LAR 540: Contemporary Landscape Architecture: Syllabus

Description
This 2-credit course examines 20th and 21st century prominent design figures that have shaped the profession of landscape architecture. Through case reviews of built works including significant gardens, urban designs, recreational areas, corporate landscapes, restored natural sites, heritage sites, waterfront projects, resorts, et al., we will explore the evolution of design ideology and theory in applied landscape architectural practice.

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 during the past 50 years.
- Identify and describe project types, styles, and movements or periods in the growth and 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.

Schedule:

Course Introduction

Overview of the History of Gardens and Landscape Architecture

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:

The topics that will structure class research and discussions will include the following categories derived primarily from Swaffield’s (2002) Theory in Landscape Architecture, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Design Theory and Processes

Introduction to Theory

Simon Swaffield, Introduction
Simon Swaffield, Conclusion: The Theoretical Terrain of Landscape Architecture
Garrett Eckbo, Landscape for Living
James Corner, Origins of Theory; Theory in Crisis
Elizabeth Meyer, The Expanded Field of Landscape Architecture
Patrick Michael Condon, Cubist Space, Volumetric Space, and Landscape Architecture
Carl Steinitz, Design is a Verb: Design is a Noun
Jay Appleton, Prospects and Refuges Re-Visited
Ervin H. Zube, Themes in Landscape Assessment Theory
Katherine Crewe and Ann Forsyth, LandSCAPES: A Typology of Approaches to Landscape Architecture
Jay Appleton, The Experience of Landscape

Design Process
Hideo Sasaki, *Design Process*
Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *The Art of Site Planning, Site Design*
Ian McHarg, *An Ecological Method*
Lawrence Halprin, *The RSVP Cycles*
Randolph Hester, *Community Design*
Steven Krog, *Creative Risk Taking*
Bernard Lassus, *The Obligation of Invention*
Mark Francis, *Village Homes: A Case Study In Community Design*
Mark Francis, *Some Different Meanings Attached to a City Park and Community Gardens*
Mark Francis, *A Case Study Method for Landscape Architecture*
Ignacio San Martin, *Luis Barragan: The Process of Discovery*
John T. Lyle, *The Alternating Current of Design Process*
Randolph T. Hester Jr., *Community Design Today: From the Inside Out*
Albert Rutledge, Jr., *Anomy of a Park*
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, *The Psychology of Optimal Experience Steps Toward Enhancing the Quality of Life*

**Discussion Group: Form, Meaning, and Experience**

Lauri Olin, *Form Meaning, and Expression*
Marc Treib, *Must Landscapes Mean?: Approaches to Significance in Recent Landscape Architecture*
Robert Thayer, *Three Dimensions of Meaning*
Peter Jacobs, *De/Re/In [form]ing Landscape*
Charles Moore, *The Poetics of Gardens*
Marc Treib, *The Content Of Landscape Form The Limits of Formalism*
Clare Cooper Marcus, *The Garden as Metaphor*
Robert B. Riley, *From Sacred Grove to Disney World: The Search for Garden Meaning*

**Discussion Group: Cultural Landscapes, Landscape Narratives, Regional Design**

**Cultural Landscapes**

J. B. Jackson, *How to Study Landscape*
John Brinckerhoff Jackson 1909-1996
Denis Cosgrove, *Landscape as Cultural Product*
Kenneth Helphand, *Dreaming Gardens: Landscape Architecture and the Making of Modern Isreal*
Robert B. Riley, *Gender, Landscape, Culture: Sorting Out Some Questions*
Kenrick Ian Grandison, *Challenging Formalism: The Implications of Contemporary Cultural Theory for Historic Preservation*
Randolph T. Hester Jr., Nova J. Blaje and Ian S. Moore, *Whose Wild? Resolving Cultural and Biological Diversity Conflicts in Urban Wilderness*
Carla Corbin, *Vacancy and the Landscape: Cultural Context and Design Response*
Landscape Narratives

Ann Whiston Spirn, *The Language of Landscape*
John Dixon Hunt, *Reading and Writing the Site*
Matthew Potteiger and Jamie Purinton, *Landscape Narratives*
Matthew Potteiger and Jamie Purinton, *Landscape Narratives, Design Practices for Telling Stories*
Kim Sorvig, *Nature/Culture/Words/Landscapes*
Kenneth Helphand, *Landscape Films*

Regional Design

Michael Hough, *Principles for Regional Design*
Terry Harkness, *Garden from Region*
David C. Streatfield, *Where Pine and Palm Meet: The California Garden as a Regional Expression*

Ecological Design

Frederick Steiner, *Tribute Ian L. McHarg 1920-2001*
Ann Whiston Spirn, *The Granite Garden*
Alan Ruff, *An Ecological Approach*
John Lyle, *Design for Human Ecosystems*
John Lyle, *Can Floating Seeds Make Deep Forms*
Robert Thayer, *Gray World Green Heart*
Joan Iverson Nassauer, *Messy Ecosystems, Orderly Frames*
Frederick Steiner, Gerald Young, and Ervin Zube, *Ecological Planning: Retrospect and Prospect*
Robert L. Thayer, Jr., *The Experience of Sustainable Landscapes*
P. H. Gobster, *An Ecological Aesthetic for Forest Landscape Management*
Ann M. Rosenberg, *An Emerging Paradigm for Landscape Architecture*
Louise Mozingo, *The Aesthetics of Ecological Design: Seeing Science as Culture*
Catherine Howett, *System, Signs, Sensibilities: Source for a New Landscape Aesthetic*
Richard Haag, *Eco-Revelatory Design: The Challenge of the Exhibit*

Landscape Art

David Merrill, *Christo, Smithson, aycock, Heizer: “The Avant-Garde and the Landscape” as a Metaphor of Sexuality, Life, and Mind*
Marc Treib, *One Garden May Reveal Another: Obrist’s List*
Peter Walker, *Minimalist Gardens Without Walls*
Patrick M. Condon, *Radical Romanticism*
Garrett Eckbo, *Avant-Garde and Status Quo Landscapes: How Do They Relate?*
Douglas D. Paterson, *Fostering the Avant-Garde Within New American Landscape*
Brenda Brown, *Holding Moving Landscapes*
Buster Simpson, *Folio*
John Beardsley, *Earthworks and Beyond*
Requirements and Basis for Evaluation:

Readings and Discussions - 40%

Selected readings have been assigned within the categories presented in this course outline and within the University D2L site. Students will be responsible for leading short discussions within the session. Students are to select topics of interest for presentation and discussion on a weekly basis. Projects features in Landscape Architecture will also provide a basis for discussion groups.

Final Project - Design Significance - 60%

Your final project will include an evaluation and critique of three built projects of significance. These projects must be recognized in scholarly journals in landscape architecture or related design disciplines. Requirements include a short referenced paper (2,000 words) and 15 minute PowerPoint presentation.

Note: Attendance and participation are required.

Required Text:


Additional Recommended Readings:


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


