



February 13, 2006

Executive Committee and Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Attn: Carolyn Mitchell

Dear ASLA Leaders:

If someone were to ask me which contemporary Landscape Architect is deserving of receiving the ASLA Design award...I would immediately reply Steve Martino. Steve's published work first caught my eye twenty years ago. His gardens have continued to inspire me as outstanding example of design excellence. His sensitivity to both the built environment and his regional ecosystem is remarkable. His gardens appear as though they were always in existence. They are striking, creative, beautiful, and appropriate. Steve Martino has always been one of my heroes. I see no reason he shouldn't be admired and acknowledged universally.

Sincerely,



Raymond Jungles

## Nomination of Steve Martino for the ASLA Design Medal

**Executive Committee and Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Attn: Carolyn Mitchell**

**February 28, 2006**

**Dear Committee and Board:**

**As editor-in-chief of Garden Design Magazine, I am pleased to give my whole-hearted support to Steve Martino's nomination for the ASLA Design Medal.**

**Steve's body of work ---powerfully regional and distinctive as it is --has influenced landscape architecture far and wide. Its celebration of the desert and its emphasis on native plants and materials have taught Southwesterners, in particular, to appreciate and take advantage of the natural landscape – its plants, wildlife, color, views, history. His bold designs and simple yet inviting solutions for outdoor living have become a source of inspiration for regionally appropriate landscape architecture around the country and around the world. He has been a true pioneer in sustainable design.**

**I am proud that Garden Design along with other national magazines have helped spread the word on Steve's work, inspiring homeowners as well as professionals.**

**Steve said once in the pages of Garden Design: "When I started practicing this desert was seen as a wasteland to be greened up and 'improved'." In his exemplary career, he taught us all how to better appreciate what nature has given us and to live wisely with it – wherever we live.**

**Sincerely,**



**Bill Marken  
Editor in Chief  
Garden Design Magazine**

Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye St., NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

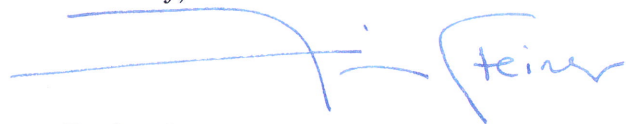
I am pleased to write this letter in support of Steve Martino's nomination by the Arizona Chapter for the 2005 ASLA Design Medal. Seldom has an individual had the transformative influence on landscape design and design in general as Steve Martino, FASLA, in the Southwest United States.

Before Steve Martino, practice was dominated by highly irrigated, exotic species. Steve began to use native Sonoran plants in highly imaginative and artful ways. His work is stunning in its beauty and profound in its deep regional connections. His design work has received numerous national and state awards. His work is regularly published in periodicals such as *Landscape Architect* and *Sunset*.

Steve Martino is a valuable mentor and role model to young landscape architects. Several prominent Arizona landscape architects once worked in his studio. In addition to his influence in landscape architecture, Steve has contributed to ideas in architecture, photography, and public art. He has collaborated with several prominent architects and artists.

Steve Martino is a designer's designer. He is worthy of the ASLA Design Medal and has my strong endorsement for this high honor.

Sincerely,



Frederick R. Steiner, FASLA  
Dean

FS:mw



## SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

*Office of the Dean*

Carolyn G. Mitchell  
Honors and Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736  
202.216.2331

Dear Ms. Mitchell and the Awards Committee:

It's not often one accurately gets to say of someone, "he's the guy who invented that." But with Steve Martino, that's what happens: he's the guy who invented modern landscape architecture in the desert. It just didn't exist before him, at least not in any significant way. Martino, with his respect for native vegetation, and his understanding of water as a sacred, symbolic commodity, rewrote the rules of landscaping in Arizona and the desert Southwest. I am pleased to nominate him for ASLA's Design Medal.

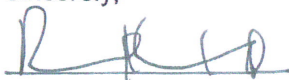
Underestimating his influence is difficult. Anyone serious about contemporary landscape architecture in Arizona either followed him directly (like Christy Ten Eyck), or indirectly (like everyone else). The motifs that characterize his work are now so widely visible around the state that people raise a curious eyebrow when someone steps outside them; Martino's language has become everyone's language.

This goes beyond design issues however. Martino, both directly and indirectly has been at the vanguard of green design in the southwest for decades. His ability to convince lay audiences that desert vegetation is beautiful has made the xeriscaping movement in the state possible. Without Martino's influence, Phoenix would be wall-to-wall Bermuda grass. What would be left of the water table could be carried around in a mason jar.

I first came to know Martino and his work while serving as the architecture critic for the *Arizona Republic*, the state's newspaper of record. Interestingly, it was the architectural community that brought him to my attention. The state's leading designers, from Will Bruder to Eddie Jones, all credited Martino not only with helping them to understand the landscape, but to understand architecture better as well. Martino's deft hand with materials, his subtle responses to landform, and his profound respect for the powerful, yet delicate landscape of the desert embodied a design ethic that transcended material and scale.

Steve Martino is a great designer, a great teacher, and a great professional. But above all, he is a great steward of the environment. I recommend him for the Design Medal for these and so many other reasons. You have with this nomination a rare opportunity to recognize someone who is not just a giant in his field, but someone who invented it. Please contact me if I can forward this nomination in any other way.

Sincerely,



Reed Kroloff  
Dean



February 10, 2006

Ms. Carolyn G. Mitchell  
ASLA Honors and Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736  
P 202-216-2331 / f 202-842-0861

**Subject: Nomination of Steve Martino. FASLA, for the  
2006 ASLA Design Medal**

Dear Ms. Mitchell, Members of the Executive Committee,  
and Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Residential Landscape Design  
Professional Practice Network, it is my pleasure to write  
this letter of support for Steve Martino as a nominee for the  
2006 ASLA Design Medal. Steve Martino, FASLA, has  
earned an international reputation for consistent design  
excellence in landscape architecture. Steve's pioneering  
work with native plants and the desert derived design  
aesthetic is widely recognized.

As a presenter at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Fort  
Lauderdale, I was impressed with his comments regarding  
his knowledge of plants. He has spent time working in a  
local nursery to gain an intimate knowledge of the plants  
and their desert environment. This dedication to  
understanding the elements of his craft is an example for all  
landscape architects.

Sincerely,

Rosheen Styczinski, FASLA  
Chairperson  
Residential Landscape Design PPN

## Steve Martino

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**From:** Darrel Morrison [darrelmo@uga.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2005 7:18 AM  
**To:** Steve Martino  
**Cc:** jeffas@peoriaaz.com  
**Subject:** Re: endorsement letter

Ms Carolyn G. Mitchell  
Honors and Awards Coordinator  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20001-3736

Dear Ms. Mitchell and the Awards Committee:

With this letter, I am pleased to offer my unreserved support for the nomination of Steve Martino for ASLA's Design Award for 2005.

I first became aware of Steve Martino's work in the pages of Landscape Architecture Magazine well over a decade ago. From the beginning, I was impressed with his ability to create landscapes that were so clearly "of the place" in the arid Southwest. As an advocate of the use of native vegetation in the designed-and-managed landscape myself, I was of course excited to see someone using the desert vegetation so well in the Arizona landscape.

Increasingly, as I have come to know his work, this initial excitement has grown to a deeper appreciation of the sheer art of it. The use of native vegetation, the integration of walls to articulate space, the use of limited amounts of water to bring a reflective tranquility, and the overall richness of color and texture in his landscapes--these all lead to a level of art in the landscape that has been achieved by a very small number of landscape architects throughout history. I would place Steve Martino, for his innovative, creative, and ecologically-responsible design work in the same category with Jens Jensen and Roberto Burle Marx, two of my most-admired historic figures in the field.

I have been concerned in recent years that there has been a perceived schism between ecologically-sound design and artful design. I think that Steve Martino's work very clearly demonstrates that there need not be such a schism, and that when a designer truly weaves together his concern for the ecological health of the environment with his ability as an artist, the resulting work is, in fact, "ecological art".

I can think of no more positive statement of our profession's support of this concept than to present its Design Award for 2005 to Steve Martino.

Respectfully,

Darrel Morrison, FASLA  
Professor and Dean Emeritus  
School of Environmental Design  
University of Georgia

2 Washington Square Village  
Apartment 12-S

# DOUGLAS

Architecture and Planning  
7522 East McDonald Drive  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85250

March 14, 2005

**Ms. Carolyn G. Mitchell**  
ASLA Honors and Awards Coordinator  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

## ENDORSEMENT OF STEVE MARTINO, FASLA, FOR THE 2005 DESIGN MEDAL

*Dear Ms. Mitchell, Members of the Executive Committee, and Board of Trustees:*

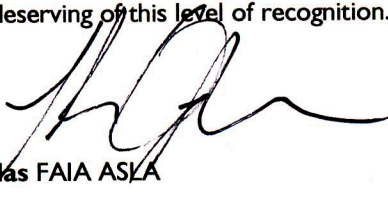
When Martino ventured his own practice, in 1975, there was hardly a collective of peers in Arizona. Against general indifference to the subject of landscape, and the impending decade of greed, he developed his own voice. He repeatedly brought his appreciation and insights of the native landscape to the discussion, until it was heard. His talent and perseverance eventually brought about a sea change in the community. Where once native plants and regionalism were actively scorned, they are now mandated by municipalities and sought by the general public.

Through this broad influence in the community, it appeared as if Martino had set his own stage. By the mid-1980's his work was being recognized nationally. Two projects, the H. C. Douglas Residence, and the New Times Building, both in Arizona, were honored by the national ASLA Design Awards program. Subsequent publication of these projects introduced the splendor of the Sonoran Desert to a national audience. The significance of these early projects was the departure from rote regionalism, to a new vision of a design approach that was not only comfortable with the native surroundings, but signaled a path that would eventually lead to an entirely new approach to landscape design.

As Martino honed his unique perceptions of the relationship between respect for nature, and the intentions of design, the projects of the next decade verged ever closer to works of art. The national attention directed towards his built work had also caught the notice of environmental artists. Some of his significant work of this period was accomplished in the realm of public art. The Boundary project with artist Jody Pinto, the Sunnyslope Canal with Paul Friedberg FASLA, and the Arizona Falls project with Mags Harries and Lajos Héder have all been subjects of articles in Landscape Architecture.

The design accomplishments of Steve Martino are truly significant to the profession, both in their innate responsibility, and their staggering beauty. He is an outstanding candidate for the 2005 Design Medal, and thoroughly deserving of this level of recognition.

Sincerely,



**John Douglas** FAIA ASLA

480-951-2242  
johndouglas@douglasarchitects.com