



School of Design  
101 Meyerson Hall  
210 South 34th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6311  
Tel 215.898.3425 Fax 215.573.6654  
gahack@design.upenn.edu

Gary A. Hack  
*Dean and Paley Professor*

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American Society of Landscape Architects  
Selection Committee for Design Medal

To Members of the Committee:

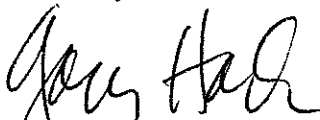
Honoring Laurie Olin with the Design Medal would also be honoring those in the profession of landscape architecture who put their skills to work to shape urban areas, campuses and the public spaces that we all inhabit.

Laurie is a thought leader, and inspirational designer of public spaces. His Bryant Park plans showed that urban public spaces are not confined to those who have no other place to inhabit, but that they can again become the living rooms of our cities if properly designed. Here in Philadelphia, his design for Independence Mall demonstrated how active uses – even buildings – could be added to public spaces to make them better open spaces as well as places of activity.

Laurie's work draws from the past, and his many studies of European parks and public spaces, but recognizes the peculiar characteristics of American public life that affect how we regard our outdoor environments. He has written extensively, and inspired many through his publication of sketchbooks, his teaching, and his mentoring of young designers in his office. I have found him to be the most persuasive designer in front of public officials, or university presidents. He always remains grounded in common sense and an ethos about public environments that it is hard to dismiss. Little wonder that he has been so effective in planning campuses, or urban developments, as well as worrying in detail about the quality of the public spaces that result.

I cannot think of another person in the field that I'd rather see receive the ASLA Design Medal.

Sincerely,



Gary Hack  
Dean and Paley Professor

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