

landscape architecture

Dear Jury Members,

I would like to support the nomination of Daniel Winterbottom, ASLA, for ASLA's Community Service Award.

As managing editor of *Landscape Architecture* magazine for the past seven years, I've read about many worthwhile pro bono projects being undertaken by landscape architects, all benefiting underserved populations. But Mr. Winterbottom's work in two of the most unlikely venues—a women's prison in New York state and a city dump in Guatemala (a project that won ASLA's Community Design Award in 2007)—clearly shows how landscape architecture can provide hope and respite for populations who have little of either.

The two attached articles outline those projects, and point to another significant contribution by Mr. Winterbottom—his creation of this design/build studio at the University of Washington involves students as directly as possible in the communities they're serving. Providing this kind of opportunity to landscape architecture students takes Mr. Winterbottom's community service a step further, introducing them to pro bono work and instilling in them the value and responsibility of this kind of work. Mr. Winterbottom was recognized by CELA with their Outstanding Educator Award in 2007.

I have attached some information on other community service projects he's worked on with his students below.

I hope you'll consider him for this prestigious award.



Lisa Speckhardt
Managing Editor, *Landscape Architecture*



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING
Department of Landscape Architecture

ASLA Community Service Award Nominations
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Committee:

I write on behalf of Professor Daniel Winterbottom in support of his nomination for the 2008 *ASLA Community Service Award*. I have worked with Daniel for the past three years as a graduate student in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington and now as a lecturer. Prior to returning to school, I worked as the Executive Director of the Kirkland Arts Center and Director of Fund Development at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. As such, I feel comfortable assessing Daniel's qualities as a pedagogue and mentor.

During my three-year tenure in the masters program, I took four courses with Daniel, including three studios and a lecture course. I also served as a teaching assistant for him in his graduate environmental art design studio. While our teaching approaches differ, I believe we have cultivated a professional relationship based upon mutual esteem.

Daniel is a person of good humor, candidness and abundant energy. As a mature graduate student returning to school, I was appreciative of his ability to bring levity to the classroom, his dedication to experiential pedagogy, his profound knowledge of materials and craft and most importantly his emphasis on service in landscape architecture. He not only impressed this on his students, but modeled as a teacher and a professional. He is an engaged and engaging educator and model: learned and pragmatic, accomplished and intellectually curious.

Frankly, I never anticipated traveling to Central America, let alone as part of a landscape architecture design/build project in the poorest neighborhoods of Guatemala City. However, such was my respect for Daniel as a hands-on pedagogue that I was willing to commit a summer to this project. Ultimately this undertaking both of learning and community service to marginalized communities became one of the most powerful experiences of my education and now informs my own professional practice.

Daniel is an effective practitioner and teacher for a reason--he is tenacious and assured in the realm of design. And indeed, Daniel is clearly at his best in the "outdoor" classroom of the design/build, where ephemeral concepts are brought to material fruition. In the face of numerous obstacles to the realization of the Guatemala project--materials availability, cultural differences, miscommunication, health challenges, emotional strain--Daniel maintained an atmosphere of necessary confidence, routine and, at the same time, palpable ease.

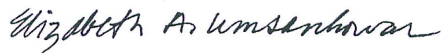
Despite his sometimes gruff exterior, Daniel has his moments of eloquence and sensitivity. At a public event last year to celebrate the first phase of the Guatemala project, with tears in his eyes, Daniel announced the tragic death of his colleague from Guatemala. Rather than sinking into the maudlin, however, he regained his composure and passed the speaking mantle onto three of us who had been his students in the project and generously allowed us to witness our own experiences. He is committed to his work in the community. His willingness to consult with friends and stranger pro bono on a variety of scales also attests to his profound dedication to his research and practice.

Daniel exhibits the qualities of a true model of community service. Among those qualities, I see as fundamental the willingness of a faculty person to mentor students within and outside the department, to cultivate a cohort of accomplished graduates grounded in real skills, and thereby to contribute to the vitality of the academic and wider community.

That being said, I value Daniel as a teacher, a mentor and a colleague. I urge you to consider his nomination for the 2008 ASLA Community Service Award

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me. I would be happy to provide any additional clarifications should you require them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth A. Umbanhowar".

Elizabeth A. Umbanhowar
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umbanhow@u.washington.edu

Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to state my strong support for the nomination of Mr. Daniel Winterbottom, ASLA for the ASLA Community Service Award.

I began studying in the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Washington about three years ago, and have become well-acquainted with Daniel during that time. I have studied and traveled abroad with him in Central America, worked with him as a Teaching and Research Assistant, and worked for him in his private design/build practice. Throughout these interactions I have been deeply impressed by his consistent interest in and focus on improving peoples' lives and building community through landscape design and construction.

He is driven and passionate about the role that landscape architecture has to play in creating spaces that heal, teach, and help people to strive for a better life. The Guatemala Design/Build program that he organized and led exemplifies his ethic of community service. He put in many extra hours to make this project happen, two years in a row, working to teach and meet the needs of his students. He strove to lead his group to create a place that will help empower the poorest, at-risk children and families in the community of workers around the Guatemala City garbage dump. Through the successful effort he put in to sustain the University's partnership with a local Guatemalan non-profit and lead students in completing two Design/Build projects there, the garbage picker community has a safe and beautiful oasis of hope and education in their community. What's more, the many staff, volunteers, and other guests who visit the site are exposed to the transformative power of landscape architecture. This project would not have happened without Daniel's leadership, vision, and ethic of community service.

In addition to our work in Guatemala, my work with Daniel has included two playgrounds and a community park in Seattle. Whether working with university students or through his own practice, Daniel works to ensure that the landscapes he designs and constructs meet the needs of the clients as well as the community, creating adaptable yet unique places that are built to endure. They are places that teach and empower those who visit them. As a student I have grown to appreciate and understand the strong service-learning ethic that Daniel's work embodies. I have seen many other students gain an appreciation for community service and the transformative power of landscape design through working with Daniel as well.

In sum, I believe that Daniel's work has a strong focus on serving the needs of under-served communities, highlighting the contributions that landscape architecture may play in improving others' lives. He practices what he teaches, working tirelessly to get such projects built, through both his role as a professor as well as his private and pro bono work. I highly recommend Daniel as a candidate for the ASLA Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Justin Martin, Student ASLA
Graduate Student
University of Washington

March 17, 2008

ASLA Awards Committee
C/o Bill Thompson, FASLA
636 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Awards Committee:

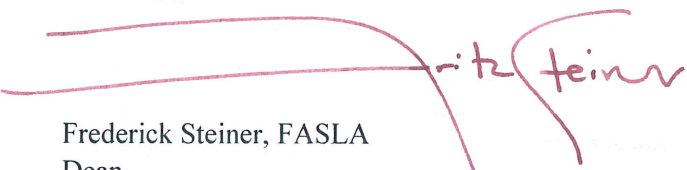
With great pleasure and enthusiasm, I support the nomination of Daniel Winterbottom for the American Society of Landscape Architects' Community Service Award. Through his design-build studios at the University of Washington, Professor Winterbottom has raised the bar considerably for the concept of "service learning" for landscape architecture. He has worked in communities of great stress providing hope for countless disadvantaged people.

In addition to providing benefits to these communities, Professor Winterbottom teaches his students to employ low-tech, cost-effective, and sustainable materials and methods. In doing so, he has equipped a generation of landscape architecture students to better address the needs of underserved communities and people.

Professor Winterbottom has even gone further and written about this work. As a result, his experiences and those of his students have reached a broader professional audience. In this regard, Daniel Winterbottom is a model "reflective practitioner." In addition to his own reflective writing about the design-build work, Professor Winterbottom has encouraged his students to write about their experiences. These reflections of student experiences have been published in *Landscape Architecture* magazine, contributing to our understanding of the value of design-build projects for disadvantaged communities and for students.

As a past recipient of the ASLA Community Service Award, I can think of no finer candidate than Daniel Winterbottom. I am delighted to add my strong endorsement to his nomination.

Sincerely,



Frederick Steiner, FASLA
Dean
Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture

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