



Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture

83 Columbia St. Suite 301 Seattle, WA 98104
1130 First St. #207 Napa, CA 94559

T 206-516-4200 F 206-516-4201
T 707-226-6333 F 707-226-6999

E info@charlesanderson.com W www.charlesanderson.com

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

Dear Trustees:

I am proud to nominate Richard Haag, FASLA, for your consideration to receive the ASLA Design Medal. The breadth of his influence reaches far beyond the Northwest. A raven by nature; his wings have carried his legacy of creativity and wit far beyond this region. Always avant-garde but grounded, his love of the planet and the exquisite diversity of cultures, makes Richard a designer without equal. Personally, he has knowingly and unknowingly taught me to ceaselessly reach for the "brass ring", knowingly as his employee and unknowingly as inspiration much earlier while attending university on the other side of the continent.

Richard Haag was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and received his education from the University of Illinois, the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard Graduate School of Design. He founded the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington in 1963. Rich was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Japan for two years and was a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

While at Harvard, Rich was honored with a symposium and exhibition entitled *Exploring the Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag* (Spring 1996). Followed by that was the publication of the book: *Richard Haag: Bloedel Reserve and Gas Works Park*.

Since 1958, he has participated in over 500 built projects, the majority of which are located in the Pacific Northwest. Richard Haag received the American Society of Landscape Architects Presidents Award for Design Excellence twice, for Gas Works Park in Seattle and The Sequence of Gardens at Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Gas Works Park sits on a peninsula jutting out into Lake Union, a project which completely changed the way parks are perceived and defined by both city planners and the general public. The 1903 Olmsted Brothers plan for Seattle recommended a park on this site, but the establishment of a gas manufacturing plant on the site delayed the park's creation for 65 years. By insisting that the abandoned gas works was an architectural statement and a work of sculpture, Rich demonstrated that decaying industrial structures can be viewed as landmarks and symbols of our cultural heritage. Certainly this was a precursor to the brownfield movement now mainstream today.

The Bloedel Reserve is located in a forest near Agate Point on what was the estate of a wealthy timber baron, Prentice Bloedel. Here Rich created a series of landscape events,

rooms, and places of beauty and calm. Simple in concept, yet rich in material and spiritual properties, they form an artistic masterpiece in the medium of landscape. This too, was a formerly ravaged landscape, having been clear-cut in logging operations at the beginning of the century.

Other important projects include the Batelle Institute campus and Steinbrueck Park at the Pike Place Market in Seattle, and Jordan Park on the waterfront in Everett, Washington.

The most fundamental aspect of his work has consistently been a concern for landform and sculpting of the land. His choice of plants and their juxtaposition is often rich, bold, and strong, yet accomplished with the use of only a few species and groups at a time. While emphasizing the natural and physical dynamics at work in the world and on his sites, Haag also points to the human situation of each, that they are cultural productions, made by and for society to be experienced by individuals and to become part of the endless universe of events.

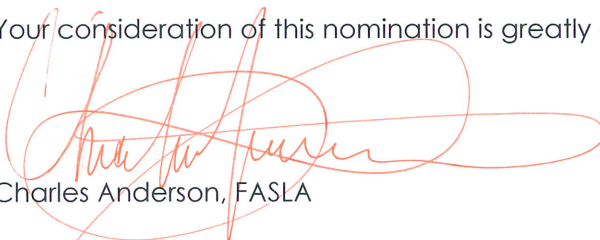
Like several other 20th century landscape architects such as Beatrix Farrand and Robert Zion, who knew and loved plants and horticulture, Haag's frustrations with the commercial nursery industry led him to grow some of his own. Purchasing land on the Stillaguamish River north of Seattle in the 1980s he began his own nursery. Here he has raised superb specimens of his favorite trees such as katsuras and amelanchiers, along with ones deemed unfashionable in the region such as poplars and aspens.

Rich is an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects has served as a professional resource participant for the Mayor's Institute on City Design. He was the first landscape architect appointed to serve on the City of Seattle Municipal Arts Commission. In 2003 he received the ASLA Medal, the highest honor the Society may bestow upon a landscape architect, for "lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession which have had a unique and lasting impact upon the welfare of the public and the environment."

A few years ago, I spent some time with Richard in China, working on a design competition for the 2008 Olympic Games. Here his explorative nature in design was matched by his unbounded culinary adventures found in a new place. Rich's zest for life, for experiences, is his design parti. Where someone sees a problem he sees an opportunity, where there is too much effort he preaches non-strivance, and where there is social injustice he demands justice and integrity.

Throughout his career Rich has taught, both formally and informally. His role as a mentor is as notable as his success as a designer. He continues to teach and lecture internationally while practicing as principal of Richard Haag & Associates in Seattle.

Your consideration of this nomination is greatly appreciated.



Charles Anderson, FASLA