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VERMONT



“The Exquisite Detail: How Big Ideas Get Expressed in Tangible Craft”
Image from presentation by Mr. David Fletcher, ASLA, Owner, Fletcher Studio; Gina Ford, FASLA, Principal and Co-Founder, Agency Landscape + Planning; and Maura Rockcastle, ASLA, Principal and Co-founder, TEN x TEN.
Presented at ASLA virtual annual conference reVision

WINTER '21 NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOM HAND, ASLA
VTASLA CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Greetings All,

I spent this beautiful late February weekend thinking about what to write for my first message as President of the Chapter. Most weekends my wife and I pack up the kids, lunches, and gear and head up to the mountain. We opted to stay home this weekend instead (ok- I was unsuccessful in securing reservations on a busy vacation weekend!) What staying home made me realize is the benefit that comes from stepping back, taking time to rest, and exploring the land and woods that surround our home. To me it was a weekend to “reset” and I feel motivated and energized to start a new week.

We have all been faced by a lot of challenges over the past year navigating the pandemic, changing work schedules, and caring for family members or children. Our volunteer executive board has certainly faced many of its own challenges while still showing up at meetings with energy and ideas. I am encouraged that over the past year we have kept the board functioning, even bringing on several young new board members. It was a year of survival, but with it came some failures. The most obvious of which is our collection of the 2019/2020 VT ASLA Awards almost a year ago and failure to have them reviewed, judged, and announced in a timely manner. As one of the eighteen submissions received, I can understand the eagerness and frustration around the delay in receiving the results. This was a failure on the boards part and I apologize on behalf of the entire board. The good news is that the results are in from the jury and we are discussing plans for a virtual awards ceremony, presenting all the submissions and award winners in the Spring newsletter, and featuring all the awards in the chapter's website and social media channels as well as local media. The work that we do as landscape architect's in this state is impressive and needs to be shared!

Which brings me back to the idea of a reset. It's the start of a new year, we have a strong executive board of active members, and it's an opportunity to get our schedule of activities and events back on track. I set several personal goals to achieve as President over the next three years that I hope will in turn help the Chapter;

- Get to know all members personally,
- Increase the recognition of our members and their work in the local media and in our communities,
- Increase recognition of landscape architecture as a profession in our elementary and high schools,
- Rebuild our chapter membership, and
- Grow member involvement in our chapter governance and planning of events

The intent of these is to break down the walls between the “executive board” and the “members” and increase the Chapter participation while also growing recognition of the professional. In so doing we'll increase the transparency of the board, plan and execute our important chapter events, and build our small network of landscape architects in the state. I am here as a resource for all current and prospective members. If you have a question, comment, or complaint please let me know! Our executive board is here to serve you- the members.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TH' followed by a long horizontal line.

VTASLA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES

2020 CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES

This past December the VTASLA executive board had a few changes in member positions that we wanted to update you about. After returning to serve as President Jim Donovan announced he would be stepping down as President and continuing as the Past-President. Newly elected President-Elect Tom Hand agreed to step up to fulfill the remainder of Jim's outstanding tenure as President. Additionally, newly elected secretary Stephen Plunkard announced he also needed to step down. Fortunately, emerging professional and new VTASLA member Elena Juodisius was nominated to fulfill the position of Secretary. The executive board accepted the resignations of Jim and Stephen at the December 23, 2020 Executive Board Meeting and moved to accept Tom as Chapter President and Elena as Secretary. We are very appreciative of the service and support of the chapter that Jim and Stephen provided. Congratulations to Tom and Elena for their new positions on the board!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chapter executive board meetings are held once a month and are open to the public. The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wed, March 24 from 5-7 PM and beginning in April, meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month.

Currently, meetings are held via zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7362806553?pwd=K3lwNXQzOEplMUUV2OXY2SCs5WGFXdzO9>

Meeting ID: 736 280 6553 - Passcode: 3jQ8D0

VTASLA UPDATES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

After more than a year of special meetings and discussions, the VTASLA Executive Board approved a new Strategic Plan outlining the Chapter's, mission, goals, activities, and initiatives for the next five years. This plan replaces the previous Strategic Plan that expired at the end of 2018. The Chapter was able to accomplish much of what was included in the previous five-year Strategic Plan.

The Executive Board will be starting discussions at its upcoming meetings on how to begin to initiate the work contained in the new Strategic Plan. Look for more information on the Strategic Plan in Future Newsletters. If you are interested in hearing about the plan, you can join the Executive Board at their monthly meetings.

VTASLA CHAPTER AWARDS UPDATES

Thank you all for your patience awaiting the results of the 2020 VTASLA Chapter Awards. The results are in and we are looking forward to notifying winner's and promoting the excellent body of work in Vermont through all the Chapter communications. Stay tuned for more info and a Virtual Presentation Ceremony announcement," which will be held in April!

VTASLA DONATING HOLIDAY PARTY BUDGET TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

VTASLA, like most other organizations in Vermont, was unable to hold their traditional in-person Holiday party at the end of 2020. The Chapter's budget always includes funds for this party, but this year the funds were not used.

Instead of just keeping these funds in the Chapter's coffers, the Executive Board decided to donate the funds to several local not-for-profit Vermont organizations. The Chapter is happy to support these worthwhile organizations. The Executive Board decided to send the donations to these three organizations after considering a larger list of potential recipients.

Our Treasurer is sending \$300 checks to each of these three recipients:

THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER (COTS)



THE SHELburnE FARM LANDSCAPE FUND



LOCAL MOTION



VTASLA REINVIGORATING COMMITTEES

The VTASLA Executive Board (EB) is in the process of energizing the Chapter's standing committees. They hope to use the committees to accomplish more of the activities and initiatives in the Chapter's recently updated Strategic Plan. They are focusing on their efforts on the following committees. If you find one of these committees interesting and would like to participate in some of their work, please contact any EB member. The EB anticipates that the Committees will meet at least 4 times per year to advance their work.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to monitor membership in ASLA;

- Contact members whose membership is up for renewal prior to their renewal date;
- Check in with former members if they have not renewed to find out why and to see if they would consider rejoining;
- Look to find new members;
- Serve as a liaison to a student chapter if one is created.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

Coordinate internal and external communication efforts;

- Prepare quarterly digital newsletters for delivery to members and others as appropriate;
- Prepare email newsblast at least once a month to members with pertinent and appropriate information of benefit or interest to members;
- Maintain and continually post new information to a Facebook page, Instagram account and other social media sites that the EB decides to use;

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Review state legislative issues for any that might positively or negatively impact members;
- Make recommendations to the EB on appropriate legislative actions the chapter should take on a yearly basis;
- Organize a statewide member's advocacy day at the State House or other appropriate venue;
- Recommend use of ASLA National's Legislative Alert System to the EB when they think it is appropriate;
- Prepare notices for use with the Legislative Alert System when it's use is deemed appropriate by the EB.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Plan and implement an annual Holiday Party;
- Plan and implement at least one other social gathering

for members on an annual basis;

- Work with co-sponsors to plan and implement a winter ski-day on an annual basis;
- Suggest opportunities to the EB for other fellowship opportunities with allied professional groups.

AWARDS COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Organize and conduct the Chapter Awards on a bi-annual basis;
- Organize and conduct with co-sponsors the Public Places Awards on a bi-annual basis;
- Coordinate with the Fellowship Committee to create annual award ceremonies for the Chapter and Public Places Award Programs;
- Suggest Olmsted Award winners to the EB on a yearly basis;
- Coordinate Service Awards for outgoing EB members;
- Work with the President as needed to prepare the President's award.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Organize educational opportunities for members, working with other committees as needed, depending on the topics presented;
- Inform members of outside educational opportunities offered by other in- and out-of-state organizations;
- Suggest co-sponsoring opportunities to the EB for educational opportunities for members;
- Plan and implement the Doug Crowell Lecture on an annual basis
- Maintain VTASLA's LACES status;
- Obtain LACES credits as appropriate for VTASLA or co-sponsored educational offerings.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Coordinate activities with the National ASLA Historic Preservation Committee;
- Prepare HALS application as appropriate;
- Coordinate work with other state historic preservation organizations.

FELLOWS COMMITTEE - This committee is meant to:

- Assist in the preparation of Fellows nominations;
- Provide advice and guidance from time to time to the Executive Board on pertinent issues and topics
- Undertake special service projects as time and opportunities allow

WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH 2021

April is World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM)!



As you may know, April is World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM). Established by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), WLAM is a month-long international celebration of landscape architecture and designed public and private spaces. People and communities around the world have deep, long-standing personal connections to the spaces landscape architects create – they are just not aware of it. During WLAM, ASLA and landscape architects around the world aim to demonstrate that connection by highlighting landscape architect-designed spaces.

HOW DOES ASLA CELEBRATE WLAM?

For the month of April, ASLA, our chapters in states and schools across the country, and our members around the world showcased all the ways in which life grows in the spaces landscape architects create. ASLA highlights landscape architecture projects and spaces that form the fabric of the communities our members serve. ASLA encourages members to share landscape architecture information and resources from reaching out to elected officials and advocating for issues to sharing career discovery tools.

ASLA social media feeds on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are used to showcase notable projects, practitioners, and progress in the field using a hashtag. Student and Professional chapters took over our Instagram to highlight their work. VTASLA looks forward to participating in April using social media.

WHAT IS VTASLA INTERESTED IN DOING FOR WLAM 2021?

For WLAM 2021, the VTASLA Executive Committee would like to do an educational presentation about the landscape

architecture profession and what we are doing here in Vermont in local schools. ASLA has a plethora of materials and activities that are available for us to use. Wouldn't it be really cool if we could have one educational presentation by one or more Vermont landscape architects in every county in Vermont? Would you be interested in helping with this? If so, please reach out to one of the Executive Committee members and share your ideas!

ASLA OFFERING FREE PDH TO MEMBERS

MONTHLY WEBINARS OFFERED AS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Need Professional Development Hour credits for your license? Each month, ASLA will feature one on-demand webinar at no cost to all current members! Members must register for the Free PDH of the Month and pass the exam during the month it is featured in order to earn professional development hours.

Visit the ASLA Online Learning Center for more information and to sign up- <https://learn.asla.org/asla/>.



2021 HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY CHALLENGE

VTASLA HALS Committee

For the 12th annual HALS Challenge, the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) invites you to document historic Black landscapes. Black people have built and shaped the American landscape in immeasurable ways. Examining these histories and spaces will expand our understanding of America's past and future. From plantations to segregated cities, the nation's landscapes retain the physical manifestations of our racist history. Yet historic Black landscapes also represent creative achievements and reflect Black culture, as seen in residential gardens, parks, and college campuses across this country. Documenting historic Black landscapes will reveal patterns of community that have been built over the course of four hundred years. Short format histories should be submitted to HALS at the National Park Service no later than **July 31, 2021**.

The VTASLA HALS Committee is very interested in finding and documenting historic Black landscapes here in Vermont. There is a wonderful resource on the State of Vermont website about our African American heritage at: <https://www.vermontvacation.com/africanamericanheritagetrail>.

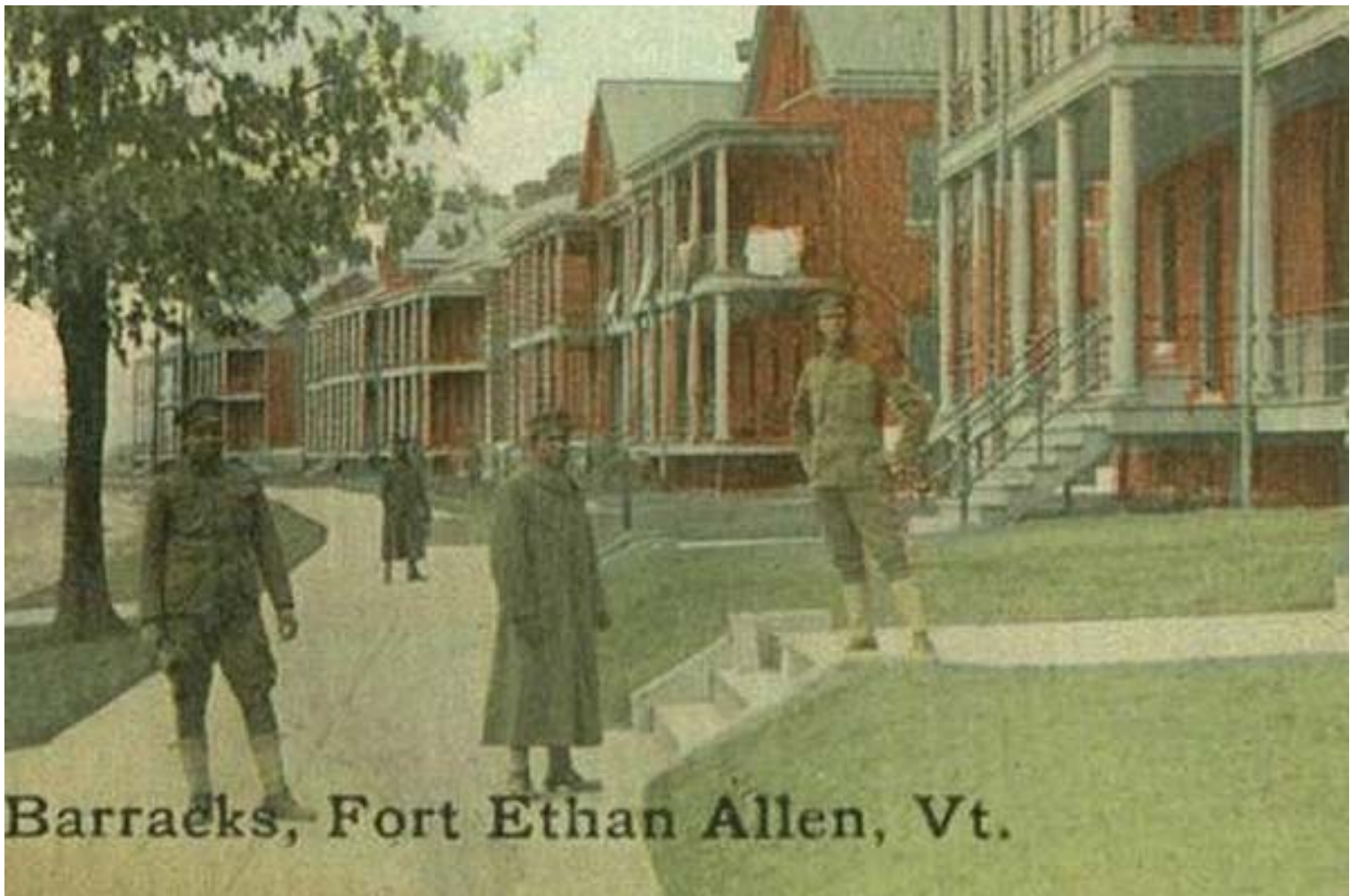
ASLA hosted a webinar last week on acknowledging historic black landscape with several notable professionals throughout the country, which can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/516697751>

More information on the 2021 HALS Challenge can be found here:

<https://thefield.asla.org/2021/01/14/the-2021-hals-challenge-historic-black-landscapes/>

If you would like to learn more about this challenge and help prepare HALS short forms for historic Black landscapes in Vermont, please contact Gail Henderson-King at ghendersonking@whiteandburke.



MEMBER PROFILE

ELENA JUODISIUS, ASLA



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF

First of all, I am the newest VTASLA board member as secretary! I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and since a young age knew how important my relationship with the natural world was, and I also experienced the damage of irresponsible land use decisions, from polluted lakes to red-lining. I enjoy making things including large puppets and participatory public art, playing music, and petting my two cats.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

In landscape architecture, I found a way to realize and implement environmental best practices, relate to people and communities and help vision and strategize, and think creatively and artfully.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED PRACTICING IN VERMONT?

I moved to Vermont after I graduated in May 2020 with my master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the State University of New York - College of Environmental Science and Forestry. I live in Burlington with my partner and have been working as a freelance designer, and for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

WHAT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING PROFESSIONAL PROJECT OR STUDIO CLASS YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

One of the many interesting studio projects I worked on in school was a design for a river front park in a small town along the Saint Lawrence river. We each took different approaches to the project; my focus was on discovering the impact of dramatic water level fluctuations the community experienced. Through this my preconceived notions of boundaries between land and water were challenged and altered, and then exploring how that altered world view

impacts design choices and graphic communication. I enjoyed developing strategies that celebrated the natural cycles of the river while promoting various types of uses, activities and ecological needs.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE PROFESSION?

Helping clients and communities realize the potential of their spaces is incredibly rewarding, and I enjoy spending my time in creative problem-solving to get there.

YOU ARE THE NEWEST MEMBER ON THE VTASLA EXECUTIVE BOARD. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE BOARD AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACHIEVE FOR THE MEMBERS?

I was active in the student ASLA chapter throughout my masters program, and found it a great way to meet people beyond my studio cohort and access professional development. I joined the VT chapter similarly looking forward to meeting others across the state. As part of the board, I hope to help facilitate communication among our members, and with opportunities from across the county and allied professions. Engaging the future generations in the field of design is important to me, and I plan to help develop educational and career exploration sessions for children and youth in Vermont through ASLA.

HOW DO YOU SEE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE GROWING/CHANGING IN VERMONT OVER THE NEXT DECADE?

Landscape architecture certainly plays a role in critical issues for Vermont - addressing water quality and runoff volume, strategizing for flood management while recognizing historic character of towns, cities and working rural landscapes. Further, landscape architecture can address the need for accommodating an aging population and attracting and retaining diversity of age, income, ability, race and ethnicity, both through the landscapes we design and the way we communicate.

SKI NIGHT 2021

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for March 25, 4-10 pm to join us for the 2021 edition of AIAVT & ASLA VT Ski Night at Bolton Valley Resort. Lift tickets and food options will be available.

Details and tickets coming soon!

Ski Night will follow all COVID precautions and regulations. These include social distancing, face masks when unable to distance, and out of state travel restrictions.



VTASLA CONTINUES SUPPORT OF A+D FILM SERIES




THE VTASLA EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED THIS PAST SUMMER TO SUPPORT THE ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN FILM SERIES FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

Architecture + Design Film Series

VTASLA is proud to be sponsoring the Architecture + Design Film Series for the second year in a row. The film series is meant to engage, provoke, and inspire the community by exploring the impact and importance of design and beauty in our lives.

The films are released monthly on Wednesdays and run from September through April. The format has been changed to allow the films to be screened from home.

See www.adfilmseries.org for more information, the full schedule and description of films, and to stream the current film.

<p>FREE MONTHLY VIRTUAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>Complete Film Descriptions at: adfilmseries.org</p>	 <p>The Music of Strangers Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble SEPTEMBER 23, 2020</p>	 <p>Jorn Utzon The Man & the Architect OCTOBER 14, 2020</p>
	 <p>Aggie NOVEMBER 11, 2020</p>	 <p>The New Bauhaus The Life & Legacy of Moholy-Nagy DECEMBER 9, 2020</p>
 <p>Ursula von Rydingsvard Into Her Own FEBRUARY 17, 2021</p>	 <p>The Gardener MARCH 17, 2021</p>	 <p>Neutra Survival Through Design APRIL 14, 2021</p>

'VERMONT SOLSTICE' PRINT STILL AVAILABLE

COMMISSIONED SABRA FIELD PRINT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



The Vermont chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects commissioned world-renowned Vermont printmaker Sabra Field in 2005 to create a piece to celebrate the beauty of Vermont's landscape. Best known for her design of the 1991 Vermont Bicentennial stamp, Sabra Field has been printmaking in Vermont for over 36 years. Her work has been the subject of over 50 special exhibits around the world, and she has received numerous awards for her contributions to the arts and to Vermont culture.

'Vermont Solstice' encapsulates the extent of Vermont's varied geography, from the Connecticut River on the eastern border to Lake Champlain on the west. Set during a snowy winter sunset, the stylized and highly detailed view includes natural landmarks such as Camel's Hump, as well as the state's trademark rolling hills and countryside pastures. Field also incorporated signs of humanity's influence on the land, including highways 89 and 91, and indicates settled areas through the use of small, shimmering lights.

Profits from the sale of this limited-edition, hand-signed print support the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Prints measure 11.5" x 35" and cost \$300, plus shipping and handling. Please contact either info@vtasla.org or mike@tjboyle.com to order.

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REVISION 2020- A CHANGE IN APPROACH

ASLA National Conference

Last November over the course of three days, ASLA hosted the first ever virtual annual conference. reVision reimagined the live conference event into an online gathering of landscape architects for lectures, education sessions, field sessions, and vendor floor.

ASLA 2020 shined a spotlight on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion—examining not only the profession itself, but also issues of racial justice and equitable access in practice and society. Discussions reflected on the past of landscape architecture, examining issues of systemic racial inequity in the profession, lack of access to open space for Black communities and other communities of color, and the current state of practice. They also looked toward the future, focusing on not only the importance of recognizing and correcting the bad practices of the past, but also ways in which we can move the profession and the world to a more diverse and equitable future.

ASLA did an amazing job converting the live event to an online platform. VT ASLA sponsored several UVM students to attend the conference as well and increase their exposure to landscape architecture. reVision covered many critically relevant topics to the profession including design, project tours, climate change, and business management. Additionally, reVision addressed issues of equity and inclusion in our profession. The following article from “The Field” digs deeper into these discussions and promotes the online education sessions that are still available through ASLA from reVision.

BECOME A MENTOR

Continue to support students in landscape architecture

The goal of the ASLA Mentorship Program is to foster relationships between students and seasoned professionals that allows both parties to increase their understanding of the many facets of landscape architecture, especially while navigating the impacts on the profession during the COVID-19 crisis. In order to maintain social distancing, all meetings will be virtual. Please be mindful of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and local officials' requirements to shelter-in-place.

Students can work with their mentor to shape the conversation to their unique needs and interests. Conversation topics could include navigating the industry during this challenging time; portfolios and portfolio reviews; resumes; and how to maintain routine, wellness, and mental health during this time.

The new Community and Mentorship platform for students was launched on February 16. There are twelve communities focusing on special-interest items, chapter regions, and a student representative corner. The mentorship platform was populated with all current mentors and mentees. There are currently 140 successful matches consisting of 155 mentees and 187 mentors. For more information or to sign up to be a mentor, visit <https://connect.asla.org/mentoring>.



CLIMATE POSITIVE DESIGN

Interview with Pamela Conrad, ASLA

As part of its content partnership with The Dirt, ArchDaily reposted the [ASLA interview with Pamela Conrad](#), ASLA, on her Climate Positive Design initiative. VTASLA is sharing the full article below.



Pamela Conrad, ASLA, is a principal at CMG Landscape Architecture in San Francisco, California, and founder of Climate Positive Design. She is recipient of the 2018 Landscape Architecture Foundation Fellowship for the development of the award-winning Pathfinder landscape carbon calculator app and the Climate Positive Design Challenge.

A year ago, you launched Climate Positive Design in an effort to help landscape architects design and build projects that can become climate positive, meaning that over their lifespan they sequester more greenhouse gas emissions than they embody or produce. You also put out a major challenge to the community, stating that if all landscape architects and designers took a climate positive approach, they could sequester an estimated one gigaton of greenhouse gases by 2050. What motivated you to start this effort?

First, I had to dig in and understand all the science and policy. I made a conscious effort to understand the Paris Climate Accord, and more recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report calling for limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F).

I was shocked to find out that according to the IPCC, we have less than ten years to prevent catastrophic events from happening to human lives, and that those who have the least, particularly in the global South, will likely be impacted the most.

A few years back, I read the book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. It was the first time climate solutions were broken down and made accessible. I realized that 20 percent of the outlined solutions are land-based and can be part of landscape architects' everyday work.

Out of curiosity, I began analyzing case study projects from our work at CMG. I realized it is relatively easy to improve the carbon impacts of our projects without reducing the quality or performance.

I started to grasp that what we do as designers can make a big difference when we scale up all of our work around the world. It was with this understanding that I launched the Climate Positive Design Challenge.

Since launching the Pathfinder app, a tool that helps landscape architects, developers, and property owners design to a carbon positive state, nearly 1,500 projects have been submitted, totaling more than 43,000 acres. In addition to other climate-friendly practices, these projects are expected to plant 777,000 trees, which, in ten years, will result in 1.6 million metric tons of greenhouse gases being sequestered. What have you learned from this first set of projects? What patterns are you seeing?

Within the first year, we've seen a gradual improvement in the years-to-positive scores across project sites. This is being achieved by a continuous reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through the embodied carbon and materials and operational carbon in landscapes, and an increase of carbon sequestration. It's looking at that overall equation for a landscape carbon impact.

In the first few months, we saw a lot of academic projects being logged. It seems that the Pathfinder is being widely used as a teaching tool, which is great! Since realizing that, we've added in a feature, so those studies can be used as an academic resource, but their data will be excluded from the overall impact numbers.

CLIMATE POSITIVE DESIGN - INTERVIEW WITH PAMELA CONRAD, ASLA, CONT.

The current average years-to-positive is 21 years for urban landscapes like plazas and streetscapes, and the target is 20 years to positive, so we're really close to reaching our goal. We will perhaps make it more challenging going forward.

For parks, gardens, and campuses — inherently greener projects — the years to positive target is five years. The average of all the projects received to date is nine years to positive, so we're not quite there yet. We need to keep pushing, which is the point of a challenge.

We've also seen that the projects across the board have over three times more sequestration than emissions, which is fantastic. This would put us on track to meeting our overall goals.

One of the helpful things about the data we have collected over this past year is that we can see the average emissions and sequestration per square foot. That information will be used in the upcoming landscape carbon SITES and LEED pilot credits. We're now able to take this data, transform it, and relate it to other rating systems, which will hopefully increase exposure and awareness of Climate Positive Design and other rating systems.

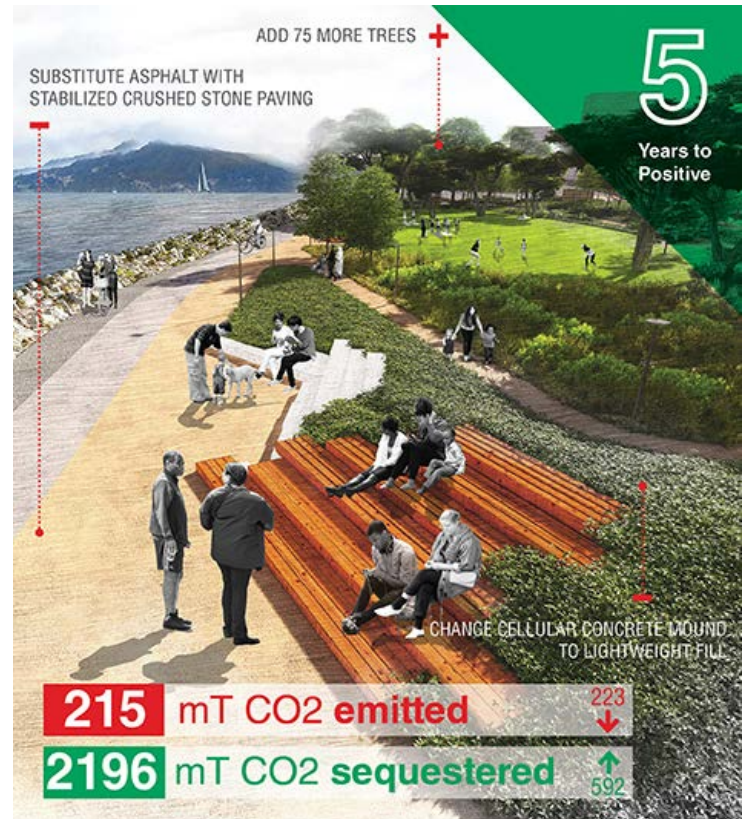
What are the top five things all landscape architects should be doing now in their projects to sequester more carbon and get to climate positive? What things have the biggest bang for the buck, in terms of the climate?

I like to keep things simple. Otherwise, it's too easy to become overwhelmed and not change our practices.

The top five things to remember are: plant more; pave less; use materials with lower embodied carbon; update your specifications to meet the highest sustainability performance standards, specifically your concrete specifications by using cement substitutions. The fifth is to create operations and maintenance manuals that limit the use of fossil fuels to operate the equipment to maintain landscapes — so use organic fertilizers rather than fertilizers made from fossil fuels.



Climate Positive Design case study (before) / CMG Landscape Architecture



Climate Positive Design case study (after) / CMG Landscape Architecture

You note that deciduous trees store a bit more carbon than evergreens. Are there particular species of trees and shrubs that are carbon-sequestering powerhouses?

This is perhaps the most frequently asked question. There is no one perfect tree for sequestering the most carbon. The best tree to plant is the one that will grow the fastest, live the longest, and get the biggest. This is the tree that is going to sequester the most carbon in the region your project is located.

Carbon is directly correlated to biomass. A redwood tree — a massive tree that lives a very long time — is going to sequester much more carbon than a small, understory redbud tree. This is just as an example where size does matter.

Another interesting example is bamboo. It is a rapidly renewable, woody species that can be converted into building products, such as flooring, furniture, even structures. It's incredibly strong and actually a grass, so the carbon within its root system can stay in the soil for thousands of years. It is a super sequesterer, but it should be used with caution, because it can be an invasive species.

How can we ensure that plants selected to store carbon also support local ecosystems and provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife?

Bamboo demonstrates how we need to be mindful that we don't cause more problems than we had before. We must be mindful of not planting invasive species that will take over native plant communities and reduce biodiversity.

I would recommend anyone to refer to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) global standard for nature-based solutions, which outlines ecosystem-based approaches that are specific to geographic locations and address societal changes, supporting human well-being, and include biodiversity benefits.

We can use native species to sequester more carbon where they're appropriate, increasing biodiversity and reducing water usage at the same time. Native plants are one way to ensure we support local ecosystems.

How can landscapes architects partnering with historically-marginalized and underserved communities, which experience higher climate risks and impacts, use your tool to address climate injustices?

This is one of our biggest challenges to overcome as a profession. I do not have all the answers. But I will say that from my experience, really listening to people and meeting them where they are is a start.

If people say what they really need most are jobs, then don't give them a skate park. Think about how we can partner in non-traditional ways to create jobs that might also improve quality of life and be part of climate solutions – like community jobs programs supporting tree-planting initiatives. The results of something like this can be measured in local school programs through the app for free.

It's my hope that things like this can give the next generation hope that there are solutions out there. We just need to work together on them.

What models or innovations that aren't widespread today could speed up the carbon sequestering abilities of plazas and streets with large areas of hardscape?

There are definitely innovative products coming out that capture carbon, such as Carbon Cure. But I challenge us not to rely wholly on new models or fancy innovations, and instead step back and think about simplifying things.

This is an opportunity for us to rethink how we design, to do more with less. Let's rethink the typical plaza. Maybe it doesn't have to be all concrete. Maybe it can have large trees in a field of stabilized, crushed stone paving, as many historic plazas around the world.

This is my challenge to the profession: let's think about things differently. Let's turn this into an opportunity to make a statement that we believe in climate-positive landscapes. We're taking a stance on climate change, and that's something that many of our clients will

get behind.

What needs to happen in the landscape architecture product marketplace to further accelerate climate positive design? How are you seeing product manufacturers respond to the climate crisis?

Over the past decade, in other disciplines, architecture in particular, product manufacturers have been increasing the transparency of their material and product development processes and revealing associated emissions. Product manufacturers are providing this information through an environmental product declaration (EPD). The data manufacturers provide — the CO₂e emissions related to Global Warming Potential (GWP) — is what is used in the Pathfinder calculations.

We hope this increased transparency in the architecture field will migrate to the landscape products space. We must ask landscape product manufacturers to provide EPDs so we can make informed decisions about which product or material to choose.

Vestre, a Norwegian landscape product manufacturer, is currently working with Climate Positive Design to include their products into the app. They're going to be providing their EPDs for use in the Pathfinder. They do not want us be exclusive, but rather encourage other product manufacturers to provide the same level of transparency and include their products as well, which says a lot about their values.

I hope that everyone will jump onboard, because this is an opportunity at a global scale to reduce the impact of these products.

The latest version of your app, Pathfinder 2.0, includes a bunch of new features. What improvements were made? And what do you hope to tackle next?

New features include the ability to compare design alternatives; analyze existing conditions; and understand site impacts, like grading, tree removal, or reused soil imports and amendments. There is also improved data that covers the replacement of materials over time, and more data transparency in the way of pop-ups and information icons.

As I mentioned, we'll be adding products into the app soon. But we're also hoping to expand the sequestration data for ecosystem restoration projects. Forest restoration is coming up next. Then, we're hoping to get financial support, in the form of donations, to expand to coastal wetlands, kelp, mangroves, grasslands, etc.

The goal remains to keep the app free, open, and accessible for all to use and make a difference in projects. This is a commitment I have made.

I believe there is an incredible opportunity for landscape architects to re-imagine landscapes so they are not only wonderful places for people, but also help solve the climate crisis.



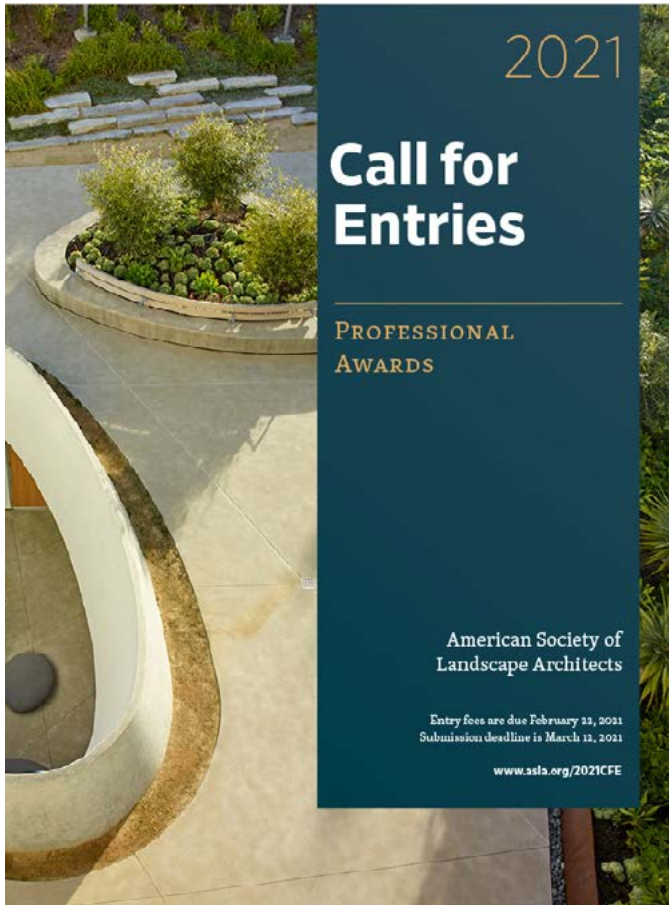
Ferry Building Plaza design proposal (before) / CMG Landscape Architecture



Ferry Building Plaza design proposal (after) / CMG Landscape Architecture

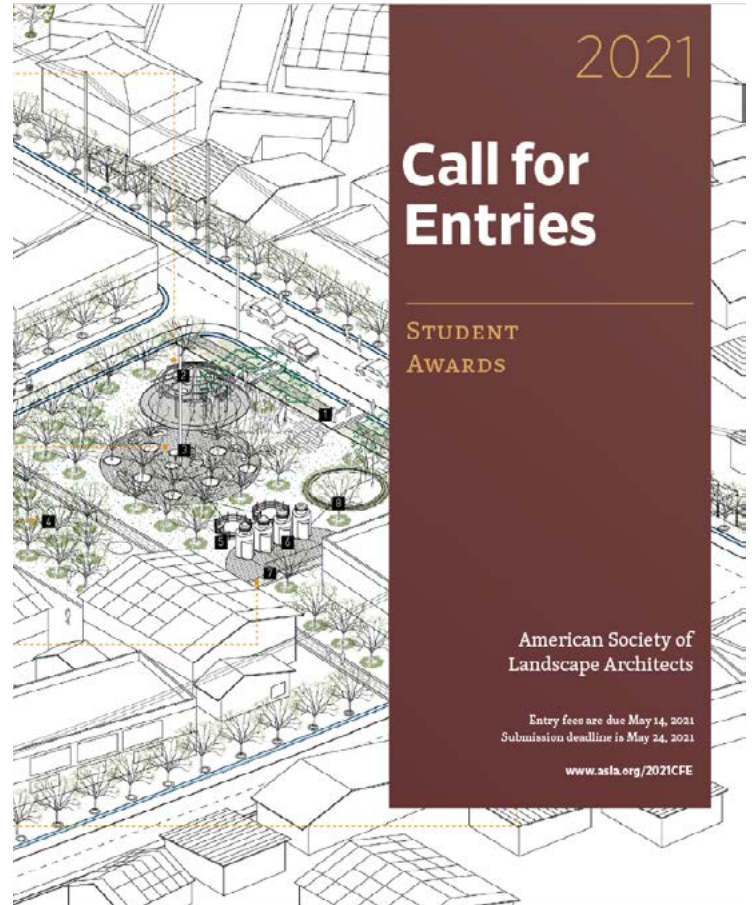
CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE 2021 PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM

The program honors the most innovative landscape architecture projects and the brightest ideas from up-and-coming landscape architecture students. Award recipients receive featured coverage in Landscape Architecture Magazine and are honored at a special awards presentation ceremony in the fall. Deadlines: March 12 (Professionals) and May 24 (Students).



Each year, the ASLA Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe.

Award recipients receive featured coverage in Landscape Architecture Magazine, the magazine of ASLA, and in many other design and construction industry and general-interest media. Award recipients, their clients, and advisors will be honored at the awards presentation ceremony during the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in 2021.



Each year, the ASLA Student Awards give us a glimpse into the future of the profession.

Award recipients receive featured coverage in Landscape Architecture Magazine, the magazine of ASLA, and in many other design and construction industry and general-interest media. Award recipients and their advisors will be honored at the awards presentation ceremony during the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in 2021.

NEWS. NEWS. NEWS.



BIDEN ADMINISTRATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ASLA continues to receive feedback and input on the recently released comprehensive set of policy recommendations for the new Biden-Harris administration titled [Landscape Architects Design Vibrant, Resilient, and Just Communities for All - Recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration](#). The Los Angeles Times commented on ASLA's recommendation in a piece entitled "[Urbanism memo to President Biden: Think housing, transit ... and don't forget the designers](#)." After sending the recommendations to the Biden-Harris transition team in December 2020, ASLA also sent them to key offices and staff at the Departments of Interior and Transportation, with the Environmental Protection Agency to follow. ASLA also sent the recommendations to all members of Congress and staff. The recommendations will also serve as a blueprint for Society's advocacy efforts moving forward.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL EXPANSION ACT

ASLA successfully worked with partners, allied organizations and the office of Congressman Anthony Brown (MD) to introduce the [Safe Routes to School Expansion Act \(H.R. 386\)](#), which would expand funding for active transportation infrastructure improvements critical for students to safely walk and bike to school. Eligible projects include sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools. ASLA is working with partners to include this measure in a comprehensive surface transportation package that should pass Congress near the end of 2021. ASLA, is also working with partners to introduce legislation on Complete Streets, and, with the help of the ASLA Mississippi Chapter, to reintroduce legislation to improve the Transportation Alternatives Program.

ASLA CONFERENCE ON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 2021

ASLA's annual conference 2021 is scheduled for November 19th-22nd, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee.

