Sketch Boston!

For designers, the deep seeing and understanding developed through urban sketching becomes a springboard from experiencing “what is” to envisioning “what can be!” Urban sketching is a global phenomenon that combines passions for drawing, travel, cities and social media in a way that’s truly addictive.

Join veteran urban sketchers and fellow drawing enthusiasts as we discover and celebrate the rich urban fabric of Boston through sketching on-the-spot. Bring your own drawing materials; sketchbooks and bottled water will be provided. Participants’ sketchbooks will be displayed in the ASLA Commons during the conference, and sketches will be collected for a web slide show to share the ASLA Annual Meeting through the eyes of landscape architects. This session is for intermediate and advanced sketchers.

Session Leaders:
James Richards, FASLA
Richard Alomar, ASLA.
Chip Sullivan, ASLA
Robert Chipman, ASLA

Enhance your sketching experience:

- It may be cold; hats and fingerless gloves are recommended. Some sketchers carry folding stools for comfort.
- The best subject matter is what you find personally compelling.
For warm ups, consider capturing details—signs, doors, furnishings, cemetery headstones, etc. that lend a site a sense of authenticity.

- One of the great advantages of sketching over tourists’ photographs is the ability to edit—choosing what to feature and what to omit to best communicate our impressions or ideas about a scene. Focus on the part of a scene that interests you the most, and only hint at the rest so that the viewer’s mind “fills in the blanks.”
- Sketching rapidly results in drawings with a sense of life and energy. Try to avoid erasing; redraw over lines as necessary.
- When pressed for time, consider using color sparingly in key spots to emphasize a particular aspect of a scene.
- Notes on date, time, weather, and your impressions lend a sense of uniqueness and authenticity to your sketches.

Itinerary:

12:30-12:45 (15 min)  Session overview and distribute sketchbooks at convention center
12:45-12:50 (5 min)   Walk to World Trade Center transit station, buy tickets
12:50-1:20 (30 min)   Transit: gray line and red line to Park Street Station
1:20-2:20 (1 hour)    Sketch in vicinity of Boston Common
2:20-2:30 (10 min)    Walk to Faneuil Hall area
2:30-3:50 (1 hr 20 min) Sketch in vicinity of Faneuil Hall
3:50-4:30 (40 min)    Walk back to Boston Common; transit back to convention center

Learning Objectives

1) Learn how freehand concept sketching enhances creativity and the bottom line.
2) Develop a less rigid, more accessible style of sketching that complements digital work flow.
3) Learn about freehand concept sketching on pen-interactive computers.
4) Discover the online urban sketching phenomenon and how location sketching is a catalyst for creativity.

Bios:

JAMES RICHARDS, FASLA, is an Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Arlington and cofounder of Townscape Inc., a town planning and urban design consultancy based in Fort Worth and Vancouver. He is a member of the Board of Directors and a blog correspondent for the international non-profit Urban Sketchers, and founder of Urban Sketchers Texas. His book, Freehand Drawing and Discovery: Urban Sketching and Concept Drawing for Designers, is published by John Wiley & Sons. Email: jim@townscape.com

RICHARD ALOMAR, ASLA, RLA-Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Mr. Alomar is a licensed landscape architect, an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University and founder of Urban Sketchers NYC. Mr. Alomar’s current work uses sketching and field notes to inform decisions on sustainability and design. He leads frequent SketchCrawls in New York. Email: Richard.Alomar@rutgers.com

CHIP SULLIVAN, ASLA. A Professor at University of California Berkeley, Chip Sullivan is an artist and landscape architect who maintains a lifelong commitment to exploring the potential of the garden to create sustainable environments. Early in his career Chip developed a series of experimental gardens that reinterpreted traditional garden forms, applying classical and historical design elements to contemporary landscapes. Chip Sullivan has devoted his career to promoting landscape architecture as
an art form. His work, which illustrates the delicate balance between humans and nature, has been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States, Canada and Italy. Email: csully4@yahoo.com

ROBERT CHIPMAN, ASLA has been developing innovative, user-friendly freehand techniques for pen-interactive computer displays to creatively address a wide range of landscape architectural applications. The last roll of tracing paper he bought was in 2005. But he still buys sketchbooks once in a while. Bob is based in Austin, Texas. Email: rchipman@austin.rr.com

Link to interactive map:
http://goo.gl/hGH8I8