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Witold Rybczynski Hon. FAIA  
*Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor of  
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Executive Committee  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To the Committee:

I am writing to support the nomination of Dr. Charles E. Beveridge to receive the 2005 Olmsted Medal of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Dr. Beveridge is an author, historic preservation professional, and an advocate for the profession of landscape architecture. I will leave it to others to comment on his long and distinguished career, punctuated by many honors and achievements, and will restrict my comments to his contribution as our preeminent Frederick Law Olmsted scholar.

In 1964, Charles Beveridge took over the lead position in editing the Olmsted papers. Since then he has dedicated his life to the study of Olmsted and has faithfully shepherded this project as series editor and particular editor. The series has now reached eight volumes. It is hard to overestimate the value of this magisterial work. Olmsted remains the seminal figure of the field, and particularly since the 1980s and the restoration of Central Park, interest in his parks and landscapes has grown enormously. The voluminous Olmsted papers—some 60,000 personal and professional items—represent an invaluable first-hand source in the study of this multi-faceted man and his period. Beveridge's achievement is not only in persevering in this Herculean task, but also—and especially—in producing a series that is a model of the annotated paper collection. The biographical directories of individuals, extensive and useful footnotes, and well-researched topical essays make this much more than a collection of papers, but a wide-ranging study of Olmsted, his associates, and his work. A supplementary series collects Olmsted's writings on public parks, parkways, and park systems. The second volume of this series, which has recently gone to press, includes plans and photographs of public parks and recreation grounds. The large format presentation of material that has not previously been widely available will no doubt stimulate further interest in Olmsted as a designer and artist, as well as a visionary and civic leader.

The Olmsted papers are an invaluable research tool for anyone interested in Frederick Law Olmsted. They are Charles Beveridge's great life's work and on this basis alone he would be a worthy candidate for the Olmsted medal. He is a particular worthy candidate for this honor and he has my unqualified and enthusiastic support.

Yours truly,

Witold Rybczynski