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The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees  
The American Society of Landscape Architects  
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It is an honor and a pleasure to nominate landscape architect Peter E. Walker, FASLA, to receive the 2004 ASLA Medal. Peter Walker is truly one of those rare landscape architects whose contributions to the profession, the public, and the environment make him worthy of this high honor. His career, which is now approaching the half-century mark, is a model of selfless contribution in every facet of our profession.

Pete's involvement in landscape architecture began with the youthful inspiration to improve the quality of life and protect the environment, which led him to study landscape architecture as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received a B.S.L.A. At Berkeley, Pete's interest in planning and design developed into a passion for the profession and during this time, his design sensibilities were inspired by Lawrence Halprin with whom he served as an intern. Upon graduation in 1955, he ventured on to the University of Illinois for graduate work. Here the fabled Stanley White made his mark on Pete as did Dan Kiley. According to Pete, he was the serendipitous recipient of a personal tour of the Miller Garden conducted by Kiley himself, an experience that left an indelible impression on his sense of design.

The following year Pete moved on to the Graduate School of Design at Harvard where he encountered the rising star Hideo Sasaki, who would become his lifelong friend and mentor. At Harvard, the die was cast and Pete, under Sasaki's tutelage, began his quest of reestablishing landscape architectural design as an art form and making it an integral part of the ecological and environmental movement of the day. Pete received his M.L.A. degree from Harvard in 1957 and immediately thereafter, Walker, the protégé, joined the firm of Sasaki, the master, which was renamed Sasaki, Walker and Associates, launching a new era and legacy in the profession. Pete went on to establish the West Coast office of the firm which later became The SWA Group. Since that time, Pete has initiated numerous leading landscape architecture practices from coast to coast, displaying not only an uncommon talent for design but a business acumen rarely found in our profession. He currently heads the internationally renowned landscape architectural firm, Peter Walker and Partners (PWP), Incorporated located in Berkeley, California. The firm has received a multitude of honors and awards and has won scores of national and international competitions over the past decade. Recently Pete took center stage in the design world along

with architect Michael Arad by winning the competition for the World Trade Center, Ground Zero Memorial. According to many, Pete's input into the project put it "over the edge and squarely in the winner's circle." *New Yorker* Magazine columnist Paul Goldberger referred to Pete as the "mentor" in the winning partnership while *Washington Post* staff writer Benjamin Forgery, in describing Pete's input in the design, wrote "It is just the sort of sophisticated intrigue Walker has perfected in his five decade career." Pete's worldwide recognition as the Landscape Architect in this competition has catapulted the visibility of our profession to new heights.

Pete is arguably one of the most accomplished and renowned landscape architectural designers of his time and has been recognized through countless honors and awards. Throughout his career he has challenged traditional concepts of design, resulting in his being labeled as the consummate minimalist in Landscape Architecture, a badge which he wears proudly. Some have criticized Pete's design work as lacking environmental sensitivity. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. The very foundation and incubator of his work is its environmental, cultural, and historical context. Unfortunately, Pete's celebrity as a cutting edge designer often overshadows his many other contributions to the profession, the public welfare and the environment which extend far beyond planning and design. In many of his largest, most important projects, environmental remediation has outweighed purely design considerations.

Another of Pete's passions and career-long commitments has been in teaching and shaping new generations of landscape architects. Walker's commitment to education has never wavered. Pete played an essential role in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University as both the chairman of the Landscape Architecture Department and the acting director of the Urban Design Program. After leaving Harvard, he was head of the department of landscape architecture at the University of California at Berkeley. He has consistently maintained his connection to the academic community as a guest lecturer or visiting critic at practically every major landscape architectural program in this country and abroad. He has currently accepted the Glimcher Professorship within Ohio State's School of Landscape Architecture and will be teaching several intensive educational workshops in the spring semester.

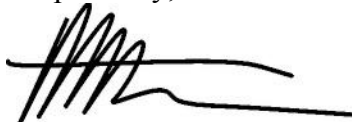
Pete has long recognized the importance of writing, journalism, and professional literature which creates the cornerstone in the foundation of any profession. Recognizing this need in landscape architecture, over the past two decades Pete has made a stupendous, unselfish, unparalleled contribution to the production and dissemination of landscape architectural publications that concentrate not just on design, but the environmental contributions of the profession. He has been the co-author of *Minimalist Gardens* (with Leah Levy) and the *Invisible Gardens: The Search for Modernism in the American Landscape* (with Melanie Simo) and scores of articles in major design publications worldwide. Between 1988 and 1991, Pete served on the *Landscape Architecture Magazine* editorial board, during which *LAM* made major strides toward excellence. In 1996, he founded Spacemaker Press devoted to the critical examination of landscape architecture and advancing the body of knowledge in the profession. Under Pete's direction, Spacemaker has published fourteen issues of *Land Forum* and twenty-four books, including the 1999 ASLA Centennial commemorative book *100 Years of Landscape Architecture* written by Melanie Simo.

In addition to his leadership in design, planning, education and publications, Pete has been one of the major players in the expansion of the global practice and influence of landscape architecture. Just in the past decade alone, he has been commissioned to plan and design a major technology center in Berlin, a corporate campus in Switzerland, a landmark park in Australia, a business park in New Zealand, an embassy in Beijing and an entire new city in Japan. He has continually promoted the practice of landscape architecture abroad by speaking at such gatherings as the IFLA World Congress of Landscape Architects, Argentina, 1997; International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture, Hawaii, 1997; Korean Institute of Landscape Architects, 1997; Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, 1997; Third International Symposium of Architects, Mexico, 1994, XXXI World Congress, 1994; and the Kajima/GSD Conference, Tokyo, Japan, 1989. His international influence has been manifested in his foreign projects and through numerous publications around the world, ranging from European *TOPOS* magazine to Japan's *Process Architecture*. Describing the gravity of Pete's international influence in the December, 2003 issue of *TOPOS*, renowned Sweden landscape architect Thorbjörn Andersson wrote "With self-confidence, these [Walker's] landscapes took over the covers of prestigious magazines such as the European *Domus*, where landscape architecture had never received coverage before."

I must admit that I knew little about Peter Walker beyond his reputation as an award-winning designer until in 1998 I had the opportunity to work with him on the ASLA Centennial book. Pete via his Spacemaker Press had generously offered to publish this book as the lasting memento and centerpiece to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – a daunting task under the best of circumstances. During this process, I began to see Pete Walker in an entirely new light and experienced a side of the person that doesn't come through when his projects are being written about in magazines or when he is on stage receiving an honor or award. I got to see the passion that Pete has for landscape architecture and the contributions it makes to the public good. I experienced his truly unselfish nature and commitment to doing what is in the best interest of the profession, the public and the environment.

In closing, I don't believe there is a landscape architect in the profession today who has done more for the profession or contributed more to the public welfare and environment than Peter Walker. In recognition of all of Pete's contributions, I ask that you honor this very worthy individual as the recipient of the ASLA 2004 medal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Starke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry W. Starke, FASLA, AICP  
Past President, ASLA