Finding Design: Case Studies in the Creative Process

Description

Reaching beyond the constraints of their sites, landscape architects often create works that are striking, unique and memorable in both concept and realization. This session explores ways in which an active imagination and a creative spirit fuel the design process in the work of three landscape architects known for their inspired designs: Mikyoung Kim, Cornelia Oberlander and Ken Smith.

Learning Objectives

• Discover the role of creative imagination in the design process of three outstanding landscape architects working today.

• Learn how an unorthodox line of thought, or an unexpected inspiration, can lead to unusual – perhaps magical – design solutions that meet all the criteria of professional work today.

• Understand the ways in which landscape architects find paths to problem solving and design expression by drawing on their personal histories and diverse interests.

• Be inspired to explore and expand your own sources of inspiration.
Presentation Outline

I. **Introduction**: Creativity in Context
   
   A. Sources of design inspiration – an overview
   B. Introduction of the speakers

II. **MIKYOUNG KIM, FASLA**

   A. Choreography of experience: learning from music
   C. Concept to design: creating environments that restore and heal the public
   D. Making the case for creativity: identifying the process that leads to invention and innovation

Chongae River Restoration Project, Seoul

Crown Sky Garden, Chicago
III. CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER, FASLA

A. Imagination and research: a strategy
B. Design inspirations for the VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre. Vancouver, B.C.
C. Concept to design: making the vision a reality
D. Making the case for creativity: collaborations with clients and community

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander uses her extensive library for design inspiration

Karl Blossfeldt Orchid

VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor’s Centre
IV. KEN SMITH, FASLA

A. Metaphors and materials: a mind for invention
B. Design inspirations for the MoMA roof and for East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers, New York City
C. Concept to design: making the vision a reality
D. Making the case for creativity: working with clients and community

Ken Smith at MoMA

East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers, New York City

V. Discussion/Q&A
SUSAN COHEN, FASLA is an award winning Connecticut landscape architect and a long-time educator. She has taught in the MLA program at the City College of New York and at The New York Botanical Garden, where she founded and continues to organize the well-known Portfolio Series of annual lectures, bringing international landscape architects to a New York metropolitan area audience. Her book, The Inspired Landscape (Timber Press, Fall 2015), features the work of 21 landscape architects from the U.S. and around the world.

Art as inspiration

Joan Mitchell

Vincent Van Gogh

Thomas Cole
MIKYOUNG KIM, FASLA is an award winning international landscape architect and artist whose work focuses on merging sculptural vision with the urban landscape. Working from her Boston, Massachusetts, office, she has brought her background in sculpture and music, as well as her design vision as a landscape architect, to her firm’s diverse work. Since the firm’s inception, the work of Mikyoung Kim Design has received critical acclaim, winning multiple national awards for projects spanning the U.S., Asia, and the Middle East.

CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER, FASLA, FCSLA, FIFLA, a leader in the profession, has practiced in Vancouver, British Columbia, for six decades, collaborating with noted international architects throughout her career. Her many awards include nine honorary degrees, the Order of Canada, the 2011 Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award from IFLA, and the 2012 ASLA Medal. With an emphasis on sustainability as well as artfulness, she continues to pursue the aesthetic, ecological and technical possibilities of landscape architecture, with the goal of achieving worldwide community well being.

KEN SMITH, FASLA is one of the best known of a generation of landscape architects equally at home in the worlds of art, architecture, and urbanism. Trained in both design and the fine arts, he explores the relationship between art, contemporary culture, and landscape. His practice, WORKSHOP: Ken Smith Landscape Architect, is based in New York City. With a particular emphasis on projects that explore the symbolic content and expressive power of landscape as an art form, the WORKSHOP specializes in the investigation of new expressions in landscape design.
Suggested Reading:


Ulam, Alex. *Every Sense (Mikyoung Kim)*. Landscape Architecture Magazine / Volume 103 /Number 8 /August 2013.