THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FIRM AWARD NOMINATION
February 12, 2024

ASLA Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eje St., NW
Washington DC 20001

Subject: The Landscape Architecture Firm Award

Dear Trustees,

It is with great pleasure that we nominate LandDesign for the Landscape Architecture Firm Award.

LandDesign was founded in January of 1978 on the belief that working hard and caring more, matter. As LandDesign’s founder, Larry Bird, will tell you, there was no grand plan for forming a new firm. He believed he could be successful because it felt right to be driven by a desire to show clients that he was as invested in a project’s success as much as they were, regardless of what it was. Nearly 40 years later, the values that inspired Larry in those early days still sustain LandDesign today.

I began my journey with LandDesign in the mid-1990s working alongside one of the firm’s founders and former president, Peter Crowley. Both our firms were engaged to envision and masterplan what would become one of the mid-Atlantic’s most successful mixed-use destinations, National Harbor. Peter’s ability to connect stories of place, connecting the character of the land and context of the place with a client’s vision is masterful. This methodology and approach to planning and landscape architecture permeates the firm’s promise across all leadership – mentoring the next generation of designers, sharing stories and lessons learned, while being inspired by fresh ideas for the future.

Following our several years of collaboration, I rejoined Walt Disney Imagineering as Portfolio Executive in charge of Creative and Design Development and ultimately, President of Walt Disney Imagineering. In 2015, I invited LandDesign to join in a reimagining of a central core of the Walt Disney World Resort. This re-engagement with the firm, its designers and visionaries, proved once again, this is a very special firm!

Clients are fortunate to work with LandDesign. Founders and presidents alike are fully engaged in the design, transferring their expertise and knowledge to the designers coming right behind them – rather beside them – no ego! This personal attention to clients is their intentional focus on establishing relationships. The ability for a design practice to transcend the leadership of its founding partners, is notable. The hundreds of designers who have been affected by LandDesign over the decades reaches far and deep in the profession. LandDesign’s moniker, ‘We create places that matter’, is indispensible.

Robert and I are happy to nominate LandDesign, and look forward to continuing to work with this outstanding organization.

Sincerely,

Bob Weis
Global Entertainment Leader

Robert A. Peck
Government & Defense Leader, Principal

LandDesign US Project Photography © Denise Retallack

Denise’s collaboration with LandDesign was established over 17 years ago when she launched her own Architectural photography firm in 2007. Previously she was at SWA working with Tom Fox, whom she regards as a wonderful mentor. Photographing built projects throughout the United States, she possesses impeccable skill to tell the story of a project and to show that each place is loved, aligning with LandDesign’s purpose of creating places of value.
History of LandDesign

Nearly 50 Years of Great Design

From its inception in 1978, LandDesign has been a firm focused on doing ‘great design, with great people.’ When Larry Best started LandDesign, he was determined to create a firm whose rigor was grounded in honoring the land and working without ego to create implementable plans for his clients. This is why he called it “LandDesign.”

Today the firm has evolved into a 300-person integrated practice that leverages the creative tension between planning, design, and engineering to ‘Create Places That Matter’ around the world. This mission keeps the firm focused on celebrating the unique opportunities presented in each project to “listen to the land,” “listen to the client,” and “listen to the community”—and use that to inform a unique value proposition, to which the design plans respond.

The core values that Larry embodied in the beginning remain present in the leadership of the firm today, five generations later. This is a testament to the enduring culture that has been fostered throughout the history of the firm, and generational belief that when you do great design, with great people, you can run a great practice.

Integration

MID-1980s — EARLY 1990s

While planning services were taking the firm to new markets, Larry began to see an opportunity emerge with the local challenge of implementing projects with civil engineers in the Charlotte market. Instead of external firms, he realized he could put his energy into a committed, in-house engineering partner who would best translate an idea into a viable plan while also retaining the fee. After an initial attempt to hire an engineering team in the early ’90s, LandDesign started working with Dale Stewart, who had recently opened his own civil engineering practice. Fueled by the shared qualities of entrepreneurship and grit, partnering with Dale was a breath of fresh air. Dale’s passion for understanding codes, policy, politics, and people represented a different attitude about delivering engineering services, which aligned with Larry and Brad’s philosophies about design. All agreed on the importance of client experience and putting relationships in the center of the business—and in 1988, D.C. Stewart became part of LandDesign. Joining forces was one thing, but the road to fully integrating the practice of Landscape Architecture and Civil Engineering was built on intention and forced collaboration for quite some time. Working through the typical dynamics between designers and engineers was expected, but there was a physical barrier that was harder to overcome: the fact that the offices were dispersed across four homes in a historic neighborhood. After several years of having to cross the street to review plans and ideas together, it became clear it was time for an office where design and engineering could work alongside one another in a larger studio. In 2000, Larry purchased an historic building in Uptown Charlotte, the same building the Charlotte office occupies today.

Expansion + Transition

LATE 1990s — EARLY 2000s

As LandDesign approached its 20-year anniversary in the late ’90s, Larry Best began thinking more about the future of the firm. The business had weathered a recession, experienced further expansion into new markets and services, and there were young leaders in the organization with much more skill with emerging technologies. He and the other partners desired to explore what it looked like to truly transition the ownership of the firm, and ensure that the next generation could carry the practice forward. These questions would ultimately inform a structural change to the leadership of the firm earlier in their career. It was a significant expression of what it means to create a firm that is meant to be passed down.

During this period of time, the firm was experiencing a great deal of growth due to demand from existing clients, but also word of mouth. Clients were pleased with the firm’s savvy for navigating complex real estate development projects where infrastructure planning and design were equally important to success. Peter Crowley was developing relationships throughout the DC region and beyond that were creating the opportunity to plan legacy projects such as National Harbor and Willowford. He had also begun working internationally on master planning projects, particularly in China. During this time, other partners and principals emerged who, like Peter, were willing to relocate and start an office to better serve clients. Greensboro, Tampa, Nashville, Asheville, and Beijing were all offices that emerged during this period. Larry had also set up a small office in Southern Pines, and was entertaining the idea of traveling to the other offices regularly. In 2002 he announced his retirement, and transitioned the presidency to Brad Davis.
2014 — TODAY

In 2012, there was finally a light at the end of the tunnel. Requests for services were starting to come in with less effort. Relationships built pre-recession were driving new opportunities as many clients and collaborators had moved around during the economic downturn, and efforts to form new relationships during the recession were resulting in expansion opportunities, including the opening of the office in Dallas, TX.

It was also during this period of regrowth, that the majority of the next generation ownership group was hired — many of whom had gained a few years of experience before the downturn, and were eager to join a firm with promising opportunities on the horizon. The ushering in of a new generation of employees and clients with fresh ideas, ambition, and technological savvy, were key drivers in Dale’s decision to step down as president in 2014.

Rhett Crocker joined LandDesign in 1999 and quickly set himself apart with his curiosity, drive, and affinity for ideas. Not only a talented designer, Rhett also had a strong business sensibility and rapport with clients, as well as talent in large scale master planning, which created the opportunity for him to work across the firm, not just locally. His early career was defined by working alongside Brad Davis, where he received a direct connection to Brad’s mentorship and design sensibility, which greatly influenced his style of leadership. He was a new partner, just barely 30 years old, when Brad passed away and the recession hit — events which forced him, and his peers, to grow up quickly. For these reasons and more, Rhett was the ideal person to lead LandDesign into its next generation.

As he assumed the role of President in 2014, Rhett committed to building the firm back, better. Crafting a bold vision for LandDesign to become a recognized leader in the industry — “The Best Damn Design Firm” — by learning from mistakes, but leaning hard into what mattered after having stripped down the business: Doing Great Design, With Great People, For Great Clients. Emphasis on design excellence, operational performance and cross-office collaboration drove investment decisions with a goal to build “one firm, with long hallways” — a connected practice that could learn and grow, together.

Today marks 46 years in business, and ten years under Rhett’s leadership, with five healthy and growing offices in major markets across the US, and an ownership group of more than 40 leaders that includes Partners, Principals, and Directors who range in age from 35 to 72.

LandDesign is unique; as a mid-size firm integrating landscape architecture, planning, and civil engineering, leadership has worked hard and intentionally to keep great design and client service at the center of the practice during growth. In many ways, the firm is like a 50-year old startup; fueled by change, passion for the work, and entrepreneurship, but with a legacy to learn from and be shaped by, as the foundation.
FIRM AWARD
North Carolina Chapter
2010

THE PORT DISTRICT MASTER PLAN – Port St. Lucie, FL
Florida Chapter; Design Award, 2024

SIMON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND – Washington DC
Potomac Chapter; Merit Award, Social Impact, 2018

ROMARE BEARDEN PARK – Charlotte, NC
Southeast Regional Honor Award, 2017
North Carolina Chapter; Award of Excellence, 2015

DR. WESLEY GRANT SR. SOUTH SIDE CENTER PH. 1 – Asheville, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Certificate of Recognition, 2014

THE PARK AT PINE HILL BUSINESS CAMPUS – Summerville, SC
Tri-State Chapter; Merit Award, 2014

LITTLE SUGAR CREEK GREENWAY – Charlotte, NC
Southeast Regional Honor Award, 2017
North Carolina Chapter; Award of Excellence, 2012

ANSON TOWN CENTER BUSINESS DISTRICT – Westfield, IN
Indiana Chapter; Merit Award, 2009

CAMP LAKE JAMES – Nebo, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 2009

BLAKEYNOR PARK – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 2009

PALMER FIRE SCHOOL – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 2008

THE GATES AT CARLISLE – Carlisle, PA
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 2007

ELIZABETH VILLAGE – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH CAMPUS – Kannapolis, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 2006

SECOND WARD MASTER PLAN – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 2002

CARLISLE – Carlisle, PA
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 2000

TRANSAMERICA SQUARE – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Certificate of Recognition, 1998

CLOSE FAMILY PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT – Fort Mill, SC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1996

PERSON COUNTY REGIONAL LANDFILL – Person County, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1993

MORROOCROFT – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1990

BUCKINGHAM STATION – Midlothian, VA
Virginia Chapter; Merit Award, 1989

CENTENNIAL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN – Raleigh, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Town Master Planning Certificate of Appreciation, 1987

CANNON VILLAGE – Kannapolis, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1986

ELIZABETH URBAN DESIGN AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1986

TENTH AVENUE
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1986

NEW PLANS FOR KANNAPOLIS – Kannapolis, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1984

STONE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK – Roaring Gap, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1984

FAIRINGTON I AND II – Concord, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1983

THE CORNERS – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Certificate of Recognition, 1982

THE GLEN – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Honor Award, 1982

ROBINWOOD – Gastonia, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1982

SPRINGFIELD SQUARE – Charlotte, NC
North Carolina Chapter; Merit Award, 1982

Great design cannot be measured by awards, but by the impact it delivers.

While recognition for the work is both validating and valuable, LandDesign believes that the real testament to their impact is through the decades-long relationships formed through working with clients and engaging with their communities. Beyond the work, their internal investment in relationships has manifested five generations of leadership within the firm, and within the industry LandDesign annually invests time and dollars into the LAF Olmsted Scholars Program; LAF LandDesign Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Scholarship; ACE Mentoring; and an alignment with NC A&T University. These, along with an immersive summer internship program and internal innovation R&D grants, allow LandDesign to reach and guide a next generation of landscape architects and engineers, and continue to nurture diversity and curiosity within the firm and beyond.
**Firm Achievements**

### Select National Recognitions

**DOWNTOWN KANNAPOLIS** – Kannapolis, NC
- American Planning Association; Award of Excellence, 2022

**THE HAVEN AT NATIONAL HARBOR** – Prince George’s County, MD
- National Association of Homebuilders; Best In American Living, Platinum, Specialty Game Changer, 2017

**KINGSLEY TOWN CENTER**
- Fort Mill, SC
- ICSC Design Development Awards; Gold, New Developments - Mixed-Use Projects, 2020

**POTOMAC SCIENCE CENTER** – Woodbridge, VA
- LAF Performance Series Case Study Briefs Selected Project, 2020

**ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER** – Alexandria, VA
- US Green Building Council; Innovative Project of the Year, 2018

**TOWN CENTER CORTE MADERA** – Corte Madera, CA
- ICSC Global Awards; Commendation Award, 2018

**DISCOVERY AT THE REALM** – Lewisville, TX
- National Association of Homebuilders; Best in American Living Award, Platinum, Specialty Game Changer, 2017

**HERITAGE SHORES** – Bridgerville, DE
- National Association of Homebuilders; Best of Seniors Design Silver Achievement Award for Active Adult Housing: Home Design, 2006

**HOUSTON GALLERY** – Houston, TX
- ICSC Global Awards; International Design & Development Award for Renovation or Expansion of an Existing Project, 2005

**SOUTH PARK MALL** – Charlotte, NC
- ICSC Global Awards; International Design & Development Award for Renovation or Expansion of an Existing Project, 2005

**DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING** – Silver Spring, MD
- ICSC Global Awards; International Design & Development Certificate of Merit for Renovation or Expansion of an Existing Project, 2005

**BIRKDALE VILLAGE** – Huntersville, NC
- ICSC Global Awards; International Design & Development Award for Innovative Design & Construction of a New Project, 2004

**CHARLOTTE TROLLEY** – Charlotte, NC
- Urban Land Institute; Award for Excellence Finalist, 2003

**HERITAGE HUNT** – Gainesville, VA
- National Association of Homebuilders; Gold Achievement Award, 2002

**PARKSIDE OF ONE BAYSHORE** – Tampa, FL
- National Association of Homebuilders; Pillars of the Industry: Best of the Best, 2001

**SUMMIT GRANDVIEW** – Charlotte, NC
- National Association of Homebuilders; Multi-Family Pillars of the Industry Award, Best Mid-Rise or High-Rise Apartment Community, 2001

**CROSSWYNEDE** – Tampa, FL
- National Association of Homebuilders; Multi-Family Pillars of the Industry Award, Best Site Plan-Suburban, 1999

**OLD BUCKINGHAM STATION** – Midlothian, VA
- National Association of Homebuilders; Design & Planning Awards Project of the Year, 1999

**ASBURY SQUARE** – Charlotte, NC
- National Association of Homebuilders; Design and Planning, Award of Merit, 1993

**ASHTON WOODS APARTMENTS** – Salisbury, NC
- National Association of Homebuilders; Multi-Family Pillars of the Industry Award, Best Site Plan-Garden Apartments, 1993

**OAK PARK CONDOMINIUM** – Charlotte, NC
- National Association of Homebuilders; Best in American Living Award, 1993

**STONECROFT CONDOMINIUM** – Charlotte, NC
- National Association of Homebuilders; Multi-Family Pillars of the Industry Award, Best Site Plan, 1991

### Select Regional Recognitions

**PONCE PARADISE** – Ponce, Puerto Rico
- AIA Potomac Valley Award, Award for Urban Design and Master Planning, 2023

**CARLYLE CROSSING** – Alexandria, VA
- NAIOP Northern Virginia; Mixed-Use Project Award of Excellence, 2023

**WINTER PARK LIBRARY + EVENTS CENTER** – Winter Park, FL
- AIA Orlando Design Awards; Award of Honor in the Built Category, 2023
- ENR Southeast Best Projects; Cultural/Worship; Winter Park Library and Events Center, 2022

**THE BORO** – Tysons, VA
- NAIOP Northern Virginia Chapter; Award of Excellence: Building, Multi-Family Residential, 2020
- ULI Washington; Trends Awards Finalist, Excellence in Mixed-Use Development, 2020
- NAIOP Northern Virginia; Award of Excellence: Master Plan, 2017

**LINCOLN AT TINNER HILL** – Falls Church, VA
- NAIOP Northern Virginia; Award of Excellence, 2018

**KINGSLEY TOWN CENTER** – Fort Mill, SC
- AIA Charlotte Design + Service Awards; Citation, Urban Design, 2019
- JENI’S SPLENDID ICE CREAM AT DESIGN DISTRICT
- American Planning Association; Multi-Family Pillars of the Industry, Award of Merit, 2017

**DUKE UNIVERSITY KUNSHAN CAMPUS** – Kunshan, PRC
- AIA Maryland; Design Award, 2016

**ROMARE BEAEDEN PARK** – Charlotte, NC
- ASLA Southeast Regional Honor Award, 2017
- ASLA North Carolina Chapter; Award of Excellence, 2015
- AIA Charlotte; People’s Choice Landscape Award, 2015

### Select Specialty Recognitions

**ZWEIG GROUP CERTIFIED BEST FIRM TO WORK FOR**
- 2016, 2018

**CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL BEST PLACES TO WORK**
- 2018

**CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL HEALTHIEST EMPLOYERS**
- 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

**WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL LARGEST LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FIRM**
- 2018, 2019, 2022
Balanced by design — Equal parts imagination and implementation.

We are a collaborative group of landscape architects, civil engineers, planners and urban designers that approaches projects with unique expertise and diverse perspectives, but with a shared goal to create places that matter.
Rhett is LandDesign’s fifth president, and his eternal optimism and futuristic outlook are a true north for LandDesign, driving the firm to deliver the utmost client experience and nurture the best talent.

He was specifically selected to lead LandDesign toward the firm’s vision for growth after the great recession, and he champions a culture of innovation and collaboration on a daily basis with his extraordinary work ethic and ardent belief that good ideas can come from anywhere.

As a champion for inclusive and equitable design, Gabriela believes the places we create serve a higher purpose of fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance.

Her passion comes from her training as an architect and landscape architect: the responsibility as a visionary and designer of the public realm is to create places where communities bond.

As a consensus builder, Richard plays an influential role in bridging gaps in divergent development, community, and political voices to create executable strategies for ambitious projects, particularly in urban environments and public-private partnerships.

Shaun’s expertise performs typically within the private sector, yet he continues to advocate for community benefit such as open space and investment in high quality public realm. He enjoys leading projects through the entitlement phases to effectively integrate project objectives with creative solutions that help ensure overall success.

As a pioneer of LandDesign’s Washington DC office, Peter has influenced LandDesign’s methodology, which seeks to differentiate memorable experiences and development of community through design, while he continues to advocate for community benefit.

Peter is a founding partner, past president, and pioneer of LandDesign’s Washington DC office. He spent his entire career to-date with the firm, sharing with other founding partners the ethos of work rooted in storytelling. A visionary master planner and design thought leader, Peter’s dedication to creating memorable experiences and development of community through design has influenced LandDesign’s methodology, which seeks to differentiate places by engaging clients and users through unique stories.

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Gabriela Cañamar, PLA, ASLA
PARTNER — Joined 1998

Peter Crowley, PLA, ASLA
FOUNDING PARTNER — Joined 1979
WASHINGTON DC

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
Speaker, ICSC Idea Exchange Alliance Program (2017)
Speaker, ULI Master Planned Communities Conference (2014)
Moderator, ULI Panel, Redevelopment and Reuse Council, LA (2017)
Speaker, ULI TAP: City of Falls Church (2014)
ASLA Conference Potomac Chapter Planning Committee Co-Chair (2004)
Urban Land Institute (ULI) Advisory Board; Programs Committee (2017-2023)
Speaker, ICSC Centerbuild Conference (2019)
Speaker, ULI Washington/Potomac
ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
Moderator, ULI Panel, Redevelopment andReuse Council, LA (2017)
Speaker, ULI TAP: City of Falls Church (2014)
Speaker, ICSC Idea Exchange Alliance Program (2007)
Speaker, ULI Master Planned Communities Conference (2014)

Speaker, ULI Washington/Potomac
ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
ASLA Honors & Awards Advisory Committee (2020-2023), Chair (2003-2024)
ASLA Conference Potomac Chapter Planning Committee Co-Chair (2004)
Speaker, ULI Master Planned Communities Conference (2020)

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Richard Petersheim, PLA, ASLA
PARTNER — Joined 1995

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Landscape Architecture Design Leadership — Principals

Beth Poovey, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 1999
Charlotte

Beth is recognized nationally as an expert in public open space planning and design. She speaks regularly on topics related to the relationship between the public realm, social equity, and economic development within cities and towns. She embodies the same passion for public space design as Brad Davis, and has carried his legacy forward in the Charlotte region. She shares her knowledge of successful public planning and design strategies with designers and engineers throughout the firm as a mentor-leader and project advisor.

AFFILIATIONS
Partners for Parks, President
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
Speaker, National ASLA Conference (2016)
Speaker, NC ASLA Conference (2010, 2013, 2016)
Speaker, TX ASLA Conference (2017)
Speaker, NRPA, Annual Conference (2017, 2023)
Speaker, FL APA Conference (2023)
Speaker, Southeast Greenways Conference (2017)

Ashley Clark, Associate AIA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2010
Charlotte

Ashley is a momentum maker – driving change that leads to better culture, better design, and better business – while leading an award-winning communications team.

Her passion for practice innovation and change management is informed by a decade of advocacy within the AIA as an emerging professional leader. As Director of Communications + Strategic Development, Ashley’s ability to connect dots enables her to identify opportunities at all levels of the organization to advance ideas while maximizing resources, all in service to the firm’s strategic priorities.

AFFILIATIONS
ASLA National Student Awards Jury (2024)
Urban Land Institute (ULI)
LEED Accredited Professional

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
AIA Leadership Summit, Panelist (2016)
AIA National Associate Award Winner (2014)
AIA National Board Member (2012-2013)

Joe Giangrandi, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2010
Washington DC

Joe works alongside leading national developers and leads a studio delivering large-scale urban design, mixed-use development, and multi-family communities.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
ULI Washington, Regional Leadership Institute
(2019-2020)

Hattie Pavlecko-Reiter, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2014
Charlotte

Hattie leads the firm’s collaborative internal charrette series, establishing an environment where creative minds can come together. She is plugged into a variety of strategic groups focused on improving the practice and employee growth experiences, particularly leading the advancement of project management and how young designers grow into thriving project managers.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Eric Pohlmann, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2012
Charlotte

Eric has an appreciation for both traditional hand-rendering and advanced design technologies, both of which he uses to craft rich visual experiences for his clients. He recognizes the power in subtle design moves and materiality choices, something he encourages his studio to tap into.

AFFILIATIONS
LEED Accredited Professional

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
NCI Charrette Planner Certificate

Andrew Schmidt, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2020
Charlotte

Andrew has an appreciation for expressive design and a commitment to the unique freedoms that are afforded with every new project. He works to ensure his approach and design style are equal parts creative and practical. With a portfolio spanning continents, Andrew draws inspiration from the countries he’s worked in and translates the very best qualities of their resident cultures into his design practice.

AFFILIATIONS
Volunteer, Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF)

Kenton Miersma, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2020
Dallas

Kenton’s expertise resides in water and climate conscious design, especially in the western United States, tapping into his extensive knowledge of plant species and performance for optimal solutions affecting cost, maintenance, and user experience.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Now in the fifth generation of leadership, LandDesign successfully transcends eras with the right people at the right time.

Adam McGuire, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2012
Charlotte

Adam is a champion of sharing work across LandDesign’s offices with the belief that uncoming collaboration and aligning talents to appropriate projects produces the best design for the best results.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)
LEED Accredited Professional

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
Presenter, Florida APA Annual Conference (2023)
Presenter, NCASLA Annual Conference (2016)

Chad Kovaleski, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2012
Orlando

Chad has a sharp eye for experiential design within large-scale mixed-use, resort, waterfront, and destination places. His portfolio demonstrates versatility and design acumen in imagining the unique spirit of place deserving of each project he comes into contact with.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
Presenter, National ASLA Conference (2016)
Speaker, NC ASLA Conference (2010, 2013, 2016)
Speaker, TX ASLA Conference (2017)

Hattie leads the firm’s collaborative internal charrette series, establishing an environment where creative minds can come together. She is plugged into a variety of strategic groups focused on improving the practice and employee growth experiences, particularly leading the advancement of project management and how young designers grow into thriving project managers.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Joe Giangrandi, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2010
Washington DC

Joe works alongside leading national developers and leads a studio delivering large-scale urban design, mixed-use development, and multi-family communities.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
ULI Washington, Regional Leadership Institute
(2019-2020)

Hattie Pavlecko-Reiter, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2014
Charlotte

Hattie leads the firm’s collaborative internal charrette series, establishing an environment where creative minds can come together. She is plugged into a variety of strategic groups focused on improving the practice and employee growth experiences, particularly leading the advancement of project management and how young designers grow into thriving project managers.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Eric Pohlmann, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2012
Charlotte

Eric has an appreciation for both traditional hand-rendering and advanced design technologies, both of which he uses to craft rich visual experiences for his clients. He recognizes the power in subtle design moves and materiality choices, something he encourages his studio to tap into.

AFFILIATIONS
LEED Accredited Professional

ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS
NCI Charrette Planner Certificate

Andrew Schmidt, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2020
Charlotte

Andrew has an appreciation for expressive design and a commitment to the unique freedoms that are afforded with every new project. He works to ensure his approach and design style are equal parts creative and practical. With a portfolio spanning continents, Andrew draws inspiration from the countries he’s worked in and translates the very best qualities of their resident cultures into his design practice.

AFFILIATIONS
Volunteer, Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF)

Kenton Miersma, PLA, ASLA
PRINCIPAL — Joined 2020
Dallas

Kenton’s expertise resides in water and climate conscious design, especially in the western United States, tapping into his extensive knowledge of plant species and performance for optimal solutions affecting cost, maintenance, and user experience.

AFFILIATIONS
Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Now in the fifth generation of leadership, LandDesign successfully transcends eras with the right people at the right time.
LandDesign believes it takes creativity and innovation around the principles of engineering to make forward-thinking transformational ideas become reality.

**Dale Stewart, PE**
**FOUNDING PARTNER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Dale, occasionally mistaken for a landscape architect, intentionally makes his work about the people he serves – both clients and community. He’s an advocate for sustainable infrastructure on a mission to ensure the communities he impacts will be around and healthy for generations yet to come.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Water Environment Federation
- American Water Works Association

**ACHIEVEMENTS + RECOGNITIONS**
- NAIOP Charlotte Award of Excellence (2023)

**Ray Waugh, PE**
**COO, PARTNER**
**ORLANDO**

Ray is a strategic leader who drives the firm’s operational growth while remaining connected to the work. As an engineer, he leverages his passion for business efficiency in understanding client goals and managing a project’s design process in service to them.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- National Society of Professional Engineers
- Water Environment Federation
- American Water Works Association
- National Water Resources Association

**Kevin Vogel, PE**
**PARTNER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Kevin works on both public and private site development and infrastructure improvement projects regionally and internationally. He begins the design process by bringing together civil engineers, landscape architects, and construction administration teams to ensure project success.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Association of State Dam Safety Officials

**Nate Doolittle, PE**
**PARTNER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Nate has a keen understanding of public/private projects, with a wide variety of expertise in large-scale developments and urban infill projects.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- LEED BD+C
- NAIOP Real Estate Development Association, Board Director
- City of Charlotte Development Services Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
- ULI Regional Market Impact Council, Co-Chair

**Frank McMahan, PE**
**PARTNER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Frank applies his expertise as a civil engineer to create an impact in the community. From long-term infrastructure planning to affordable housing projects, he brings the right voices and expertise to the table to get the best results – delivering projects on time and on budget.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- American Water Works Association
- Southeast Stormwater Association
- Charlotte Water Advisory Committee, Vice Chairman

**Brian Dench, PE**
**PRINCIPAL**
**DALLAS**

Brian is an expert in land development leading the transformation of large tracts of land into successful master planned communities. He is skilled at identifying the upfront infrastructure needs to accommodate long-term growth, and creating implementable solutions.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
- National Association of Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP)

**Brian Forster, PE**
**PRINCIPAL**
**ORLANDO**

Brian leads a studio pushing the boundaries of innovation along the entire development process working for and building trust with high-profile resort and themed entertainment clients.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- Leadership Orlando Class 101
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- Florida, Community Housing Development Council

**Dan Melvin, PE**
**PRINCIPAL**
**CHARLOTTE**

Dan’s versatility, enthusiasm, and aptitude for maintaining client relationships and mentoring his team makes him a reliable asset to every project he works on.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- NAIOP, Charlotte Board of Directors, President (2024 - present)
- Charlotte Water Advisory Committee (2022 - present)

**Dawn Stephenson**
**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Dawn has grown in her career mostly at LandDesign, Dawn is a key member of every project team by ensuring designers can remain focused on project work, not budgets. Her aptitude for coordination and calculation keeps the accounting department operating like a well-organized balance sheet.

**Heba Root, PHR**
**CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER**
**CHARLOTTE**

Heba is passionate about cultivating a forward-thinking culture that attracts and retains the best designers and leaders across the industry – a critical component allowing the firm to transcend generations.

**Deborah Miller**
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC GROWTH + BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**
**WASHINGTON DC**

Deborah is the ultimate connector of people and ideas. With more than 25 years working with design leadership of some of the world’s leading architecture, planning, and engineering firms – such as Glatting Jackson (AECOM), EDIA, LEO A DALY, and Atkins – she possesses a deep understanding of what comprises the best approach to achieve the best design solutions for clients in meeting their project goals and objectives.

**AFFILIATIONS**
- Urban Land Institute (ULI) Community Development Council, Chair
- Kennedy Center Capital Corporate Council, Founding Member
CREATING PLACES THAT MATTER

ENDURE
ADVANCE
INSPIRE
ENGAGE
INNOVATE

Selected Work

Little Sugar Creek Greenway | Charlotte, NC
National Harbor defines the Potomac River waterfront in experience and stewardship. The vibrant mixed-use district is an iconic national destination, attracting more than 15-million visitors annually and opening access to the water for more than 2,700 permanent residents. The waterfront, event plaza, and intentionally-oriented promenade grant public access to art, events, retail, restaurants, entertainment, and magnificent sunset views. Planning of the site honors and protects the land and watershed by restoring wildlife habitats and improving water quality.

Phase 1 Completed 2008; Continuing services through present day
25+ years engaged in the project (various contracts)

**NOTABLE DETAILS**
- 15.2M annual visitors (2022)
- 45+ public artworks
- 100 acres of stormwater runoff treatment
A place that nurtures.

Winter Park Library and Events Center is a civic statement that represents the City of Winter Park’s commitment to strengthening its community through social gathering, intellectual nourishment, and connection to nature. Views created and framed by angular architecture highlight an amenity lake and native plantings, including a spectacular preserved mature tree canopy, immersing visitors in an environment that blends tropical elegance with ‘old Florida.’ Several spaces throughout the site encourage engagement and allow the community access to make it their own.
What began as a strategy to incorporate more culture, public art, and green space in Uptown Charlotte became a remarkable catalyst for economic development. The intention for Romare Bearden Park was to transform an under-performing city block into a community asset and revenue generator – it worked, spurring an estimated $350 million in construction immediately adjacent to the site.

The signature urban park is inspired by its namesake, a world-renowned, locally-born artist, and features colorful gardens influenced by his well-known paintings and an illuminated waterfall framed by skyscrapers that is now an iconic image of Charlotte.

A place that stimulates.

Services: Landscape Architecture, Master Planning, Civil Engineering
Completed 2013
6 years engaged in the project

NOTABLE DETAILS
ASLA Southeast Regional Honor Award, 2017
ASLA North Carolina Chapter; Award of Excellence, 2015
AIA Charlotte; People’s Choice Landscape Award, 2015

Estimated $350M generated in development immediately adjacent to the site
Designed to respect and reflect the Blue Ridge Mountains that surround it, Camp Lake James is a lakeside recreation center with the character and style of an Adirondack lodge with distinctive details hand-crafted by local artisans. Materials were carefully selected to blend built elements into the natural environment while human-made features are integrated into natural attributes or hidden altogether. The design also focused on sensitive site location of buildings and a native plant palette, as well as preservation of trees, wetlands, streams, and aquatic buffers. To further protect plant health and water quality, stormwater is treated on-site and reused for irrigation and water features.

Services: Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering
Completed 2008
2 years engaged in the project

RECOGNITIONS
ASLA North Carolina; Merit Award, 2009
AIA North Carolina; Merit Award, 2008
American Society of Irrigation Consultants; Excellence in Irrigation Award, 2009
Little Sugar Creek Greenway

A place that connects.

A once rejected creek that divided Midtown Charlotte now connects the greater community. Little Sugar Creek Greenway is a vision come to life – a thriving, 19-mile community corridor that is a model for urban stream restoration and placemaking, demonstrating how a greenway can bring together cultural, social, economic, and ecological value. Each section of the greenway features a palette of materials and design elements that were carefully chosen to create a cohesive character that not only addresses the ecological systems, but also reflects the historic and urban vernacular.
Kingsley Town Center provides a unique address for corporate, commercial, and residential buildings, becoming the newest economic engine for a region once driven by textile mills. The story of the Springs Industries legacy is infused throughout the project, merging historic context with a contemporary mill style to celebrate the past in fresh and surprising ways. A rich collection of murals, brickwork, paving patterns, and lighting present industrial details at a comfortable scale, situated on a four-acre lake that creates the backdrop for this new community to flourish.

A place that celebrates.

Kingsley Town Center

Services: Landscape Architecture, Master Planning, Land Planning, Civil Engineering
Completed 2016
2 years engaged in the project

RECOGNITIONS
ICSC; Design Development Gold Award: New Developments - Mixed-Use Projects, 2020
AIA Charlotte; Design + Service Awards: Citation, Urban Design, 2019
Bahía Urbana returns the water to the people of San Juan – connecting the old town to a new waterfront district through various multi-modal transportaiton options. A pedestrian promenade spans the length of the development, resulting in 1.5 miles of continuous, publicly-accessible waterfront on land that was previously inaccessible due to commercial maritime operations. Intended to be a celebration of San Juan, the design of the promenade required a deep understanding of the region’s culture and history. Materiality, form, public art, and plantings work together to celebrate the past in a fresh, contemporary way.

Services: Landscape Architecture
Phase 1 Completed 2013
2 years engaged in the project

NOTABLE DETAILS
International implementation success involving complex coordination with several governing entities
Brownfield redevelopment

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Bahía Urbana

A place that invites.
Duke Kunshan is an international model for sustainable campus design and a catalyst project for the region. Stormwater management is more important than ever as cities face urban flooding and water quality issues. To address heavy rainfall and urban flooding in China, the campus is organized around a four-acre lake connected by pedestrian bridges skimming the water’s surface. At the center of the lake is a terraced plaza designed to accommodate fluctuating water levels, allowing portions of the gathering space to be submerged in the summer during peak rainfall periods and revealed during lower rainfall periods, which coincide with peak student attendance and space demand.

A place that adapts.
Set in the rolling landscape of Loudoun County, a fast-growing outer suburb of Washington DC, Willowsford is a 4,125-acre master planned community that offers the best of rural living coupled with upscale amenities. By applying a natural approach to land planning, development was clustered to preserve the existing features of the site and maintain large portions of open space for agricultural and recreational uses. Defined by an extensive patchwork of scenic woodlands, open meadows, and agricultural fields, more than half of the development is designated as permanent open space. The community’s attention to detail, higher-quality built environments, and superior lifestyle offerings sets Willowsford apart from its competitors.

NOTABLE DETAILS
- ASLA Potomac Chapter; Merit Award: Built Design, 2016
- RCLCO Top-Selling Master-Planned Communities (2016, 2017, 2018)

Completed 2016
6 years engaged in the project
Designed to be a personal residence with resort hospitality elements, this hilltop estate features luxurious intimate spaces facing breathtaking desert views. The entry draws one through a private corridor to shed the influences of life outside the home then leads into an increasingly expansive living area where disappearing doors and material continuity blur the distinction between indoors and outdoors. A native plant palette softens the desert contemporary hardscape and rock formations to create a nestled feeling among the spa, patio, pool, and sunken fire pit, but does not inhibit the spectacular view of the glittering Las Vegas strip.

A place that decompresses.

Services: Landscape Architecture
Completed 2017
2 years engaged in the project

NOTABLE DETAILS
First Inspiration Home for the luxury Ascaya community
You can make a perfectly good living by sitting in your office all day and turning out plans. However, your sense of satisfaction in your career is going to be greatly enhanced if you become engaged in your industry and your community. Not only will you be making the community a better place, but you’ll meet and forge relationships with a lot more people you may never have met otherwise.”

— Dale Stewart
Founding Partner