ASLA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO

The Residential Gardens of Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture
Overview

The residential gardens for this field session have been curated from KLLA’s portfolio of work to compare and illustrate the diverse range of project size, styles, and context encountered in the Boston area. Unique challenges and the craft that goes into each project will be highlighted and also how scale and context can drive project design.

Learning Objectives

- Experience the dramatic range of project sizes in the Boston area and how a client’s programmatic needs were met on a series of distinctly unique properties.
- Learn in what ways designers can embrace unique existing site conditions, such as specimen tree preservation, to help inform the landscape design.
- Understand how the designer’s refined craft, response to context, and use of materials unify these projects of differing character and scale.
- Examine how designers in the Northeast address winter interest in the landscape with plant materials and hardscape.

1. Urban Sculpture Terrace  Boston, MA
2. Hillside Garden  Brookline, MA
3. Heath Hill  Brookline, MA
4. Green Hill  Brookline, MA
5. Lowder Brook  Dedham, MA
The Residential Gardens of Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture

Speaker Biographies

Keith LeBlanc, FASLA
Keith LeBlanc has dedicated over 30 years to the design of residential landscapes and established his own design office in Boston in 1997. His firm, Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, has gained local and national recognition with multiple awards from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, the Southern California chapter of the ASLA, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Keith was recently named a Fellow by the American Society of Landscape Architects in the works category and currently serves on the Stewardship Council of The Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Douglas Jones, ASLA
Partner Douglas Jones shares conceptual design responsibilities at Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture; he has spent more than 15 years creating, debating and collaborating with Keith to author the rich, textured spaces that define the firm’s work. Douglas received a BLA from the University of Idaho in 1987. He serves on the Marblehead, MA Design Review Board as well as the boards of several non-profit organizations.

John Haven, ASLA
John Haven, a Senior Associate at Keith LeBlanc Landscape Architecture, is a registered landscape architect with 14 years of experience working in the Boston area. As a project manager, he helps represent, develop and resolve concepts and ensures they are optimally realized. John holds a BLA from Purdue University and currently serves on the Dedham, MA Design Review Advisory Board.

Gregory Carbone, ASLA
Gregory Carbone, Commercial Arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts, has over 14 years of experience in Arboriculture in the New England area. With a background in Arboriculture and Landscape Architecture, Gregory is frequently a key consultant on landscape projects throughout New England requiring challenging tree preservation efforts and pre and post construction care of the landscape. Mr. Carbone holds a BLA from the University of Rhode Island and is a member of the ASLA and International Society of Arboriculture.
Urban Sculpture Terrace

- Boston, MA
- Completed 2010
- 800 square feet

The design for these terraces overlooking Boston’s Back Bay neighborhood integrates custom paving, planters and planting design within existing long, narrow outdoor spaces. Steel and granite materials extend from interior to exterior, providing a seamless transition of gallery space for the owner’s extensive collection of rare modern art.
Hillside Garden

- Brookline, MA
- Completed 2007
- 0.5 acres

This project addressed the client’s desire to create outdoor living areas in tandem with a new striking contemporary studio and architectural addition to a Colonial Revival home. By terracing the property, the landscape design maximizes the function of the steeply-sloping site and provides multiple experiences in a limited space. The site design is a mediator that integrates the site’s architecture and residential context with a bold, textural and unexpected landscape.
Heath Hill

- Brookline, MA
- Completed 2009
- 1.6 acres

This project illustrates how attention to detail and a carefully considered series of restrained design interventions can transform even the most poorly-conceived existing landscape. Without dramatically altering the layout and function of the existing master plan, we were able to develop a cohesive design that accommodates the owner’s additional programmatic needs while creating a dramatic series of lush and expansive outdoor spaces.
The Green Hill Estate is best known as the residence of Isabella Stewart Gardener, a well known Boston philanthropist and art collector, during the late 1900’s. At that time, the 20 acre site contained themed gardens, greenhouses and a barn linked by a network of carriage roads which wound through rolling lawns and exotic specimen trees. The updated site plan utilizes the old carriage road to link a new entry court, garage court, and play area. Working in collaboration with an arborist, the design incorporates a series of retaining walls, steps and graded banks to provide access to a new garage, while limiting the impact on specimen trees and the character of this historic landscape.
The goal of this project was to preserve the distinctive woodland character of this expansive suburban property while creating a landscape that would integrate a large, new architectural presence into the site. Set within a moderately-dense residential neighborhood bordering a busy commercial street, the unusual scale of the property has allowed it to maintain the feel of a New England woodland. The resultant design controlled the impact of development though restrained detailing; the strategic siting and massing of both the new architecture and constructed landscape; and careful cataloging and preservation of mature plant materials. A collection of specimen evergreens, planted by the previous owner, was carefully preserved and remains as an integral part of the design.