



ASLA

## What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architects create healthy, safe, and beautiful outdoor places for everyone. As members of a STEM profession, they bring science and design together to make our communities better places to live, work, and play.

Being a landscape architect requires years of education and experience and passing a national exam. They are licensed—just like doctors and engineers—to keep people safe and secure.

Landscape architects create public spaces like parks, plazas, and campuses that connect people. Within these spaces, they design ways to prevent dangerous flooding and keep communities cooler. They devise strategies to protect native plants and wildlife.

Landscape architects also create transportation systems that get people to where they need to go, safely. And they come up with ways to help remedy unfair designs of the past, like spaces that reconnect neighborhoods divided by highways.

Good design doesn't happen by accident. Landscape architects listen to the needs of each community and use science and technology to create spaces that everybody can enjoy. From small towns to the largest cities, landscape architects create the outdoor places we cherish.



### About ASLA

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 15,000 members.

**ASLA Mission:** Empowering our members to design a sustainable and equitable world through landscape architecture.

**ASLA Fund Mission:** Investing in global, social, and environmental change through the art and science of landscape architecture.

[www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)

**Top:** In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, landscape architects with OLIN designed a park that absorbs and stores water so it can be used again. Image credit: ASLA 2020 Professional Urban Design Award of Excellence. Dilworth Park, Philadelphia. OLIN/James Ewing, OTTO

**Bottom:** In St. Petersburg, Florida, KEN SMITH WORKSHOP created a pier landscape that safely connects people to the waterfront. Image credit: ASLA 2023 Professional General Design Honor Award. St Pete Pier: Revitalization of Waterfront and Historic Pier Site. St. Petersburg, Florida. KEN SMITH WORKSHOP

# Landscape Architects Keep People

## SAFE

Many communities face hazardous flooding when it rains. Other places suffer from droughts. Landscape architects use state-of-the-art technology like pavements that absorb rain-fall to keep water off streets. And they deploy time-tested solutions, like rain gardens, that conserve and manage water.



Landscape architects keep students at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona safe from dangerous flooding. Image credit: ASLA 2021 Professional General Design Honor Award. Orange Mall Green Infrastructure. Tempe, Arizona. COLWELL SHELOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / Arizona State University

## HEALTHY

Landscape architects design networks of bike trails and pathways that encourage people to get moving. They create street plans that make it safer for bikes and pedestrians. They create open spaces, from town squares to massive parks, that help people get fresh air and exercise.



In Detroit, Michigan, SmithGroup designed a street safe for all people. Image credit: ASLA 2023 Professional Analysis and Planning Honor Award. Joe Lewis Greenway Framework Plan, Detroit, Michigan. SmithGroup

## COOL

Parks and tree-lined streets that landscape architects design are more than just pretty places. Studies show they keep temperatures down, even on the hottest days. This makes our communities healthier places to live and helps us fight climate change.



Landscape architects with RIOS used trees to create shade and cool the air in downtown Palm Springs, California. Image credit: ASLA 2022 Professional General Design Award of Excellence. Palm Springs Downtown Park. Palm Springs, California. RIOS

## CONNECTED

Communities are stronger when everyone has the chance to connect with one another. Landscape architects design public spaces, like parks and playgrounds, that bring people together and build a greater sense of community. They understand that people have different needs and design spaces that are accessible and open to everyone.



In Omaha, Nebraska, OJB Landscape Architecture designed a space that brings the community together. Image credit: ASLA 2023 Professional General Design Honor Award. Remaking a 1970's Downtown Park Into a New Public Realm. Omaha, Nebraska. OJB Landscape Architecture