

**Honorary Membership  
Nomination**

Nominee: Carolyn Mitchell

Nominee's Address:  
Fenimore Court  
1911 Chene Court, Unit 103

City/State/Zip:  
Detroit, MI 48207

Phone:

202-438-1069

Nominator: Mark A. Focht, PLA, FASLA, Past President ASLA

Mark A. Focht, PLA, FASLA  
229 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 22-O  
New York, NY 10023

20 January 2018

American Society of Landscape Architects  
Attn: ASLA Honors and Awards Committee  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**RE: Honorary Membership Nomination for Carolyn Mitchell**

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Ms. Mitchell served as ASLA's Honors and Awards Specialist from 2004 until her retirement in fall of 2017.

Carolyn was instrumental in shaping and growing the Society's student and professional award programs. She almost single-handedly managed the two programs, which could attract over 700 submittals in a single year. Carolyn oversaw all aspects of honors and awards, from publicizing the programs, to processing entries, selecting and managing juries and producing the awards program. She ran thoughtful, professional and fair juries and took great care to guide many students and professionals through the process each year.

As ASLA President in 2014, I had the privilege to work closely with Carolyn. I also served on the student awards jury in 2017. Carolyn was the consummate professional. She understood the nuances of both programs and was quick to provide clear direction. She was attentive to every juror and worked hard to ensure that the jury process itself was fair, enjoyable and rewarding. At the same time she was warm, approachable and fun to work with.

I am certain that ASLA's honors and awards programs grew in visibility and prestige due to Carolyn's careful and thoughtful stewardship. Each year the quality of the programs, from the brochure to the submittals, jurors and video, improved. During my time in leadership with the Society many landscape architects and allied professionals commented on the quality and sophistication of the awards programs and selected projects.

Carolyn embodies the type of individual who should receive honorary membership. As a non-landscape architect, she worked tirelessly to advance awareness and appreciation of our profession.

Thank you for considering her nomination.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Focht, PLA, FASLA  
Past President, ASLA

Honorary Membership Nomination  
 American Society of Landscape Architects  
 636 I Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20001

RE: Nomination for Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary ASLA

**Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,**

It is with admiration and appreciation that I nominate Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have had the pleasure to work with Carolyn for many years when she was a part of the ASLA team. During her tenure at ASLA she led the Honors and Awards Program for both the Student and Professional awards. She also supported the Education sessions, and the Annual meeting overall. At that meeting she did a wonderful job of hosting the awards ceremony.

Carolyn and I connected again during the fundraising for the renovation of the ASLA headquarters. Carolyn has dedicated many long hours to the ASLA where she held many responsibilities. I firmly believe that Carolyn is an extremely dedicated supporter of our discipline, and her passion, commitment and leadership should be rewarded by this honor. Carolyn truly understands landscape architecture and has had a significant impact on our profession; not only through the many programs, but also through her interaction with the members of ASLA. She has a great appreciation of landscape architecture and she understands the importance of our role in the community.

Carolyn has been a strong voice for her neighbors and the community by dedicating long hours to improve children's facilities and programs. She was the president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly as well as the Channel Square Tenants Association, making sure that children in the neighborhood had access to local recreation centers with after school programs.

I greatly admire Carolyn for her commitment to her local community as well as her dedication to landscape architecture through ASLA. She has inspired seasoned professional and students alike through her interactions with those involved with ASLA. She has worked patiently and tirelessly with those in the profession to help promote the work of the members. We have all seen the impact of her work and know she is one of our greatest advocates.

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For all of the aforementioned reasons, I sincerely encourage you to bestow the Honorary ASLA distinction upon Carolyn Mitchell.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Burnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

James D. Burnett, FASLA  
President  
OJB Landscape Architecture

31 January 2018

Re: Confidential Letter of Support for Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary ASLA

Dear Executive Committee and Members of the Board of Trustees,

It's a great personal honor and a very special pleasure to support the nomination for Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects, for her immense service and sincere dedication to the professional society and its members, and for her resolute leadership in guiding students and members towards deserved peer recognition in the field over so many years.

Appropriately, ASLA never conveys this honor lightly. We do it for people who have had impact. Honoring Carolyn in this way takes account of a profound historical fact: She has had a positive and sustaining impact on countless aspiring students and member landscape architects—an entire generation of them—who seek and achieve recognition for their passions. She's guided so many of them to success. She epitomizes the dedication and service we have come to respect in the conveyance of peer recognition. In her retirement from ASLA, she deserves our wholehearted embrace, and the Honorary ASLA designation is the perfect vehicle for this.

In her role as Honors and Awards Specialist and Resource Development Coordinator, Carolyn has built relationships with thousands of students and practitioners. In Brad McKee's words, she has become the "patient godparent," the gatekeeper and shepherd of the many candidates for recognition by the society. We have all been on the nail-biting side of vying for recognition; Carolyn has been the reassuring voice on the other end of the phone, encouraging and cajoling so many of us towards higher aspirations.

Carolyn's own words make clear her excitement around the surprises and stories that the professional and student awards programs foster. "I never know what my day is going to bring, fielding questions from someone as close as Maryland or someone as far away as China, talking to students advisers, or even a parent. When the day of the ceremony arrives, knowing that I helped put that burst of pride on their faces makes it all worthwhile."

My own experience with Carolyn's warm smile, dry wit, and big embrace launched into a different phase almost fifteen years ago, when I was invited to be a member of the Annual Awards Jury in 2004 and got to know her better over the course of that weekend. There wasn't any question about who really ran the awards program. I was then appointed Jury Chair in 2005, and then, again, Chair of the Student Awards jury in 2006.

Before and since that time, my firm has been fortunate to receive many awards, and Carolyn has helped us manage the submittals, weather the disappointments, and absorb the recognitions.


But alongside the great honors that we've had, there is also the immense pleasure that Carolyn has brought to every conversation, and to each celebration at the Annual Meeting. She's been the Master of Ceremonies and Chief Therapist. It's the big heart, the strong embrace, along with a certain organizational genius, which have made her the champion of winners and the gracious soother of those who almost won. She has doled out her empathy in equal doses—the bearer of good news, and the encouraging voice we all need to hear when we're told to get back up on your horse and make another try.

I can only imagine the applause when we grant Carolyn this prestigious honor. Everybody wins in this one!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Hilderbrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Hilderbrand FASLA FAAR  
Principal, Reed Hilderbrand LLC  
Professor in Practice, Harvard Graduate School of Design



January 20, 2018

ASLA Honors and Awards Committee  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington DC 20001

RE: Carolyn Mitchell for Honorary Membership

I am writing in support of the nomination of Carolyn Mitchell for honorary membership. I have had the remarkable opportunity to work with Carolyn as both a former chair and member of the student jury over a period of two years. As the Honors and Awards Coordinator for the ASLA, Carolyn brought a critical and consistent commitment to excellence and ethics, setting an exceptional standard of practice to her leadership. She stands as a roll model for all who have had the opportunity to work with her.

Her commitment to everything from the smallest detail to the larger issues of principles and expectations established a well-organized context for the work, which resulted in deeply thoughtful deliberation and an unimpeachable result. She consistently made sure that all were prepared to execute their responsibility, were aware of the standards and requirements and equally important, effectively fostered a collegial environment in which the juries could do their very best. This approach started with the initial contact and carried through the awards ceremony and beyond. Carolyn's approach demands and inspires the best in all involved and results in the greatest confidence in the integrity and aspirations of the process. Her approach employs humor coupled with exceptional leadership.

Carolyn exemplifies the highest standard of commitment to the larger good and the understanding of effective joyful teamwork. This coupled with her sense of ethics as profoundly important in any period of time but particularly now. This is to be honored, celebrated and shouted from the mountaintops! Carolyn's rigor is an example we should all use as we pursue our commitments and passions. When working with Carolyn, you feel that she brings a deep sense of community, compassion and humanity to the effort, which when coupled with her high standards creates exceptional results. Equally important her approach builds a community web of shared experience and values. This is exceptionally unusual and to be honored. This is the way we should all work and when coupled with the remarkable legacy she has developed over her thirteen years with the ASLA, Carolyn is more than worthy of elevation to Honorary Member. We would be deeply remiss to miss the opportunity to honor and express our deep thanks to this remarkable woman and leader.

It is with great gratitude I write this letter of support for Carolyn and strongly recommend her for Honorary Membership in the ASLA.

Most sincerely,



Barbara Swift, FASLA, Hon. AIA  
Member



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4100 Illinois Route 53  
Lisle, IL 60532-1293

ASLA Board of Trustees  
636 Eye Street. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Honorary Membership Letter of Support for Carolyn Mitchell

Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I offer this letter of support for the nomination of Carolyn Mitchell, for honorary membership in ASLA. Carolyn's thirteen years of dedicated service to the American Society of Landscape Architects and tireless behind the scenes work on the Honors and Awards program make her an excellent candidate for honorary membership.

Carolyn, in her role as an Honors and Awards Specialist, was the main contact for members from around the world as they put together awards entries. She took an extraordinary interest in coordinating our student scholarship and award winners, and was a terrific ambassador for the profession with these future professionals. Carolyn's thoughtful and patient work with staff, volunteers and members has helped strengthen and improve the recognition of the ASLA Honors and Awards program.

I support this nomination with enthusiasm, and encourage the Board of Trustees to recognize Carolyn Mitchell with honorary membership.

Best Regards,

Susan Jacobson, FASLA, PLA  
Landscape Architect &  
Manager of Planning and Site Design