

Newman, Jackson, Bieberstein
Landscape Architecture



Banner Place North
12770 Coit Road, Suite 210
Dallas, Texas 75251

February 26, 2007

Ms. Carolyn Mitchell
Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

**RE: Mr. Gary O. Robinette, Candidate for:
The Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal**

Ms. Mitchell:

I am honored to provide this letter in support of the nomination of Mr. Gary O. Robinette for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

As a member of the Professional Advisory Council for the University of Texas at Arlington's Landscape Architectural program since 1999, I have observed first hand Gary's commitment to the growth and development of students as well as his complete dedication to the program of landscape architecture program at UTA. Because of his leadership, the program has grown both in numbers and stature and enjoys a respected place in the College of Architecture.

Mr. Robinette has been instrumental in exposing his students to the practice of landscape architecture through his Professional Practice class and his numerous office and project tours of significant projects in the Dallas Fort Worth area. He has been instrumental in bringing a broad range of locally and nationally known speakers to UTA to present profiles of their practices as well as to work with the students in developing design solutions to "real world" projects.

With all of Gary's dedication to the UTA Landscape Architecture Program, he has still maintained a commitment to ASLA and the Texas Chapter that has been recognized time and again by his peers. Earlier in my career, Gary and I worked together at MND and Partners. There, Gary encouraged me in my professional development and helped me to shape my views toward our practice and the profession as a whole.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to endorse the nomination of Mr. Gary O. Robinette for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. He is worthy of this high honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Karl Von Bieberstein', followed by a horizontal line.

Karl Von Bieberstein, FASLA
Senior Vice President and Managing Principal



TEXAS
CHAPTER

American
Society of
Landscape
Architects

February 28, 2007

Patrick W. Caughey, FASLA, President
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Gary O. Robinette, FASLA,
Nomination Letter - Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Patrick:

On behalf of the Texas Chapter, it is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of the nomination of Gary Robinette, FASLA for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. Since my initial involvement in ASLA in the mid-1980's, I have known Gary Robinette to be a visible figure equated with teaching and program excellence at the University of Texas, Arlington campus.

His influence in the profession is broad, and seemingly began over 40 years ago with the intrigue of teaching students in landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. It was here that his early commitment to education was revealed with his publication of Off the Board, Into the Ground and Plant Form Studies, both initially compiled to aid his classroom instruction in planting design. These publications are considered by many to be the first necessary and valuable textbooks used in the classroom. Subsequently throughout Gary's professional career he has both written and edited nearly two dozen books of reference and instruction on various subjects related to furthering the practice of landscape architecture.

Uniquely, from a period of 1968 to 1988 Gary's career took a direction where he was able to participate in the growth of the Society. As a chapter trustee, I can appreciate the historical side of the attached supporting materials, taken aback at how Gary was urged by A. B. Lagasse (then Executive Director of ASLA) to become ASLA's first educator turned full-time staff member with the title "Associate Executive Director for Education and Research". During this period in his career, and involved with the ASLA Committee on Education, he witnessed a significant growth in the accredited landscape architecture programs throughout the country and the profession.

In 1988, after he demonstrated his abilities as Marketing Director for one of the largest and well-respected landscape architectural firms in Texas, Myrick Newman Dahlberg and Partners, Gary was called to join the staff of the University of Texas at Arlington as Director of the Landscape Architecture Program. After a three year period as Director of the program, he continued at the University as a full-time faculty member; teaching and helping create a diverse curriculum in the midst of the growing Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Gary's continued involvement with ASLA encourages local student participation in the Society's activities. In 2005, Gary received both "Outstanding Educator", awarded to him by his students, and a similar recognition awarded by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (C.E.L.A.).

One of his students wrote what I feel best captures Gary's unique commitment and "mark" in landscape architecture education: "As a landscape architectural history professor, Robinette is a walking library of information. He has lived through a large portion of modern history of landscape architecture as it ties in with other cultural, political, and economic factors of this period in history. He encourages students to find topics of their own interest for further exploration and research, and creates an atmosphere of fun in learning and developing a desire to learn more about history."

Sincerely,
ASLA Texas Chapter

Ann M. McGinnes, ASLA, Trustee