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March 4, 2008

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

REFERENCE: Jot D Carpenter Medal Nomination - JOHN F. COLLINS

John Collins is the most dedicated, creative and uniquely talented educator/practitioner I have known and has been a colleague and friend for more than fifty years. We worked together at Sasaki Associates in Boston and subsequently set up the partnership of Adleman, Collins & DuTot in Philadelphia. My professional association with John and his uncompromisingly high design standards have always been a learning experience and an inspiration. John's talent for drawing is remarkable and sets a goal for emulation by his students. The publication, *Livable Landscape*, that we prepared together continues to be used by students throughout the nation.

John has a mission to teach as well as practice and he has taught numerous courses part time at the University of Pennsylvania. Penn alumni I have met reflect on John's knowledgeable, down to earth teaching abilities and his ability to relate exceptionally well to students at every level. The joy and satisfaction that John gets from teaching has even led him to initiate and teach a hands-on nursery/landscape training program at a Philadelphia prison so that inmates could be employable by landscape contractors or nurseries when they were released.

John saw the need for new landscape architectural programs that could help correct the deficit of landscape architects in the United States. In establishing and chairing the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at the Ambler campus of Temple University, John implemented his vision of an educational curriculum that integrates the work of the landscape architect, the nurseryman and the landscape contractor. Many classes that he has taught have been hands-on in the field and John has never been afraid to get his hands dirty.

As the 2004 recipient of the Jot D. Carpenter Medal, I feel strongly that John Collins is a most deserving candidate for this year's award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin I. Adleman".

Marvin I. Adleman, FASLA
Professor

PENNSYLVANIA

DELAWARE CHAPTER

AMERICAN

SOCIETY OF

LANDSCAPE

ARCHITECTS

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March 15, 2008

Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Nomination of John F. Collins, FASLA
Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Members of the Jury:

The Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to put forth John F. Collins, FASLA, for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. The Chapter considers John Collins one of its most prominent "favorite sons." John has had a long and distinguished career as a teacher, mentor, nurseryman and professional practitioner.

Collins studied under Hideo Sasaki. He was a professor in Ian McHarg's University of Pennsylvania's Landscape Architecture Program; a designer of Ed Bacon's vision for Philadelphia; and Temple University Ambler's founding chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

Although Collins was a practitioner for 25 years, a founding principal of The Delta Group, education was a key element in his life. Throughout his career, he demonstrated a commitment to educating young professionals. He served as a lecturer, professor and visiting studio critic at major landscape architecture schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Harvard, Cornell, Drexel, Virginia and Louisiana State. In addition, he taught at the School of Architecture and Planning in New Delhi, India.

In 1982, Collins launched a program to train inmates in urban horticulture skills at the House of Corrections in Philadelphia. The program, known as PLANT — Philadelphia Landscape and Nursery Training — trained inmates to plant and maintain greenery in public spaces. *"The prisoners learned how to nurture a plant through its life cycle, how to make a garden, how to start and finish a job. John Collins grew plants, and he grew people too"* said James M. Dickerson, Nursery Superintendent of PLANT from 1982 to 1989. This program still continues today, however, on a smaller scale. In addition to developing PLANT, Collins helped to establish community and teaching gardens throughout Philadelphia for public school children.

His impact on the profession through his teaching and mentoring activities have produced an entire generation of landscape architects who follow his example of community service through projects that "improve the place" and the quality of life of residents in surrounding, often underprivileged, communities.

Last year, in honor of his professional contributions to the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Region, as well as his teaching, mentoring and environmentally responsible approach to design, Temple University prepared an exhibit to commemorate the professional life and influence of John F. Collins. This exhibit was titled *"Retrospective John F. Collins, FASLA, Making more than 40 years of connecting the city and suburbs to the world of nature."*

One of Collins' most enduring contributions to Temple was his advocacy in establishing the University's Ambler campus as an arboretum creating an environment for learning and promoting ecologically sound planning, design, development and management. In 2000, the campus was formally recognized as an arboretum by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta now known as the American Public Gardens Association.

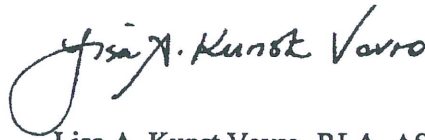
From its inception in 1988 as a four-year landscape architecture program until his retirement in 2004, John Collins' hand was evident in all aspects of Temple's program. John instilled his sensitivity to design while promoting natural resource preservation, the use of native plants, and the strongly held belief that regardless of background and domicile, everyone should be exposed to good design and have a meaningful connection to nature. This, he encouraged his faculty to do as well.

The PA/DE Chapter cannot think of anyone more deserving of the honor of the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal than John F. Collins, FASLA.

Sincerely,



Carl R. Kelemen, RLA, FASLA
Trustee, PA/DE ASLA



Lisa A. Kunst Vavro, RLA, ASLA
President, PA/DE ASLA



29 February 2008

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

Friends,

I am honored to support the nomination of John F. Collins, FASLA for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal for sustained and significant contribution to landscape architecture education.

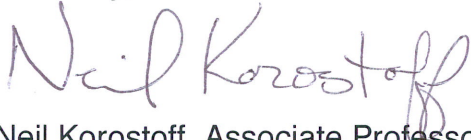
It was my good fortune to be one of John's students while studying at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning 1984. John is a superb design instructor. He freely shares the wealth of his long and varied professional experience and steadfastly insists on the principles of good design. John demands that his students develop a consistent, professional design process: site and program analysis, concept, schematic design and design development. Unlike many conceptually oriented design instructors, John is a materialist who required students to complete the design process through to construction details and phasing implementation. He asks students to imagine the physical realities that their design ideas suggested and relish the textures of plants and site materials. He teaches students the age-old practice of hand drawn design with grace and subtlety. He thoroughly prepares his students for professional careers in landscape architecture.

John F. Collins towers over other teachers of landscape architecture as a tremendous humanist. He is a man of great personal integrity and a model of the highest professional standards and personal responsibility. He has a limitless well of empathy. John's teachings, writings, and publications reveal a philosophy and practice of design that provides equals access to the built environment and participation by all members of society. He inspires his students to maintain those same values.

John teaches his students that design is meaningful only as it benefits people and reconnects them to nature. He was very sensitive to the contemporary alienation of urban populations from nature long before it was intellectually popular. His perspective on design includes users or occupants and also contractors, maintenance workers, horticulturalists, material suppliers – everyone engaged in the production and use of the built environment. He inspires his students to temper their conceptually urgency with the needs of real people of all ages, abilities, and persuasions.

John F. Collins has been a teacher, mentor, friend and inspiration for me. His example launched me on what is now a twenty-three year long career of teaching and public practice. John is the epitome of a principled, effective, talented teacher and practitioner of landscape architecture. He is most highly deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Neil Korostoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neil" and last name "Korostoff" clearly legible.

Neil Korostoff, Associate Professor
R.L.A., A.S.L.A.

March 7, 2008

Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of John F. Collins, FASLA
Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Hello:

I am writing to support the nomination of John F. Collins, FASLA, for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

As a student, teaching associate, business partner and long-time friend of John, I have been lucky enough to experience John's teaching prowess for over 40 years.

John helped introduce me to the profession of Landscape Architecture in the late 1960's, when I had the great good fortune to have John as my professor of "Plants and Design" and "Site Engineering" in the Masters program at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. His passion for teaching about the profession of Landscape Architecture was instrumental in focusing my professional education. John saw planting design and site engineering as technical expertise combined with design; one did not exist without the other.

Several years later, while working with John at The Delta Group, we co-taught a 2nd year Design Studio at Penn for several years, and I again was able to witness first-hand the enthusiasm and energy that John brought to teaching. Studios would routinely run well beyond the allotted time, in order for John to spend personal time with each student. John's only requirement was an equal dedication on the part of the students; all you had to do was to commit your time and energy, and he would work tirelessly with you to make sure you succeeded. Students most often completed the program feeling that they had worked incredibly hard, but had learned invaluable skills at John's hand. At first often overwhelmed, they found confidence in handling complex issues, working at several scales simultaneously, guided by John's personal commitment to each student's development.

John's strong personal conviction that Landscape Architecture was closely allied to the related professions of Architecture, Engineering, Urban Design, Fine Arts, etc., led to his forming a multi-disciplinary firm in The Delta Group, and this conviction carried over into his teaching methodologies. John's teaching sought to incorporate as wide a range of interests and skills as possible, and his design studio programs frequently drew upon other professional disciplines in order to develop in students a basic understanding on how Landscape Architects might best interact with these professionals. Landscape Architecture took a 'back-seat' to no one!!

This basic philosophy of teaching was maintained in his professional office development as well, where John sought out the more complex projects that necessarily depended on a consortium of professional expertise, most often driven and guided by Landscape Architectural concepts. Under John's direction, the firm developed a reputation for innovative design solutions for complex urban revitalization and environmental restoration issues, most often in the public / municipal area where it would serve the most good for the greatest number of people.

And the office became an extended teaching environment, as graduates of Penn's program (and later Temple) took advantage of work opportunities to continue their education and professional development with John and his partners, 5 of whom also had experience teaching at Penn.

John's teaching reputation, his willingness to leap into any situation to help, and his known interest in architecture and urban design led to many invitations to teach or lecture within architectural programs, including Drexel University and Cornell University Departments of Architecture. Besides not being able to say "no" to any request for help, John really had a love for teaching that could never be quenched. Every teaching opportunity, no matter how small, was one more chance to help students become better Landscape Architects, but also was an opportunity to help the profession, by strengthening the skills and expanding the interests of those being trained to work in this profession.

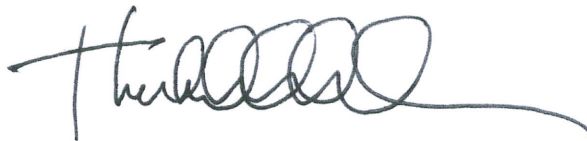
John developed close personal relationships with many students, and this often led to teaching opportunities abroad, such as John's time teaching Landscape Architecture as a visiting critic in New Delhi, India.

The opportunity for John to become Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University Amber enabled him to most fully express his ideas about teaching in a comprehensive program of curriculum and staff development, campus planning, and his usual "hand-on" approach to education and problem solving. He somehow managed to successfully maintain his working position of leadership with The Delta Group while re-structuring the Temple Amber program into a comprehensive program combining Horticulture with Landscape Architecture. This effort required tremendous energy and creative thinking, and John brought his usual enthusiasm and commitment for complex problem solving to this task. Hundreds of students at Temple benefited from his commitment.

Along with his career-long involvement in education, John used his extraordinary graphic skills to author several publications that proved very useful in his teaching. In particular, his *Livable Landscape Design*, published through Cornell University, remains a sought-after reference for teaching the fundamentals of Landscape Architecture.

Having known John for over 40 years both personally and professionally, I've seen the results of his love and enthusiasm for teaching in the highly skilled professionals that now work and teach in the profession.

Sincerely,
THE DELTA GROUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas B. Schraudenbach', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas B. Schraudenbach
Vice President

March 12, 2008

Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
C/o Ms. Carolyn Mitchell
636 I Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20001-3736

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

It is my distinct honor and a personal privilege to nominate **John F. Collins** for the Jot D. Carpenter Medal.

John Collins' designs and built projects exerted an important influence on historical preservation and environmental consciousness. His reach extended widely, from across the City of Philadelphia and southeastern Pennsylvania, to Salem, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Northern Virginia, and places as distant and diverse as Northern Ireland and the Trans-Alaska pipeline project. John Collins has received numerous awards and special recognition for his design achievements, but I would like to tell you about his influence as a college teacher and, specifically, his influence on the Temple University Ambler College and his influence on the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture within Ambler College.

Throughout his career, John Collins demonstrated a commitment to educating young professionals, helping educate new generations of landscape architects and horticulturists, serving as a lecturer, professor, and visiting studio critic at major landscape architecture programs, including the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Harvard, Cornell, Drexel, Virginia and Louisiana State. He also taught at the School of Architecture and Planning in New Delhi, India. He developed horticultural therapy programs to help prison inmates and established community and teaching gardens in Philadelphia for public school children.

On May 1, 1988, John Collins became Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture at Temple University. Under his leadership, the department strengthened its academic standards, achieving ASLA accreditation for the landscape architecture program; recruiting and hiring new professors; and reaching out to North Philadelphia and various communities with urban design-build programs.

As a nurseryman, as well as a landscape architect, John understands far more than others the importance of designing to preserve natural surroundings and designing

with sustainable environmental concepts in mind. To John, plants are more than ornaments or convenient decorative anchors for holding the soil in place. His insistence on combining the academic pursuits of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture made Temple's program distinctive and academically unique, as it remains today.

If I may, allow me to add a personal note. At almost the moment that John Collins arrived at Temple I was completing my sixth year as assistant to the president for strategic planning and aching to return to my faculty position. During my tenure as university planner the president and board had directed my energies and the university's resources to the development of the Main Campus, to the building of a new hospital, dental clinic, a regional train station, sports arena and convocation center, and other projects intended to develop "a city within a city" to reverse enrollment declines by revitalizing the campus and the surrounding North Philadelphia community.

That strategy required close to two decades between initial implementation and notable landmark accomplishments, but the university now reaps its benefits. Meanwhile, the Ambler Campus experienced a period of salutary neglect, my persistent and doubtlessly annoying advocacy notwithstanding.

Happily, John Collins provided the technical skills and persuasive impetus necessary to regain the university's attention and to bring reinvestment in the campus. John authored a new campus master plan and offered a vision for the campus itself that was absent in prior plans.

He personally set out to rebuild parts of the campus, directing faculty, staff and students in design-build projects to create the Cottage Hall courtyard; new pergolas; gardens for native plants, groundcovers and herbs; and new access paths leading from Dixon Hall to the formal gardens. He established a native plant nursery as a teaching and plant production facility and lobbied for a new greenhouse, now in operation to the delight of students and faculty. He designed a replacement for Cottage Hall, a new home for Ambler's academic departments, some version of which we someday aspire to complete.

John proposed a new stonework entrance on Meetinghouse Road; and Gerry Cope, of Cope/Linder Architects, worked closely with The Delta Group, John's firm, in designing the new frontage and entrance ways in existence today.

The most dramatic change on the campus was John's recommendation, contained within his campus master plan, for the construction of a new loop road around the perimeter, opening automobile access around the campus but leaving the center of the campus for pedestrian traffic. The loop road also allowed access for future expansion, such as the new Learning Center, a 70,000 square foot classroom and technical center that was completed in August 2006.

Another of John Collins's most enduring contributions was his early advocacy for designating the Temple Ambler Campus as an arboretum to create an environment for learning and for promoting ecologically sound planning, design, and management approaches. In 2000, the Temple University Ambler Campus Arboretum was formally registered with the American Public Gardens Association.

All considered, no one person – not since Jane Bowne Haines established the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women on this site in 1911 – has made as great an impact on Temple University's Ambler Campus and on its core academic programs as John F. Collins.

For his accomplishments as a nurseryman, landscape architect, teacher, planner, mentor, and farsighted colleague of enormous capabilities and unlimited generosity, I am proud to nominate John Collins to be a recipient of the Jot D. Carpenter Medal.

Sincerely yours,



James W. Hilty, Ph.D.
Acting Dean