2019 Ohio ASLA Awards
CONTENTS

P. 4—13 INTRODUCTION
  2019 Executive Committee
  President’s Letter
  2019 Jury Members
  Award Categories and Levels
  2019 Year in Review

P. 14—23 HONOR AWARDS
  The Ohio State University Mirror Lake Enhancement
  Morgan’s Garden – Landscape Master Plan and Research

P. 24—45 MERIT AWARDS
  Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus Plaza Improvements
  Lawrenceburg Civic Park
  Columbus Metropolitan Main Library Expansion/Renovation
  Seattle Opera at the Center
  Art Climb Master Plan
  Canton Centennial Plaza
  Nickel Plate Trail Vision Master Plan
  Quarry Trails Metro Park Master Plan
  Cape May County Creative Placemaking Plan
  Worthington Residence

P. 46—49 STUDENT AWARDS
  Waterman Farm Master Plan
  Bat Camp

P. 50—51 SPECIAL RECOGNITION
  Patrick J. Beam

P. 52—61 SPONSORS
Executive Committee

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On behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, it is with great excitement that we announce the 2019 design award winners. This year our diverse panel of jurors considered 33 professional entries and 7 student entries and generously awarded 12 professional and 2 student projects. Recipients include 2 Honor Awards and 10 Merit Awards.

The Ohio Chapter has much to be proud of and that is evident with this year’s award winners. It is exciting to see how far the design talents of Ohio Landscape Architects span, from Washington to New Jersey, and of course right here at home. Landscape architecture expands to so many corners of our environment, and Ohio Landscape Architects continue to provide an outstanding level of leadership to the profession. The breadth of scale and variety demonstrated by the award winners showcases the exceptional scope and ability of not just Ohio Landscape Architects but of the profession of landscape architecture. We are in a time where ingenuity and responsible stewardship are critically important and the capability of the profession to lead and push the limits of design should not be underestimated.

Congratulations to the 2019 OCASLA Award Winners and design on, Ohio!

ASHLEY SOLETHER, PLA, ASLA
PRESIDENT OHIO CHAPTER ASLA
Award Categories

**GENERAL DESIGN - CONSTRUCTED**
Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category must be built.
Typical entries include: Public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential—see residential category); historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; design for transportation or infrastructure; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

**GENERAL DESIGN - NOT CONSTRUCTED**
Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.
Typical entries include: Public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential—see residential category); historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; design for transportation or infrastructure; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

**PLANNING + ANALYSIS**
Recognizes: The wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architectural design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.
Typical entries include: Urban, suburban, rural, or regional efforts; development guidelines; transportation planning; town planning; or campus planning; plans for recovery or reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning in relation to legislative or policy initiatives or regulatory controls; cultural resource reports; cultural and natural resources protection; conservation; or historic preservation planning; and more.

**COMMUNICATIONS + 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.
Typical entries include: Print media, film, video, audio, CD, or DVD formats; online communications; interpretive design; exhibition design; and more. Research includes scientific research on topics related to the practice of landscape architecture, investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more.

**RESIDENTIAL DESIGN**
Recognizes: Site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Entries in this category must be built.
Typical entries include: Single or multifamily residential projects; activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation, or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; historic preservation, rooftop gardens; and more.

**STUDENT**
Recognizes: Collaborative work by landscape architecture students with students from allied and/or complementary disciplines, including those in landscape architecture and other design fields; as well as individual student work. Student entries are not required to be built. (Student must be currently enrolled or recent Spring 2018 graduate)
Typical entries include: Landscape architecture projects that meet the criteria within the categories of General Design, Residential Design, Planning and Analysis, and Communications and Research brought about through collaborative/individual efforts.

**AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
Recognizes excellent professional achievement in projects that epitomize 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.

**HONORARY MENTION**
Recognizes a singular project achievement exhibiting extraordinary ingenuity in the profession of landscape architecture.

The Jury
- Carrie Scarff, F I V E  R I V E R S  M E T R O  P A R K S
- Tom Zarfoss, F ASLA
- Behnke Landscape Architecture
- Barry Kew, U N I V E R S I T Y  O F  C I N C I N N A T I
- Karen Schenk, C O L U M B U S  Z O O  A N D  A Q U A R I U M
HONOR AWARDS
Centrally located in the heart of The Ohio State University, few locations are as iconic or rich in tradition as the Mirror Lake District. Dating back to the 1870s, the sweet water spring is responsible for the location of the University and the subsequent spring-fed lake has since been a special and memorable part of campus. The shape of Mirror Lake and its source of water have evolved over time, but costly maintenance and failing infrastructure necessitated a more sustainable vision for OSU’s historic lake. The Landscape Architect led a design and implementation process that prioritized diligent research and collection of public opinion to preserve the lake’s historic, social, and cultural significance. This effort began with a master plan process which led to the detailed design and construction of a landscape that emphasized safety, sustainability, operations, and aesthetics.

The Mirror Lake District improvement project included Mirror Lake, Pomerene Hall, and Browning Amphitheatre. The transformation of Mirror Lake itself focused on improved safety, sustainability, and operations and aesthetic quality of the lake. A significant change was the removal of the walled edge and paved bottom in favor of a more naturalized condition. A shallow wetland bench around the perimeter of the lake improves safety by discouraging student access to deeper water. The deteriorating paved bottom of the lake was replaced with a clay liner eliminating leaks and the need for potable water to sustain the lake level. A shallow wetland biofilter and weir were incorporated into the design to filter and aerate recirculating water for improved water quality.

The beauty of the surrounding landscape was enhanced through a diverse planting palette, including native species, and preservation of many existing mature trees. Understory plantings were added to help stabilize steep hillsides with four-season vegetative displays. New plantings articulated enhanced views to surrounding historic landmarks.

New respite spaces around the lake include the Lakeside Terrace with historic spring-inspired grotto fountain, North Belvedere, Pomerene Hall Terrace and Overlook, and Neil Avenue Overlook and Pavilion. Each space provides different settings and viewsheds to enjoy the lake. Materials were chosen to reflect and complement the surrounding historic structures, which inspired the specific masonry detailing and ornamental railings enhancing each new space. The Landscape Architect led the design and detailing process of these new site architectural features.

The renovation of Pomerene Hall provided the opportunity to regrade the site and create a new collector walkway at the east side of the building, providing connection between the South Campus Dorms through the Mirror Lake District to the Academic Oval. The redesigned pathway network improves ADA accessibility and is enhanced with a series of bespoke ribbon benches uniquely designed to align with the curving walkways. Areas designed specifically for donor pavers provide a connection to university alumni and recording of Mirror Lake memories.

The Mirror Lake District revitalizes an important University landmark and its connections to the surrounding campus, and reaffirms its role as a place of respite, memory, and tradition in the heart of OSU’s campus.

**MKSK**

**Honor Award | Design Constructed**

**The Ohio State University Mirror Lake Enhancement**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO**

**CLIENT: THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ADDITIONAL PROJECT CREDITS: NELSON BIRD WOLTZ, EMH&T, ENVIROTECH CONSULTANTS, KORDA ENGINEERING, CID IRRIGATION, PATTERSON POOLS, CTL ENGINEERING**

**2019 OHIO ASLA AWARDS**

**2019 OHIO ASLA AWARDS**
Morgan passed away at an early age of 21 - she had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Her mother donated the funds to create a healing garden for Monarch Lifeworks School - a Day program for adults with ASD. Initial investigation at project start-up revealed a lack of current and relevant criteria for creating healing gardens for people with ASD. The majority of research to date has focused on interior applications. The known quantified healing qualities of nature need to become accessible to this population.

Diagnosis of people with ASD is on the rise. Despite today’s standard for inclusive environments, the needs for those with ASD are excluded from most, if not all, building codes and design guidelines. Design for diverse sensory integration (SI) and sensory processing disorder (SPD) needs in the exterior environment is challenging, as the specific considerations for hyper and hypo-sensitive symptoms are opposite. As project research progressed, a review of precedent healing gardens - built and unbuilt - was initiated to provide illustration and physical manifestation of possible ways to interpret the literature. Fifteen Therapeutic Design Guidelines for Populations with ASD have resulted from the research to date. Although ongoing research is required, these guidelines governed the conceptual design framework for Morgan’s Garden. The final stage of research included creating an amalgamated list of poisonous plants of both interior and exterior plants due to the year-round horticultural therapy program.

Concurrent to the research project, a facilitated input session with donors, parents, staff and management was held. Small group process techniques created relevant and specific criteria for the garden design particular to the Monarch Lifeworks school. Participants organized input into themes and prioritized them for guidance during the design process. A simple yet effective graphic demonstrates the results with clarity.

The master plan indicates strong connections between indoors and outdoors. Cohesion and clarity are demonstrated throughout the garden rooms while visual and physical access to The Farm are carefully controlled. Walkways along the Meander, Woodland and Mound all loop to the Circle. Visual cues for Orientation, Consistency and an Unambiguous Layout is emphasized by the centrally organizing Circle. Security, Safety and Supervision is the most important research-based guideline in highly defined spaces. Security is handled with fencing and complete hedging. Exterior access points are limited.

Use of precedent images and hand drawn sketches communicate character and intent of proposed designs. Each therapeutic design guideline and the spatial relationship of various outdoor rooms is interpreted, i.e. visual access is emphasized where individuals are unprogrammed for flexibility, and where specific programming occurs. Design sketches inform and communicate choice: social interaction or spaces to be alone. Orientation of individuals with ASD to their physical and social environment assists in knowing where they are socially and in time, space and place.

Creating an exterior environment for individuals with ASD is inherently challenging and diverse. Applying research to date and the resulting therapeutic design guidelines, our profession benefits by stimulating the evolution of further research on this diverse and marginalized population.
"WHY FIT IN WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT"

DR SEUSS
MERIT AWARDS

2019 OHIO ASLA AWARDS
Positioned at a prominent intersection within Cleveland’s Central neighborhood, the improvements at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Metropolitan (Metro) Campus reflect a storied history of what can happen when coordinated planning and urban design are mutually realized. Founded in 1963, the college’s Metro Campus reflects design approaches of its time: Defensive buildings and spaces created to shut out urban unrest. Its Brutalist buildings are iconic of the era, set on a raised and gated platform atop a secured parking garage. The garage itself is surrounded by a moat, creating a real and visceral barrier. In recent years, however, the College began to see that their vision, values and mission were not reflected in these outdated spaces, and planning and design began to better link spaces and people.

The plan sought to connect the campus to its surrounding community. Particular emphasis was thus placed at its northeast corner, where the elevated plaza now spills onto the street level, greeting pedestrians with a curving grand staircase and sloped walkways. The landscape here, too, is dramatic, combining the soft textures of ornamental grasses with the roughness and geometry of gabion walls that capitalize on the grade change from plaza to streetscape.

Atop the plaza, inspection and renovation of the structural deck dictated crucial weight limits for proposed hardscape and planting areas here. Through research of paving solutions, lightweight planting mediums, and vegetated roof systems, the plaza could be transformed into a veritable green roof, allowing extensive new landscaping that would soften the campus’s harsh environs without taxing the structure. The team collaborated diligently with its structural engineer to identify areas that could withstand added weight and, thus, placed mounding and larger landscape material wherever possible. Curving forms on the horizontal plane, too, respect students’ preferred pathways between buildings while creating spaces for gathering, recreation, or quiet study.

The plant palette was derived through discussions with long time members of the maintenance staff who provided valuable input on plant species that have the most success in the campus’s unique microclimates. Ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, and a variety of perennials lend color and interest while tall grasses and clumping bamboo provide movement and texture throughout. The landscape is a demonstration of sorts for students as well, showing a preference for native and urban-tolerant plant material and how to use these selections to create a modern yet sustainable landscape aesthetic.

While Tri-C students are typically commuters who arrive at Metro to attend classes only to leave again, the College and the consultant team designed the new campus with a mindful eye on the competition: University campuses that accommodate student needs for longer stays. Spaces therefore had to be developed for comfort and enjoyment with a modern feel. The site furnishing package was a critical factor in addressing these needs, providing clustered seating outside the café, comfortable benches for reading in quiet gardens, and study carrels outfitted with charging stations strategically placed throughout the campus.

Developed in phases, the campus improvements are slated for final completion by 2020.

**Boulevard Studios**

**Merit Award | Design Constructed**

**Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus**

**Plaza Improvements**

**CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**CLIENT:** CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**ADDITIONAL PROJECT CREDITS:** CITY ARCHITECTURE, COLD HARBOR BUILDING COMPANY, R.E. WARNER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Lawrenceburg city officials saw an opportunity in redeveloping the underutilized parking lot, which was centrally located between the City’s most prominent destinations – the Lawrenceburg Event Center, downtown retail core, and the Hollywood Casino. They believed that a new multi-purpose civic park could be the centerpiece of a new “entertainment district” and ultimately a catalyst for new development in downtown Lawrenceburg.

The parking lot site was also the location of the City’s well-attended weekly summer music series, Music on the River, so officials planned to invest in a significant stage and green room as the architectural anchor to the new public space. The stage was planned to host Music on the River and to expand the programming opportunities at the Event Center. The design of the stage draws from the industrial bridges that are typical along the Ohio River and the ceiling of the stage is clad in old whiskey barrels, celebrating Lawrenceburg’s “whiskey city” heritage and the nearby former Seagram’s distillery.

In addition to the summer concerts that often draw over 1000 spectators, the park is designed to accommodate everyday activities – strolling or picnicking – or to be programmed with smaller events such as farmers markets and fitness classes. The north and south event lawns are connected by a field of granite pavers within Main Street. Low, mountable granite curbs provide a gentle transition for pedestrians and vehicles to traverse the entire park during large events.

The north end of the park is anchored by a pop-jet fountain, where textured granite paving makes a subtle “river” motif on the ground surface. North of the fountain is a grove of trees in paved grates that provide refuge for families from the hot summer sun. On the south side, limestone boulders step up onto the event lawn, reminiscent of the levee that connects the park to the Ohio River.

The transformation of the impervious parking lot site to a public greenspace provided a desirable amenity to the community while also reducing stormwater run-off and improving the public perception of Lawrenceburg as a “river town.” The event lawn encourages outdoor activity and larger community gatherings. Native trees and plantings provide shade and refuge within the urban downtown setting.

The meandering form of the park is inspired by river currents, the flow of people, and sound waves. While the non-orthogonal forms may seem out of place within an historic downtown, a pedestrian scale and contextual materials like limestone, concrete, wood, and red brick make the park feel appropriate to the fabric of Lawrenceburg.

City officials are confident that Lawrenceburg Civic Park will be a catalyst for growth and development. Since the park’s opening in June of 2019, attendance at Music on the River has soared, and the park is regularly programmed with community activities including a farmer’s market, mobile library, Shakespeare performances, movies and fitness classes. The park successfully draws the community of Lawrenceburg toward the Ohio River and celebrates and celebrates the City’s rich “river town” history.
The Columbus Metropolitan Main Library renovation was part of the 2020 Vision Plan initiative of "building libraries to inspire reading, share resources, and connect people." The Landscape Architect was part of a multidisciplinary team to reimagine the Main Library campus to create a more open and inviting community centerpiece that energizes the surrounding downtown and Discovery District neighborhood and responds to design for the twentieth-century library.

The third major library renovation since 1907 did not increase the building footprint. The interior reading room renovations provided public gathering space and greatly expanded the outdoor Library campus. Transformational changes to the Library included renovation of the 1991 addition to provide a new 3-story atrium and reading rooms with a glass curtain wall, a park plaza, and an integrated topiary park as well as restoration of the original Historic Carnegie Building and creation of the new formal Carnegie lawn terrace.

Early site analysis revealed an opportunity to create a central pedestrian access spline east to west through the Topiary Park linking existing park gateways and new park pathways to a new east façade library terrace. The east entry aligns with the existing formal entrance of the original Carnegie Library on the west which created greater affinity between the building and surrounding improvements. Creation of the new east side development involved parking lot removal and excavation of 3' of fill to provide building access aligning with the building’s existing finish floor level. The Landscape Architect provided the needed grade change through creation of an informal amphitheater space with integrated pathways and sculptural landforms to create outdoor reading rooms transitioning grade to the new building terrace and entry.

Site development on the west side of the building created a formal raised lawn terrace defined by a new Zelkova allée and seating. New formal entry stairs, plants, and walls create an urban edge and give the building civic prominence. Curving ADA compliant walkways align with the existing city crosswalks to transition grade and provide complete accessibility to the raised site. Careful site grading accommodated mature landmark trees. Restoration of the existing historic site fountain included new lawn design, sustainable pumping and filtration system, and LED lighting.

The Near East side development provides expanded opportunities for outdoor library programming. The Carnegie Café terrace accommodates exterior reading and study and includes a sculpture constructed of marble reclaimed from the 1991 building addition façade. The site features native plantings and an irrigation system that utilizes water recovered from the underground garage dewatering system that formerly was pumped into the city storm sewers.

The new Columbus Main Library Renovation not only transforms a library near a park to a library "within a park" but also greatly enhances the Civic Presence and opportunities for community outreach, community engagement and enhancement of the surrounding Discovery District.
The Seattle Opera resides within the greater Seattle Center Theater District, with neighbors that include the Space Needle, Museum of Pop Culture, The Pacific Science Center and KPXP radio. Within its context, the Seattle Opera expansion serves as a gateway anchoring the arts by developing a new, high performance urban edge.

The integrated architecture and landscape design achieves the client’s vision to “Unlocking the Opera for all” by creating a vibrant, civic environment that preserves existing cultural elements, maximizes function and stormwater performance, and creates engaging and memorable outdoor spaces for the community.

Unifying spaces adjacent to the Opera within this corner of the Theatre District was also a priority. The landscape design creates stronger and more visually congruous connections along Mercer Street while better connecting the Jenkins Way corridor to the existing front door of McCaw Hall and the Kreielsheimer Promenade. The site and landscape design better connects the urban fabric, pedestrian environments, and district edges to strengthen the site and its adjacencies.

Mercer Street is designed as a civic-based experience that allows the public to actively engage with the arts and one another. The organization of swaths of green and light tree canopies creates a high-visibility urban edge that highlights the new front door to the Opera and allows porous circulation through the corridor.

The design enhancements along Jenkins Way create a welcoming corridor that better connects the Queen Anne District to Memorial Stadium and the larger Seattle Center Theater District. This high performance edge consists of a lush environment that provides a passive pedestrian experience providing access to the Opera’s production design process and views of a series of rain gardens.

The City of Seattle has a progressive approach to new development requiring landscapes to attain a mandated 30% green ratio and application of resilient design strategies. Along with the city’s sustainability charge, the Opera committed to achieving LEED Gold certification for their building and site design. Permeable pavements, native, drought-tolerant planting selections, stormwater management infrastructure, light touch construction methods, and a green roof terraces were integrated into the site design which contribute significantly to the LEED certification.

The tiered bioretention basin system capable of treating 187 gallons/minute of the Opera’s stormwater runoff is treated as a public amenity. The increased public visibility to the stormwater management infrastructure helps educate and inspire a paradigm shift to perceive natural systems as beautiful. The tiered system begins along the eastern face of the Opera and wraps the south side of the building, terracing down to the Opera’s discrete service court.

Eight preserved London Plane trees, planted around 1960 on the previous Seattle Ice Arena site, elegantly frame views to the Space Needle along Jenkins Way and provide a comfortable urban environment for pedestrians. Careful measures were taken during construction to minimize soil compaction and damage to the established tree roots.

The Level 2 Terrace provides a flexible environment for the faculty and staff to work and eat outdoors while also serving as a space for the Opera to host donor events. Amazing views to the Space Needle and Memorial Stadium framed by the existing tree canopies. In addition to the human experience, the terrace functions to mitigate urban heat island effect and treat stormwater run-off.

CLIENT: SEATTLE OPERA, SEATTLE CENTER

The Seattle Opera at the Center

NBBJ

Merit Award | Design Constructed

Seattle Opera at the Center

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
The Art Climb project grew out of the Cincinnati Art Museum’s recent site master plan – highlighting their desire to improve their connections to nearby neighborhoods and to expand their concept of galleries to include the surrounding site. The Art Climb will enable visitors and nearby residents to ascend 85 vertical feet from the Eden Park entrance to the existing Museum parking lot and ultimately, via a sidewalk, to the front entrance of the Museum. The Art Climb will consist of monumental stairs leading to a series of terraces that accommodate artwork, seating, picnic tables, and performance spaces. The edges of the stairs will “tooth” into the landscape, creating an irregular edge that allows for plants and steps to intertwine. Stacked pre-cast walls, called “outcroppings”, that echo the geological strata of local limestone will define the upper and lower edges of the terraces and stair landings. Decorative light columns will dot the landscape along the Art Climb, providing dramatic color-changing light at night and visual interest.

Tree preservation was an important aspect of site design. A significant number of high quality mature trees existed in the proposed location of the Art Climb, and the Landscape Architect went to great lengths to minimize impacts. Part of this included the design of steps and terraces to minimize the amount and extent of grading.

Surrounding the Art Climb on both sides will be a layered and naturalized landscape garden that will create year-round visual interest for visitors. The plants in this zone will consist of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials—mostly native and adaptive species. The plantings will then gradually become more naturalized on the edges and fade into the existing hillside landscape.

At the top of the hill, an elevated walkway will enable visitors to access an Art Box—an elevated, site-based art gallery—to view artwork. The Art Box will also frame a view of the Baldwin Tower across Gilbert Avenue. An ADA accessible walkway will run next to the Art Box, descending the hill and allowing people to view the underside of the Art Box and visit one of the lower terraces.

The proposed materials palette for the Art Climb was selected to relate to the existing Art Museum palette. The materials include architectural pre-cast (steps, terraces, and walls) that matches the building limestone, stainless steel handrails with integrated lighting, stainless steel guardrails for the elevated walkway, and painted metal 13’ tall light columns with multi-color LEDs.

The Art Climb is meant to be a place that people inhabit, not simply pass through. In addition to providing places to sit and enjoy pieces of art and nature, the site design encourages and supports physical fitness and other programmed activities, such as yoga, impromptu music concerts, plays, and plein air painting. While it was originally designed to be an outdoor art gallery, the Art Climb, in the end, demonstrated how landscape itself can be a work of art.
For the past three decades, the city of Canton has endeavored to provide for its citizens a central public space that would be both iconic in its design and transformative in its approach as to encourage economic development, strengthen the downtown core and enhance surrounding neighborhoods. Beginning in 2014 with several completed projects, including new businesses and regional attractions (Pro Football Hall of Fame and Village), the city has generated tremendous momentum by creating new commercial activity, residential growth, and entertainment experiences. However, investment in a central public space had not previously occurred. The Canton Centennial Plaza project is that investment, establishing a central green space for the community and a regional destination for visitors. The project is an important building block in creating a vibrant downtown with the ability to generate day-to-day activities and host major events. It will serve as the “city square” for the entire community and provide for a memorable landmark for all visitors.

The design process focused on utilizing the history and character of the existing site as the foundation for the design, in conjunction with Canton’s relationship with the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a sister site for commemorative events. Market Avenue serves as the front door to the plaza, with major gateways established at the intersections of 3rd and 4th Streets. Anchoring the design is a simple yet elegant steel structure called the Centennial Pavilion with event lawn for approximately 5,000 guests, an integrated stage component, accent LED lighting, a high definition video screen and audio/WiFi system. On axis with the pavilion is the iconic 65’ tall stainless-steel Rotunda sculpture. Inspired by the rotunda of the original Hall of Fame building, the new Rotunda sculpture gracefully suggests that of a football, establishing a space and a memorable landmark for downtown. Other amenities include a café/restroom building with a green roof, an interactive mist garden, a social garden, and a variety of other themed garden experiences. A simple, yet diverse planting palette was established to reinforce the city’s desire for an iconic space, while providing for 4-season use. Furthermore, in order to build on the already strong sense of community and identity, the design team utilized materials commonly found in Canton including locally sourced brick, stone, and metal. The design team will be advancing the design through Construction Documentation and overseeing the project thru construction.

MKSK

Merit Award | Design Not Constructed

Canton Centennial Plaza

CANTON, OHIO

CLIENT: CITY OF CANTON, OHIO

ADDITIONAL PROJECT CREDITS:
PRO-FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME, TIM LAI ARCHITECT, SOL HARRIS DAY ARCHITECTS, ARUP, INC., TEC STUDIO INC., ATWELL, LLC.

2019 OHIO ASLA AWARDS
The City of Fishers, located fifteen miles northeast of downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, has experienced favorable suburban growth over the last 30 years, going from a population of 7,500 in 1990 to 91,000 today. In an effort to remain relevant in a real estate market that favors close proximity to amenities, walkability, and unique place-making environments, the City of Fishers, like many US suburbs, are now diversifying their offerings to new businesses and residents by investing in densification of their downtown core. The Nickel Plate Trail project is unique because it will align itself along an outdated rail corridor that travels north and south through all of Fishers, connecting old and new, suburban and urban, neighborhoods to downtown, and people to community amenities and world-class experiences.

Much of the success the City of Fishers has seen over the last 30 years is a product of the spirit of its people. The population has an overwhelming sense of entrepreneurship and a thirst for innovation, particularly in the technology space. They fearlessly and collaboratively explore new ideas at “Launch,” a robust co-work space in Fishers that is the epicenter of the city’s “scrappy start-up” culture. City council, the mayors, the business owners, the educators, the students, new and longtime residents share this entrepreneurial attitude. They quickly latched onto the idea of a spatial mechanism that might connect them better to their community, new ideas, the region, and the world and were anxious to be a part of authoring a future that embodied and enhanced who Fishers is today.

As part of the vision planning process for the Nickel Plate Trail, the project leadership team developed an engagement campaign and hosted a series of events that took engagement to the people, where they live, work, and play. The goal was to make engagement easy by meeting residents at parks, on trails, at the farmers market, in their offices and schools, the movie night, and local pubs and restaurants. The team created a post it note tool with a simple provocation stating: “I want 4.5 miles of ___________” to elicit a response and start a dialogue. As expected in Fishers, the over 2,000 responses ranged from sensible and functional requests that you might expect for any trail project to ideas based in innovation, technology, education, outreach, and play.

The primary reason for the success of the project outcomes was the leadership team’s ability to recognize the culture of Fishers and leverage that culture to create compelling environments and experiences that were for the people and BY the people. The design team harvested and distilled the ideas from the community and developed them into place making opportunities that were planned and strategically located along sections of the trail where they best fit the context. The final vision plan illustrates a rich palette of innovative ideas that embody the Fishers zeitgeist and answer the call to create and better connect to new experience destinations throughout the city. These planned destinations are “on the trail” and will reinforce and attract forward-thinking development, business, and residents to downtown Fishers to continue its success and growth through year 2040.
The Marble Cliff quarry was once the largest contiguous quarry in the United States, providing limestone that was quarried and processed for a century and a half used to construct the buildings and roads of Central Ohio. Today, only 300 acres remain active, leaving behind a landscape and terrain like no other in the Columbus region and to be repurposed for public use. The site fulfills a service gap in Metro Parks’ mission to provide parkland within 5-miles of Franklin County residents, while offering opportunities for active program elements that other parklands cannot.

The proposed Quarry Trails project is a public/private partnership between Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and Wagenbrenner Development. Due to former quarrying operations and known past landfill uses, the entire quarry has been taken through the State of Ohio Voluntary Action Program, using a Ph I & II Environmental Assessment to inform remediated measures, resulting in a clean and safe environment for recreation and development. In addition, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources required a reclamation plan that has informed mass grading and excavation prior to conversion to new uses.

An inventory and analysis was conducted for the unique site and varying adjacent context through site visits and GIS mapping, identifying programmatic opportunities based on existing site features, goals, and objectives stated in Metro Parks’ 2016 ‘The Plan’. Regional opportunities linking the site to city-wide facilities through bike/greenways, blueways, and roadways were also undertaken reinforcing the importance of the unique location, less than five miles from downtown Columbus.

A collaborative process of program review and preliminary master plan-level park design led to an overall recreation vision for the site that focuses on three distinct park areas defined by geography and programming.

The Southern Basins takes advantage of two existing groundwater fed lakes to host water-based activities on a newly created channel that will connect to the Scioto River. Hydrologic modeling informed decisions to remove an earthen levee, relocate natural stream, and take on filtered stormwater from the proposed development.

The Middle Tier focused programming the extreme topography with rock climbing, mountain biking, and high adventure playgrounds, with shelters and overlooks that take advantage of dramatic views of a 130’ tall limestone cliff. An outdoor entertainment/activity venue and winter sports are also accommodated.

Lastly, the River Corridor provides an extension and connection to the regional bikeways, becoming a catalyst to extend other trails from the north and south to and through the park, in addition to watercraft connections and trails. This corridor also provides opportunities for overlooks to the Scioto River.

Planning of private development occurred in coordination with the park. Planning integrates “greenway” corridors through proposed neighborhoods to physically connect the Southern Basins directly to the River Corridor for park users and residents while providing naturalized, sustainable stormwater runoff accommodations from this private development.
With over 50 miles of coastline, thousands of acres of tidal wetlands, and significant areas of inland forest, Cape May County, New Jersey is a diverse and unique place. County leadership and residents have worked to protect and enhance this quality of place through various initiatives, including the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program. The project scope includes the creation of a brand identity for this program as well as the development of unique placemaking elements, site designs, and implementation strategies.

Creative Placemaking is a relatively new approach to community planning, urban design, and public engagement that has emerged in the last decade. The primary goal is to engage community members through art, culture, and design to support growth, vitality, and sustainability. This will ultimately empower community members to enrich the cultural identity of the community, participate more directly in civic activities, and strengthen the local economy.

The brand identity utilizes a shorthand name for the program — Open Spaces Cape May County — and depicts an Osprey to serve as the primary symbol. The Osprey is a distinctive bird that is often seen flying over the water and nesting in large trees. Efforts to preserve County open spaces have provided habitat for Ospreys, and many other birds, that attract a large and growing bird-watching community. The color scheme, patterns, and other elements are based on the rich tones of the landscape and built environment.

Conceptual designs for various wayfinding and site elements were provided to reflect the themes of the brand identity. Several sign types are intended for use along various Cape May County multi-use trails and other recreational facilities. Design concepts and guidelines were provided for various custom site furnishings, structures, and other elements. The placemaking elements are intended to increase the overall quality of Open Space Program projects through increased functionality, better user experience, higher quality products, and lower overall life cycle costs.

To demonstrate how the plan elements can be implemented, two sites were selected for a conceptual park design. The first site is Beesley’s Point at the northern end of the County, which connects to a multi-use trail network and includes a beach, parking area, and trailhead. The second site is hypothetical and demonstrates how placemaking elements can be integrated within inland environments. The design for this site includes a small shelter, cycling amenities, a parking area, and a boardwalk overlook. Both concepts were illustrated with plan and perspective renderings and were a key tool in communicating the value and application of the brand identity and placemaking elements.

The multidisciplinary team was led by a landscape architect and included experts in graphic design, environmental graphics, and community planning. A concept development process rooted in landscape architecture was utilized to convert stakeholder and public input into compelling but achievable visions. Additionally, the highly creative work product generated by the blended creative team serves as a model for communities that desire to consistently and effectively express their unique qualities in various media channels and the built environment.

CLIENT: CAPE MAY COUNTY
ADDITIONAL PROJECT CREDITS: MKSK, CHARLES BENICK
Topography served as the major design tool for this project given the nature of the site, which slopes 20+ feet from the road to the small creek that runs through the back of the property, before abutting a significant wooded hillside with noteworthy rock outcrops along the creek. The concept was to articulate a series of subtle terraces (6” to 12”) in order to create a graceful entry sequence at both the front and rear of the house. Each terrace provides usable space for walkways, patios, and even small gardens for kitchen herbs as well as ornamental mosses and succulent plants.

The broad approach to the planting of the site was to utilize the presence of existing mature canopy trees to establish character of woodland gardens at the edge and front of the property providing natural screening to the house and associated outdoor spaces. These woodland areas also provided a contrast of “formal” and “informal” spaces which was further emphasized in the detailing of materials. For example, all of the patio spaces use dimensioned bluestone paving with open lawn joints while retaining walls that often abut the woodland garden are more rustic in material (cor-ten steel and limestone) and/or detailing.

The landscape and architecture are also intimately related with patio spaces sited immediate to the house and in some cases even partially sheltered by overhanging portions of the home. This intimate relationship between interior and exterior, can best be experienced by walking up the front entry path. The path leads to an entry and dining terrace from which guests can flow into the house on a field of bluestone that descends and interior stair before also defining a rear patio.

**IMPLEMENT**

Merit Award | Residential
Worthington Residence
WORTHINGTON, OHIO

CLIENT: GLEN & AMY SULLIVAN
ADDITIONAL PROJECT CREDITS: EMI, JONATHAN BARNES ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

2019 OHIO ASLA AWARDS
STUDENT AWARDS
The Waterman Farm Master Plan transforms the 261 acre site into a unique, small-plot farm incorporating agroecological practices, varying research conditions, and rich outreach opportunities. The plan both builds upon and rethink current activities on the farm in order to mold Waterman into a research farm model for other land grant universities and an attraction for Ohio State University students across the campus.

Pamela Force, Taylor Shanley, & Theresa Rathslag

Merit Award | Student

Waterman Farm Master Plan

COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Indiana Bat is an endangered species in Ohio. Their population has significantly declined since the mid 1970’s and continues to struggle. There are many factors for this including habitat loss and the detrimental fungal disease known as White Nose Syndrome. Bat Camp creates a space mutually beneficial for all. The structures create a habitat which supports life and prosperity at Acacia. The design addresses and enhances the broader ecosystem including plant and animal life.

Katherine Kelleher

Merit Award | Student

Bat Camp

LYNDBURST, OHIO
Pat Beam’s leadership during 42 years in private practice and volunteer work have resulted in a tremendous increase in understanding of the scope and abilities of landscape architects in the Ohio region, most notably in watershed management, natural storm water design and natural resource preservation. His leadership service with national, regional, state and local community boards and commissions committed to environmental design, planning, and preservation have also furthered the visibility and viability of the profession of landscape architecture in the region.

Pat has been a driving force in the advancement of the profession of landscape architecture on the national, regional and local levels. His leadership efforts were critical to the passage of a Practice Law in the State of Ohio in 2002. As a member of the Ohio Landscape Architects Board since 2008, with two terms as Board Chair, he spearheaded successful defense of landscape architects’ licensure during several legislative and state budget challenges.

As a second term Regional Director of the Council of Landscape Architectural Boards (CLARB) Board of Directors, Pat co-chairs the CLARB / Ohio Board Welfare (Wellbeing) Pilot project promoting the critical contributions of landscape architects to the wellbeing of the public. Pat presented the Ohio Board / Ohio Chapter ASLA Best Practices for proactive defense of the profession at the first ASLA / CLARB joint Licensure Summit. Pat’s ongoing contributions to the CLARB Model Law, Model Regulations and Foresight Strategies are key to assuring the strength and defensibility of licensure for landscape architects.

With a great sense of pride in his profession of landscape architecture, Pat has stepped up to champion, lead and manage landscape architecture, watershed and environmental policies and projects for more than four decades, and his impact on landscape architecture in Ohio will continue to live on.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Patrick J. Beam

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