

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write an enthusiastic letter in support of Dr. Arne Alanen's nomination for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I can think of few individuals from related professions who have spent as much of their career teaching landscape architecture students and providing such valuable services and leadership for the profession of landscape architecture. In his case, it has been through lens of a cultural geographer.

His work with Darrel Morrison to establish *Landscape Journal* in the early 1980s would alone be worthy for recognition by honorary membership in ASLA. The founding of the journal and the subsequent leadership Alanen provided during its early years clearly raised expectations of the level of scholarship related to the profession and provided a much needed outlet for publication of research.

In addition, Alanen's own writing has provided a rich and insightful history of numerous places throughout the Midwest and has demonstrated the unique role of landscape architects in shaping communities such as Greendale, WI, Duluth, MN, and Calumet, MI. His partnerships with the National Park Service to document the rich history of the agriculture on the lands that now make up the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan has provided a solid foundation for both interpretation and future management of these cultural landscapes. His book, *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*, written with Robert Melnick, is now considered required reading for any landscape architect working with historic landscapes. He is clearly among the most respected and productive scholars in the field of cultural landscape history.

I first got to know Alanen as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I earned my masters degree in landscape architecture. As a member of my thesis committee, Alanen was an especially helpful to me, providing both generous encouragement as well as solid critique of my research. I know he has done the same with many other young scholars now working in various aspects of landscape architecture and related fields. In addition, his leadership and untiring work as a member of the landscape architecture faculty at the University of Wisconsin has helped provide stability to the program and enhanced its well-deserved reputation as one of the leading undergraduate and graduate programs in the country.

In summary, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Arne Alanen as honorary member of ASLA!

Sincerely,



Robert E. Grese, ASLA  
Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Director, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum



February 3, 2009

American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20001-3736

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

I am writing in favor of the nomination of Professor Arnold Alanen (Arne) for Honorary Membership in the ASLA. He was a key member of the UW-Madison Department of Landscape Architecture faculty from 1974 until his recent retirement in December 2008. In addition to creating and teaching a popular course in the history of landscape architecture, Arne created a number of unique courses in the area of cultural landscape preservation. These courses have influenced the design thinking of hundreds of students through the years.

Arne has twice served as Department Chair, for a total of 5 years, and has been an active participant in overseeing our curricula. He has served as major professor for more than 40 graduate students who have gone on to academic careers in landscape architecture departments across the country and in public and private agencies concerned with the preservation of the cultural landscape. And, perhaps most significantly to the intellectual growth of the profession, Arne was a co-founder, along with Darrel Morrison, of *Landscape Journal*, and served as its editor during the critical first years of its existence.

Professor Alanen (Arne) is an internationally recognized cultural landscape historian, and one of the most productive scholars in this field. He is an author of 6 books, more than 80 articles, and a number of technical cultural landscape planning and management reports for the National Park Service. Arne has both depth and breadth of knowledge and experience, with interests ranging from the local (the UW-Madison campus) to the regional (the Upper Midwest and the Great Plains) to the international (Arne may be the only member of our faculty to have written articles in both Finnish and Chinese!).

Professor Alanen has received national awards from CELA and the ASLA for research, teaching, and communications.

Professor Alanen ranks among the most distinguished scholars and educators to have served the UW-Madison Department of Landscape Architecture. He has influenced the careers of many members of the ASLA, and helped to bring scholarship to the attention of the profession. I believe Arne to be an excellent candidate for this significant honor.

Please let me know if you would like more information. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Evelyn A. Howell  
Professor and Chair

Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Committee & Board Members:

I am writing in support of the nomination of my colleague, Professor Arnold R. Alanen, for Honorary Membership in the ASLA. Professor Alanen has been my colleague for 27 years. During that time we have worked together co-teaching courses, writing articles, undertaking research projects, traveling, and collaborating on a wide variety of other tasks. Thus I believe I am in an excellent position to evaluate his credentials for this honor.

Professor Alanen has had a distinguished career as a teacher, author, editor, researcher and provider of service activities in the best academic traditions of higher education. He was the first member of our faculty who had earned a Ph.D. No one did more to advance the research thrust in our department during the 1970's, when this area of endeavor was in its infancy for our department and our profession. It was Arne who set forth the concept of blind reviewed CELA conference paper abstracts for annual CELA meetings. This was done for the first time at CELA's 1980 gathering at our university. An outgrowth of this conference was Landscape Journal, which Professor Alanen co-founded and, subsequently, served as co-editor from 1981-1989. He has since remained a consulting editor for this journal.

As a teacher, Professor Alanen's abilities have been widely recognized. He received a coveted University of Wisconsin Alumni Association distinguished Teaching Award, and an Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, which also gave him an Atwood Award for Excellence in Teaching. Recently, he was also elected to the first class of Fellows in the Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture. Having taught courses with Arne, I know that he is a hard working, energetic, well-organized, and greatly admired teacher. As a researcher and author, Alanen has established a prolific record. He has published in nearly every journal relating to landscape architecture, and many other publications relating to geography and history. A prolific writer, his books, articles and other publications number over 200, including abstracts and book reviews. In this capacity, Professor Alanen has set a standard that ranks with, or perhaps even exceeds, the top scholars in our profession. His publications have won awards from local historical groups, the Wisconsin Council of Writers, several Awards of Merit from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Pioneer America Society.

I should also note that Professor Alanen has served as the major professor for scores of master's thesis, and several Ph.D. students. As a result, many of the theses they wrote rank among the best generated in our department. In fact, a number of his students have subsequently published their thesis as books or in the form of articles. I would consider many of his students to be among the best who graduated from our department. Furthermore, many have gone on to establish distinguished careers in landscape architecture and closely related fields. Arne has been a colleague of enormous value to our department, university and the field of landscape architecture. He is most deserving of being designated an Honorary member of the ASLA.

Sincerely,

William H. Tishler, FASLA, and CELA Fellow



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Letter of Support for Arnold Alanen, Ph.D.  
Honorary Membership Nomination  
ASLA  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

11 February 2009

Dear Members of the Honorary Membership Committee:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Arnold R. Alanen for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Arnold's many achievements through his research, writing, teaching and volunteer efforts have contributed greatly to our increased national and international awareness of cultural landscapes. His works have provided great benefit and notable service to the profession of landscape architecture.

His more than thirty years of teaching have earned him recognition by CELA as an Outstanding Educator. His tireless work in the founding and editing of the Landscape Journal is well recognized by both researchers and practitioners for its excellence in the publication of significant research in our field. His own research and writing have been recognized by numerous ASLA Merit Awards for Communication. Last year he received the Honor Award for Communication. I was pleased and proud that he received this award in Philadelphia, where I now practice, and honored that he spent the morning in our studio.

I have had the privilege of being associated with Arne for almost 30 years, beginning at the University of Wisconsin and my work study job of drawing illustrations for Arne's numerous articles on the iron and copper mining regions of the northern Midwest. Rendered in what is now considered an ancient technique - ink on mylar with rub-on lettering - the maps of mining towns and their regional context would end up with captions that dealt with the "physical and social characteristics of mining and resource-based communities". I began to learn the importance of understanding not only the observable physical nature of a landscape, but also understanding what formed it, and how it formed places and cultures. I did not know then the depth with which I would come to value an understanding of place and place-making from this very different perspective - the landscape itself and the forces and graces of nature that shape us as people.

While many know of his teaching, writing and research, few may know that Arne also volunteers as State Liaison for Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). He spends countless hours documenting the diverse cultural landscapes of Wisconsin that have resulted from the land and architecture and the forces and influences upon them. He has been profiled by the University of Wisconsin as one who lives and breathes the *Wisconsin Idea*, a more than century old philosophy and practice holding that all research should "solve problems and improve health, quality of life, the environment and agriculture for all citizens of the state". One of the earliest proponents of the *Wisconsin Idea* believed that one should "never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state".



Arne is both a proponent of this idea and a doer – likely never content until he has done all he can to improve our health, quality of life, and environment. The influence of his teaching, research and writing has reached many outside of the ASLA. We should also acknowledge his beneficent influence upon the ASLA and the teaching and practice of landscape architecture by conferring this Honorary Membership upon him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Weiler, FASLA  
Partner