Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 15,000 members in 49 professional chapters, 74 student chapters, and eight student affiliate chapters. The Society’s mission is to lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. Members of the Society use the “ASLA” suffix after their names to denote membership and their commitment to the highest ethical standards of the profession.

ASLA began with 11 founding members:

Nathan Barrett  
Beatrix Jones Farrand  
Daniel W. Langton  
Charles N. Lowrie  
Warren H. Manning  
Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

John Charles Olmsted  
(Society’s first president)  
Samuel Parsons, Jr.  
George F. Pentecost, Jr.  
Ossian Cole Simonds  
Downing Vaux (son of Calvert Vaux)

At the end of the fourth quarter 2015, ASLA reported 15,323 members and 49 chapters representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 62 countries around the world.

• Approximately 16,400 landscape architects are licensed. Licensure is required in all 50 states to be identified as a “landscape architect” and in 47 states to practice landscape architecture.

• In 2015, 5,560 ASLA members worked at landscape architecture firms; 3,428 worked at architecture, engineering, or multi-disciplinary firms; and 925 were employed by design-build firms. A total of 855 members worked for federal, state, or local government.

MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Type</th>
<th>Year End 2015</th>
<th>Year End 2014</th>
<th>Percentage +/- 15 v. 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Member</td>
<td>10,499</td>
<td>10,238</td>
<td>+2.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student &amp; Student Affiliate</td>
<td>1,924</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>-8.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>1,853</td>
<td>1,734</td>
<td>+6.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliate</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>-11.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>-11.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>+6.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary (living)</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>+4.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,323</td>
<td>15,214</td>
<td>+0.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS
(as of January 13, 2016)

By Gender

- Female: 36%
- Male: 63%
- Undisclosed: 1%

By Practice Type

- Landscape Architecture Firm: 36%
- Architecture, Engineering or Multi-Disciplinary Firm: 23%
- Design Builder: 6%
- Local Government: 6%
- State Government: 5%
- Other Private Sector Organization: 3%
- Retired: 4%
- Unknown: 2%
- Academic Institution: 3%
- Corporate: 1%
- Student: 13%
- Federal Government: 0.5%
- Private Non Profit: 1%
- Other Private Sector: 0.5%
- State Government: 0.5%
- Supplier/Manufacturer: 0.5%
- Campus Planning Office: 0.5%
- Corporate Member: 1%
THE PROFESSION

Among the types of projects they produce are:

- Academic campuses
- Conservation
- Corporate and commercial
- Gardens and arboretas
- Green infrastructure
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Land planning
- Landscape art
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Stormwater management
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors
- Urban design

EDUCATION

There are two undergraduate professional degrees. These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).

There are two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

- The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for those who hold an undergraduate degree in a field other than landscape architecture and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who do not have an undergraduate degree.

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture for persons who want to conduct research in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals, programs by schools that are candidates for accreditation, and certificate programs.

LICENSURE

There are two different types of licensure laws:

- States with practice acts (47) require a license to practice landscape architecture.
- States with title acts (3) allow anyone to practice landscape architecture, regardless of their qualifications, but only those with a license may use the title “landscape architect” or advertise for “landscape architectural” services.

Each state sets its own requirements for licensure, but all require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE.

The growing popularity of landscape architecture is understandable. Where else could consecutive job assignments find you planning a site for corporate office buildings, then have you managing a large wilderness area, and next creating public parks that won’t interfere with the natural environment?”

The Princeton Review