

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Philip J. Enquist, FAIA, Urban Design Partner at SOM
Nominee's Address: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1000
City/State/Zip: Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-360-4151
Nominator: Cameron Barradale, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP

"Nature is the best designer." – Phil Enquist

A generation of city designers has learned to see the natural and built worlds through Phil's eyes: as a place for people that prioritizes, respects and enhances landscapes as the formative element of design. His is a world in which these systems are designed to seamlessly complement each other, creating the most sustainably efficient and healthful habitats for all the living things that do and will live there. This is the essence of his practice and his personal passion.

He has done this for decades, and on five continents. A portfolio of his environmentally responsive design work and world-class open space projects would be as tall as he is. Here is but a sampling:

At home in Chicago, he led the City of Chicago Central Area Plan that was the precursor to recent pilot projects to establish wetlands and break down the channelized edges of the North and South Branches of the Chicago River. His 2009 Chicago Riverwalk Framework Plan laid the foundation for the Sasaki Riverwalk project, establishing the now realized concept of the river rooms and Riverwalk retail that has transformed downtown Chicago. He was a visionary and lead planner for the Millennium Park Master Plan, which set the stage for Lurie Garden, Crown Fountain and the other iconic projects that make up the world-renowned city park.

Abroad, his national plan for the Kingdom of Bahrain dealt with the island nation's ecosystems holistically, ensuring that development did not disrupt its complex biosphere. A decade later, he convinced the leadership of the largest privately developed city on earth, Saudi's King Abdullah Economic City, to abandon a planned system of artificial canals. Instead, he recommended that a robust system of natural stormwater wadis should continue to carry their precious water and nutrients through the massive site and into the Red Sea, nourishing its bio-diverse wetlands, creating a city-wide system of parks and trails – and saving the developer billions in concrete culvert construction costs.

Phil opened up China for SOM. He planned Shanghai's Huangpu Riverfront, and created a plan for nearby Chongming Island at the mouth of the Yangtze River that balanced light touch development with preserved farmland, wetlands and natural habitats. Presently, he is planning 180 km of open space along Jinan's

Yellow River. His teams are designing 40 km of public promenades along the Pearl Riverfront in Guangzhou and recently completed an ecological framework plan for a 35 sq km island in the Pearl River Delta.

Phil has also pioneered a new scale in urban design through his pro bono, 6-year initiative calling for a 100-year vision for the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River basin – a bi-national plan that puts ecological restoration and naturalizing city infrastructure as the foundations for economic renewal. As a result, it is now the watershed that defines the initial context for all SOM planning projects. The project was awarded an ASLA Communications Honor Award in 2013.

He has led interdisciplinary studios at the Harvard GSD, UMichigan, IIT, UT Knoxville and multiple other institutions – and indeed all of his hands-on design projects are essentially master classes. His Waterline Studio at the GSD won an ILASLA Award in 2012. He is also the first non-scientist to serve as Governor's Chair at UT Knoxville, a five-year research initiative where he is leading a studio to study the ecology of the Tennessee River and its interface with development.

Throughout this journey, Phil and his practice have been honored to employ, work with and eagerly commission, many of the greatest living landscape architects in true partnership – putting hard-working and humanizing landscapes at the heart of significant urban redevelopment efforts:

- With Jim Burnett, Phil and his team unlocked the development potential of what is now the high-density, mixed-use Lakeshore East development incorporating the award-winning Lakeshore East central park. Thus, began a long collaborative relationship that has spanned campus, urban and institutional designs.
- Phil's team has worked with Kongjian Yu and Turenscape multiple times in Beijing, Xi'an and other Chinese cities to create urban development formed around water-cleansing landscapes and rivers.
- His work with PWP in Sydney as part of Barangaroo and Headland Park has earned recent international acclaim for its generous contribution to the Sydney Harbor's Great public edge.
- With Tom Leader Studio, Phil's team won a competition for the City of Kunming by increasing parcel density to enable a breathtaking central park (size of Central Park in Manhattan) that will help to eliminate the central city's frequent flooding.
- His team has worked with Martha Schwartz on multiple projects across the globe, including a current waterfront park and public realm design in Shanghai.

It is this incredible pride that Phil takes in working with landscape architects – from day one – that has ensured that public open space, access to nature and beautiful streets are primary in all design efforts coming out of the City Design studios at SOM. He has put forward and enabled landscape architects as vital authors of our urban future, advancing the image of the profession immeasurably throughout his entire career. If there ever was an urban planner who deserves the distinction - Honorary ASLA – it is Phil Enquist.

January 13, 2017

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 EYE Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Philip Enquist, FAIA

Dear Colleagues and Selection Committee Members,

It is with great conviction that I am formally recommending Philip Enquist, FAIA, be made an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Phil is a Partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), a world-renowned architecture firm, where he leads its global design practice, the world's most highly recognized urban planning group. I have had the pleasure of working with Phil for the last 20 years on various projects and can attest to the fact that he is a great supporter of our discipline. Phil understands and appreciates landscape architecture and has always treated our work as equally important and impactful to the overall project design.

I relate to Phil in many ways, but from a design perspective, he and I share the belief that thoughtful design greatly enhances quality of life. This is particularly evident in Phil's urban designs which aim to restore connections with nature while making cities more livable. His design work is focused on humane solutions for sustainably managing rapid growth in increasingly dense, urban areas. His work is culturally and contextually sensitive responding to its environment. Phil also unites like-minded people to champion important ideas. His study and resulting 100-year vision for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence watershed region was groundbreaking and the subject of a very popular TEDxTalk. His ten-point plan calls on cross-border collaboration for the preservation and sustainable utilization of this vital resource. The presentation inspired the mayors of the Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to vote to approve a regional sustainability program.

Phil possesses unquestionable character and a great dedication to his craft. Committed to his profession, Phil is a mentor and an educator at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Urban Planning. In 2010 he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Architectural Guild of the University of Southern California School of Architecture. Currently, he serves as the Governor's Chair in Energy and Urbanism for Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee.

Phil regularly collaborates with the top designers in the Landscape Architecture world and their resounding comments are all the same. He is nimble, possessing an immeasurably efficient ability to understand the various nuances of each project he touches, appreciating not only the grander scheme but also the minutiae. This sensitivity to the natural details can be clearly seen in Phil's watercolor paintings.



I have great admiration for Phil's commitment to landscape architecture and its holistic integration into his architectural planning practice, as well as his great dedication to environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and the enhancement of life in the urban core. For all of the aforementioned reasons, I unequivocally and sincerely encourage you to bestow the Honorary ASLA distinction upon Phil.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Burnett", written in a cursive style.

James D. Burnett, FASLA
President
The Office of James Burnett

January 20, 2017

ASLA Selection Committee

RE: Phil Enquist for Honorary ASLA

Dear All,

I'm writing to support the very deserving nomination of Phil Enquist to become an Honorary Member of the ASLA. I've known Phil for 27 years, going back to the days that he was leading Longacres Park, a groundbreaking storm water / wetland project in Seattle as master planner for SOM San Francisco and I was leading the landscape design for Peter Walker and Partners. We had a great collaboration and began a long-lasting friendship as well. We lived in the same city and had kids in the same kindergarten.

Throughout a 2 year effort Phil was both a big supporter of our ideas and curious about the medium and method of landscape design. We talked many times about the meaning and impact of the forest, the wetlands, the orchards and I don't think the project would have won an ASLA National Honor Award without his collegial insights.

Later Phil moved to the Chicago SOM office and now leads firm-wide planning with a talented team there that includes smart landscape architects as well as hydrologists and climate specialists – demonstrating the value he places on landscape and ecological processes. Starting about 10 years ago, Phil got back in touch and we began teaming with the Chicago planning group on many projects in China and the US.

These projects and competitions tend to be at a large scale with many urban and natural systems in play. Here is one good example of how these have worked. We recently won a competition together in Kunming, China on the site of a decommissioned airport, a huge piece of valuable real estate. When we had our first briefing on the project, Phil had already pushed to divide the site into two halves – one with denser than typical development and the other a huge central park for a city that has none. The park was both badly needed open space, forest, as well as a major storm water system to clean the runoff of numerous overburdened canals that frequently flood. Other schemes were in play that day with more typical densities and more residual allocations for open space. Phil's response was "Look guys, we just *have* to do a really big park, it's going to transform the whole city. Don't show those other schemes to anybody. We'll be fine, I promise." So we did win and that was the reason – the right reason to win.

I could go on for a long time about all the similar experiences with Phil conceiving landscapes and parks as a fundamental backbone of the cities and regions, but you would not have time to read it. Suffice it to say that I could not think of any planner or architect more deserving of recognition by the ASLA.

Sincerely,



Tom Leader, FASLA

Founder /Principal, TLS Landscape Architecture

ASLA Honorary Selection Committee
ATTN: Carolyn Mitchell

Dear Colleagues,

I have known Phil Enquist for many years and have always had the greatest respect for his depth of knowledge and high-mindedness as an urban designer and planner. It is with much enthusiasm that I recommend him for the Honorary ASLA Distinction.

Phil always is ahead of the rest of the profession in his attitudes about how to serve people first and his sensitivity to making sure that we are planning and designing healthy and beautiful places so that people can have the quality of life every person aspires to.

Phil has always been especially sensitive to scale. This is motivated by his desire to make places where people feel comfortable and wish to engage. Scale is crucial in making places that people will enjoy and do not feel diminished. He is sensitive to the environment and how it informs his decisions in terms of scale, siting and integration into the specifics of the place.

He especially is an advocate of the role the landscape plays in making successful and healthy place.

I say this because I am a landscape architect. While it is often difficult to convince planners and architects of the value of public space and the importance of incorporating the landscape so to increase the quality of life for urban dwellers, Phil has always been an advocate of including open spaces and landscape as an essential part of city design. For Phil, this was never secondary to his goals, as he worked always to integrate buildings, public transportation, services, beautiful streets, parks, walkable blocks- everything that one needs to live in a wonderful city.

I do not know of anyone in the profession who is so passionate about looking at urban design and planning holistically, so that the built environment and the natural environment are in balance and that people are put to the forefront of his process.

Best Regards,

Martha Schwartz, DSc, FASLA, Hon FRIBA, Hon RDI, RAAR
Principal

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January 18, 2017

ASLA Board of Trustees
ATTN: Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to write in support of Philip Enquist's nomination for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Phil is one of the most gifted planners working today. The breadth and scope of his accomplishments around the world have set new standards of excellence and innovation.

Central to all his projects is a deep understanding and respect for the underlying cultural and natural fabric of the landscapes where he works. Rather than simply following a formulaic approach to urban design, Phil always responds to the unique and defining aspects of "place"—starting with a thorough investigation that looks holistically at a city or region's assets. Nowhere is his big-picture approach better realized than in his 100-year vision for the Great Lakes—whose goal it is to serve as a catalyst for long-term thinking and environmental and economic renewal. Civic and political leaders from Canada and the United States have been challenged and inspired by this shared vision that Phil and his team have articulated and refined through countless engagements with those who live and work within the Great Lakes watershed.

I have been fortunate to benefit directly from Phil's vision and the impressive work of his planning group through many wonderful pro-bono collaborations that span nearly twenty years. In particular, Phil and his SOM team have provided incredible contributions to planning for sustainable development in China's Yunnan Province. Yunnan is the most culturally and ecologically diverse province in China and represents one of the richest concentrations of ethnic and cultural diversity in the world. Working with the Center for US-China Arts Exchange at Columbia University in New York, Phil and his planning group have developed various blueprints for conservancy and sensitive development that local leaders have embraced and followed. This is best seen at Weishan, a 14th-century city along the Southern Silk Road. SOM's collaboration with the region's leadership has produced remarkable results that protect and enhance Weishan's unique heritage while allowing for sustainable growth and economic development.

More recently, Phil has gotten involved in volunteer support for a relatively new not-for-profit working in Myanmar—the Yangon Heritage Trust. The mission of this group is to create a framework for growth that preserves the unique cultural resources of Burma's former capital while directing and shaping growth and development that is informed by both the successes and failures of other large metro areas. They recently unveiled the Yangon Heritage Strategy that articulates

this vision and outlines strategic directions for planning in the metro region. Phil's early counseling of the organization helped in critical ways to focus their work and shape its direction.

The list of Phil's creative influence and accomplishments is indeed long. Here in Chicago his fingerprints are found in countless places--the Chicago River, the Calumet region, Olmsted parks, just to name a few. His reach is at all scales, from an underserved Chicago neighborhood or suburb to some of the world's largest metropolitan areas. Phil is always leading by example and also learning from all the people and situations he encounters around the world. He is a great mentor who believes in the value of collaboration. He inspires so many of us with his critical thinking and innovative approaches. I can think of no one more deserving of this great recognition than Phil and certainly hope that ASLA awards Phil this important distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. W. Adelman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerald W. Adelman
President & CEO



January 18, 2017

ASLA Board

Attn: Carolyn Mitchell, ASLA Honors and Awards Coordinator

Dear colleagues:

I wish to highly recommend Phil Enquist for the Honorary ASLA Distinction.

Phil is the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) partner who leads its global city design practice and has been regularly recognized as a visionary leader in the integration of natural and built systems. Phil leads SOM urban design studios in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, London, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Dubai that have focused on improving the quality of life and the environmental performance of cities on five continents, by designing location-sensitive master plans that integrate nature and urban density.

He pioneered the firm's presence in China, where he has led major, complex urban projects in more than 20 cities. Phil's focus on the interconnectivity between the regional, city and place based scales of Chinese urbanization has benefitted millions and won multiple awards in the process. Currently, he is focusing on the holistic design of urban clusters and regional ecosystems in the rapidly growing regions of China's Bohai Rim, Pearl River Delta and inland provinces. This builds off of his pioneering 100-year Vision for the Great Lakes project in the US, for a future of watershed-scale ecological restoration and economic renewal.

He has strategically advised China's national mayors' association in conjunction with the Paulson Institute, which honored Phil's practice with its first Paulson Prize for creative and sustainable design of a Chinese metropolitan area.

To highlight several projects Turenscape team and myself has been directly involved in with Phil and the SOM Team. These projects are just a few examples of the emphasis Phil's work puts on quality open space in China:

In 2012, Phil led the planning effort for Beijing Bohai Innovation City, a 1,473 ha site along a high speed rail corridor adjacent to Beijing. As part of this project, a large ecological park was created as the heart of the TOD city which Turenscape subsequently developed the landscape architecture from schematic design to construction document in detail. The park is 80% completed and most of the area has already opened to the public for different usage. The remaining portion of the project is still under construction which aims to complete in 2018.

In 2014, Phil led a team to create a master plan for Xixian International Culture and Education Park in Xian with Turenscape. The project has used the main river as the master plan driver, creating an ecological corridor and blue-and-green infrastructure to instigate different types of developments. The other key features for this project involves agriculture land preservation, high-speed railway overpass crossing, as well as the mitigation of water level of the hydrology system. Our collaboration in planning and landscape has led to a successful project delivery and high acknowledgement by the local government and officials.



北京土人城市规划设计有限公司
TURENSCAPE

Phil has also been dedicated to education over his career and has taught multi-disciplinary design studios at multiple renowned design schools. In 2011, Phil led a design studio at Harvard's Graduate School of Design that focused on access to quality open space and a rejuvenation of the ecology of the South Branch of the Chicago River. This is another example of Phil's dedication to landscape and ecology as a key driver for urban design.

Additionally, Phil has been a consistent contributor to Landscape Architecture Frontiers Magazine (LAF) with articles about Chinese Urbanization and Regional Planning. Recent submissions include Great Lakes: The Environment and the Economy, and A New City Design Sensibility: A Science Based Approach to Accommodating Rising Global Populations.

I sincerely hope that you will grant this honor to Phil. He is most deserving.

Sincerely,

KONGJIAN YU, FASLA

Doctor of Design, Harvard GSD

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Dean, College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University

President and Principal Designer, Turenscape

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PWP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

PETER WALKER, FASLA

January 20, 2017

DOUGLAS FINDLAY, FASLA

DAVID WALKER, FASLA

The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
The American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

ADAM GREENSPAN

SANDRA HARRIS

CHRIS DIMOND, FASLA

Regarding: Letter of Recommendation for Phil Enquist for Honorary ASLA Membership

JULIE CANTER

CONARD LINDGREN

To Whom it May Concern:

JAY SWAINTEK

This is to recommend Phil Enquist for honorary membership in the ASLA.

MICHAEL DELLIS

TODD MEAD

Phillip Enquist, FAIA, is the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) partner who leads its global city design practice, the world's most highly awarded urban planning group. Phil has been regularly recognized as a visionary leader in a rapidly evolving discipline.

MARTIN POIRIER, FASLA

CARMEN ARROYO

Phil and his studios in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, London and Shanghai have improved the quality of life and the environmental performance of cities on five continents, by designing location-sensitive master plans that integrate nature and urban density within a framework of future-focused public infrastructure.

STEVE TYCZ

JANET BEAGLE

He pioneered the firm's presence in China, where he has strategically advised its national mayors' association in conjunction with the Paulson Institute, which honored Phil's practice with its first Paulson Prize for creative and sustainable design of a Chinese metropolitan area. His global city design portfolio of built work – and his firm-wide leadership within SOM – puts high performance environmental design at the core of every project.

EUSTACIA BROSSART

CHELSEA DEWITT

LAUREL HUNTER

The scale of Phil's design perspective ranges from preserving ancient villages to national design strategies for the Kingdom of Bahrain. But it is the individual human experience that guides his planning strategies for urban forms that enhance city living with walkable, transit-enabled districts made more livable with natural amenities. With an acute awareness of the environmental implications of rapid population growth and urbanization, Phil is also focusing on holistic design at the scale of urban clusters within regional ecosystems such as China's Bohai Rim and Pearl River Delta. An example of this is his award-winning, five-year *pro bono* initiative calling for a vision of natural restoration and urban redevelopment in the megalopolis ecosystem of North America's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.

JUSTIN JACKSON

KAZUNARI KOBAYASHI

CORNELIA ROPPEL

CHRIS WALKER

MONICA WAY

MI YANG

Phil is committed to his profession through one-on-one mentorships, along with his studio for architecture and urban design students at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, as the Charles Moore Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and many other academic involvements. He was honored with the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Architectural Guild of the University of Southern California (USC) School of Architecture for his dedication to strengthening the physical, social and intellectual infrastructure of cities. He is currently serving a five-year appointment by Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee as Governor's Chair in Energy and Urbanism.

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*The Executive Committee and Board of Trustee / The American Society of Landscape Architects
Letter of Recommendation for Phil Enquist for Honorary ASLA Membership
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Phil passionately believes that the world's explosive growth of cities must be managed by humanely bold and holistically sustainable thinking at the national, regional and metropolitan scales and that human habitat design will be the alpha design science of the 21st century.

I am pleased to recommend him to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Walker", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Walker

PW/jb