

T U N N E L L & T U N N E L L

L A N D S C A P E A R C H I T E C T U R E

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
ASLA Medal Nominations
C/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Edward L. Daugherty ASLA Medal Nomination

Dear Members of the Board,

It is my privilege and honor to nominate Edward L. Daugherty, FASLA, for the ASLA Medal. Edward's continuing contributions to the profession span the length of his distinguished and still active professional practice of more than 50 years. His professional training and education were superlative; a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design (1951), and the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright (1952). His longstanding service to the profession has served as an exemplary regional model, serving as a pivotal organizer of the Georgia Chapter of the ASLA in the 1960s, a Trustee for 6 years and a Fellow since 1971. Edward has been devoted to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, and served the local community in significant ways always with the concentration on improving the living environment. As an academician, educator, and mentor to architects, landscape architects, and community leaders throughout his professional life, Edward stands as an example of all that is and can be a landscape architect and the contributions our profession can make to the built environment.

Education and Professional Practice

Edward Daugherty's long interest in architecture and the environment led him to begin the study of architecture at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1943. With the closing years of World War II, Edward entered military service and soon thereafter began the study of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia from 1947-48. Ultimately Edward completed his undergraduate training in landscape architecture at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in 1950 and followed that with a Master of Landscape Architecture in 1951 from the same institution. At Harvard, Edward was studying contemporaneously with Ian McHarg and Bob Zion in a program energized by Modernism. Edward was awarded a Fulbright in 1952 and spent his year in England studying town planning in a countryside very much still in recovery from the war years.

Unlike many of his Harvard classmates who went north and west, Daugherty returned to his southern roots in Atlanta to begin his private practice, electing not to apprentice in any of the established firms in town all begun by pre-war practitioners. A unique concentration of commercial, institutional, and residential commissions represent his astonishing 55-year legacy of built works, yet within each area of practice, Daugherty sought to solve problems and create spaces oriented for use by people. Like Thomas Church, with whom he would later collaborate on Church's only known institutional project in the south, Edward believes that gardens are for people – maintainable and functional. As with other influential southern practitioners like Robert Marvin, FASLA, and Clermont Lee, ASLA, Edward nurtured a love for native plants and has used them widely in all areas of his practice.

Edward Daugherty's first work of significance was at Egleston Hospital, a Modern garden characterized by biomorphic flowing lines, asymmetrical balance, and a dynamic response to the fifties aesthetic. The garden survives today though the initial building is being demolished. In 1966, Edward was selected as the landscape architect for the Governor's Mansion for the State of Georgia. This Greek revival structure replaced an early 20th century country estate, and Edward was instrumental in assuring that the core of this significant historic landscape was retained and sympathetically adapted for this new facility. In step with the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, a period when urban renewal was tearing down buildings and replacing them with parking lots in our downtowns, Edward recognized the importance of our landscape heritage as a continuum and how a landscape architect would resolve that interface between historic preservation and design.

Also during this time, Edward worked with Thomas Church on the School for Continuing Education at the University of Georgia. Church's design, though much modified through building additions, exemplified the apotheosis of the Modern movement in landscape architecture and Edward was engaged by Tommy Church as his man on the ground. With Church's practice based in California, it was vital for the accomplishment of his vision for a sympathetic local practitioner to be available to help realize that vision. Daugherty was fully enthusiastic in his role and ably assisted in bringing this seminal work of another Harvard alumnus to Georgia.

By the late 1960s, building forms now familiar were only just coming into prominence. Exemplified by the Avon corporate headquarters, Edward harmoniously inserted a large campus-like facility into a suburban landscape with a solution that is a signature of his work: a prescient eye to the impact on the environment and community, the preservation of large stands of native forest, and an integral solution to stormwater management well in advance of regulatory codes and environmental regulations.

A similar design and ecological ethic is also echoed at Edward's first two townhouse communities built in Atlanta, introducing to the rapidly expanding community the now familiar condominium. Edward's work in these still desirable communities (Westchester Square and Paces Place) showcases the enormously livable environments he has been intent on creating. In an era before the National Trust's Main Street programs were commonplace, Edward's work in preservation and revitalization of the suburban town of Marietta, Georgia, involved expanding the creative team to include an economist, so that Edward's design solutions were not only beautifully designed and constructed, but also assured that the work was built to last. In 1979, Edward received the Georgia Chapter Honor Award for this work.

Edward's professional career has also involved significant campus work for such notable institutions as the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, as a consulting landscape architect for Georgia Tech from 1955-1975, Agnes Scott College and the University of Chattanooga. In all these projects, Edward was instrumental in removing automobiles from sections of the campuses, reclaiming significant visual and spatial relationships for pedestrian zones of clarity and grace.

Edward's longest professional involvement with a client has been All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta. This church where he was confirmed and has been a lifelong communicant, also bears the imprint of nearly 40 years of master planning and highly articulated site design. The urban context of the church has changed markedly in the last 40 years and Daugherty has created here a city block precinct that addresses the needs of the congregation as well as the community in providing services to nearby Georgia Tech and Atlanta's homeless population.

Service to the Profession and Community

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Edward played an instrumental role in the Georgia Chapter of the ASLA. He has been a member of the ASLA since 1954 and was named to the Council of Fellows in 1971. Daugherty served as a Trustee of the ASLA for 6 years and helped the Georgia Chapter host the ASLA convention in Atlanta in the early 1960s. In 1987, the Atlanta Urban Design Commission recognized Daugherty with an Award of Excellence for Lifetime Contributions in Landscape Architecture in Atlanta.

In addition to his built legacy, Edward has made a passionate lifelong commitment to this city he calls home. His non-profit work has included foundational involvement in the Atlanta Arts Festival and the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. He has served on the licensing Board for Landscape Architects in the State of Georgia and was active in the initial movement for state licensure laws. He has a long-term commitment to the Episcopal Church and to All Saints Episcopal Church in particular. Edward continues to serve on the Board of Directors of Trees Atlanta, a non-profit organization principally involved in planting street trees in urban areas.

Edward's commitment to his community has touched each Atlanta neighborhood he has lived in from Ansley Park to Peachtree Heights, both National Register districts. In Peachtree Heights, a Carrere and Hastings designed suburb, high-rise development threatened to place half of the neighborhood in significant shadow for much of winter. In Edward's office, he and his staff worked fast to illustrate the folly of such speculative development. His pioneering shadow studies for the Peachtree corridor resulted in City Hall changing zoning designations in the area to preserve the quality of life for area residents.

Academics and teaching mentoring

From 1963 to 1973, Edward served as lecturer on the subject of landscape architecture in the urban environment at the School of Architecture at Georgia Tech. Here, Edward was addressing not students of landscape architecture but of architecture. For several generations of architects trained at Tech, Edward was the first landscape architect they had ever met and his approach to site design was a part of their training and became part of their tool kit when they entered the professional world.

"My finishing school" is what the late Hubert Owens, FASLA, founder of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia and ASLA Medal winner in 1977 called Edward Daugherty's office as multiple generations of landscape architects went on to complete their professional training in Edward's office. A diverse cadre of impressionable practitioners studied at Edward's elbow, heard the eloquence of his teachings, evidenced his personal commitment to one's community, and have been forever changed. Many have gone on to distinguished academic careers and careers in private practice.

Lasting Legacy

In a practice that spans over a half century, Edward has been a witness and participant to the opportunities that landscape architects have in the south today. He has seen the rise, rule and dénouement of Modernism, as well as a similar fate for other design theories from post-Modernism to New Urbanism. The discussion of the polemics of design theory has held little interest for Daugherty. He often quotes his former professor at Harvard, the late Norman Newton, who maintained, "good design is design that does good." This credo perhaps comes the closest to the spirit of Edward's design ethos – one that he continues to practice and live by daily.

Edward Daugherty represents a vital link in the traditions of landscape architecture. His time at Harvard places him in context with fellow practitioners and peers such as McHarg, Breen, Lester Collins and Hideo Sasaki. While at Harvard, Edward apprenticed in Dan Kiley's office and in the Olmsted office. He was in the generation that inherited the groundbreaking energy of Garrett Eckbo and James Rose and adapted their ideas for a post war community in the south.

As practitioners today have easy access to media and many outlets for the distribution of their ideas, Edward has been fulfilled by a lifetime of doing work of significance and beauty that has enhanced and changed his community, and this has been the focus of his career, service to his clients and his community, not to himself and his legacy. Had Edward chosen to practice in another area of the country, had he remained in the northeast, perhaps then his would be a name that more people would know but that has never been his goal. Edward is a modest man, a gentle man, who has worked with principled deliberation in Georgia and the southeast in a practice that began when segregation was rife. From his initial designs and thesis project at Harvard, Edward saw the landscape as a mediator that could accept and ameliorate the racial divide in the south. He has never seen the landscape as a place of separation and alienation but rather as a calming place of unity and harmony.

Edward Daugherty has sought throughout an exemplary professional career to create landscapes with heart in a truly southern tradition -- one that makes everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

In 2008, Edward will be honored with an exhibition of his work at the Atlanta History Center, and a Landscape Legends oral history module by The Cultural Landscape Foundation. With his work and ideas having a renaissance, the perfect capstone on his astonishing and ongoing landscape legacy -- and these fortuitous events -- would be to honor Edward with the ASLA Medal for his myriad contributions. As a landscape architect who worked for Ed from 1980 to 1988, I cherish that experience as much as our continuing friendship and I know that if I am off to a client meeting, visiting a commercial grower, attending a civic presentation, or speaking with a reporter in Atlanta, I know that Ed has shaped the city and the very way we see.

Very truly yours,



Spencer Tunnell II, ASLA