Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, ASLA
Professor and Director, Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture
Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: KNOWLEDGE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the ASLA New York Chapter, it is my privilege to nominate Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary

Catherine Seavitt Nordenson has contributed new knowledge to the academy and the profession of landscape architecture for over two decades. She is widely recognized as a valued educator, innovative researcher, and inspired advocate for expanding the influence and scope of the landscape architectural profession. Her research on design adaptation to sea level rise in urban coastal environments, as well as novel landscape restoration practices given the dynamics of climate change, has made a significant impact on the design fields. Her many books, essays, and journal publications present her brilliant explorations of political power, environmental activism, and public health, particularly as these intersect with the design of equitable public space.

Catherine's focus in both her teaching and practice is on the transdisciplinary integration of public space, policy, and the design of infrastructure. She holds professional licenses from the State of New York in both Landscape Architecture and Architecture, and is the design principal of Catherine Seavitt Studio. She has been teaching for over twenty years, and is currently Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York. Since 1847, City College has provided a high-quality and affordable public education to generations of diverse New Yorkers. The college is a Hispanic-Serving Institution, and is home to the only public school of architecture in New York City—and the only school in the city to offer an accredited landscape architecture degree. In keeping with the historic vision of the College, Catherine has defined the mission of the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program—founded by M. Paul Friedberg in 1972—by emphasizing the critical role that the profession of landscape architecture plays in connecting environmental, social, and multi-species justice to the equitable design of public space. Her program celebrates its visionary and activist graduate students, preparing them not only to influence the design of landscapes in the public realm, but also to bring a rich diversity of vision to the profession itself.

I strongly support Catherine Seavitt Nordenson's elevation to the Council of Fellows, given both her outstanding research and publication track record and her longstanding commitment to professional and teaching excellence. Catherine's groundbreaking research and design practice related to climate change adaptation in urban coastal environments, as well her studies of political power and environmental activism in the profession of landscape architecture, have only increased my admiration for the depth and innovation of her work.

Michael van Valkenburgh, FASLA
Principal, Michael van Valkenburgh and Associates, Inc.
Professor Emeritus, Harvard Graduate School of Design
Exceptional Accomplishments in Scholarship and Research

Catherine Seavitt Nordenson has contributed significant new knowledge to the discipline of landscape architecture as both an academic and a research practitioner. Catherine’s first book, co-authored with Guy Nordenson and Adam Yarinsky, *On the Water: Palisade Bay* (Hatje Cantz, 2010), explored the risks and responses to future sea level rise and coastal flooding from storm surge at the Upper Harbor of New York and New Jersey. Catherine foregrounded the role of natural systems and the design of “soft” or nature-based landscape infrastructure as an alternative to the traditional hard-engineered solutions of coastal seawalls and surge barriers. *On the Water: Palisade Bay* served as the foundation of the innovative 2010 workshop and exhibition “Rising Currents: Projects for New York’s Waterfront” at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. The work for Palisade Bay and ongoing collaborative research on the Mississippi River Delta’s wetland restoration strategies was exhibited at the 12th International Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy in 2010.

Catherine’s research and these two exhibitions were prescient, timely, and influential—within two years, both Hurricane Irene (August 2011) and Hurricane Sandy (October 2012) made landfall along the north Atlantic seaboard, massively impacting New York City. The proposals of Palisade Bay and Rising Currents presented ecologically-sound alternatives to the engineered response of sea walls and storm surge barriers. City, state, and federal agencies, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers, expressed interest in this paradigm shift. New waterfront design guidelines from the NYC Department of City Planning and Mayor Bloomberg’s 2013 post-Sandy report, the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR), drew directly from Catherine’s proposals in *On the Water*, with her emphasis on the benefits of a multi-layered approach to storm protection and coastal resiliency that included natural and nature-based landscape systems.

Hurricane Sandy brought new opportunities for design research. With her City College colleague Denise Hoffman Brandt, Catherine co-edited the book *Waterproofing New York* (Urban Research Press, 2016), a compilation of essays that emerged from a post-Hurricane Sandy conference held in 2013 at the college, exploring systems-based strategic design thinking for New York City. In addition, Catherine received a remarkable two-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation

Kate Orff, FASLA
Founding Principal, SCAPE
Professor and Director, Urban Design Program, Columbia University GSAAP
Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, ASLA

Book Chapters


for 2013–2015, for landscape-based research to be executed in parallel with the US Army Corps of Engineers’ North Atlantic Division as they developed a comprehensive report on the regional impacts of Hurricane Sandy. This unprecedented grant, “Structures of Coastal Resilience,” was awarded to four academic institutions across the region. As principal investigator for the City College of New York, Catherine and her team of recent MLA graduates developed novel resilience proposals for Jamaica Bay, New York, foregrounding the importance of natural systems and ecological health. Her findings and design proposals for Jamaica Bay have been vastly influential, appearing in USACE’s North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study in 2015 and the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in 2017. The Jamaica Bay project and its proposal for “atoll terraces” for salt marsh restoration was also featured on the May 2015 cover of Landscape Architecture Magazine.

The impacts of the landfalls of Hurricane Harvey (August 2017) at Houston, Texas and Hurricane Maria (September 2017) at Puerto Rico revealed entrenched environmental racism and brought climate justice issues to the fore. Catherine’s subsequent book Structures of Coastal Resilience (Island Press, 2018), co-authored with Guy Nordenson and Julia Chapman, addressed these justice issues while presenting a methodology of her coastal adaptation landscape design work developed over the previous ten years. Resilience and equity require social, environmental, and infrastructural advocacy along with visionary planning and design thinking at the regional scale. To pursue these issues at a larger scale, Catherine, together with Paul Lewis and Guy Nordenson, partnered with the Regional Plan Association (RPA) to develop a Design Initiative as part of the RPA’s 2017 Fourth Regional Plan for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The Design Initiative, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation in partnership with the RPA, worked with four design teams tasked with developing innovative design strategies for four corridors in the region. Catherine expanded the the regional notion of “corridor” to include transportation, ecology, access, and equity across the tri-State region.

She coordinated design teams to develop the Highlands Corridor, focusing on forest and watershed conservation, public health, and connectivity; and the Bight Corridor, addressing an exploration of sensitive ecological and equitable planning strategies for a resilient coast, including an examination of managed retreat for New York and New Jersey. The results of the design initiative were published in Four Corridors: Design Initiative for RPA’s Fourth Regional Plan (Hatje Cantz, 2019).
Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, ASLA

Catherine has also radically repositioned the role of landscape architects as significant participants in environmental advocacy, political power, and the design of public space through her scholarship. Her extensive research on the political advocacy of the modernist Latin American landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx (1909–1994) in support of environmental conservation in Brazil is particularly relevant today, given his role as a cultural advisor to the military regime in Brazil from 1967–1974. Her book Depositions: Roberto Burle Marx and Public Landscapes under Dictatorship (University of Texas Press, 2018) presents the first English translation of eighteen environmental position pieces that Burle Marx wrote for the journal Cultura, an imprint of the Brazilian Ministry of Education and Culture, while serving as an appointed member of the Federal Cultural Council created by the military dictatorship in the mid-1960s. Despite the inherent conflict and risk in working with the military regime, Burle Marx boldly used his position as counselor to advocate for the protection of the unique Brazilian landscape, becoming a prophetic voice of caution against the regime’s policies of development and resource exploitation. The book received the prestigious 2019 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize from the Foundation for Landscape Studies. Drawing from her years living in Brazil as a Fulbright scholar, Catherine continues to write on Burle Marx’s contributions to Amazon rainforest conservation efforts and his designs for the landscapes of social housing in Brazil, and is widely acknowledged as the preeminent expert on Burle Marx in the United States.

Advancing Education and the Profession

A highly regarded professor and the director of the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York, Catherine’s vision as a faculty member remains anchored in the commitment to serve the urban public realm. She has taught at many leading institutions, including Harvard University, Princeton University, and the Cooper Union, and has been a full-time faculty member at City College since 2011. She serves as the founding faculty editor of City College’s annual landscape architecture journal PLOT, a nationally awarded journal now in its tenth year of publication. Her students have won twelve national and international student awards, including three ASLA National Honor Awards. Catherine highlights the essential role that landscape architecture plays in connecting social justice and equity to environmental design. She is an inspirational mentor to her City College students, and champions this next generation of activist landscape architects.
Catherine Seavitt Nordenson, ASLA

Influence on the Profession and the Public

Catherine’s research and publications on coastal resilience have had significant influence on municipal, state, and federal policy makers, including the City of New York, the Regional Plan Association, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Catherine is highly respected internationally as a critical writer and thinker, given her research and writing on the political influence of the landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, the current state of Amazon deforestation, and Latin American architecture in relationship to the landscape. Her writing has been published in many international journals, including *The Architectural Review*, *Journal of Landscape Architecture*, and *TOPOS*, as well as the American journals *Architectural Record*, *Artforum*, *Avery Review*, *Harvard Design Magazine*, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *LA+*, and *Platform*. Catherine’s work has also reached a broad general public, with exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New-York Historical Society, and the Venice Architecture Biennale. She has delivered more than 90 invited lectures to universities and organizations in North America, South America, and Europe. Catherine has participated in over 40 symposia and conferences, not only with the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, but also with the Society of Architectural Historians, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, the American Planning Association, the Latin American Studies Association, the American Water Resources Association, and the Society for Ecological Restoration, increasing the knowledge and awareness of landscape architecture across the disciplines of engineering, urban design, and the humanities. In all of her work, the role of innovation, activism, and design led by the profession of landscape architecture has taken center stage.

New York Chapter Statement of Support

Catherine Seavitt Nordenson is a groundbreaking visionary whose efforts have changed our profession and the allied disciplines in their approach. Her research and findings in coastal resilience have fundamentally transformed the possibilities of shoreline stabilization, offering the alternative of creating ecologically sensitive environments in place of hardened structures. Catherine is beloved by her students and all those who collaborate with her. An inspirational leader and mentor, Catherine has fundamentally added to our collective knowledge on a local, national, and international scale with her research in cultural studies and coastal ecological landscape design. On behalf of the ASLA New York Chapter Executive Committee, it is with great honor that we submit this nomination of Catherine Seavitt Nordenson as an exemplary candidate for elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Moskalenko, RLA, ASLA, WEDG, ISA
President, ASLA New York Chapter

Jennifer Nitzky, RLA, ASLA, ISA
Nominating Committee Chair, ASLA New York Chapter Executive Committee
Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA
Co-founder / Principal, PUSH studio, LLC

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Knowledge

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Potomac Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary:

Glenn LaRue Smith has pushed the boundaries of design knowledge and social equity for four decades in the public, private, and academic professional realms. He has advanced this design and social equity work through projects in underserved urban communities in both private and public practice. As an academic he has ensured that this knowledge filtered into teaching students by exposing them to service-learning projects within urban communities of color in need of design and planning assistance. Smith’s deep commitment to environmental and social justice has been a consistent hallmark of his career and sustained his work in communities of color and the mentorship of a generation of black landscape architects, making deep impacts on the practice and expanding knowledge of the profession. In his design and research methodology teaching, Smith integrated design as well as the environmental and social ethic to shape students who possess a holistic knowledge of the profession.

Pioneering a design process that embodies the concepts of spontaneity and symbolism, Smith has instructed and inspired students, emerging professional mentees, and other professionals in a methodology that reveals the uniqueness of each site and social context. While teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, Smith has advanced this knowledge through the intersection of architecture and landscape architecture to promote an understanding of community-based urbanism as a creative and social endeavor.

Recognized as an urbanism expert, his 50-plus invited lectures, panels, and competition juries have allowed Glenn to significantly contribute discourse about landscape design as an artistic, environmental, and cultural profession to allied professions such as architecture and planning, as well as within the public practice realm. In each of his teaching assignments, within Schools of Architecture, Glenn has worked to bridge the disciplines of architecture and landscape architecture by embracing the message of collaboration within the same environmental and social framework for creating sound and responsible designs.

Glenn is deeply committed to social justice and the advancement of equitable landscapes that serve all people. His work to increase the number of Black landscape architects in the profession is an effort to equalize environmental and design knowledge and services within underserved communities of color. He works collaboratively with ASLA and other allied organizations to increase the reach and effectiveness of these important efforts. He continues to mentor students and emerging professionals of color to actively ensure more diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession.

Glenn’s insightful and impactful work energizes the intersection of landscape architecture, urban planning, and architecture, as a practitioner, discipline leader, and educator. Whether in a charrette envisioning daylighting the creek at the heart of a downtown, leading a forum on Environmental Justice, critiquing a landscape architecture/architecture studio, or heading a county redevelopment authority, he has powerfully demonstrated that urban design calls for knowledge and sensitivity to the larger systems of built, natural, and social environments.

Raymond W. Gastil
AICP LEED AP ND
Director, Remaking Cities Institute, Carnegie Mellon University
Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA

Exceptional Accomplishments and Contributions to Landscape Architecture Education

Smith has been a significant creative leader as Director and Chair of graduate landscape architecture programs at the only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) housing MLA programs: Florida A & M University (FAMU) - Tallahassee, Florida (program now closed) and Morgan State University (MSU)-Baltimore, Maryland. As the first Director of a new program at FAMU, Smith was instrumental in developing curriculum and integrating introductory design courses into existing architecture design courses. This was instrumental in expanding the knowledge of landscape architecture among architecture students and faculty and consistent with his contributions to advancing the broader knowledge of landscape architecture as a spatial profession. While getting the program off the ground, Smith established a lecture series and connected students to community-based charrettes and projects in Sarasota and Tallahassee, Florida. The Sarasota community charrette involved an interdisciplinary team of local architects with landscape architecture and architecture students exploring fresh ideas for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard corridor within a historically Black neighborhood. He guided the students in their streetscape and urban infill schemes for the MLK corridor. Glenn significantly contributed to ensuring the future of the FAMU program by producing a comprehensive Self-Evaluation report that provided the foundation for the program’s LAAB accreditation in 2005.

As Chairman of the MSU landscape architecture department, Smith was instrumental in guiding the program to full accreditation in 2009. He worked on reframing the curriculum; realigning course times to accommodate a working student body; establishing yearly symposia (Landscape Architecture Month Symposium); and cross-listing the Design and Human Behavior course with the architecture program to expand the knowledge of landscape architecture within the school. Four (4) grants were awarded under Glenn’s leadership based on student learning projects and competitions within Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland communities of color. This teaching and studio work yielded publications that transformed the reputation and visibility of MSU, including a feature article in Landscape Architecture Magazine, December 2009.

His commitment to Diversity/Equity/Inclusion has been demonstrated based on his hiring of a Black female tenure track faculty member, Diane Jones Allen, and three Black adjunct faculty members, Garry Meus, George Hill and Linda Mott, during his tenure as department Chair at MSU. These diversity efforts greatly expanded the Black graduate student population from an average of one student every two to three years to one each year during his chairmanship. While at MSU, Smith supervised over 20 graduate thesis projects, initiated, and mentored three (3) students in winning Landscape Architecture Foundation Olmsted Awards. At least four of the Black graduates have moved on to positions in private and public practice in Maryland and beyond.

As a professor at the University of Michigan, his 1991 Once and Future Park Competition award enabled him to work with University of Michigan graduate students to further the spontaneity and symbolic system of design exploration by crafting a competition entry.
Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA

utilizing the Woodward Avenue corridor in Detroit as a test case. As a result, his students have advanced into the profession with a focused theoretical and practical understanding of how to create provocative landscape form that speaks to the special nature of each site and client. He continues to work collaboratively with allied professionals and organizations, such as the Urban Land Institute, the Lambda Alpha Honorary Society, and the Urban Design Forum, to advance knowledge of the profession of landscape architecture.

In all his teaching positions, Glenn has elevated the creative process of design learning through his innovative application of spontaneity and symbolism as a critical thinking process. His adaptation of sculptural art ideas and iconography into a process of recording spontaneous ideas through coded graphics has yielded great student success. His former research assistant and design studio student at the University of Michigan, Patricia McGirr, is an example of how his design teaching process has fostered a new generation of academics. Patricia has utilized and expanded Glenn’s approach in her teaching at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and excelled to the position of Associate Department Head and Undergraduate Program Head. Other black students who have been influenced by Smith and moved on to teaching include Ramon Murray at the University of Florida and Ian Grandison at the University of Virginia.

Expanding Mentorship and Visibility of Black Landscape Architects

In 2012 Smith founded the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN), an internet-based communication network housed on the LinkedIn platform. The network has helped Black landscape architecture students and professionals, numbering less than 2% of landscape architects nationally, meet and network around common issues. The global group has grown to 175 members in the United States and 19 members in Canada and Africa. In 2020 the group was incorporated as a non-profit service organization also under Smith’s leadership. He serves as President of the Board of Directors, working to support Black students through scholarships and access to other financial and mentorship resources.

In 2018 Smith expanded the group to collaborate with ASLA National and other allied professional groups; established luncheons and open session presentations at ASLA conferences; and continues to establish other service goals that expand the knowledge of landscape architects in communities of color. The BlackLAN has assisted the ASLA National address contemporary cultural issues of race and diversity. Glenn has become a key spokesperson and advisor, working with ASLA National to significantly increase the number of Black landscape architects in the profession. May 2020 was the launch of the first BlackLAN Newsletter under Smith’s editorship. This is the first time in the history of landscape architecture that such an effort has been undertaken, providing a platform for increased visibility of Black landscape architects in the United States. The BlackLAN has also conducted a series of Webinars to mentor and assist students who often exist as the only Black student within their programs around the country. Glenn has mentored over 30 Black landscape architects during his career and is currently mentoring 10 students and emerging professionals on issues that range from thesis projects to office team dynamics. The list of Black landscape architects mentored by Smith include Kofi Boone (a tenured faculty member / NC State); Diane Jones Allen, FASLA, (the only Black female LA program director); Ian Grandison (a tenured faculty

As Chair of the MLA program at Morgan State University, Glenn was not only a leader, but a mentor to all junior faculty, providing institutional knowledge and in-depth research guidance, while holding faculty to high standards, which he met and exemplified daily. He led several groundbreaking projects with students, including the Envisioning Annapolis competition. He helped students, especially those new to design thinking, grasp and shape concepts and form through a unique process of visualization.

Diane Jones Allen, D. Eng. FASLA
Director of Landscape Architecture
University of Texas, Arlington

As Chair of the MLA program at Morgan State University, Glenn was not only a leader, but a mentor to all junior faculty, providing institutional knowledge and in-depth research guidance, while holding faculty to high standards, which he met and exemplified daily. He led several groundbreaking projects with students, including the Envisioning Annapolis competition. He helped students, especially those new to design thinking, grasp and shape concepts and form through a unique process of visualization.

Diane Jones Allen, D.Eng. FASLA
Director of Landscape Architecture
University of Texas, Arlington
Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA

Member - UVA); Ramon Murray (founder of a private practice); Garry Meus (a planner in Canada); Peter Nabagoyo (parks and recreation practitioner); and Maisie Hughes (co-founder of Urban Studio). All these Black landscape architects were Smith’s students or colleagues who have gone on to lead accomplished careers in landscape architecture. Smith’s accomplishments have been highlighted in an article within Mississippi State’s School of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Newsletter - Influence 2018. Acknowledgment of his role as founder of the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN) and his career has also been highlighted in the University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) Newsletter, November 17.2020. These publications acknowledge Glenn’s career of significant contributions and commitment to expanding knowledge of the profession. The Architectural Record August 2020 issue presented an interview with Smith regarding his work as founder of BlackLAN and his environmental justice work in landscape architecture. Glenn’s crucial work in environmental justice contributed to his Loeb Fellowship award, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 1996-1997, and he became the first Black landscape architect to receive this honor. His work in Harlem, New York on environmental issues was the focus of his Loeb Fellowship application and study during his one-year residency at Harvard. All of these accomplishments have not only contributed substantially to the visibility of Black landscape architects within the profession, but they also have elevated the work of landscape architecture as a profession in high demand and importance. At the same time, Smith’s accomplishments have served as an example for his former students and current mentees.

Influence on the Profession - Teaching and Scholarship

Glenn’s scholarship contributions have been highlighted in over 28 periodical articles and book reviews. He has explored conceptual thinking through the lens of the arts. His study of and writings on the sculptor Isamu Noguchi and modes of art history interpretation/ ideology have provided the vehicles by which he has crafted a unique process of design thinking and teaching. His publications have centered around the idea of landscapes as art settings that elevate the human experience. In turn, this scholarship helped to build a teaching methodology that is now utilized by his former students in practice and teaching. Smith also continues to refine and utilize this art-based creative technique within his professional practice. His concrete background in practice prior to becoming an academic empowers him to infuse the practical and real-world into all aspects of teaching, providing students with a comprehensive experience and view of landscape as an art and a science. The human factor was never far from Smith’s teaching, providing students with a strong sense of their responsibility to those less fortunate. This practice-oriented teaching ensured that his students gained community-based experiences within his design studios with a particular focus on underserved communities of color. This community-based academic work was always documented in invited lectures and periodicals, adding significantly to the advancement of landscape architecture knowledge as an educational tool within communities of color. Smith’s work in the area of environmental justice, working with students and urban communities, has been awarded with grants and yielded symposia and publications that have benefited his students and the knowledge of the profession within communities of color. In 1996 Smith’s environmental

Emphasizing symbolic idea sketching, Glenn encouraged students to explore spontaneously without fear. As a former MLA student and research assistant of Glenn’s, I have taken those lessons into my design studio as a professor. Glenn was significantly influential as a Landscape Architecture faculty at the University of Michigan, because he brought a treasure trove of real-world design experience, along with a strong design imagination. He has influenced a new generation of creative critical thinkers.

Patricia McGirr
Associate Department Head
Undergraduate Program
Director
Associate Professor - University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Glenn LaRue Smith, ASLA

Justice study and work yielded a 1997 symposium at the GSD titled “Environmental Justice is,” followed by a publication. His participation on competition panels, multi-disciplinary community charrettes, scholarly panels, and his writings on creative process have expanded the knowledge and breadth of landscape architecture practice within the urban environment as well, specifically within urban communities. This work is supported by over 100 publications, reviews of his work, book reviews, and invited lectures. His “The Once and Future Parks Competition,” award in 1990, helped create a provocative urban dialogue centered around urban street parks along Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan. As one of seven midwestern landscape architects selected for this futuristic visioning of parks was accomplished while teaching at the University of Michigan. As one of seven midwestern landscape designers to win this award, his competition was exhibited at the Minneapolis School of Art and Design Museum.

Smith’s work in environmental justice within the Harlem community, while at the City College of New York, was awarded grants from the Van Alen Institute and the Graham Foundation to produce a seminar course, publication, and exhibit at the Van Alen Institute. This one project had a significant impact on over 20 students who participated in the seminar and community charrettes. The publication titled “Environmental Justice: Community, Open Space, Empowerment Solutions for the Inner City” was presented during a 1996 exhibition at the Van Alen Institute, New York. He continues to deliver lectures and participate on student design juries, serve on ASLA Committees, and contribute to organizational and community charrettes, in the service of advancing the knowledge and importance of landscape architecture design.

Summary by Chapter President:

Glenn LaRue Smith has advanced the knowledge of landscape architecture in the areas of teaching and practice at the intersection of architecture and landscape architecture for forty years. He has transferred his passion for extracting the unique quality of each site to a generation of young professionals, expanding the environmental and social knowledge of the profession. This work contributes to the new historical and cultural work within the profession that recognizes the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in all professional work. His founding of the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN) has created a positive dialogue and recognition in the profession relative to the need for diversity within its ranks.

Glenn continues to mentor students and young professionals, actively work with ASLA National on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, and serves on professional award and competition juries with allied professions. His commitment to community-based projects remains an essential area of practice and his work involving the history of Black landscape architects fills the knowledge void within the profession. Because of his passion and accomplishments, it is a great honor to submit the nomination of Glenn LaRue Smith, on behalf of the Potomac Chapter, to be considered for elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows. His selection by ASLA National as one of four 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipients is further evidence of Smith’s commitment to landscape architecture.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Matthew Johnston, ASLA
President, Potomac Chapter ASLA
Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA

Alumni Distinguished Professor Emerita, Clemson University

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: Knowledge

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Chapter, it is my great privilege to nominate Professor Emerita Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary: Over an academic career spanning 32 years, Professor Mary Haque has been a leader in promoting sustainable landscape architecture through interdisciplinary partnerships and integrating student experiences that promote education beyond classroom walls, thereby creating effective practitioners of the profession of landscape architecture. Mary’s impact on her profession is not only through her numerous publications and presentations at local, national, and international forums, but also through the students she has inspired. Mary’s teaching has been grounded in the conviction that producing students who can think critically, communicate effectively, and develop professionally requires engagement with the world beyond campus. In Mary’s classes, students grappled with real problems and provided solutions that stood the scrutiny of their peers and the profession that they aspired to be a part of. Students coming out of her classes learned not only the methodology of the discipline, but also the ability to synthesize, think creatively and systemically, and how to work together with their peers and clients.

In the course of her career, Mary has taught thousands of students, many of whom went on to very successful careers in the field. Her expertise in teaching led her to work closely with the #1 nationally ranked Communication Across the Curriculum Program at Clemson University in its formative years. She was recognized by Time magazine as one of the major contributors in its article on the program. Her unique approach to teaching garnered her many local and national awards including the prestigious 1993 South Carolina Governor’s Professor of the Year Award, given to one individual that best exemplifies excellence in teaching and student advising from four-year institutions of higher learning throughout SC. From universities nationwide, she was selected for the 1988 Outstanding Undergraduate Educator Award, a national lifetime achievement award given by the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS).

Mary has significantly impacted the profession through actively disseminating the results of her teaching, research, and public service through 12 books and book chapters, 52 publications in refereed journals, 8 conference proceedings and 35 popular press articles. She and her collaborators have given over 90 professional society presentations and have designed over 250 projects in communities across South Carolina, including residences, businesses,

During my time at Clemson University, I never met anyone more talented and passionate about her profession than Professor Mary Haque. She pursued every role with enthusiasm and an expectation of excellence. As an exceptional scholar, mentor, and transformative teacher, Professor Haque was adored by her many students. Mary is a gifted speaker, a well-known author and a major role in naming and building the State Botanical Garden by volunteering her time and expertise.

John Kelly, President, Florida Atlantic University

Former Vice President, Clemson University
Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA

institutions, recreational facilities, urban restoration related projects, and municipalities. She has improved the standing of the profession of landscape architecture in the eyes of the public through the attention that her publications have garnered and through the projects themselves. Her work has been featured in 45 articles in magazines, newspapers, videos, and television segments, bringing visibility to the profession of landscape architecture and disseminating knowledge to diverse audiences.

Exceptional accomplishments sustained over an extended period of time.

Professor Mary Haque has been recognized as an outstanding educator throughout her three decades of teaching landscape architecture at Clemson University. She has taught over 16 different undergraduate and graduate courses and thousands of students. Her unique approach to teaching has been a hallmark of her career. She introduced her students to the world beyond classroom walls by bringing together service learning, communication, systemic thinking, and the principles that define the methodology of the profession. She encouraged students to participate in professional society student competitions to practice critical thinking, independent research, public speaking, scholarship, and professional development.

Committed to advancing education and the profession of landscape architecture, Mary was one of five leaders that established the Landscape Architecture Department in the School of Architecture at Clemson. She contributed to the development of the curriculum through service on the curriculum committee for the new program. With expertise in planting design and a strong interest in art, science, and interdisciplinary partnerships, she taught landscape architecture and horticulture classes through the Horticulture Department, and her courses were required for all students majoring in landscape architecture. She supervised over 60 undergraduate students on independent study and creative inquiry projects during her career. Students shared their work at regional, national, and international levels to receive feedback from a diverse audience of students, professors, critics and judges from universities and colleges across the country. Subsequently, 29 students won top regional and national awards from organizations including the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) and ASHS for their work with Mary. Mary herself received multiple awards including 12 for outstanding teaching and advising from Clemson University, the prestigious state and national awards mentioned above, and the 2002 Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology presented at the 13th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning.

Mary served as advisor and assistant advisor to student clubs and led field trips to landscape architecture firms and to nationally prominent sites. To attain funding for student travel and for her wide variety of

Mary is an outstanding educator and researcher. As a devoted professor, she positively influenced thousands of students. As a researcher, she published numerous books and articles on a range of topics: plants, energy efficiency, conservation, and designing for children. Mary received numerous accolades including the SC Governor’s Professor Award. I am proud to attest she has promoted the importance of landscape architecture through a vast body of knowledge that she has contributed to the field.

Lolly Tai, PhD, RLA, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture
Temple University


Selected from 8 Proceedings

Tai, Lolly; and Mary Haque. "Figure/Ground: Educational and design outreach to elementary students through an experiential service learning model." CELA 2002: Groundwork Conference Program and Abstracts. 2002. Pps. 37-38


Selected from 35 Press Articles:
Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA

research, public service, design and implementation projects, Mary actively sought out funding through grant writing and forming public-private partnerships. She worked as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on 42 grants totaling $657,200.

Mary became known as a “teacher of teachers” in higher education and was invited to lead many faculty workshops on teaching pedagogy. She was a member of the planning committee for the 4th Annual International Conference on Service Learning Research in 2004 and was nationally recognized as a John Glen Scholar in Service Learning for her work teaching faculty across disciplines how to incorporate service learning into their curriculums.

As an educator, researcher, public servant, and scholar, Mary and her colleagues and students were active promoting sustainable landscape architecture through books including Landscape Design for Energy Efficiency, Xeriscape-Landscape Water Conservation for the Southeast, and Designing Outdoor Environments for Children: Landscaping School Yards, Gardens, and Playgrounds, published by McGraw-Hill in 2006. These books earned ASLA and ASHS awards for outstanding communication. Mary and her co-authors have been invited to lecture extensively on these and other topics at conferences including EDRA, CELA, and ASLA chapters, industry, professional, civic, and higher education groups, further advancing education and the profession.

Influence on the profession and on the public’s knowledge base of landscape architecture.

Mary’s numerous awards (35) testify to the quality of her contributions to the body of knowledge in landscape architecture through publications, presentations, research, teaching, and service. The five awards from ASLA speak to the influence her accomplishments have had on the profession, and the other 30, from a wide variety of institutions, speak to the positive visibility and public recognition of landscape architecture that she has brought to other organizations and to the public nationwide.

Mary has expanded the public’s knowledge base of landscape architecture to include young audiences by choosing to work extensively with K-12 schools. Children of all ages are thrilled to work with college students to design their school grounds, and they became invested in their space by enthusiastically contributing their own drawings and writings. Teachers, administrators, and volunteers were also invited to participate in the design process, so many clients of all ages were introduced to and engaged with landscape architecture students and faculty. Many of these projects are featured in Designing Outdoor Environments for Children, which has been published in English and Italian and reaches international audiences.
Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA

A disciple of the philosophy "think globally, act locally", Mary has endeavored to impact the profession and community through work on local projects combined with broad dissemination of knowledge through publications, teaching, and speaking engagements. The following project illustrates how Mary translates this philosophy into action.

When volunteering on Habitat for Humanity teams, Mary observed that local affordable housing projects focused only on constructing homes, and in the process, were eliminating wildlife habitat, grading without thought to stormwater runoff or erosion, and bulldozing existing trees that could have been saved for climate control, wildlife food, shelter, and aesthetic purposes. She and her local partners, colleagues, and students began working to spearhead landscape architectural solutions to the many problems that were being created. After several years of designing successful local projects which included teaching volunteers how to embody the concepts of sustainable site design and teaching new homeowners how to become environmental stewards, a nationwide demand for these services began to grow. In response to demand, Mary formed interdisciplinary partnerships with the National Wildlife Federation, Habitat for Humanity International, the Sustainable Universities Initiative, the USDA Forest Service and the Pew Charitable Trust, which enabled Mary and her students and colleagues to research, write, and distribute a book entitled Tree Conservation and Home Site Development Guide, which was published by the National Wildlife Federation and distributed to all of the Habitat for Humanity Affiliates nationwide. As the lead author, Mary's goal was to have a "toolbox" of sustainable landscape architecture techniques and principles available to the more than 2 million Habitat volunteers per year. With this publication, volunteer teams from all socioeconomic backgrounds nationwide are empowered to work together to create better habitat for both people and wildlife.

Mary has been an influence of knowledge to future landscape architects for FOUR decades! She taught hundreds in the classroom and countless more through her writings. I include her among those influences that directed me to BOTH professions that I love and practice...landscape architecture and teaching! Many more point to Mary as their inspiration, as well. Her writings are as relevant today as when published, ranging from water conservation to outdoor environments for children.

David L. Lycke, FASLA, Vice President, PMB/PLaCE Studios
ASLA Vice President, Finance, 2012-2014

Service in the interest of advancing education and the profession.

While on sabbatical from Clemson University and serving as a visiting professor at the Technical University in Munich, Germany, Mary invited three students, whom were already studying abroad in Genoa, Italy, to join her for a landscape architecture workshop at the school. While there, Mary hosted them, toured the City with them and signed them up for the workshop, all along never missing an opportunity to teach and enlighten these students. They were the only Americans attending this conference of hundreds of international students. In addition to their participation in the workshop, presentation to both peers and faculty, the students also spent time with a local family, furthering their experience in the rich German culture. Mary’s service and dedication to the education of her students and colleagues has been invaluable.
Mary Taylor Haque, ASLA

students is on full display in this story. These three individuals are better landscape architects today because of her boundless efforts to educate. This is but one of many reasons that she has been awarded the Alumni Distinguished Professorship and the Clemson Board of Trustees Award for Faculty Excellence for her work in advancing education.

Working to advance the profession, Mary has served on the S.C. State Landscape Architects Advisory Council, chaired SCASLA committees, and was a grader for ASLA licensing exams during the 1980’s. She served as vice-chairperson, Design Control Commission for the City of Clemson and on their Waterfront Park Committee. At Clemson University, apart from her service on committees related to peer and tenure reviews and faculty searches, she has served on Art in Public Places, Teaching Resources and Effectiveness, Landscape and Site Development, and Environmental Committees. To advance the educational mission, she has served on multiple national committees relating to teaching, including the NACTA Book Review Board Publications Committee; Journal Awards Committee; and Instructional Media Review Board of the Publications Committee. Mary has also served as a book reviewer for AVI Publishing Company, the University of NC Press and NACTA Journal.

Mary has had the honor of serving on boards including The Clemson University (CU) Emeritus College Board, The CU Center for Visual Arts Board and the CU Botanical Garden Cultural Programs Advisory Board. She is currently serving on the Board of Upstate Forever (2013-present), a nonprofit conservation organization that protects critical lands, waters, and the unique character of a ten county region of Upstate South Carolina. In board meetings, she is a passionate advocate for the use of sustainable landscape architecture, active living, and low-impact development principles.

Summary

Mary Haque has been widely recognized for her exceptional accomplishments sustained over an extended period of time. She has influenced the profession and the public’s knowledge base of landscape architecture while advancing both education and the profession. Mary has been committed to the advancement of the profession for over 30 years of teaching and is still extraordinarily active today. Everything she has done, created and accomplished has been for the betterment of the profession of landscape architecture and the success of the many professionals that she has touched. Her approach to teaching has always been based in “real life”. She often brought her students and those who can benefit from our professional expertise together. A combination that enlightened and benefited both parties beyond their comprehension.

In addition to her countless hours in the classroom, her many publications on critical subjects such as water conservation and new insights to a child’s play environment, Mary was instrumental in the creation of the Landscape Architecture Program at Clemson University. This accomplishment alone has since touched hundreds of current and future professionals, myself included. She helped shape landscape architecture in South Carolina and well beyond, and for that we are in her debt. Therefore, on behalf of the South Carolina chapter, it is an honor for me to submit this nomination of Professor Mary Haque to be considered for elevation to the ASLA Council of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Clint Rigsby, ASLA
South Carolina Chapter , ASLA
Brian Katen, ASLA
Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture Program, Virginia Tech
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: KNOWLEDGE

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Chapter /ASLA/ ASLA Council of Fellows], it is my privilege to nominate Brian Katen, ASLA, for your consideration.

Executive Summary

For the past thirty-two years Brian Katen has practiced and taught with a deep commitment to place-based inquiry and a passion to honor local and regional cultural identity. His research and teaching challenge easy, first-readings of the landscape and reveal the complex, hidden cultural dimensions of our everyday public landscapes. Brian’s research on the diverse, and often invisible layers of Virginia’s cultural landscapes and the sites of memory of marginalized groups has been at the forefront of innovative recent place-based scholarship and has challenged the completeness of our traditional landscape histories. His nationally recognized groundbreaking research into the rich archives of Virginia’s Black Press has revealed important new perspectives focused upon Virginia’s segregation and Jim Crow-era landscapes and is providing students, the profession, and the people of the Commonwealth with significant new understandings of Virginia’s rich and varied landscapes and the profound and complex interconnections of people and place.

Central to Brian’s research is an inquiry into the landscape’s archival dimensions and those significant, place-specific physical and social landscapes neglected in contemporary scholarship. That research has focused upon both the materiality of memory embedded in Virginia’s everyday, vernacular, and ephemeral landscapes and upon the landscape’s second, parallel archive of stories, writings, photographs, oral histories, music, and art that capture a landscape in time and circumstance. Brian’s work has brought new and expanded understandings of the Virginia Landscape to a wide professional and public audience at critical time of reflection about the role of memory in our public landscapes and the cultural performance of those landscapes over time.

Brian’s teaching integrates his research on the landscape’s hidden dimensions and the cultural performance histories of sites to reveal the richness of the everyday landscape and its important place in the study of contemporary theory and practice. His research challenges students to sharpen their ability to bring a level of depth, critical thinking, and understanding to their professional work and the obligation to develop culturally informed, place-specific design interventions.

Sustained exceptional accomplishments

The hallmark of Brian’s career is exemplified by his creative expertise in documenting Virginia’s African American landscapes shaped by segregation...
Brian Katen, ASLA

and Jim Crow-era policies, laws, and social conventions. Brian’s research has identified significant new sources of evidence that allow us to both recognize and understand the Commonwealth’s oppressive, segregated landscape and to document the efforts of African American citizens to achieve equality in that landscape. Brian’s groundbreaking research in the region’s African American newspapers, including the Norfolk Journal and Guide, the Roanoke Tribune, the Richmond Planet, the Afro American, the Washington Bee, the Colored American, and the Peoples Advocate, has revealed important and hitherto hidden dimensions of Virginia’s civic and recreational landscapes created during this critical period of our nation’s history. In this important context, Brian’s on-going research on the genesis and evolution of Richmond’s civic landscape, has revealed important understandings of the role of the shared public realm in framing public debate and discourse, while his continued research on Virginia’s segregated landscapes has revealed a vital, statewide network of African American owned and developed recreational sites including parks, beaches, mineral springs, picnic grounds, fairgrounds, amusement parks, and camps - a second, undocumented segregation-era recreational landscape that had all but disappeared from our collective awareness. Collectively, Brian’s research, as demonstrated in his essay “Parks Apart: African American Recreational Landscapes in Virginia,” has challenged the completeness of both our state’s landscape history while providing important new understandings of the social, political, and cultural dimensions of our shared public landscapes.

Brian’s documentation of Virginia’s segregation and Jim Crow-era landscapes built upon two earlier studies focused upon state-wide cultural landscapes. The first study documented Virginia’s network of 19th century mineral springs as an early, healing landscape, where patients came to “take the waters,” and as one of America’s earliest tourist landscapes, a circuit where visitors could experience wild nature first-hand in the Virginia mountains. Brian’s research in the segregation-era Black Press has revealed a parallel network of springs that catered to African Americans, gathering places missing from the standard landscape histories. A particularly significant discovery was the African American ownership of Yellow Sulphur Springs in Montgomery County. Advertised as “America’s Greatest Colored Resort,” Yellow Sulphur’s hidden history demonstrated the incompleteness of our understanding of the history of the Virginia springs and has brought to light how that landscape was experienced by the state’s African American Citizens during the Jim Crow and segregation eras.

The second foundational study initiated by Brian is the Virginia Speedways Project, dedicated to documenting and understanding the Virginia speedways as a significant physical and social landscape neglected in contemporary scholarship. This ongoing, 15-year study has documented over 150 automobile racing sites throughout the Commonwealth. Brian’s extensive research has documented the Virginia speedways as a significant historical and contemporary layer of the Virginia landscape with active, energized social and recreational gathering places deeply rooted in their communities through strong family and regional ties. No organized archive existed for this network of racing sites and Brian’s was the first study to identify and gather the dispersed archive of


2008, “Troubling the Waters: Reflections on Memory, the Archive, and the African American Landscape of Virginia,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

2007, “Preserving Virginia’s African American Landscape Heritage,” presented at “America’s 400th Anniversary: Voices from within the Veil,” Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA


2008, “Troubling the Waters: Reflections on Memory, the Archive, and the African American Landscape of Virginia,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA


2008, “Troubling the Waters: Reflections on Memory, the Archive, and the African American Landscape of Virginia,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Brian Katen, ASLA

2007, “Preserving Virginia’s African American Landscape Heritage,” presented at “America’s 400th Anniversary: Voices from within the Veil,” Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

2012, “Early Racing and Speedways in Southwest Virginia,” presented as part of the “White Liquor and Dirt Tracks Symposium” at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, Mount Airy, NC.


PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES
2001-2002
Past-President
Virginia Chapter
ASLA

2000-2001
President, Virginia Chapter
ASLA

1999-2000
President-elect, Virginia Chapter
ASLA

EXPERIENCE
2015 – Present
Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture Program
Virginia Tech

Brian Katen, ASLA stories, photographs, advertising, and, most importantly, the personal archival collections of the Virginia drivers, speedway officials, race photographers, and racing fans. Through his research, Brian has collected thousands of period photographs and personal and public documents associated with Virginia's racing history and he is today recognized as the go-to resource for knowledge of Virginia’s auto racing sites and the state’s early racing circuits. Today, Brian is working with Virginia Tech’s Newman Library to digitize the assembled documentation for inclusion in an on-line, searchable data base of the Commonwealth’s auto racing landscape.

Influence on the Profession and the public’s knowledge base of Landscape Architecture

Brian has successfully brought new and expanded understandings of the Virginia Landscape to a wide professional and public audience. Presentations at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture have brought his work to the attention of his academic peers and Brian has brought his research on Virginia’s cultural landscape to a wider professional audience through presentations at the Vernacular Architecture Forum, The Environmental Design Research Association, the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, the Appalachian Studies Association, the Virginia Chapters of the AIA and ASLA, and a joint meeting of the Architectural Research Centers Consortium and the European Association for Architectural Education.

Brian’s expertise in the Commonwealth’s landscapes of segregation and Jim Crow was recognized this past year with an invitation to participate in the symposium “Race and Public Space: Commemorative Practices in the American South” at the University of Virginia. This important national symposium brought together scholars and practitioners from across the country to reflect upon current “scholarship and practice around race, memory, and commemoration.” Brian has presented his research on segregation and Jim Crow-era landscapes to the Board of Roanoke’s Harrison Museum of African American History and to the Roanoke area’s larger African American Community. He co-authored with Dr. C. L. Bohannon, ASLA the up-dated Historic American Landscapes Survey for Yellow Sulphur Springs and has presented that research at Norfolk State University, a HBCU institution. The University of Virginia’s Center for Cultural Landscapes invited Brian to present his research on the African American experience of Virginia’s segregation-era landscape as revealed in the travels accounts of John Mitchell, Editor of the Richmond Planet, the city’s foremost African American newspaper. Brian’s research on Virginia racing sites was exhibited and presented at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, the Art Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke, The Blue Ridge Institute and Museum, the Mount Airy, N.C. Museum of Regional History, and the annual meetings of the Virginia Carolina Old Time Dirt Racers Association. Brian’s co-authorship of the gallery guide “Car Crazy: Racing and Rodding in Southwest Virginia” was noted in The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 14. The impact and recognition of Brian’s research on Virginia’s auto racing history is evident in the 2016 State of the Commonwealth Report produced by Old Dominion University’s Center for Eco-
nomic Analysis and Policy, which cited findings from Brian's “exhaustive study of the beginnings of racing in Virginia." That report, a “detailed economic profile of significant trends that will affect Virginia’s future growth,” identified Brian as “The foremost historian of race cars and tracks in Virginia.”

Advancing Education and the Profession

For the past 32 years Brian’s teaching has been directly informed by his research into the landscape’s archival dimensions and the persistence and materiality of memory in the Virginia’s everyday, vernacular, and ephemeral landscapes and that landscape’s second, parallel archive of stories, writings, photographs, oral histories, music, and art that capture a landscape in time and circumstance.

The influence on student work of Brian’s research on the cultural landscapes of the Commonwealth is exemplified in the work of Brian Fuller, who’s 2003 Senior Project, “Appalachian Music Heritage Area” explored in depth the design “opportunities to preserve, interpret and promote the rich musical heritage in southwestern Virginia” and the nearby region. Fuller’s work provided conceptual and foundational research that informed the genesis of The Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail, “a 330 mile driving trail through…Southwest Virginia that connects nine Major Venues and over 60 Affiliated Venues and Festivals.” Its mission is “to support economic development in Southwest Virginia by promoting this region’s rich heritage of traditional music.” In 2015, the Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development estimated “the annual [economic] impact of the Crooked Road to be approximately $9.2 million and 131 jobs…” Brian’s research approaches to the study of the landscape’s archival dimensions was recognized by the state ASLA Chapter which asked Brian to lead a student investigation of the evolution of the landscape of Richmond, Virginia and the intertwined story of the landscape view that gave the city both its name and has informed the city’s evolving sense of place over the last 300 years.

Two courses developed by Brian while at Virginia Tech illustrate the integration of his research and teaching, Seeing Understanding and Representing Landscape, an introductory course for landscape architecture majors, introduces the foundational skills necessary to clearly, accurately, and creatively see, understand, and represent the landscape as a material, temporal, and culturally expressive medium experienced with all the senses. In Theories of Landscape Architecture, Brian uses his research into the hidden dimensions of landscape, memory, the performance histories of sites, and the archival dimensions of landscape as an active window into contemporary theory and practice while challenging students to sharpen their ability to bring a level of depth and critical thinking to their own work and research.

Brian has taught over 400 first-year students in the School of Architecture + Design’s Foundation Lab at Virginia Tech. This year-long, first-year studio introduces Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Industrial Design, and Interior Design students to the foundations of design, critical thinking, and self-directed inquiry. Brian has been a tireless advocate for the rich opportunities the study of the landscape brings to a design foundation education. His exploratory

Andrew W. Kahr
Associate Professor,
Department of History,
Carter G. Woodson
Institute, University of Virginia

“Across Virginia lies a hidden landscape of places and institutions that have profoundly shaped the state’s cultures and societies yet whose stories have often remained invisible to scholars and the public alike. Over the course of his remarkable career, Brian Katen has done more to bring these stories to light—and to pioneer new ways of interpreting the built environment than any scholar in the state today. Katen has made invaluable contributions to the field…”

Brian Katen, ASLA
Brian Katen, ASLA

research, presented as a “deep map” of the natural and cultural performance histories of sites has offered a particularly effective introductory window into the richness of the everyday landscape and the work of the profession to develop culturally informed place-specific design interventions.

From 2007-2015 Brian maintained an active research and teaching agenda while serving as Chair of the Landscape Architecture Program at Virginia Tech. During his tenure as Chair, the Undergraduate Program was recognized with a number one national ranking from Design Intelligence and the First-Professional MLA Program was recognized with a number two national ranking.

Chapter Statement of Support

It is among our great privileges and highest honors to put forth Brian Katen, ASLA as an exemplary candidate for election as a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Brian has impacted many hundreds of landscape architects as well as students from other professions over his decades-long career. He has taught students and his contemporaries about cultural identity and place and about the inherent value of memory and the landscape. His work on the segregation-era landscapes of African Americans in Virginia and the previously lost history of automobile racing in Virginia has proven to be highly informative and deeply important to the heritage of African Americans and for the automobile racing industry. His speaking engagements and publications have influenced and grown the public knowledge base of landscape architecture while advancing the very shape and content of our profession’s curriculum through his integration of teaching and research. Brian’s methodology and intuition in demonstrating place-specific and culturally-informed designs have resonated on local, state, and national levels, and uniquely ties us to the bedrock of our profession. As his research continues to add to our collective knowledge, the investments Brian makes toward his students’ critical thinking and sincerity about the landscape also continues, replicating in various forms throughout his students work. It is also evident in the work of graduates and other professionals who have been inspired and motivated by Brian’s work and teaching. It is of no doubt that Brian’s accomplishments have elevated the stature of landscape architecture for our entire profession and has strengthened the definition of our practice.

Respectfully,

Michael Paul Fox, PLA, ASLA
President, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Thaïsa Way Ph.D., ASLA
Professor, College of Built Environments, University of Washington
ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: KNOWLEDGE

The Executive Committee of the Washington Chapter ASLA Council of Fellows, is privileged to nominate Thaïsa Way, ASLA, for induction into the 2018 class of fellows.

Executive Summary

Thaïsa Way has contributed for more than three decades to the discipline, field, and practice of landscape architecture. As a consummate learner, valued educator, and inspired advocate, her work actively engages the role of design in the social values and environmental ethics related to the concepts of landscape and urbanism.

Thaïsa significantly impacts the field of landscape architecture through her teaching, research, scholarship, and leadership. As an historian fusing the disciplines of landscape architecture, architecture, and urban design, she builds and shares a deep understanding of the meaning of landscape as integral to both the natural and built environments. Her research and scholarship advances our thinking of design as process, expanding the nebulous boundaries of the field, and reframing our understanding of the capacity of landscape architecture.

A highly regarded professor, Thaïsa educates students to critically examine how the histories of urban landscapes, particularly public spaces, inform contemporary design and policy making. Weaving an understanding of history, culture, and place, she guides these future practitioners through their own exploration of what it means to develop healthy and equitable cities in the U.S. and around the world. Her methods are distinct, yet grounded, based in intensive research and analysis and furthered through an iterative approach in studio that advances design thinking while engaging with the larger community. Many of her students have gone on to achieve high accolades and awards for their research, design, and critical thinking.

Thaïsa actively collaborates with professionals to explore the remarkable breadth and depth of landscape architectural practice through her research, writings, symposia, and film. She is also a major contributor to the expanding body of scholarship on women as designers, scholarship that has challenged notions of modernism in landscape architecture, the contributions of those at the margins of historical narratives, and the role of collaboration in the design process.

Kenneth Helphand, FASLA
Professor Emeritus
Department of Landscape Architecture
College of Design
University of Oregon
Thaïsa Way Ph.D., ASLA

Scholarship and Publications

Thaïsa Way’s national and international reputation as well as her impact on the profession is evident in the broad and extensive range of research, writing and publications she has produced. To date, she has published five books that significantly contribute to both practice and theory in landscape architecture, with a sixth book forthcoming in 2018.

Her first book, *Unbounded Practice: Women in Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century*, published by the University of Virginia Press (2009; paperback in 2013), is a broad narrative on the role of women in the development of the practice and profession of landscape architecture in North America, framed within the emerging profession in the twentieth century. Building on her Ph.D. studies at Cornell University (for which she received an ASLA student award of honor in research), this book contributes significantly to the body of scholarship on women and feminist narratives in landscape architecture. Thaïsa’s second single-authored book, *The Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag: From Modernism to Urban Ecological Design*, narrates the work of internationally recognized landscape architect Richard Haag, whose practice spanned mid-century modernism and the ecological design of the 1970s and 1980s and emphasized the critical importance of valuing the urban landscape. In 2018 Thaïsa’s book on landscape architect A. E. Bye will be published as a part of the Library of American Landscape History series on modern landscape architects. This will be the first significant monograph on Bye’s design practice and the role of art in his work.

Thaïsa has also co-edited two important collections of essays on the urban environment. *Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here* is a collection of essays asserting that the future city is already here, describing city making as grounded in the imperfect, messy, yet rich reality of the existing city and the everyday purposeful agency of its dwellers. A second book on urban development, *River Cities, City Rivers* (Dumbarton Oaks Garden and Landscape Studies, 2018) is an edited collection that draws on the scholarship of historians, geographers, and landscape architects to re-examine the relationships between cities and the rivers that flow through and beyond them.

Thaïsa’s research and writing on individual landscape architects, firms, and landscape architecture projects demonstrates her collaborative approach to her work. She is currently working on a book project about Gustafson Guthrie Nichol exploring and emphasizing the design processes of this contemporary firm based in Seattle, Washington. She has further contributed chapters to five other edited books, completed essays for collected works, and written articles for numerous professional publications. She has also served as a guest editor for several journals and has provided peer-review for essays of collected works.
Thaïsa Way Ph.D., ASLA

Thaïsa has provided more than fifty lectures on four continents with topics ranging from historical views on the role of drawing in design to the potential for landscape architecture to address the challenges of homelessness in our communities. She has chaired and participated in symposia and/or conference sessions not only for the American Society of Landscape Architects, but in collaboration with numerous other organizations, including the Society of Architectural Historians, the American Society of Environmental Historians, the Urban History Association, and the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, increasing the understanding of landscape architecture among other professions. She also advocates for the importance of the profession by other means, including curating exhibits on contemporary landscape architecture. An example of her broad reach was her role as an advisor and featured speaker for the PBS film series, Ten Parks that Changed America.

Thaïsa’s research addresses how we re-focus the scale of landscape architecture to more fully engage the urban landscape, its nature, culture, and dynamic processes. She has turned to the history of public landscapes as a way of revealing diverse histories of cities and the urban experience, building on feminist practices in history to engage with the marginal and interstitial threads of urban history and explore the complexity of urban public experience. This focus is at the core of her recent five-year appointment as Executive Director of Urban@UW, an initiative of the University of Washington Office of Research, CoMotion, and eScience. This academic institute addresses urban research and practice as a means of connecting diverse disciplines and fields with civic and community leaders to foster healthy, sustainable, resilient, and equitable urban futures. She also serves on the Executive Committees for the UW's Population Health Initiative and the College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry's EarthLab Institute. In each of these roles, Thaïsa advocates for the essential role of design and in particular that of the landscape architect in creating and stewarding more resilient, generative, and healthy urban landscapes and environments.

Thaïsa Way is dedicated to the idea that the greatest challenges we face cannot be solved through isolated interventions and siloed thinking. Committed to bringing diverse viewpoints to the table, Thaïsa has fostered a unique community of landscape practitioners and scholars, scientists, service providers, activists, technologists, public officials and beyond. I’m deeply grateful for her generosity in including me in these conversations and collaborations both as her student and in the time that has followed.

Jess Hamilton
Landscape Design Intern
Olson Kundig

PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH

Books

Regional/Local Awards
2015: Lionel Pries Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Built Environments, University of Washington.
2015: Nominated for the UW Distinguished Teaching Award by Department of Landscape Architecture.
2013: Nominated for Marsha L. Landolt Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award, by students to University Award Committee.
2014-2015: Runstad Center Affiliate Fellow, College of Built Environments, University of Washington.
2009: Faculty Achievement Dean’s Award for Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century, College of Built Environments, University of Washington.
2007: Honor Society, Sigma Lambda Alpha, elected by SUNY-ESF students.

Teaching
Thaïsa joined the faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington in 2007, bringing a deep commitment to student-based inquiry, diverse frames for knowledge, and the exploration of design as a process and practice. She teaches design studios, lecture courses, seminars, as well as thesis and design research. Her courses stress the importance of theory and research while providing a basis for solid design practice, ranging from an "Introduction to Planting Design" to “What Makes a City Resilient?” She has consistently sought to bring history, culture, and art together in dynamic frameworks that catalyze explorations by students in a broad range of practices and approaches to design.
Thaïsa Way, Ph.D., ASLA

Thaïsa has served as chair and member on numerous thesis and capstone committees, providing sound guidance to future landscape architects. She is recognized for her collaborative scholarship that crosses architecture, urban design and planning, and landscape architecture, and is consequently sought out by students pursuing a dual degree in these disciplines. Further, she serves as the committee chair on several doctoral committees.

In 2016, building on her exploration while a Fellow in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome, Thaïsa launched the program, “Drawing in Design: Exploring the Hand,” that offers students a full immersion for two days in drawing alongside a leading landscape architect. This program reflects Thaïsa’s commitment to innovative teaching and the critical importance of drawing as a way of thinking. It is a program that is deeply embedded in her belief that students learn by doing and that the professional community can play an increasingly important role in mentoring and teaching.

Thaïsa has served as a visiting faculty member in China, Italy, Austria, and South Africa. She has been a reader and committee member on thesis and dissertations for students not only at the University of Washington, but also in universities near and far, including the University of Oregon, the University of Colorado Denver, Harvard University, the University of Cape Town and the Institut für Landschaftsarchitektur in Vienna, Austria. She is also a frequent guest lecturer for landscape architecture programs, including the University of Virginia, the University of California Berkeley, Harvard University, Cornell University, and Yale University.

In her teaching, Thaïsa uses her training as a historian and writer to rigorously challenge students to articulate the complexities and ambiguities of concepts, ideas, and views within the design process, helping to expand their intellectual competencies. In turn, the process challenges them to refine their ideas based on directed discourse, thereby improving their critical thinking skills. Notably, Thaïsa received the Lionel Pries Award for Excellence in Teaching in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington, a single annual award determined by a vote of students across the entire College.

Awards and Honors

Thaïsa Way’s contributions to the field have received significant recognition, nationally and internationally. In 2016, she served as a Garden Club of America Rome Fellow at the American Academy. She has received numerous awards for her research and publications,


Thaïsa Way, “Preserving the Dirt on our Profession...Where have all the drawings gone?”; “…Where have all the sketches gone?”; “…Where have all the Fellows Gone: the Launching of an Online Database of ASLA Fellows.” *ASLA Land Online Newsletter*, 2007-2009.


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**Thaïsa Way Ph.D., ASLA**

including the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize for *Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Twentieth Century*. She has held a Senior Fellowship by the Garden & Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks since 2011, and she served as a MacDowell Colony Fellow in 2013. She had the honor of delivering the 2013 Timothy Egan Lenahan Memorial Lecture at Yale University, “Thick Sections, Gas Works Park, Richard Haag.”

**Service and Activities**

Throughout her career, Thaïsa Way has actively engaged in service and leadership within university departments and colleges as well as with local and professional communities. She has broadened the focus on landscape within the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), serving as founding member and President of the Landscape History Chapter. She currently serves on the Executive Committee for SAHARA, a digital image archive sponsored by the SAH, and is the editor for 200 urban setting and landscape entries for the SAH Archipedia project. She also served on the SAH Elisabeth Blair MacDougall Book Award Committee in 2013 and was a member on the advisory Committee for the New York Botanical Gardens’ exhibition “Great American Gardens: The Women Who Made Them.”

Her engagement includes strong support for the American Society of Landscape Architects. On the national level, she has served on the National Professional Award Committee (2014) of the ASLA and currently serves as the chair of the ASLA National Honors and Awards Committee. Thaïsa was a featured panelist in the General Session of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects in fall of 2015.

**Chapter Statement of Support:**

Thaïsa Way has dedicated her career to pursuing a higher state of knowledge within the field of landscape architecture and sharing her work with the academic, professional, and public realm. Through scholarship, teaching, and service, she is a catalyst for generating knowledge at the intersections of urban landscape, design, and history. Thaïsa’s work emphasizes research and teaching that explicitly challenges boundaries while building on disciplinary expertise and professional practice. This work contributes to the emerging theoretical frameworks and an increasing rigor of landscape architectural history and landscape architecture as an urban design practice and profession. It is with great pride that the Washington Chapter of ASLA Executive Committee supports Thaïsa Way for fellowship in the ASLA and appreciates your consideration for this deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Laura Thompson, ASLA
President, Washington Chapter, ASLA

Nominating Body: Washington Chapter Executive Committee