with the goal of creating a sustainable, mixed use plan that included a waterfront district along a man-made lake. While the large project area and short deadline proved a major challenge, the LA was able to produce a product that not only addressed the goals of the competition but also incorporated planning principles of a sustainable community.
With a number of key projects currently under development or planned for Downtown Louisville, the Downtown Development Corporation decided it was a strategic time to create needed connections throughout the downtown core and along the riverfront. The Planning Team devised a two-fold approach to improving connectivity throughout downtown. One focused on developing an overall connectivity framework on a broad conceptual level. The second concentrated on creating several specific design concepts for near-term implementation.
A new horizon of sustainable principles has shaped the planning process and long-term conservation and development goals for the historic City of Wyoming. A unique public engagement process created a new master plan and guidelines based upon stewardship of the land and a sustainable city. The Goals:

- Walkable Complete Streets
- Energy Conscious Design
- “Green” Infill Development
- Expanded Green Infrastructure
- Improve Composting, Recycling, Reuse
- Improved “Green” Storm Water Mgmt.

Meisner + Associates / Land Vision
Cincinnati, OH
www.meisnerandassociates.com
The 2009 Lebanon Comprehensive Plan is a future land use and strategy document for an exurban community facing growth pressure while existing areas of the community fall behind. The plan takes a unique approach by combining the land use and thoroughfare plans with an ongoing fiscal analysis tool, managed by staff. This allows informed adjustments to the large-picture land use strategy while still focusing on detailed strategies to facilitate the redevelopment of existing corridors and the preservation of the historic downtown.
Communications and Research
Awards and Submittals
The 2007 Dublin Community Plan is a comprehensive policy document that communicates city expectations for high-quality, managed growth. Supported by three years of public input and policy discussion, the plan makes significant departures from suburban growth to encourage high density, mixed uses, increased housing choice, and expanded transportation options with an emphasis on creating “places” for people that are long-lasting and more sustainable.
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