

College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences
March 17, 2004

Jot Carpenter Medal Nominations
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

REF: Professor Marvin I. Adleman, Nominee for the 2004 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Members of the Nominations Committee,

It is my pleasure to write to you with this letter of support for the nomination of Professor Marvin I. Adleman for the 2004 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal. As an alumna of the Master of Landscape Architecture program at Cornell University and current lecturer in this program, it has been my privilege to learn from Marv as a student and also as a colleague. I have had the opportunity to observe him teach undergraduates, graduate students, design professionals and homeowners. He relates to all with a warmth and genuine enthusiasm that engages everyone.

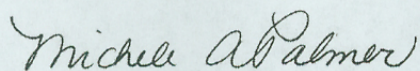
As a student, I found Marv to be one of the most accessible of faculty members. When not teaching, his door is always open and he is more than willing to offer assistance or guidance to students and other faculty members. I have observed his dedication to developing student design projects that both educate the student while serving small municipalities and non-profit organizations that can little afford professional design services. His coursework often challenges the student to think on a large scale with real life constraints. He expects professional conduct and excellence in design and I find that students respond to this challenge.

Having learned site grading from Marv myself, I believe that the students at Cornell are privileged to learn the subject from someone who has made it his avocation to teach. He believes that site grading is one of the fundamental ways that Landscape Architecture is set apart as a profession. He was disturbed at the frequent lack of proficiency he saw as a designer and grader of the CLARB examinations and determined that as an educator he would develop a methodology to convey site grading principles. His methodology is rigorous but relies upon logic and proportion rather than formulas. As Marv's assistant during the intensive site grading workshop for design professionals that is offered in anticipation of the licensing exam, I have seen first hand the profound change in attitude and ability that comes with his instruction on the topic. Adult design professionals come to the class, often insecure of their ability to learn site grading and most having suffered the failure of that section of the licensing exam. By the end of the ten days, a large percentage of the students are empowered and capable of passing the exam, but more importantly, they have furthered their professional skills and take this to their practices.

For the past eight summers, I have assisted Marv in his Cornell Adult University (CAU) course in home landscape design. The mission of the CAU courses is for alumni/ae and families of current students to be able to take advantage of the wonderful faculty at Cornell University. The courses are one-week long workshops in a format that is intended to be both educational and entertaining. The landscape design workshop has a reputation of being more educational than entertaining and by the end of one week students have produced a Master Plan for their home environments. Marv presents logical and non-design professional oriented concepts to the participants in both lectures and one-on-one conversations. Excerpts from his book *Livable Landscape Design*, which he co-authored with his former partner, John Collins, express his philosophy of home landscape design in a very accessible way. Perhaps the most important aspect of this workshop is that participants come away with a new understanding of the role of Landscape Architects and are themselves better able to interact with design professionals in the future. Many go on to implement their Master Plans and we frequently hear of their proud accomplishments.

My primary focus is professional practice but over the years I have spent assisting and co-teaching with Marv, I have come to relish the rewards of teaching. As a colleague, Marv has been extremely supportive of my interest in teaching and frequently mentions that for him, his real reward is participating in the training of future landscape architects. He continues to take pride in the accomplishments of all of his students and maintains contact with many of them. He keeps track of their progress and frequently knows in which firms alumni/ae are working. After thirty-two years as an educator, this is no small task. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Marvin I. Adleman for the 2004 Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal and can think of no one who has had a more profound positive influence as an educator, design professional and caring mentor for two generations of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele A. Palmer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Michele A. Palmer R.L.A.