



Newsletter

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World Matters

IFLA News comes from an international organisation with contributors worldwide. So while it should come as no surprise that articles in this issue have roots in several continents, it is remarkable to rediscover how landscape architects are grappling with challenges and opportunities that are global in scale. Most of the time we are too busy with the immediate, or too self absorbed, to pay much attention to world issues. Yet that world exists and it is a world in which we too can have a professional existence.

There is a lot of the world in this issue of IFLA News, and organisations such as IFLA - even individuals through their persistence and inspiration - are affecting that world: The European Landscape Convention at the Council of Europe, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, World Bank development institutions, and the effects of globalisation in landscape architecture. Then there are the individuals, like Charlie Challenger shaping education on an early professional frontier and IP Santos in practice, working to their utmost over the decades.

Thank you, dear contributors, for taking the time to convey your thoughts to the wider membership, and thank you too, dear reader, for dipping into this issue of IFLA News. Feel free to email me with your news - small scale or world scale. And if you have not yet had a chance to contribute to landscape architecture for decades, maybe we should read about what you are intending to do this decade.

John Clemens, Ed

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Virginia Laboranti IFLA Secretary General elect



The new IFLA Secretary General is Virginia Laboranti of Argentina. She will take up her role in September after the World Council meeting, to be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Virginia currently holds the role of Secretary for the Americas Region and she is also the IFLA delegate for her association, the Argentine Centre of Landscape Architects (Centro Argentino de Arquitectos Paisajistas - CAAP). She has been translating each issue of the IFLA News into Spanish from No. 48 up to now. She will be able to keep good contact with Spanish speaking members of IFLA, whose number continues to grow with the expected membership of the Spanish landscape architecture association from August 2007.

Virginia will fit her new role into her current commitments as CAAP Vice-President where she is fighting for the recognition of the profession and giving lectures to spread knowledge about landscape architecture in her country. During World Landscape Architecture Month she was in charge of the organization and promotion of 23 events in Argentina.

In responding to the election ballot Virginia said: "I will stay in close touch with all the Delegates to support Diane Menzies' work".

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31st Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

The 31st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in Wellington, New Zealand last June/July removed the Florida Everglades and the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras from a list of at-risk world sites. The Committee also threatened to de-list Dresden if German officials went ahead with a plan to build a bridge over the River Elbe.

The Everglades was placed on the Committee's in-danger list in 1993 when it was threatened by urban growth and pollution, as well as by the damage caused to Florida Bay in 1992 by Hurricane Andrew. The committee also welcomed corrective measures taken by Honduran authorities to preserve the Honduran Biosphere Reserve, which had been on the in-danger list since 1996 owing to encroachment by agriculture, the timber trade, and hunting. The Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve is one of the few remaining tropical rainforests in Central America, and is home to an abundant and varied plant and animal life, as well as to 2,000 indigenous people, whose traditional lifestyles are threatened by encroaching settlements and agricultural development.

The Committee renewed its threat to de-list the Dresden region in Germany unless officials change their plans for a bridge across the River Elbe because it was believed this would not respect the cultural landscape, its architecture, and distinctive skyline. Twenty-nine sites remain on the danger list - threatened by a variety of problems such as natural disasters, pillaging, pollution, and poorly managed mass tourism. Also being considered is whether to add Ecuador's Galapagos Islands and the Tower of London to the in danger list.



This article was adapted from a report by Ray Lilley of the Miami Herald supplied by Vice-President Americas Region Darwina Neal. The image of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve was retrieved from the World Heritage Committee website. This and the full text of the 31st Session of the Committee can be found at: <http://whc.unesco.org>



Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention

Gertjan Jobse

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first and foremost European treaty that deals exclusively with the protection, management and enhancement of the European landscape. It applies to both ordinary and outstanding landscapes and explains that everyone has a shared responsibility for what happens to the landscape.

The ELC fits into the Council of Europe's aim to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity. The initiative came from those in the Council representing local and regional authorities. Since the adoption of the final text of the ELC in 2000 and its entry into force in 2004, 27 countries have ratified and six have become signatories to it, making over two-thirds of the 47 European countries expressing their will to take measures and to organize European co-operation on landscape issues. This is a great achievement!

Strasbourg meeting

The contracting parties of the European Landscape Convention met in Strasbourg on 22-23 March 2007 with the purpose of reviewing progress to date and defining steps to move forward in the implementation process. The meeting took place in the Palais de l'Europe. This seventies-style building (a square 120 m x 120 m block) is the heart of the activities of the Council of Europe on the protection of human rights, pluralist democracy, and the rule of law.

Around 100 people attended from 32 countries, and 24 NGOs were represented. Among others, the participants included: the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS), the European Environmental Agency (EEA), cultural organizations ICOMOS, PETRARCA and UNESCO, the European Association of Archaeologists, the academic organisations Landscape Europe and the Landscape Research Group, and regional organizations Landscape Alliance Ireland and the Mediterranean Landscapes Workshop. Mike Downing (UK), Kine Halvorsen Thoren (Norway) and Gertjan Jobse (the Netherlands) attended as observers on behalf of EFLA.

Reports were given of past conferences on landscape and society (Ljubljana 2005), urban and peri-urban areas (Cork 2006), and landscape quality objectives (Girona 2006). Also, thematic papers were presented on landscape and infrastructure by Ignacio Espanol Echaniz, and the integration of landscape in national policies by Diedrich Bruns.



Working in Strasbourg: observers in the back rows, delegates in the front rows, and those at the front include the Chair, Jean-Francois Sequin (France), Vice-Chair, Natasa Bratina-Jurkovic (Slovenia), and Ms Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons (Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division of the Council of Europe)



The 17 country representatives gave an overview of landscape policies in their countries, with interesting results in Italy (new Landscape Act), Turkey (a National Strategy), the Netherlands (designation of 20 National Landscapes) and with Landscape Atlases in France and Spain. It is very encouraging to find that the objectives of the Convention have been written into the process of preparing local plans in a number of European countries.

Role of NGOs and EFLA

EFLA took part in the meeting as an observer among other NGOs. We gave a brief statement in which we described our contribution. As landscape architects we look to the future of landscapes by combining design, planning and management skills, and reaching out to the public and other actors in the field. An important objective of EFLA is to set standards for professional practice and education, in which we closely collaborate with ECLAS.

EFLA has been involved in the ELC process for some years now. There was communication in the latter years of the last millennium and we participated and spoke in the penultimate meeting in Firenze in 1998. EFLA also supports the NGO network of partners of the ELC. Recently within EFLA a core group has been established that wishes to support members in countries that have not signed or ratified the convention (Iceland, Andorra, Austria and Germany and some others). We try to do this by providing practical information and good examples gained from experiences in other countries.

The critical role of NGOs can hardly be neglected. Sitting in the backseats in the meeting hall in Strasbourg, they were the watchdogs of the national delegates. NGOs play an important role in raising awareness and linking practitioners and researchers, politicians, and market parties, and involving people in decision making about landscape. At the meeting, many initiatives of NGOs were presented: summer universities and an academic network that studies the impact of leisure on landscape across Europe.

Conclusions and recommendations

The contracting parties have set three objectives to improve performance:

- to increase the number of signatories and ratifications
- to raise public awareness and develop closer relationship with the press.
- to pave the way for active monitoring of landscape change across Europe.



Roofs in the historical centre of Strasbourg

In addition, rules were developed for a newly established Landscape Award. This is a prize for exemplary action on landscape issues that will be awarded by the Council of Europe every 2 years, starting in 2008.

With the adoption of practical guidelines for national policies, the Convention can move into a new phase towards implementation. These guidelines encourage public participation, promote good practice, obtain concrete examples of projects, and address landscape management and the need to involve experts with spatial planning skills.

EFLA also took an active part in the formulation of a recommendation that was adopted at the conclusion of the conference. We feel it is important that steps be taken to get a better grip on European Union policies that affect landscape. The European Landscape Convention does not stand alone and the importance of the EU is increasing. It is important to know how EU instruments (directives, policies, financial) can contribute to the achievement of the Convention's objectives.

Altogether the meeting in Strasbourg provided fruitful discussion, and it was a delight to meet people from very different backgrounds! It once again proves that this Convention draws people together around a common topic, which is landscape. Would it not be a good idea to work on an International Landscape Convention at the global level?

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For Council of Europe see:
http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co-operation/environment/landscape/



Know your world: the World Bank

Robert Holden

The World Bank was in the news early this year because of former president Paul Wolfowitz who was forced to resign in June. Now the new President is also American, Robert Zoellick, a former US deputy secretary of state who recently has been working for Goldman Sachs.

Founded in 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, the World Bank was first set up to rebuild post War Europe. Reconstruction is still an important part of the Bank's work, and it deals with natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and post-conflict problems.

Today the Bank includes five development institutions:

- the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD),
- the International Development Association (IDA),
- the International Finance Corporation (IFC),
- the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA),
- and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

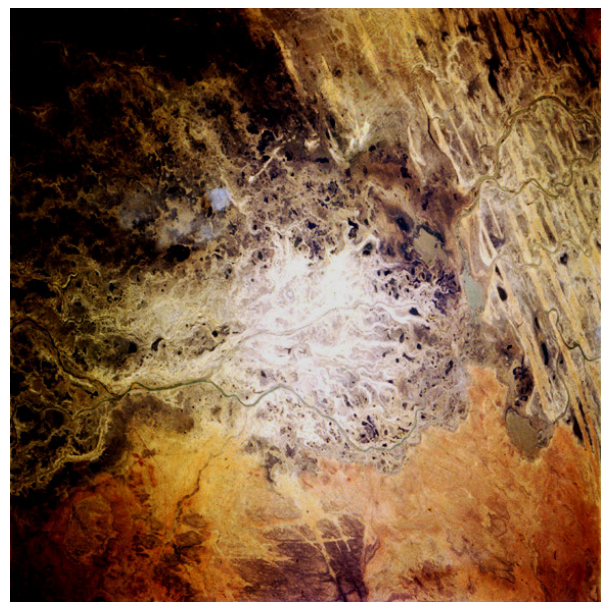
For the environment and landscape architecture, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA) are of direct interest. They offer low interest loans (unlike many other international lenders they don't aim to operate at a profit) and also offer grants to aid development projects. In addition they provide advisory services and promote "capacity building".

So what does this mean for the environment? Well their remit includes agricultural and rural environmental development, biodiversity, climate and drylands, mining, and urban development: all these are headings in their advisory services. This includes work ranging from their *Little Green Data Book 2007*, which covers country carbon emissions, to work on the Niger Water Basin and its sustainable ecosystems with US\$500 million of investment over ten years.

Then there's the Global Development Learning network which operates with Portuguese and French networks as well as English and focuses on Africa, or the World Bank Institute's own Global Knowledge networks.

So for all of us the World Bank is a resource, and if one wants to be self interested then one can also register as a consultant directly, (although the forms are quite a challenge). The page is under the Business Centre and the hyperlink is:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/OPPORTUNITIES/0,,contentMDK:20062182~menuPK:95660~pagePK:95645~piPK:95672~theSitePK:95480,00.html>



The Niger Basin, the largest inland basin in the world, NASA Photograph NM23-730-271.

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Charlie Challenger – Father of Landscape Architecture in New Zealand

Charlie Challenger established New Zealand's first course in landscape architecture in 1969 and trained the first generation of landscape architects in New Zealand. His demanding teaching standards and role in founding the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA) greatly influenced the profession's successful establishment and recognition.



The first NZILA Executive, 1974. Left to right: Robin Gay, Frank Boffa, Charlie Challenger, Tony Jackman, George Malcolm and Neil Aitken. Robin, Tony and Neil were all amongst Charlie's first five graduates.

Charlie grew up in pre-war Britain where he experienced both the crowded living conditions of industrial Leeds and the countryside of Gloucestershire. He loved the countryside and remembers his boyhood bicycle excursions around Gloucestershire as being a major formative influence.

Given his love of the countryside, it is not surprising that he chose to study horticulture, attaining a degree from University of Reading and later, a national diploma in Horticulture (the NDH). He worked for a number of years in commercial horticulture before lecturing in horticultural science at the University of Bristol.

In 1956, he and his wife, Pat, emigrated to the other side of the world where Charlie became a lecturer in horticulture at Lincoln Agricultural College in New Zealand – then only the second holder of a horticulture degree in the country. By the time he became Head of the Horticulture Department in 1962, he had read avidly about landscape architecture and saw a need for it in New Zealand. The following year, he travelled to Sweden and was so impressed with the landscape design he saw there that, on his return, he convinced Lincoln College to establish a landscape architecture course.

The problem was – the lack of suitably qualified people in New Zealand to teach such a course. So, Charlie travelled back to Britain where he studied landscape architecture at the University of Newcastle, passing with distinction. He returned to Lincoln in 1968 with a scant six months to set up the two-year postgraduate diploma course (DipLA) and to find a teaching assistant – former horticulture student, Frank Boffa, who had just qualified as a landscape architect in the United States. The first intake of five students graduated in 1971.

Charlie was keenly aware of the challenges that his students would face when they went out to work in this virtually unknown profession. Landscape architecture was not understood in New Zealand and most often perceived as a fancy form of gardening. Charlie recalls that the first graduates had to be “apostles who had to sell themselves to people who were suspicious of them”.

One of those graduates was Robin Gay, who later served as IFLA Vice President from 1983 to 1987. Robin recalls the course being a hard grind, but for good reasons. “Being the first course run, there were a lot of expectations of us, and Charlie, of course, had to prove that we were of world standard. He was stimulating, absolutely, and he had an amazing sense of what New Zealand should be doing and where we should be going with our landscape.”

Charlie remembers being “desperately keen” for landscape architecture to be recognised as a profession in New Zealand. The first step was ensuring the course met international standards so he arranged for Australian Professor Peter Spooner, to act as an external examiner and course reviewer in those first years.

With graduates going forth, eager to make their mark, it became critical to establish a professional body for landscape architects, a move Charlie had had in mind when he joined IFLA in 1968. “I joined the international federation as an individual because it was the first step towards the New Zealand Institute being formed... From that basis I was able to help with the formation of the New Zealand Institute and then get it accepted by the international federation.”



He was amongst the small group who founded the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects in 1972. One of Charlie's inaugural students, Tony Jackman, became the Institute's first President and Charlie became the first Vice President. The newly formed institute moved quickly to register as an incorporated society with a constitution and formal legal status which would give it a professional standing in New Zealand.

Charlie was very strong on making the distinction between the 'profession' of landscape architecture and the 'industry' of landscape contracting. This difference was reflected in the one-year undergraduate landscape design and technology certificate courses he taught separately from the postgraduate landscape architecture course. When the design course ceased some years later, and the certificate holders sought recognition as landscape architects, he worked closely with the Institute to ensure professional standards would be maintained through a strict membership examination.

Within the Institute, Charlie took responsibility for publications. For some six or seven years, he edited and produced the Institute's early newsletters and then its professional journal, *The Landscape*, a highly regarded publication which the Institute used as a means of promoting landscape architecture to a wide range of organisations and professions.

Charlie felt he had a responsibility to also promote employment prospects for his students through the College. He ensured regular newspaper and magazine publicity of projects undertaken by both students and teaching staff. Charlie recalls, "We made sure that everything we did got publicised in one way or another. We did things for other people, charging only the out-of-pocket expenses on the basis that we would be allowed to publish."

Charlie headed the Landscape Architecture Department for 20 years. He endured extremely heavy workloads as he also taught papers to students doing other courses, but he enjoyed teaching – in particular, "being able to see recognition in the students' eyes." He felt it was essential to instil students with "respect for the landscape" and "respect for people because people use the landscape and one's no good without the other". He recalls deliberately keeping the DipLA class sizes small to ensure one-to-one teaching and to avoid producing too many graduates until the profession became more established.

Since Charlie's retirement in 1982, the DipLA at Lincoln has been replaced by a Bachelors degree, and Masters and PhD programmes have been added. The discipline is now taught in three programmes across the country. From those small beginnings in 1971 with five graduates, the NZILA now has over 400 qualified members plus 100 student members.



Charlie Challenger received Lincoln University's highest award in 2002 - an Honorary Doctorate in Natural Resources.

The successful establishment of landscape architecture in New Zealand, germinated from Charlie's ground-breaking course. His contribution has been recognised through the awarding of an NZILA Life Membership in 1982 and an Honorary Doctorate in Natural Resources from (the now) Lincoln University in 2002.

Written by Shona McCahon, DipLA, NZILA Member, who last year recorded oral history interviews with six founders of the New Zealand landscape architecture profession, including Charlie Challenger.



Globalisation and Landscape Architecture: Issues for Education & Practice

Report from the conference held 3-6 June 2007, St. Petersburg, Russia

Maria Ignatieva, Lincoln University

Russia has very strong traditions in landscape architecture. It was a long way from the huge tsars' parks and gardens to the Soviet parks of culture and recreation. Today, landscape architecture is one of the most popular professions in Russia. The conference *Globalisation and Landscape Architecture (GaLA)* was the realisation of an aspiration to make a tangible contribution to the emerging landscape architecture profession in Russia.



St. Petersburg – Venice of the North

Introduction of a market economy has provided a lot of opportunities, from the construction of private villas for the rich to designing new pedestrian urban zones. On other hand, globalisation has touched all spheres of Russian society and is causing the loss of national identity. The idea to host a conference in Russia was nurtured by two native Russian academics, Dr Maria Ignatieva and Dr Irina Melnuchik, although Dr Ignatieva now lives on the other side of the globe, in New Zealand.

Support for this vision came from the State Forest Technical Academy in St. Petersburg, Lincoln University in New Zealand, ALACIS and IFLA. The Government of St. Petersburg and the first professional Russian landscape architecture journal *Landscape Architecture. Design* financially supported the conference. It is symbolic that the first international conference on such a large scale was held at the St. Petersburg Forest Technical Academy. It is one of the oldest forestry schools in the world (founded in 1803), and it was also the first school in the USSR to offer a programme in landscape architecture (in 1933).

Dr Ignatieva's colleagues at Lincoln University, Dr Glenn Stewart, Dr Shelley Egoz, and Dr Jacky Bowring, provided further support for the conference organisation through the academic review process and programme planning. The conference proceedings were available by the time of the conference, with papers that met a rigorous international peer review process published in a refereed section. Russian participants' contributions were published in Russian and English, and abstracts and papers of all other participants were published in English.

The global perspective became the central theme for the conference, and a chance to draw in a number of varying perspectives on the inexorable force of globalisation on contemporary landscapes. The conference was structured around three complementary threads which formed the focus for many of the sessions: Education, Landscape Ecology, and Landscape Design. However, there were also a number of overarching themes which percolated through all of the conference presentations, and there were also open forums which provided opportunities to pursue in-depth discussions.

The global focus was reinforced by the international list of 130 participants who came from Russia, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, USA, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Israel, Turkey, Portugal, China, Korea, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Italy. The truly international character of the conference was evidenced by presentations from the President of IFLA, Dr Diane Menzies, and many international leaders in landscape architecture.

It was also pleasing to see a good representation of participants from across Russia: from Moscow and St. Petersburg, which have the most established landscape architecture programmes, and from other Russian cities, such as Belgorod and Voronezh (Central Russia), Tver, Yekaterinburg (Urals), and Irkutsk (Siberia), where there are new movements toward preparing specialists for the demanding Russian landscape architect market.



On a four day pre-conference tour in St. Petersburg, participants had a unique opportunity to see famous Russian historical parks and gardens (Summer Garden, Mars Field, Peterhof Gardens, and Tsarskoye Selo) at the best time of the year, the White Nights season*. Marina Flit, the main keeper of Pavlovsky Park for the last 40 years, guided an unforgettable and very emotional tour around one of the best landscape parks in Europe. The central figure in landscape architecture in St Petersburg's Administration, Larisa Kannunnikova, introduced examples of Soviet and contemporary landscape architecture to foreign colleagues.

The conference was very well received. Responses from participants included "the city was magical; the number of participants large enough for diversity, but small enough for intimacy and small group dialogues on the key issues presented", and "the conference included a broad range of extremely interesting lectures, a lot of inspiring discussion, and contacts with many committed colleagues from all over the world."

The conference reception and dinner also helped participants to mingle socially and to swap experiences from around the world. Gypsy songs and professional Kazak dances at the dinner definitely gave the conference a very Russian flavour.

A special hot topic of the discussion was the urgent necessity to write to the Russian Government, especially to the State Standard Department to encourage recognition of Landscape Architecture as an important profession. Today Russia needs to speed accreditation of landscape architecture programmes at universities and establish the processes for accreditation of Russian private practice firms similar to the situation in western countries. The conference participants agreed that today we are witnessing an explosion of Landscape Architecture programmes and the recognition of the Landscape Architecture Profession in the world.

* *"White nights in St. Petersburg, when darkness cannot penetrate the sky for about two weeks" in summer* [<http://www.mnweekly.ru/travel/20070628/55259544.html>]

The final discussion of the conference summarised the main concerns from the international audience on the question of globalisation in landscape architecture.

- General discussion stressed English as the dominant language of globalisation. On the one hand this can be an imposition on a non-English speaking local community; on the other it is a broader benefit as it provides easy communication for diverse groups. The advantages of globalisation are that knowledge is widely available and a global language enables improved discussion and access to information. However, designs in different parts of the world should retain a local identity to maintain diversity, and use solutions that have been locally proven and successful over time.
- A lot of attention was given to water management as a global issue. The conference urged that greater efforts be made to preserve waterfront areas in a sustainable and environmentally robust way. The problem of energy was also touched on in the final discussion. Globalisation in commercial developments leads to large shopping complexes that have large energy demands. Can landscape architects devise landscaping and planting solutions to maximise biotic environmental amelioration and thus lessen the need for fossil fuel energy?
- All participants agreed that ecology is a very important component of landscape architecture today and acknowledged the importance of research on sustainability, biodiversity, management and maintenance. Preserving native biodiversity can be a very good tool for preserving local identity. Biodiversity provides many services to human populations that are difficult to quantify.
- Many debates centred on the topic of education and its response to globalisation. All academics agreed that we should work hard with our university administrations to show them the value of working in an intercultural environment, and the advantages of study abroad. Globalisation is not even mentioned in present professional standards. Should we address this issue aiming to teach our students how to work in a globalised world? The best way to educate landscape architecture students is to send them abroad, although there can be problems of different standards of living, language, and an increased cost of living.
- One of the important messages of the discussion was aimed at teachers and practitioners from the dominant parts of the world (such as North America). They need to develop in both their students and themselves the ability to read the words and thoughts of the rest of the world in their pure form, to make the connections themselves, and use this as a means of thinking meaningfully about those parts of the world. Countries such as the USA need to recognise that the dominant parts of the world have a huge critical mass and therefore a strong influence on what is spoken, written, and published. They need to recognise that their dominance can be a problem: globalisation should not aim for homogenisation; other alternative voices need to be heard as well.



Africa Progress Report

James Taylor

Chair of the Africa Committee and representative to UN-Habitat

In April this year, I toured the Middle East and Africa on behalf of IFLA. The stop in Dubai included a meeting with Grant Donald of the Africa Committee and with local members of the landscape architectural community. In Nairobi, I attended the UN-Habitat Governing Council meetings, and two meetings of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF), and participated in a number of workshops including one on climate change and cities (UN-Habitat and UNEP). I am currently the designated IFLA representative to UPF. I also made a follow up visit to Jomo Kenyatta University in Nairobi where IFLA has been providing advice and assistance to a new BLA Programme, and took the opportunity to also meet with Robert Kariuki, President of the Kenyan Association.

Proposed IFLA Symposium: Africa and the Middle East

Grant Donald and I met as a follow up to the meeting I had with Martha Fajardo in Cuba. The purpose was to further develop our plans for Africa and the strategy as approved by IFLA World Council in 2006. A proposal has been developed and supported by IFLA Executive Committee to hold a special symposium January 20-22, 2008 to consider the development of the profession in Africa and the Middle East. The conference will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Members from our growing network will be invited along with others with an interest in these regions. The programme for the event will explore both education and practice. African and Middle Eastern delegates would present aspects of the profession in each of their respective countries/regions.

An objective of the event will be to document the current state of landscape architecture in the regions, identify issues, and develop a basis for forming a new Region(or Regions) of IFLA. This event will be held in conjunction with the mid-term IFLA Executive Committee meeting. Parallel events being considered include a local landscape awards programme presentation, launching a magazine for the region, announcing the formation of a new IFLA association representing the UAE, and a trade show. As reported in the last IFLA News, a new association is proposed for the UAE.



A first meeting of landscape architects in Dubai

UN-Habitat Governing Council, the Habitat Professionals Forum and the World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4) in Nanjing, China

The primary purpose of the trip was to attend the meetings of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF). IFLA is the official organization representing the profession of landscape architecture on this multidisciplinary group, which includes architects and planners. We had two meetings where we discussed our future role in assisting UN-Habitat programmes including the WUF4 next year and mutual collaboration.

I discussed our efforts in Africa, our participation with UN agencies such as UNESCO, and the potential role of landscape architects in developing countries. Programmes where we could extend expertise include the Safer Cities, Environment in the City, Sustainable Cities and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and 1 Billion Trees Programme. We met with our new UN-Habitat coordinator, Christine Auclair, who is an architect/planner.

IFLA has the opportunity to participate in high profile sessions at WUF4 in Nanjing, China in October 2008. Over 10,000 delegates are expected. We will be identifying a Chinese speaker to discuss the importance of landscape architecture and greening the city. The selected theme is *Managing the Mega-City*.



The Necessity of Beauty

Filipino landscape architect and designer Ildefonso P Santos was awarded National Artist for Architecture and the Allied Arts in June 2007.



IP Santos created the iconic courtyard for Gabriel Formoso's AIM complex. Retrieved from the website of the Philippines Association of Landscape Architects at: <http://www.pala.org.ph/plan/inpractice.html>

"A beautiful environment is necessary if only to buoy up the sagging spirits and offer hope for the future. The alternative is to invite irreparable destruction of mind and spirit and a complete loss of morale. For it is ...accepted that ugliness and discord of any sort disturbs ...creates tension, and leaves an uncontrollable depressing effect on an individual, usually without his being aware of it. This is why I feel that it is so important to surround people with beauty."

Ildefonso P Santos

In the last forty years or so, the art of landscape architecture, through its practitioners, has labored to offer correctives to the blight of our modern urban and rural realities. Grand gardens for the elite and the privileged were the first products of modern landscape architectural design but the art of molding the landscape to enhance lives and lifestyles soon moved to address more public needs. The refreshing gardens of a revived Paco Park, the varied views of the Nayong Pilipino, special gardens at the Luneta and sculpture-filled outdoor malls at the Ayala commercial center were all welcome amenities that set a new standard for designed outdoor space in the country.

The artist responsible for all these was Ildefonso P. Santos Jr. For this pioneering work he is acknowledged by his peers as the "father of modern Philippine Landscape Architecture." Santos has dedicated the last forty-five years of his creative life and poured his energies to mitigating the madness of modern lives that are much too separated from nature.

IP Santos is still going strong. What keeps him so robust is the fact that he does practice; one of the vanishing few exemplary designers who are "hands on" from design to actualization of his projects - nationwide and overseas. [He] has stewarded, not only the land but also a profession, and two generations of landscape architects; all of whom would do well to emulate his passion and help him continue his good work. Our collective physical, mental and creative wellbeing would benefit immensely if only, as IP teaches us, we learn to live, work and build in harmony with nature.

This article was abstracted from a text written Paulo Alcazaren in honour of IP Santos. The full text, which describes IP's achievements in detail, appears on the new website of The Philippines Association of Landscape Architects (PALA):

www.pala.org.ph

c o n f e r e n c e n o t i c e s

2007 International Landscape Architecture Exchange Conference



With the theme of *Better Garden, Better City*, this conference will be held in the city of Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, China, 16-18 October 2007, and is organized by the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture (CHSLA), IFLA, Department of Construction of Jiangsu Province, and the Wuxi People's Government. Its aim is to highlight landscape architecture in

Wuxi, and to encourage landscape architecture exchange and cooperation at home and abroad. Papers are welcomed for submission before 26 September. Further details from the conference website <http://www.wuxigardens2007.com> or by email to ylwwj2001@yahoo.com.cn



Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education



Since the first UNESCO-UNEP sponsored conference on environmental education held in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1977, international leaders and practitioners have gathered every decade to take stock of the progress and to set new goals for advancing the field. The fourth such conference is being organized by the Government of India and will be held at the Centre for Environmental Education in Ahmedabad on 24-28 November 2007. Details on online registration for the event at: <http://www.tbilisiplus30.org/>

Conservation and Management of Landscape in Conflict Regions



A conference is planned at Birzeit University, in Ramalla, Palestine, between 29 November and 1 December 2007, in conjunction with landscape architectural colleagues in Norway. IFLA supports this conference through the provision of our logo for promotion, and hope that one of the outcomes of the conference will be the formation of a new Palestinian landscape architecture association. Registrations may be made through links at: <http://home.birzeit.edu/eng/landscape/Introduction.php>
Further enquiries may be made through: Sghadban@birzeit.edu

EURAU 08 Cultural Landscape



A conference on Cultural Landscape will be held at the Technical University of Madrid, Spain, on 16-19 January 2008. This is the 4th European Symposium on Research in Architecture and Urban Design. The conference follows the pattern of events of similar conferences in the last three years. The conference deals with landscape as a cultural entity and has a geographic focus on the Mediterranean and Ibero-American areas.

Further information <http://www.eurau08.com>
Organising committee Eurau-08.arquitectura@upm.es

2008 LABash



This is notice of the 2008 LABash Conference to be had at the University of Guelph, Canada 21-23 February next year. Planning is well underway for this student run international conference that brings professionals and students together in an educational and social atmosphere. Over the past 40 years LABash has grown to be one of the largest gatherings within the North American industry of Landscape Architecture, with close to 1000 participants. Next year's conference theme is *Frontiers*.