



International Federation of Landscape Architects
Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes

Newsletter

IFLA

No. 73

December

2 0 0 7



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www.iflaonline.org



online journal
www.iflajournal.org

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Education and the future

As reported in the November issue of *eVista*, news from the Landscape Institute in the UK, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said of landscape architects:

“You bring together the skills, knowledge, and passion that we need for the 21st Century in the way that engineering shaped the 19th Century. We need you in the fight against climate change. You can show people how it can be done. Your [Landscape] Institute has established a record to be proud of - whether greening gardens or greening the 2012 Olympics, from being leaders in the design of cleaner, greener neighbourhoods to pioneers of green energy and green infrastructure projects.”

He was giving the keynote speech to the Landscape Institute Annual Conference *Climate Change: the Challenge for Landscape Architecture*. Thinking about the scale and complexity of this challenge to landscape architecture, it's good to read in this issue of IFLA News of the effort that is going into ensuring that education programmes are the best that can possibly be mounted for graduates worldwide.

And thinking about the best, the search has been announced to identify the world's top landscape architect who will receive the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Gold Medal.

John Clemens, Ed

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IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Gold Medal

The world's top landscape architect is to receive the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Gold Medal in Rio De Janeiro.

The call for nominations is now made to the 60 international member associations of landscape architects throughout the world and other organisations. IFLA President, Dr Diane Menzies, said "There are about 120,000 landscape architects throughout the world and we are looking for the one who has made the greatest lifetime contribution".

The Jellicoe Medal is presented once every four years to the landscape architect whose lifetime achievements have had a lasting impact on the welfare of society and the environment. It was awarded for the first time to Peter Walker of the USA, at 42nd IFLA World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2005. An international panel of judges from Sweden, Canada and Britain will begin their deliberations after nominations close on 2 May 2008. The award will be presented in 2009.

The medal is a tribute to the founding president of IFLA, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe. Sir Geoffrey (1900-1996) was one of the 20th Century's leading landscape architects. He prepared a town plan for Lusaka, Zambia, as well as several individual projects in Zambia (1947-52), and a landscape plan for the Volta River Project in Ghana (1955). He prepared park plans for Italian cities Modena (1980), Brescia (1981), Asolo (1988), and Turino (1989). He designed the Moody Gardens in Texas (1984) and Atlanta Historical Gardens (1992), both in the USA. His portfolio in Britain was extensive and inventive, his masterpiece being perhaps the Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede (1964).

Sir Geoffrey was instrumental in founding the International Federation of Landscape Architects in Cambridge, England in 1948. He was its first President (1948-54) and thereafter Life President.

For further information about the Call for Nominations, contact:

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44th IFLA World Congress

Putrajaya & Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Congress Report

The Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM), in collaboration with the National Landscape Department under the Ministry of Housing & Local Government Malaysia, and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) left a long-lasting impression on the delegates attending the 44th IFLA World Congress in Kuala Lumpur in August this year.

The programme commenced with a visit to the Garden City of Putrajaya, where the delegates were met and welcomed by the President of Putrajaya Corporation. This was followed by a Welcome Dinner at the Putrajaya Agricultural Heritage Park, where delegates were entertained with Malaysian traditional dance and *angklung* (traditional musical instruments made from bamboo) performances. Not to be outdone, Dr Diane Menzies, the President of IFLA, organised for a troupe from New Zealand to treat the world council members to a traditional New Zealand Maori performance.

On the following day, over 54 IFLA delegates representing 36 countries attended the 2-day IFLA World Council Meeting at Putrajaya. For the first time in IFLA History, all the 13 representatives from the Asia Pacific region were present at the meeting. There was a record number of entries this year for the IFLA International Student Design Competition with submissions from 16 countries worldwide. A total of 169 design submissions from various universities and colleges worldwide competed for the prizes. The first and second prizes were both won by students from the University of Seoul, South Korea, with submissions entitled *PEACE Walls Seoul, Korea* and *Island Is Land*, respectively. The third prize was won by a student from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, with the submission *Econtinuity*.

At a separate venue, 44 students from six countries gathered at the rural setting of D-Ark Resort, Janda Baik for the 3-day IFLA International Student Charette, which was led by international and local facilitators. Dr Neil Challenger, the chief facilitator, stimulated the students' imagination and explored various perspectives on the design of environmental art from the resources available at the site.



From the IFLA Student Charette: Bamboo Dance

More than 450 delegates from over 40 countries gathered at the PutraWorld Trade Centre (PWTC) Kuala Lumpur IFLA World Congress bearing the theme *Eden-ing the Earth*. During his opening speech, the Minister of Housing & Local Government Malaysia, Dato'Seri Ong Ka Ting, stressed that the theme was timely considering the current world environmental concerns of climate change, natural disaster, environmental pollution, and loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage. It was critical for landscape architects to step forward and play their roles as stewards of the environment. The congress included excellent keynote speakers and numerous other presentations, but the highlight was the Landscape Architecture Forum *Eden-ing the Earth: Rolling Back Climate Change*. This featured world-renowned panellists, including Dr Diane Menzies (IFLA), Pat Caughey (IFLA), Dr Mustafa Kamal (ILAM), Karam Singh Wallia (Media-TV3) and chairperson, Professor Dr Ismawi Zen (IIUM).

The delegates also embarked on a 2-day technical visit to Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, and went to the 50th National Day Parade at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur. The Celebrating Cultural Diversity Gala Dinner organised by ILAM showcased the various aspects of Malaysian culture, and the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur also held a special dinner in honour of the delegates, which featured cultural performances and local food.

The IFLA flag was passed to the host for the next World Congress in The Netherlands. The 44th IFLA World Congress came to an end with the delegates undoubtedly left with sweet memories and a great experience of four days in Malaysia.

IFLA Americas Region Education Workshop Report

Alejandro Cabeza

Twenty-two participants from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, the USA, and many other countries at the IFLA Americas Region Congress in Mexico City attended a workshop on 26 May 2007 to find out more about educational programs, accreditation guidelines and processes, and interchange experiences. There were several speakers followed by an interactive session coordinated by Rocio Lopez in which all participants talked about their programs and experiences.



Education in action: a field trip for rock and soil analysis

IFLA Education Committee

Jim Taylor made a presentation on the efforts of the IFLA Education Committee to offer support, to identify educational needs, and to carry out IFLA programs. By way of background to the interest of IFLA in education, he mentioned the meetings in Buenos Aires 2004, New Zealand, 2004, London 2007 and Mexico City 2007, where there has been a growing interest in this matter. A world-wide inventory of landscape architectural education is being continually reviewed.



Programs on Standards and Recognition, Missions and Outreach, and Special Programs on Capacity Building in Brazil 2004-2005 and Africa 2006-2011 are some of the efforts that need regional support through implementation by the Regional Committees. An update of the IFLA Redbook, *A Guide to International Opportunities in Landscape Architecture Education and Internships 2002-2003* will be posted on the IFLA website where it should be reviewed by all Associations to make sure the information is accurate. Dealing with the Brazilian IFLA/UNESCO program, there are now four modules on academic capacity in both Portuguese and English, as a model to be applied to other countries.

The IFLA/UNESCO Charter for Landscape Architectural Education is focused in a Preamble explaining who we are, and our views on natural and cultural heritage, sustainable development, and other matters. It explains general considerations including educational ideals, mobility, and goals and educational objectives.

IFLA is also working on the status of education by region. Out of a total of approximately 300 programs, the Americas Region has 100, European Region over 100, the Asia-Pacific Region 90, and the Middle East and Africa around 5. Regarding standards and accreditation in the Americas Region, there are accreditation organizations in the USA, Canada, and México, but none in Central or South America. In the European Region, there are flexible and mobility programs, and in the Asia-Pacific Region, some countries are examining accreditation systems. IFLA also has an accreditation task force to provide guidance for countries and regions that do not have a system for accreditation and need to develop guidelines for the process.

The Landscape Architecture Program at the Faculty of Architecture, National University of Mexico (UNAM)

Coordinator of the program at UNAM, Amaya Larrucea, explained the accreditation process undertaken by a National Accreditation Committee. This is formed of professionals who are members of the Architects and Landscape Architects Associations, educators of different universities in the country, and landscape architecture program graduates.

The UNAM program has had 282 students in 22 years; 101 have graduated. Half have completed their studies and 65% are in professional practice. Postgraduate studies have been undertaken by 142. To formalize the process, the Accreditation Committee reviewed teaching methods and activities, courses and evaluation strategies, infrastructure, and links with professional practice.

Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)

Patrick Miller talked about how CELA aims to encourage the support of landscape education programs and the diffusion of academic activities. There are around 91 associated schools, mainly from the USA (72), but also from other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand. These hold annual meetings and form committees to work on different issues. CELA has a journal which includes research papers. They do not have an accreditation body. The Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredits landscape architecture programs in the USA.

Inventory for Latin America

Gloria Aponte presented an inventory form for landscape education programs in Latin America which includes informal diplomas, undergraduate, specialization, postgraduate, Master and PhD programs. At the moment, countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela report some of these, some of which are current programs and others are being planned. This information will be forwarded to update the IFLA International Guide. The aim is to register all programs and to form a Roster of Educators.



Cultural education experience: academic interchange between universities with landscape design programs



Sustainability for the Virginia Capitol Square

Preservation, Renewal & Use of a Valued Historic Public Place

Patricia M O'Donnell FASLA, AICP

**Chair IFLA Cultural Landscapes Committee
Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape
Architects & Planners**

In preparation for the 400th Anniversary of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2007, the Virginia Capitol and Capitol Square at Richmond, VA, USA, were the subjects of a comprehensive preservation and renewal project to address intensive use by the government and increased public visitation.

The landscape architects' roles included planning, design, value engineering and construction. They focused on issues of history, landscape character, sustainability, applied technology, access for people with disabilities, and green construction in this highly complex and public project. The issues at Richmond were parallel with those in many other historic public buildings and landscapes:

- Respect history
- Protect and uplift symbolic values
- Address degrading changes over time
- Accommodate increased use, and diversity of use
- Provide access for all on this steep site to the degree possible
- Incorporate issues of sustainability and green design
- Consider aspects of public safety and security
- Incorporate contemporary maintenance and management techniques
- Solve technical challenges with creativity and appropriateness in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary and transparent process
- Affirm the project budget and meet the aggressive timetable



1865 Civil War Period View of Capitol Square



The planning and implementation issues spanned the gamut of landscape elements from site program, through schematic and design development, to construction documents and construction administration. Landscape planning and design for this complex resource addressed the needs of the highly active working Capitol for government, as a place for visitors, and as a heritage tourism site. With restoring and accommodating greater use at the historic Virginia Capitol and Capitol Square as the overall objective, the process and outcomes of rooting design ideas in the past while adapting them to current needs was resolved. Four areas of focus for this summary are: history, design, sustainability, and technical solutions.

History: The Virginia Capitol building, in the style of a Greek temple based on a design by Thomas Jefferson and occupied first in 1788, was constructed on a hilltop overlooking the City of Richmond with a steep slope to the south. This very early public landscape was initially improved as the “Publick Square” under designs by Maximillian Godefroy from 1816 to 1820. In 1850 John Notman redesigned the square in the picturesque style, and in 1907 George W Browne further adapted the hilltop to grade around the building wings.

While changes over time altered this important landscape, contributions from each era of design and construction remain visible today. Heritage Landscapes relied on the research and master planning project carried out by Rhodeside & Harwell with J Tyler Potterfield, Historian in the Capitol Square Master Plan, to develop an understanding of the evolution and symbolic meaning of this public landscape. The documented 1909 as-built character of the Capitol Square landscape was determined to be the ideal source for inspiration in the renewal effort.

Design: Reassert the visual dominance of the temple of democracy on the hill, treat the slope as a green plinth for the Jefferson structure, recapture visual connections and progression, develop suitable new design elements that are of their own time, yet are compatible with the historic resources, and accommodate multiple current needs for access, use, security, and maintenance. In terms of design, a clear objective was to recapture the symbolic open, sloping South Lawn and the path system traversing the lawn that historically afforded a sequence of framed views of the Capitol building. Landscape construction responded to a new underground building extension for government and visitors while preserving the Capitol Square landscape to the maximum degree.

The project addressed the integration of several new elements. The more formal and ceremonial plaza for government events, located below the South Portico colonnade and broad steps, was

paved in diamond pattern granite panels, and centered on an oculus. The oculus brings daylight into the rotunda space below through glass blocks, centered on the bronze seal of the Commonwealth in a compass orientation. It was developed as a strong, waterproof assembly to resist leakage, withstand heavy emergency vehicle weight loads and provide a focal element within the patterned granite paving.



The oculus brings daylight into the rotunda space below through glass blocks, centered on the bronze seal of the Commonwealth in a compass orientation

Sustainability: Protect the historic resources, minimize construction impacts through clear specifications and protocols, reuse materials by specifying managed disassembly and reinstallation, address poor drainage, manage soils, and provide a modest green roof.

Technical: Assure that the underground building is not evident after construction for a seamless presentation of the public landscape. Provide a setting for a new entrance to an underground extension that highlights the landscape and accommodates visitors while overcoming the rapid elevation change to cover the building. Accommodate upgraded utilities, media and computer technology systems to limit future disturbance. Specify soil management to achieve a viable growth medium that is stable and drains adequately while yielding acceptable loads over buried structures. Develop uncomplicated specifications for green roof soils and plants for economy and durability.

The design of the new entry along Bank Street, some 40 feet below the capitol building, required a plaza that welcomes the public, provides seating, integrates plants for a soft landscape appearance, limits the loss of south lawn green space and accommodates the 12 foot entry ceiling height. In the design of the battered stone wall, with a continuous granite bench, 25% of the wall surface is planting pockets filled with custom soils and irrigated to achieve these multiple agendas. Once it has grown, the intent is for the plaza wall to present a green surface that is more landscape than structure, offering a cool respite in the Virginia heat.



To blend with the lawn, a surface from above the entry pavilion roof is topped with a small green roof of green varieties of sedum over custom layered soils and drainage stone. This small green roof is also an element of the sustainable design, as are reused historic features and materials.

In addition, the partial recapture of the character of missing 1850s circulation was achieved by aligning gradually undulating paths to frame uphill views of the impressive capitol building while retaining existing trees and replacing the green lawn panel over the subterranean structure. To achieve these new design elements, the project landscape architects worked on the product research, schematic and design development detailing and construction documents in a collaborative process with the multi-disciplinary team. They presented opportunities and constraints of the contemporary issues currently facing this important early public landscape.

The process and outcomes were addressed using design challenges, sustainability aspects, technical specifications, and the resulting construction documents and construction work underway as interactive presentation and discussion elements.

Construction Project:

Renovation of the Virginia Capitol & Capitol Square

Project Credits for Construction Phase:

Team Leader Hillier Architecture, Preservation Studio
Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners with Robert Silman Associates, Structural Engineers, Draper Aiden Consultants, Civil Engineers, and Gilbane Chrisman Construction Managers for the Department of General Services, Commonwealth of Virginia



The project opened to the public with great fanfare in May 2007. Capitol Square has been renewed to serve as an appropriate setting for Jefferson's "Temple on the Hill" and to welcome the working government of the Commonwealth and the visitor to this important public landscape.

Patricia M O'Donnell is principal and founder of Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, a consulting firm wholly dedicated to achieving a vibrant future for landscapes of cultural and historic value. This 20 year-old firm has completed nearly 400 projects addressing a diversity of landscape scales, types and stewards, receiving some 37 professional awards. O'Donnell serves as the global Chair of the IFLA Cultural Landscapes Committee. This IFLA Committee invites participation of all interested IFLA members.



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

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*.

45th IFLA World Congress 2008



The 45th IFLA World Congress, *Transforming with Water*, will be held in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands, 30 June-3 July 2008. This provides a unique opportunity for The Netherlands, and Dutch landscape architects in particular, to showcase the unique aspects of their work. The Congress will be held in conjunction with the Apeldoorn Landscape Architecture Triennale (www.triennale.nl), which hosts various other cutting edge landscape events. Further information: www.ifla2008.com