

Highlighted Sessions by Professional Practice Network

September 16–18, 2026 · Los Angeles, CA

Materials, Methods, Sourcing PPN

Focus: Materials, specifications, construction, detailing, and sourcing.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WED-A10

Getting Specific About Specifications: Maximizing the Effectiveness of Fundamental Contract Documents

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

Specifications can help make or break a project, yet many designers treat them as afterthoughts. We talk with a designer, a construction manager, and a contractor on how to integrate specification writing into the design process and examine the implications of poorly written specs in the procurement and construction phases.

1.25 PDH

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WED-A05

Design Without Boundaries: Bringing Together Landscape, Architecture and Fabrication

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

As construction grows more complex and costly, design teams must adopt a collaborative, integrated approach to deliver affordable, site-specific solutions. This session unites a landscape architect, architect-engineer, and fabricator to share lessons from three projects that challenge hierarchy, position fabrication as driving creativity, and demonstrate a new paradigm for making.

1.25 PDH

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WED-B10

Bridging the Gap Between Arborists and Landscape Architects Through Standards of Practice

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Landscape architects seek lasting, resilient landscapes, yet gaps between design intent and implementation often lead to preventable tree failure. Learn from standards authors and practitioners how the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards strengthen specification writing, improve constructability, and enhance long-term tree performance.

1.25 PDH

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

THUR-A10

Construction Confidential: A Frank Conversation About How Things Get Built

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM PT

Designers work with construction managers and contractors daily — but do we truly understand each other? Join us for a frank conversation on how construction managers and contractors approach their projects, manage risk and budgets, and why strong relationships among the project team are critical to successful outcomes.

1.25 PDH

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THUR-B04

Design of Planting Soils for Landscapes on Elevated Structures

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

As landscapes on structures become more common, plant growing media requires careful consideration for both structural limits and successful vegetation. These landscapes are growing increasingly complex, with many factors affecting planting soil selection and performance. This session presents essential information for soil design in successful landscapes on elevated structures.

1.25 PDH

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THUR-B09

Confessions of a Landscape Contractor: 15 Tips on Avoiding Common Mistakes

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Avoid costly mistakes before they happen. Drawing sets can expose landscape architects to liability, E&O claims, and unexpected project costs. Gain practical, contractor-informed insights and straightforward strategies to strengthen your documents, reduce risk, and improve coordination from a former landscape contractor with 20 years of field experience.

1.25 PDH

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THUR-B08

Maintenance as Motion: Designing Landscapes That Evolve and Endure

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Landscapes are never finished—they are a work in progress. This session explores how early maintenance planning, stewardship models, and adaptive experimentation, as encouraged in SITES V2, shape landscapes that endure beyond opening day. Discover how to design for imperfect care, evolving ecologies, and community partnership without sacrificing beauty or ambition.

1.25 PDH

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THUR-C10

Wood Is Good!?!* Using Low Carbon, Ethical Wood Materials in Site Construction

Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM PT

Wood products for sites offer positive benefits including lower embodied carbon, renewability, carbon storage, and biophilic attributes. But there are environmental and even human rights impacts from some wood products. This session will discuss carbon neutrality of wood products, procurement and design with reclaimed wood, and sustainable forestry considerations, in support of SITES V2 principles.

1.25 PDH

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRI-C08

Risky Business: A Conversation with a Construction Manager on Delivering Successful Projects

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM PT

Learn how landscape architects can protect design intent, control costs, and reduce risk through clear drawings, specifications, research, and documentation. Presenters will also outline risks beyond our control and demonstrate how strong collaboration with construction managers can turn uncertainties into successful project outcomes.

1.25 PDH

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Questions? Visit asla.org or aslaconference.com

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