Lauri Macmillan Johnson  
Professor

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LAR 541: History and Theory of Landscape Architecture

Description  
This 2-credit course examines landscape architecture from an historic and contemporary perspective as reflected in theory and practice. Through case reviews of built works including significant estates, gardens, urban designs, park systems, corporate landscapes, restored natural sites, heritage sites, waterfront projects, resorts, et al., we will explore the evolution of design ideology and application of theory in the practice of landscape architecture.

Instructional Objectives: Learning Outcomes

- Use appropriately, in written and oral form, design vocabulary specific to the profession of landscape architecture in descriptions and critiques of designed places.
- Identify and describe the major contributions made by landscape architects in place making, sustainability, public health, landscape ecology, and the science and art of practice.
- Acquire knowledge on historical landscapes, including their associated cultures and periods in history, as contextual framework for the development and growth of the profession of landscape architecture.
- Identify and describe movements or periods in the development of landscape architecture.
- Discuss the evolution of landscape architecture and suggest new trends within the profession.
- Articulate ethical parameters for the practice of landscape architecture.
- Find, evaluate, and present examples of professional projects created by landscape architects in order to extract design principles, theories, and technical information for application in design studio.
Student Evaluation

Attendance:
Attendance and class participation is mandatory for the successful completion of this course. Students who are unable to attend class as a result of illness or other reasons are asked to contact the professor.

Late Work:
Late work will not be accepted.

Grades:
Grades will be based on the following categories:

20% Semester quizzes, in-class assignments, and discussions
In-class assignments will include short research assignments that relate to design applications. These hands-on sketch projects will be based on the lecture material, weekly assigned readings, independent readings and class discussions.

60% Research (40%) and Design (20%) Projects
Students are required to complete two major research projects throughout the semester. The first one will have a design component. These projects will include independent research, writing, design, and verbal presentation. The first project will be completed as team while the second is individual.

20% Final Exam

Required Readings:

Johnson, Lauri Macmillan (revised 2004), LAR 583 Lecture Notes one copy to be provided for use in the LAR Studio.

Pregill, Philip, and Volkman, Nancy. 1993. *Landscapes in History, Design and Planning in the Western Tradition.* Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York. (*This edition is currently out of print but may be relatively easy to find in used book stores.*)

Pregill, Philip, and Volkman, Nancy. 1999. *Landscapes in History, Design and Planning in the Western Tradition,* John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,New York. (*This edition is the most current and includes a new chapter on Japan and China—other than this the text is the same*)


Suggested Readings:


**Additional References: History**


**Additional References: Theory**


Steele, Fletcher, “New Pioneering in Garden Design,” *Landscape Architecture* 20, no. 3 (April 1930)


**Schedule:**

**Course Introduction**

Overview of the History of Gardens and Landscape Architecture

*Overview of Historical Landscape/Garden Styles*

*Pre-Historic Landscape Expressions (20,000 BC - 3,300BC)*,

*Egypt (3,300 BC - 500 BC)*

*Mesopotamia (3,500 BC - 538)*

*Persia (539 - 331 BC)*

Pregill, 99, pp 3-79

Pregill, 93, pp 3-80

*Greece (700 BC - 136 BC)*

*The Roman Republic/Empire (510 BC - 476 AD)*
Pregill, 99, pp 80-133
Pregill, 93, pp 81-135

The Medieval Period - "Middle Ages" or Dark Ages (476 AD - 1350 AD)
  Pregill, 99, pp 134-187
  Pregill, 93, pp

Islamic (Moorish) Spain (539BC - 1400AD)
  Pregill, 99, pp 187-202
  Pregill, 93, pp 191-205

High Renaissance Italian Villas (1500 - 1575)
  Baroque Villas (1575 - 1675)
    Pregill, 99, pp 203-232
    Pregill, 93, pp 207-236

France (1495 -1750)
  Pregill, 99, pp 233-241
  Pregill, 93, pp 237-245

English Garden Design (1480 - 1840)
  Pregill, 99, pp 241-263
  Pregill, 93, pp 245-267

India China Japan (300BC - 1600AD)
  Pregill, 99, pp 340-379
  Pregill, 93, na (see me for a copy of these chapters if needed)

Pre-Columbian America (700 BC - 400 AD)

Colonial America (1600 - 1840)

Agriculture and the American Farm (1820 - 1930)

Nature, Wilderness, Frontier, American West (1500 - 1920)

Land Tenure, Town Development, The Homestead Act

Trails
  Pregill, 99, pp 383-453
  Pregill, 93, pp 297-392

American Romantic Movement (1830 - 1900)

Industrialism and Urbanism (1830 - 1920)

The Park Movement in America (1850 - 1930)
  Pregill, 99, pp 454-542
  Pregill, 93, pp 393-486

The City Beautiful Movement (1800 - 1930)

Victorian Eclectic Transition (1860 - 1900)

Classic Revival (1890 - 1940)
  Pregill, 99, pp 543-652
  Pregill, 93, pp 487-603

Conservation and Preservation (1830 - Present)

The National Park System (1864 - Present)

The US Forest Service

The State Park Movement (1864-1933)
  Pregill, 99, pp 653-671
  Pregill, 93, pp 604-621
Public Works and The New Deal Program (1930 - 1950)

The Age of Automobiles (1930 - 1960)

Pregill, 99, pp 672-701
Pregill, 93, pp 622-652

Twentieth Century European Influence
(1840 - 1970)

Pre-Modern, Modern Art Influences (1850 - 1970)

The Arts and Crafts Movement (1870 - 1920)

Birth of Modernism (1920 - 1960)

Pregill, 99, pp 264-286; 702-721
Pregill, 93, pp 269-291; 653-671

Pre-modern and Modern Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architects—Fletcher Steele, Roberto Burle Marx, Thomas Church, Dan Kiley, James Rose, Garret Eckbo,
Architects: Luis Barragan
Artists: Isamu Noguchi.

Significant Landscape Architecture and Practice 1960-1980

Landscape Architects: Ian McHarg, Lawrence Halprin, Hideo Sasaki, Grant Jones, Robert Zion (Zion and Breen), Peter Walker, M. Paul Friedberg, Carol Johnson, Isabelle C. Green, Edward Stone Jr., Richard Haag, A. E. Bye, Susan F. Child, Sasaki Associates, EDAW, Jones and Jones, SWA Group
Architects: Maya Lin

Post Modern Landscape Architecture

Peter Walker, George Hargreaves, Michael Van Valkenburgh, Martha Schwartz, Laurie Olin, George Hargreaves.

New Innovations in Landscape Architecture

Architects:

Ecological Art: