

## RESEARCH (1980, R2001, R2009)



### **Policy Statement**

The American Society of Landscape Architects encourages the undertaking of high quality research in the field of landscape architecture. Research includes diverse types of inquiry, including disciplinary and multidisciplinary; applied and theoretical. The Society promotes intellectual activities that generate new knowledge, produce and disseminate scholarly work, and apply advanced approaches and technology to current and emerging areas of professional practice. ASLA supports the adaptation of relevant information, concepts, and methods from arts, sciences, and humanities to strengthen the profession.

### **Rationale**

An up-to-date body of knowledge is fundamental to the advancement of the profession of landscape architecture. Different types of inquiry including applied and basic disciplinary and multidisciplinary, and procedural and substantive research promote the expansion of the body of knowledge and ensures that landscape architects are technically and intellectually equipped to meet the challenges of their 21st century.

Academics have a special responsibility to acquire, interpret, synthesize, and disseminate relevant information and ideas produced by the arts, sciences, and humanities so that such knowledge can guide the design and planning decisions. They should focus on producing research and scholarly work that strengthens and expands a unique theoretical underpinning of landscape architecture, which has been slowly formulating through the ages. This comprehensive approach to research is essential to the continuation of landscape architecture as a distinct field in the world of ideas (i.e., academic research) and in the world of action (i.e., professional practice). Guiding principles should encompass both creative insight as well as scientific rigor.

Landscape architecture academicians are in a unique position to conduct interdisciplinary research and collaborate with other fields in producing scholarly work. These joint ventures help them develop the level of competence required by the academic institutions and by the funding agencies. The profession benefits when new research is synthesized and when new technology is integrated into landscape architecture practice.

Recognizing that traditional compartments of knowledge may not fully serve their needs, landscape architects should develop capabilities that permit them to draw not only upon design processes but also upon research methods and results. Those engaged in public and private practice are well positioned to contribute to the body of knowledge by promoting the testing and application of new knowledge, technology, and approaches in landscape architecture.