Planting Design: Inspiration and Creativity from Nature and Art
ASLA Annual Meeting
November 16, 2013, 1:30-3:00 pm

Presenters
W. Gary Smith, W Gary Smith Design
Sandra Youssef Clinton, Clinton & Associates Landscape Architects
Bruce John Riddell, Bruce John Riddell Landscape Architect LLC

Description
Where do you find inspiration for planting design? Notable design requires more than mixing and matching attributes of plants, more than studying native habitats, and certainly more than using the same old plant list you used the last time. Learn about sources of inspiration for innovative planting design.

Learning Objectives
• Develop a visual vocabulary for planting design by learning ways of seeing and recording patterns in landscape, art, and other forms of human expression.
• Understand seasonal change not simply as a design element, but as a larger source of inspiration for planting design.
• Learn about the artist’s approach to planting design, creatively and effectively combining horticultural and ecological perspectives.
• Explore sustainable design as inspired by a full range of aesthetic possibilities - from native and natural to stylized and horticultural.

Session Outline

1. Introduction
   • Moving beyond the typical attributes of plants
   • Bringing plants into the beginning of the design process
   • Plants as part of regional sense of place
   • Developing your own personal approach to planting design

2. Patterns: Developing a Visual Vocabulary
   a. Basic Patterns
      • Scattered
      • Serpentine
      • Naturalistic drift
      • Dendritic
      • Fractured
      • Radial
      • Spiral
      • Mosaic
   b. Ways of Recording Patterns for Use in Design
      • Doodling
      • Sequential sketching
      • Painting and drawing
3. Seasons: Exploring Seasonal Change as Inspiration for Design
   a. Seasonal change as a source of design inspiration
      • Spring
      • Summer
      • Autumn
      • Winter
   b. Going beyond typical considerations for seasonality in design
      • Texture, color, form, layering
      • Massing, blending, sculpture
   c. Plant palettes for differing seasonal and regional expression
      • Bold
      • Subtle

4. Artistic Expressions: Combining Art and Horticulture in Planting Design
   a. The artist’s approach: painting the landscape with plants
   b. Native to natural: combining the palette
   c. Yin-Yang: the positive/negative approach
   d. The seamless transition

Speaker Biographies
W. Gary Smith, FASLA, creates gardens that celebrate plants and the connections they offer between people and nature. A nationally recognized expert on botanical garden master planning and design, he has worked in various regions throughout the U.S. in collaboration with some of the nation’s most talented ecologists and horticulturists. In 2011 he received the Landscape Design Award from the American Horticultural Society.

Bruce John Riddell ASLA, Landscape Architect of Boothbay Harbor, Maine is principal of his one-person firm known as “LandArt”. With over 25 years of landscape architecture experience in a wide range of scales he focuses primarily on the design and construction of intimate coastal gardens and parks. He has been a key designer for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Educated at the University of Maine and University of Pennsylvania, his gardens typically combine native and naturalized plantings with custom furnishings. Riddell is recipient of the 2010 American Horticultural Society’s Landscape Design Award.

Sandra Youssef Clinton, FASLA, President of Clinton & Associates Landscape Architects, believes landscape architecture is the intersection of humans and nature. Her firm has a broad base in commercial, institutional and residential work, creating beautiful environments for four-season outdoor living. Sandy’s background in plant science and horticulture comes through in each of her designs, where she pays particular attention to the seasonal rhythms of nature. Clinton received the prestigious 2013 American Horticultural Society Landscape Design Award.