EMERGING PROFESSIONALS ROUNDTABLE: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ESTABLISHED & EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

DESCRIPTION

Navigating your career? Gain insight from seasoned professionals as they recount, reminisce, and reflect on the evolution of their careers. In this open format roundtable, three principals with diverse backgrounds will share their career successes and growing pains, providing a lively atmosphere for discussion. Led by the Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) Emerging Professionals Committee.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Learn about diverse career paths within landscape architecture from professionals representing a large firm, a mid size firm, a small firm, and academia.

• Discover opportunities available today for emerging professionals to increase exposure to professional development.

• Gain an understanding of educational opportunities, mentoring strategies, and networking development techniques.

DISCUSSION OUTLINE

I. Introductions

II. Early Career

• discovering the profession
• major influences during school
• major influences outside of school
• early “technologies”
• mentorship
• transition to first job
• first major project(s)
• first major blunders
• transitioning to mid-level

II. Mid Career

• transition to becoming a principal/owning your firm
• struggles/challenges
• critical learning moments
• major projects
• learning from mistakes
• mentoring
• balancing teaching + practice

III. Present Day & 20-20 Vision

• major influential moments
• career/life balance
• time-machine wishes
• advice to your former self
• significant changes in design culture
• thoughts on where practice is and where it is going
ROUND TABLE PANELISTS [established]

JOE GELLER, FASLA // Stantec Consulting, Inc.
Joe has been involved in all aspects of project management, site master planning, and design. His work with architects, developers, and institutions has provided him with insight and knowledge of the overall design process, as well as, a strong understanding of site and planning issues. Joe enjoys the strategic aspect of the planning, permitting and entitlement process and has led successful efforts for many complex projects. Prior to joining Stantec Joe was the President of the landscape architectural firm Geller DeVellis which he started in 1983. His current role at Stantec is Practice Leader for Landscape Architecture and Regional Leader for the New England region.

LAURA SOLANO, ASLA // MVVA
Laura Solano, ASLA, is a Principal at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates in Cambridge, MA and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. In practice for over 30 years, Laura has been an integral contributor to many of MVVA’s best-known landscapes, including: Teardrop Park, Restoration of the Whitehouse in front of Pennsylvania Avenue, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, Boston Children’s Museum Entry Plaza, and Brooklyn Bridge Park. She lectures across the US on technology, was on the Soils Committee for the Sustainable Sites Initiative, and is a board member of the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

JAMES LORD, ASLA // SurfaceDesign Inc.
James Lord is a Principal at Surface Design Inc. in San Francisco, CA, which he co-founded in 2006 with Roderick Wyllie and Geoff Di Girolamo. Through his career he has worked on a wide range of award-winning projects and is responsible for several of Auckland’s biggest landscape projects including Highbrook, Long Bay, Wynyard Quarter, and the Auckland International Airport. James is also responsible for the design of the new Golden Gate Bridge Plaza and oversaw Millennium Park in Sydney. His previous professional experience includes extensive tenure for Peter Walker and Partners, Hargreaves Associates, and Martha Schwartz Inc.

MODERATORS [emerging]

NINA CHASE, ASSOC. ASLA // Sasaki Associates Inc.
Nina Chase is an enthusiastic, emerging landscape architect in Boston, MA. She is a recent graduate of West Virginia University (BSLA 2010) and Harvard’s Graduate School of Design (MLA 2012) and is currently a Landscape Architect at Sasaki Associates. Nina teaches as an Adjunct Studio Instructor at the Boston Architectural College and serves as the Chair of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects Emerging Professionals Committee.

RUTH SIEGEL, ASSOC. ASLA // Sasaki Associates Inc.
Ruth Siegel is an emerging landscape architect working at Sasaki Associates. While working at Stoss LU, she was a key member of the design team for the recently constructed Plaza at Harvard. She has interned at MVVA, Reed Hilderbrand Associates and SurfaceDesign inc. and worked at the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District and Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey. She received her MLA (2011) from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and her BA (2004) at Brown University.