

March 9, 2005

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

It is my privilege to nominate Laurie D. Olin, FASLA, to receive the 2005 ASLA Design Medal.

Founder and principal of the Olin Partnership in Philadelphia, Laurie is among America's most distinguished landscape architects practicing today. Working across the United States and abroad, he has collaborated with hundreds of prominent architects, engineers, artists, and other designers and is recognized as one of the most brilliant designers of our profession.

Laurie is a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the 1999 Wyck-Strickland Award recipient, and a Fellow of ASLA. Laurie won the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture in 1974 and was the recipient of the 1998 Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He previously served as a trustee of the American Academy in Rome and prepared the master plan for the Academy campus in the 1990s.

He has written widely on the history and theory of landscape design, receiving the Bradford Williams medal for best writing in Landscape Architecture magazine. Laurie recently co-authored *La Foce: A Garden and Landscape in Tuscany*, which includes an historical essay, along with photographs, sketches, and a critical analysis of the early 20th century garden in Italy. *Across The Open Field* (1999), is both a memoir and series of essays on the evolution of the English landscape. He is also author of *Transforming the Common/Place: Selections from Laurie Olin's Sketchbooks*. This book highlights his amazing illustration talent.

Throughout his career, Laurie has been involved in professional education. He received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Washington and has served as Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University and as the Thomas Jefferson Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia. Since July 1998, he has been Professor of Practice in Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught off and on since the 1970s. Laurie was the first landscape architect to

hold the Ruth Carter Stevenson Chair at the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently helping to establish a new landscape architecture program in China.

History

In 1976, Laurie was teaching and was invited by Henry Cobb of I. M. Pei & Partners to participate in the design of the Johnson & Johnson Baby Products Corporate Center. That same year, Laurie joined forces with the late Robert Hanna, FASLA, a leader in landscape architecture education, to form the firm of Hanna/Olin. The intention for the firm was to create an atelier environment in which the process of developing a comprehensive design was as important as the final product itself. It is this philosophical commitment to design that created the historically significant landscapes of Johnson & Johnson's pastoral office park in 1977, Bryant Park's reincarnation as one of this country's most successful urban spaces, and the master plan and implementation of Canary Wharf, London, home of Europe's financial district and one of England's most significant urban renewal projects. In 1995, Robert Hanna established a separate firm to practice landscape architecture. Laurie Olin joined firm members Lucinda Sanders, ASLA, Susan Weiler, ASLA, and Dennis McGlade, ASLA, in forming the Olin Partnership, Ltd., and has continued to pursue a vision of landscape architecture as an art form that is both compassionate and timeless.

Design Philosophy

Laurie believes passionately that landscape architecture is a celebration of place and that successful design recognizes the natural and social processes that shape a place. Throughout his career, he has created landscapes that succeed both as social spaces and as environmental systems. By synthesizing the best of art and science, he transforms natural and man made elements into expressions of social purpose, reconciling the character of the place with its contemporary adaptations. Laurie takes a long term view of design, believing that strong, clear schemes supported by innovative detailing and fine, lasting materials are essential to melding social needs with physical resources.

The Projects

A prolific designer, Laurie's work spans the globe, from Bryant Park and Battery Park City in New York and the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles to new squares in London, housing in Frankfurt, and commercial development in Barcelona. From major planning and design projects at academic institutions including the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, Stanford University, MIT, and the University of Virginia, to national monuments, including Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia and the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. His work on these last two projects provides elegant proof that security design and good design are not mutually exclusive concepts.

Submitted with this nomination letter are selected projects to demonstrate the scope and impact of Laurie's design legacy.

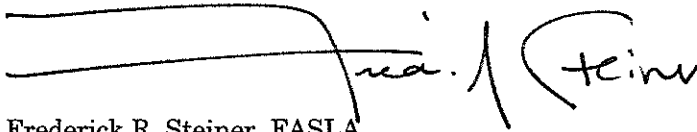
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Design that provides functional accommodation, symbolic meaning, and aesthetic richness can make timeless human environments. Laurie Olin embodies this ethic and I hope you will honor him with the 2005 ASLA Design Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred. R. Steiner". The signature is written over two horizontal lines that serve as a baseline. The first line is a solid horizontal line, and the second line is a slightly wavy horizontal line. The signature starts with a long horizontal stroke, followed by a vertical stroke, and then a large, stylized "R" that loops back to the left.

Frederick R. Steiner, FASLA

Dean