

Mirroring the Nation: Landscape Architecture and the Future of the Profession

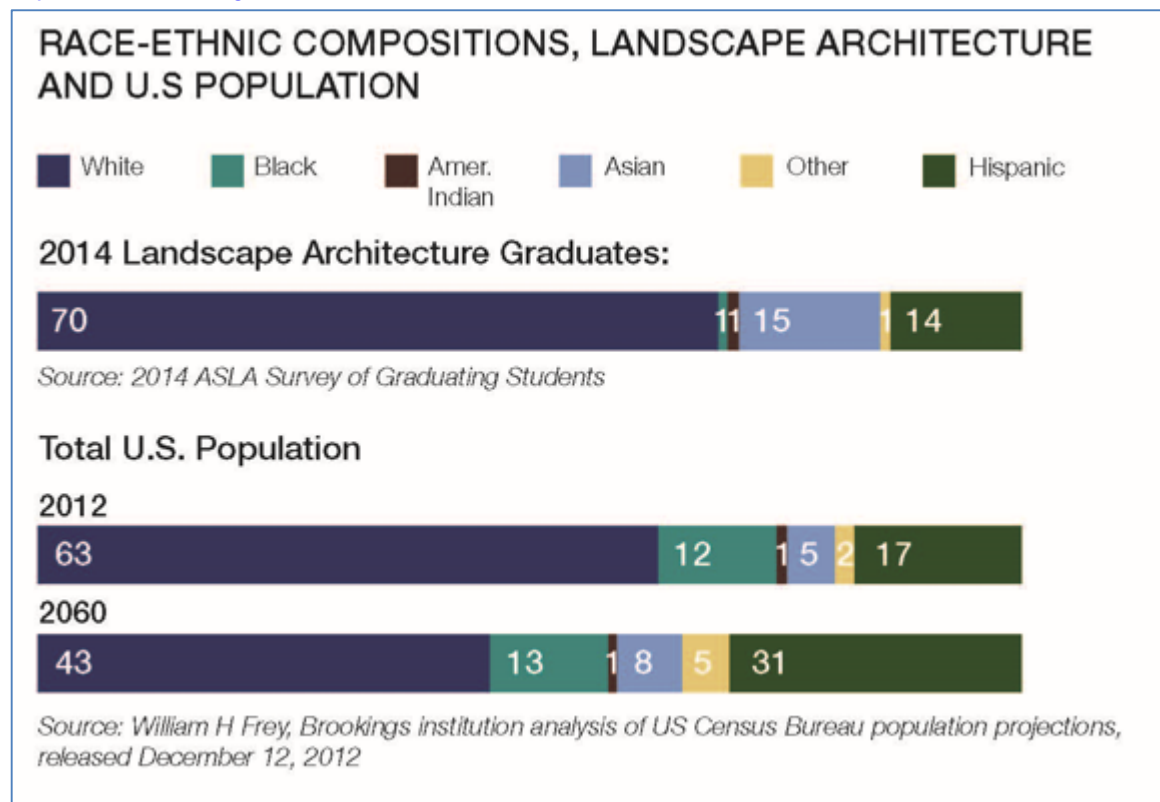
The face of the nation is changing, and changing fast. The growth of the minority populations in America's profile has outpaced that of white Americans for the past two decades, and by 2043 the U.S. is expected to become a majority-minority nation.* However, this diversity is not mirrored in the landscape architecture profession. The continued underrepresentation of minorities among students in landscape architecture programs** is of particular concern, since these individuals are the future of the profession.

For landscape architecture to remain a relevant and responsive profession, it must reflect the communities it serves. Greater diversity in the profession will bring new perspectives to its education and practice that increase social equity, creative potential, and profession/community connections.

The undersigned organizations hereby make a commitment to increase resources and actions that recruit minority students to landscape architecture programs and help mentor graduates through licensure and their careers. Further, we agree to strive to achieve a profile for the profession that over the next 10 years achieves at least parity with 2012 population-share estimates while working towards the longer-term goal of parity with 2060 projections for the nation as a whole.

American Society of Landscape Architects
 Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards
 Landscape Architecture Foundation
 Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board
 Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau projections for the 2012-2060 period, based on the 2010 Census.
<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/>.



January 2015

*** After years of stagnation, there was a significant shift in the profile of the 2014 graduating class. While 70 percent indicated they are Caucasian, this number is a considerable drop from 84 percent in 2013 and 82 percent in 2012. The percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander students increased to 15 percent, up from 12 percent in 2013 and 8 percent in 2012. Also, the number of Hispanic students increased to 14 percent, up from 6 percent in 2013 and just 4 percent in 2014. The percent of African American graduating students remained consistent with previous years at 1-2 percent. What is not known at this point is the number of graduating students who are from other countries and thus may be skewing the data. Anecdotally, schools report growing numbers of overseas students who return to their home countries at graduation.*