

Executive Committee  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations  
c/o Carolyn Mitchell  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: American Society of Landscape Architects Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal  
Letter of Nomination for John F. Collins, FASLA

11 March 2008

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

It is with enormous respect for both the ASLA and John F. Collins that I submit, this Letter of Nomination for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Upon reviewing the Selection Criteria, I believe that few can exemplify the desired qualities in such a comprehensive manner and in a way that so completely integrates the teaching and practice of landscape architecture. John F. Collins is truly one of the few.

Being one of many who have had the privilege of being both a student and colleague of John's, I can think of no greater demonstration of excellence in classroom instruction resulting in positive educational outcomes than the legacy of practicing landscape architects who have been taught by him or who have worked with him. His dedication and excellence in teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level have given the profession perhaps thousands of well trained landscape architects.

His passion and enthusiasm for the profession are evident in that the teaching and practice of landscape architecture have been inseparable for John. His achievements in both are numerous and prestigious. John Collins and his colleagues at the Delta Group have won many awards for their commitment to improving the urban environment through design excellence, including numerous Honor Awards from the ASLA, and the Urban Design Award from the Foundation for Architecture. John also has been recognized for his outstanding professional achievements by receiving the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for Distinguished Achievement Award; the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the ASLA Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter. He has been inducted into the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects, selected for his executed works.

Throughout his entire life of outstanding practice, John's commitment to the growth and development of students and young professionals has been equally outstanding as demonstrated in his teaching as Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, from 1967 through 1988 and serving as lecturer, visiting professor and studio

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ASLA 2006 Landscape Architecture Firm Award Recipient

critic at Penn State, Harvard, Cornell, Drexel, LSU and the School of Architecture and Planning in New Delhi.

In 1988 John Collins became the Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University. Under his leadership the department achieved accreditation for the landscape architecture program, advanced academic standards, expanded its faculty and extended Temple's outreach to the community through many student led design-build projects. He started horticulture therapy programs for prison inmates that helped to establish numerous community and teaching gardens for Philadelphia.

Among his other innovative approaches to the teaching of landscape architecture was the introduction of the design build program at Temple's Ambler Campus. He engaged the landscape architecture and horticulture students, faculty and staff in student designed and built gardens, walls, trellises, pergolas, courtyards and a native plant nursery. John has always found a way to help students translate ideas and materials into comfortable, useful, beautifully designed and well- built places.

He encouraged his students and faculty to be active in their participation in the American Society of Landscape Architects - even if it meant hosting LABASH. As a frequent Juror for the ASLA Student Awards Program, he knew the value of students doing and exhibiting their best work.

John's commitment to the growth and development of students has never stopped at the classroom door. As a teacher and as the president of his own practice, John always found time to be available to teach and guide, but most importantly, to bring out the best in each of his students. He provided internships in his office or his nursery for his students and full time jobs for them once they graduated. For those who went on to practice in other offices, he remained a constant resource for professional advice on teaching and practice. As Chair of Temple's Landscape Architecture Department John sought out his former students to continue the tradition of practicing faculty.

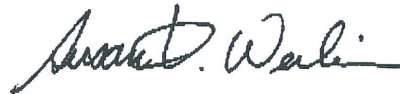
From a profoundly personal view, few people have so selflessly shared with me so much of their knowledge, skill, talent, humor, and passion for landscape architecture in a way that has been so truly sustainable in so many ways. John inspired me, and hundreds like me at Penn, to be excellent landscape architects because he shared with us his gift for teaching, and because of his extraordinary example of practice, community service and personal integrity. Later, he engaged me and my colleagues, as nascent teachers in his equally nascent Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. Confident in my ability to teach, not only did he allow and encourage me to develop the landscape construction curriculum, but to teach it as a design studio. He also agreed to let me to teach it on Saturday mornings, where as the "phantom faculty member" I had the privileged of teaching the "non traditional" students. (Those future landscape architects, who could only take a five hour class on a Saturday morning, because they were so busy running their own businesses and families.) Since that first non-traditional class, I have taught many other classes and studios, and I have had the privilege of hiring my students. They are excellent landscape architects and now some of them too are teaching. What greater honor can teaching bring?



John has a unique understanding of the breadth of knowledge applicable and vital to the learning and practice of landscape architecture. Nothing was beyond being added to the arsenal of a landscape architect in training. It was clear to me, and many others that like his guidance – learning never ended at the classroom door. The integration of art and science - drawing, engineering, horticulture, sculpture, designing, building, writing, reading, travelling, service - John has an unusual way of reminding you: don't let your studies get in the way of your education.

Thank you for your consideration of this Letter of Nomination of John F. Collins, FASLA for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Very truly yours,



Susan K. Weiler, FASLA  
Principal

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