

DEAN

DELLA AND HARRY MACDONALD DEAN'S CHAIR IN ARCHITECTURE
MILTON S.F. CURRY

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM
ESTHER MARGULIES

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING
ELIZABETH HELD

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FA.16-SP.17

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
+
URBANISM

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PROGRAM INTRO- DUCTION

ESTHER MARGULIES, INTERIM DIRECTOR
KELLY SHANNON, DIRECTOR 2015–2017

Los Angeles is a city where urgent contemporary issues of climate change and environmental justice must be addressed by testing the boundaries of design research, design thinking and implementation. The growing ecological crises and intense population pressure of the city's coasts, flatlands and foothills necessitate a paradigm shift to complex systems thinking.

Graduate landscape architecture at USC is based on the knowledge and skills to engage complex issues, and to undertake ambitious design explorations. Upon completion, graduates are prepared for both design and leading leadership opportunities in professional practice, public service and higher education; they are equipped with the resources to balance ecology and the human built environment.

Our design-centered program in the School of Architecture develops students in a trans-disciplinary environment, reaching across scales, geographies and traditional occupational boundaries to combine the tangible and the imaginary to provoke conversations that promote social equity, environmental justice, and spaces for creative expression. Our exceptional core faculty brings its cutting-edge, topical research and outstanding teaching skills. Adjuncts and critics from the rich and diverse network of Los Angeles and the wider world of landscape and affiliated fields convey fresh perspectives.

Sequential studios and complementary courses, taught by both in-house and invited experts, focus on history and theory, techniques and tools, while developing relevant means towards the major challenges of society and towards the built environment.

The USC Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program develops real-world issues, formulates and re-formulates problems, explores and proposes operative strategies and becomes part of the discourse with stakeholders and cities. The resistive capacity of the landscape in the ever-globalizing, homogenization of territories is created as a means to shape possible futures for parks, neighborhoods, city districts and the larger stewardship of the landscape.

USC's program draws its inspiration from the energy and dynamism of Los Angeles itself, a complex blend of urban life and cultural diversity. Blessed with a mild climate, yet at risk from earthquakes and other natural or manmade disasters, LA is a city that has learned to take environmental and ecological questions seriously. Above all, Los Angeles is a highly original, experimental city that consistently challenges preconceptions and serves as an incubator for new ideas and practices.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS



Gustafson Guthrie Nichol — National Museum of African American History and Culture
Image: Andrew Moore

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AS NECESSITY

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2016

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AS NECESSITY

Anuradha Mathur
Miho Mazereeuw
Richard Weller
Jane Wolff

Henri Bava
Kristina Hill
Dillip Da Cunha
Nina-Marie Lister

September 22-24, 2016

USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE | LOS ANGELES

As climate change rapidly takes its place at the forefront of contemporary global challenges, landscape architecture is becoming an ever more urgent necessity. Landscape architecture is uniquely able to synthesize ecological systems, scientific data, engineering methods, social practices, and cultural values, integrating them into the design of the built environment. At the same time, its creative capacities and its visual and spatial vocabularies can and should contribute to shaping questions and formulating novel approaches in more exclusively scientific or data-driven environmental fields.

The three-day conference held at the University of Southern California, organized by the Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program, was designed to promote debate by bringing together complementary and contrasting positions that have recently arisen around the politically charged issue of global climate change. Daily plenaries featured writers, academics, activists, landscape architects, artists, and scientists engaging in discussions across scales and geographies.

Landscape Architecture as Necessity sought to demonstrate, through international built work and ongoing design research, that the professions of the built environment, together with expertise from a wide range of relevant fields, are essential to moving beyond rhetoric to address the myriad challenges confronting urban and rural territories alike. Within the design community, landscape architecture has come to be seen as a savior of urbanism. Yet landscape architecture is still frequently overlooked as a design framework for restructuring environments in the face of impending human-caused challenges, including the increasing incidence of drought, flood, forest fire, landslides, and the complex dilemmas of massive urbanization and cities with shrinking populations. Landscape architecture must assert its value and capacity. Landscape architects must engage with these challenges by integrating data, insights, values, histories, knowledge and constraints brought forward by other disciplines into their work. Finally, in addition to addressing such pragmatic

requirements, landscape architects have the responsibility to sustain the discipline's cultural mandate. Landscape architecture is both a utilitarian instrument and a representational practice, thus requiring significant intellectual agility.

Los Angeles, which in 1971 Reyner Banham famously read as a construct of four ecologies, was the ideal urban nature setting for this event—one where urgent contemporary issues can and must be addressed while testing the boundaries of design research, design thinking and implementation. The growing ecological crises and intense population pressure of the city's coasts, flatlands and foothills are a pars pro toto, a microcosm, of the challenges facing state, nation and globe, ones that necessitate a paradigm shift to complex systems thinking. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization, many of the globe's most vulnerable populations live in areas predicted to be significantly affected by climate change, endangering food, water and shelter security. Complex and continually evolving social and environmental conditions require innovative thinking and versatile design explorations in order to ensure thriving societies and landscapes. The health of societies across the globe requires environments that are safe and nurturing, and that balance economic drivers with ecological systems.

Landscape architecture creates environments that allow people to imagine and dream, ones that activate the creativity necessary to envision different and better futures. Using design-based research, activists, policy makers, governments, industries, and private developers must work with strengthened synergy. This requires a trans-disciplinary capacity, approaches that reach across scales, and the combining of the tangible and the imaginary to provoke conversations that promote social equity, environmental justice, and space for creative expression. In short, it is the moment to see *Landscape Architecture as Necessity*.

THEME 1: PREEMPTIVE TERRITORIAL DESIGN

How can the risk of vulnerable territories be minimized through design strategies that not only understand and integrate geographical and environmental factors, but also take socio-cultural and economic complexities into account? How can change in climate, demographics, and material flows be anticipated, modeled and designed? How can investments in climate change protection and response maximize the long-term value of such inevitable expenditures? Can substantial urban afforestation and reforestation, for example, be used as a strategy to reconstruct or provide a frame for settlements, support and structure further development, and provide natural but nevertheless forceful resilience? Can such strategies contribute to water management, improve microclimates and environmental quality, potentially diversify the economy, and generate more beautiful cities?

THEME 2: CULTURAL AGENCY

In addressing such societal demands and challenges, how do landscape architects avoid the disciplinary rifts of the 1970s/80s/90s that polarized the field between the “science” of environmental planning and the “art” of landscape design? How can landscape architecture address the climatic threats to culturally meaningful places? How might conversations regarding landscape architecture’s utilitarian mandate optimize the discipline’s imaginative capacity? How do we continue to strengthen the representational practice of landscape architecture in the context of these dire challenges? Can landscape architecture’s “cultural agency” or instrumentality be positioned to address issues of social inequity, vulnerability and environmental justice?

THEME 3: WATER URBANISM

How can the natural systems and processes of water dynamics be integrated into the development of land use and infrastructure policy and design to reduce damage from sea level rise and the increasing severity and frequency of floods? How can landscape measures for mitigation be developed hand-in-hand to strengthen and qualitatively upgrade waterfronts (ocean fronts, riverfronts, bays, lagoons and lakes)? How can waterfronts be (re)established as the primary organizers of territories and distinct eco-systems to create regional identity and ensure more secure economic and supported socio-cultural activities? How can we turn the linear processes of water extraction, water consumption and water disposal into more ethical and equitable, cyclic and ecologically responsible processes?

THEME 4: LANDSCAPES OF INFRASTRUCTURE

How can new forms of infrastructure strengthen and enhance the identities of the places they inhabit? How can present mobility systems be rethought in light of the coming post-petroleum era, become part of an integrative effort to reduce social marginalization and segregation, and stimulate new forms of

interaction and forms of public space? How can we envision the integration of infrastructural thinking, ecology and regional planning? Technological developments and societal evolution indicate that the future of decentralized systems offers greater security compared to currently highly centralized systems in the face of climate change. How much can and should be effectively decentralized and how do these evolving infrastructural systems impact the landscape and vice versa? Where are economies of scale compromised?

THEME 5: PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES AND FOOD SECURITY

In the face of climate change, how can landscape architects work to develop new strategies that simultaneously address the urban / rural interface and complex challenges of global food security? Can new coalitions with scientists lead to rethinking relations between the productive countryside and the consumptive megapolis? Increased climate variability will significantly affect agricultural productivity; can landscape architects develop strategies and farming typologies for new crops that respond to local needs and geologies (including soils and water) that also tackle specific health issues? Can a new typology of a 21st century park complement the social, cultural and environmental deficiencies of the city, just as the 19th-century park did for the speculative metropolis of the industrial revolution?

THEME 6: ENERGY FIELDS

How can the natural forces of wind, water, air, and sunlight be harnessed to efficiently supply energy at scales from the household to the nation? How can the technology of energy production be combined with the aesthetics of landscape architecture and the integrity of ecological systems across scales, cultures, and geographies to move from the machine in the garden towards context-embedded, ecologically-supported energy landscapes? How can alternative sources of energy liberate the city and its people from expensive, heavy-handed, centralized systems of energy provision?

THEME 7: PUBLIC SPACE

As the population rises and cities become denser, we will come to rely more heavily on public spaces for ecological services, as well as social interaction, encounter and debate. How can this ever-increasing demand be met with limited public resources? Can we utilize emerging technologies to maximize the use and facility of public spaces? How can parks and plazas be model landscapes integrating beauty with ecological responsibility? How can public space serve as a platform to negotiate cultural, political, and economic differences? Can public spaces be designed to promote stewardship as well as healthfully activate reasoned discussion and debate in increasingly heterogeneous cities?

PARTICIPANTS AND TOPICS

KEYNOTE PANEL 1: RESOURCE & RISK

The resource and risk panel of keynote speakers prodded questions of design in geographies of resource scarcity and risk (environmental, political, socio-cultural and economic). It both situated landscape architecture and design as a practice of resistance and defense that curbs threats of disaster and infrastructural failure and challenges proactive thinking about assertive strategies that reshape settlements into territories of forceful resilience. The panel explored creative responses to landscapes exhibiting extreme scarcity, questioned strategies for working in impoverished or resource-strained geographies and how to anticipate, model, and design at a territorial scale.

MIHO MAZEREUEW

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Miho Mazereeuw, educated as both an architect and landscape architect, is an associate professor of architecture and urbanism at MIT and the director of the Urban Risk Lab [UrbanRiskLab.org]. She is known for her work in disaster resilience, from the territorial to the urban design scale. Operating at the intersection of ecology and infrastructure, rural and urban, research and action, the Urban Risk Lab is an interdisciplinary organization that develops methods and technologies to embed risk reduction and preparedness to increase the resilience of communities. With a global network of partners, the Lab innovates on techniques, processes, and systems to address the complexities of seismic, climatic, and hydrologic risks.

KRISTINA HILL

University of California, Berkeley

Kristina Hill specializes in the application of ecological and geomorphological knowledge to understand options for urban adaptation to sea level rise and flooding. She has worked on major adaptation plans for New Orleans, the mid-Atlantic coast, and Seattle. Her current work is on identifying adaptation opportunities in the San Francisco Bay Area, with a focus on biodiversity, infrastructure strategies, new urban district prototypes, and social justice. Hill was a co-author and editor of the book *Ecology and Design* (Island Press) and guest editor for the 100th anniversary issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment*, published by the Ecological Society of America in 2015.

GERDO AQUINO

SWA Group

Gerdo Aquino is firm-wide CEO of SWA-based in Los Angeles. With over 20 years of experience, he has had success in solving a wide range of environmental landscape design problems for projects where open space, density, and place-making are key issues. Gerdo is also adjunct associate professor at the University of Southern California and has taught option studios at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He co-authored *Landscape Infrastructure: case studies by SWA* (Birkhauser, 2013-14 first, second edition) that examined the future role of infrastructure in balancing ecological systems, economic development and open space needs within dense urban cities.

KEYNOTE PANEL 2: NATIVE & EXOTIC

Speakers presented their definitions of the complex ecological, social and political implications of the terms “native” and “exotic” in landscape architecture today. They investigated what it means to work within the new ecological conditions of the Anthropocene era where alien-, hybrid-, sub-natures redefine urban landscapes and relationships with the world’s shifting ecosystems. Emergent ecosystems are

the products of urbanism, globalization and climate change and have far-reaching implications for the field of landscape architecture. The panel interrogated the relation of native and exotic and how to increase their ecological, social and aesthetic values.

NINA-MARIE LISTER

Ryerson University

Nina-Marie Lister is Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor in the School of Urban + Regional Planning at Ryerson University. She is a registered planner (MCIP, RPP) trained in ecology, environmental science and landscape planning and founding principal of PLANDFORM, a creative studio exploring the relationship between landscape, ecology, and urbanism. Her research, teaching and practice focuses on the confluence of landscape infrastructure and ecological processes within contemporary metropolitan regions, with an emphasis on resilience and adaptive systems design. She is co-editor of *Projective Ecologies* (with C. Reed, 2014) and *The Ecosystem Approach: Complexity, Uncertainty, and Managing for Sustainability* (with D. Waltnert-Toews and J. Kay, 2008).

HENRI BAVA

Agence Ter

Henri Bava, landscape architect, studied plant biology, scenography and landscape architecture. In 1985, he began to work with Michel Corajoud and in 1986 he founded in Paris Agence Ter together with Michel Hössler and Olivier Philippe. In parallel with his work in landscape architecture practice, he has been engaged in academics at ENSP Versailles and, since 1998, has served as the chairman of the landscape architecture department at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). In 2000, Agence Ter founded an office in Karlsruhe, one in 2014 Barcelona (after winning the project Plaza Glories Catalanes), their latest office is located in Los Angeles (after winning the redesign of Pershing Square).

MIA LEHRER

Mia Lehrer + Associates

Mia Lehrer, FASLA is the founder of the Los Angeles-based landscape architecture and urban design firm, Mia Lehrer + Associates (ML+A), known for the design and implementation of ambitious public and private-sector projects including complex mixed-use development projects, urban revitalization initiatives, and neighborhood and regional parks. A native of El Salvador, she has been personally engaged in urban initiatives that include the recalibration of significant works of infrastructure such as channelized rivers, sea ports, military air stations and oil fields from single purpose sites to multi-purpose community resources.

MARK RIOS

Rios Clementi Hale Studios

Formally trained in both architecture and landscape architecture, Mark Rios has long seen those two disciplines as inseparable. He founded Rios Associates in 1985 with a singular vision: to imagine, design, and build complete environments. Every project that bears the firm’s stamp traces its lineage to Mark’s innate curiosity and ability to see things from multiple perspectives. By creating an environment where colleagues are free to draw from any number of design influences, Mark has propelled the firm beyond the borders of architecture and landscape architecture to incorporate interior design, graphic design, product design, branding, and urban planning.

KEYNOTE PANEL 3: WET & DRY

The panel questioned the imaginative and utilitarian dimensions of designing landscapes in geographies of increasing water excess and

scarcity. The fundamental reconsideration of the dominant linear processes of water extraction, water consumption and water disposal offers an array of openings into more ethical and equitable, cyclic and ecologically responsible design strategies across scales and territories. While introducing strategies related to water management and conservation, the panel tackled larger questions of reshaping attitudes and relationships to hydrological landscapes through new design sensibilities and visualization.

DILIP DA CUNHA

University of Pennsylvania

Dilip da Cunha, an architect and planner, is Adjunct Professor in the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He is also visiting faculty at Srishti School of Art, Design, and Technology in Bangalore, and Graduate School of Design, Harvard University in Cambridge. He is author with Anuradha Mathur of *Mississippi Floods: Designing a Shifting Landscape* (Yale University Press, 2001); *Deccan Traverses: The Making of Bangalore's Terrain* (Rupa & Co., Delhi, 2006); *Soak: Mumbai in an Estuary* (NGMA and Rupa & Co., Delhi, 2009); and *Design in the Terrain of Water* (AR+D Publishers, San Francisco, 2014). His most recent book (in review) is titled *The Invention of Rivers: Alexander's Eye and Ganga's Descent*.

ELIZABETH MOSSOP

University of Technology Sydney

Elizabeth Mossop is a founding principal of Spackman Mossop + Michaels landscape architects, based in Sydney and New Orleans. She is also the Dean of Design Architecture and Building at the University of Technology in Sydney and has held leadership positions at Harvard GSD, the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University and the University of New South Wales. Her practice is focused on the design of parks, urban spaces, infrastructure and urban revitalization. Current areas of focus include vacant lands and urban revitalization, landscape infrastructure and coastal resilience.

HADLEY ARNOLD

Arid Lands Institute

Hadley Arnold leads the Arid Lands Institute (ALI), a center dedicated to new tools for planners and designers solving water-supply challenges in drylands. Through research, teaching, and public impact programs, ALI brings designers together with scientists, policy makers, and citizens to test new approaches to water-smart design of the built environment. ALI has built collaborations between leading architecture and engineering firms, public agencies, university science and policy teams, and design programs in 30 states and around the world. ALI's research and programs have been recognized by the AIA|Los Angeles, the Holcim Foundation, the Buckminster Fuller Institute, and AIA College of Fellows 2015 Latrobe Prize. Hadley earned her AB from Harvard College and M.Arch from SCI-Arc. She has taught at SCI-Arc, UCLA, and Woodbury, and lectured extensively. Her teaching interests lie in hydrologic urbanisms, ancient and modern; she particularly loves advising thesis.

DEBORAH J. WEINTRAUB

Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles

Deborah is the Chief Deputy City Engineer at the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, and the highest ranking architect in the City. She provides leadership for an integrated architecture and engineering organization of approximately 800 people, with approximately 442 active projects totaling \$3.5 billion. The projects she oversees include fire facilities, police facilities, cultural facilities, transportation facilities, recreational buildings and parks, zoo facilities, general office facilities, the Convention Center, and bridges. Deborah also has been integral to the Los Angeles

KEYNOTE PANEL 4: PLANS & POLICY

River Revitalization effort. As a recognized expert in sustainable design, Deborah was instrumental in the adoption of LEED for City buildings, and has extended City sustainability initiatives by piloting net-zero energy design for City projects. Deborah has received numerous local and national awards, including a national AIA urban design award for the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, has published many professional articles, and has presented in a variety of professional and public forums.

This panel questioned the position and power of the landscape architect in the interplay of policy, design, new stakeholder coalitions and institution-building. It addressed the expanding profile of the landscape architect into arenas of public policy and large-scale territorial design that challenge political boundaries (from the region to the globe). It addressed the multi-scalar side of landscape architecture from the local or tactical scale to the territorial or strategic scale. In an era of accelerated risk due to increased climate variability, landscape architects have an unprecedented opportunity to become part of interdisciplinary teams developing plans and policies.

MATT PETERSEN

Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Mayor's Office

Matt Petersen was the City of Los Angeles' First Chief Sustainability Officer. In this role, he developed and implemented the City's first Sustainable City pLAn which is data-driven. pLAn lays out the long and short-term sustainability outcomes for the City of Los Angeles. Under the Mayor's leadership, Matt led the City's response to the Aliso Canyon gas leak and was able to bring together mayors from other cities to combat climate change by playing a major role with organizations such as C40 and the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda. He also co-chaired the Mayor's Water Cabinet, which was charged with meeting the City's aggressive water conservation goals, and resulted in Los Angeles residents reducing their water usage from 131 gallons to 106 gallons per capita daily. Before joining the Mayor's office, Matt served as President and CEO of Global Green USA for 19 years. Passionate about improving the lives of those in need, combatting climate change and greening communities, Petersen focused the organization on greening affordable housing, schools and cities (including LA). Petersen led the organization in the green rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and later to communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Matt is a board member of Global Green USA and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, as well as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative.

JOSEPH EDMISTON

Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Joseph Edmiston was appointed Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy by Governor Jerry Brown in 1979. Under his leadership, the Conservancy has preserved over 72,000 acres of public parkland within and surrounding the Los Angeles Metropolitan region, in a zone extending from the edge of the Mojave Desert to the Pacific Ocean. From north to south, these areas drain into the Santa Clara River, Calleguas Creek, Malibu Creek, numerous smaller coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains, the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and Rio Hondo. Joe has lectured extensively on environmental planning, park development, and urban land use. He and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy have been the recipient of numerous national awards including, the highest honor of the American Planning Association, the Daniel Burnham Award. Joe has also received the American Society of Landscape Architects' La Gasse Medal, awarded for notable contributions to the management of natural resources and public lands.

JANE WOLFF

Associate Professor, University of Toronto

Jane Wolff's design research work investigates hybrid landscapes that emerge from interactions between natural processes and cultural interventions. Her subjects have ranged from the western Netherlands and the California Delta to post-Katrina New Orleans, the shoreline of San Francisco Bay and the metropolitan landscape of Toronto. Her projects have the same aim: to develop language for these difficult - and often contested - places that can be shared among the wide range of audiences with a stake in the future. Based on the premise that proposals for the future must be inspired by an understanding of the past and present, her projects translate documentary information into tools for design. Ms. Wolff is an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. She holds a bachelor's degree in visual and environmental studies from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and a master's degree in landscape architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

RICHARD WELLER

Chair of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania

Richard Weller is the Martin and Margy Meyerson Chair of Urbanism and Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania (PennDesign). He is also Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia and former Director of the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC). He has received a consistent stream of international design competition awards at all scales of landscape architecture and urban design. Throughout his career he has worked simultaneously as an academic and a consultant specializing in the formative stages of projects ranging from gardens to plazas, memorials, museums, suburbs and waterfronts. His research projects have involved scenario planning for cities, megaregions and nations and his current work concerns the application of global United Nations (CBD) biodiversity targets. He has published 4 books, over 90 single-authored papers and is the Creative Director of the interdisciplinary journal of landscape architecture LA+. A devoted teacher, he was honored with an Australian National Teaching Award in 2012. His leadership activities pertain to maintaining landscape architecture at Penn as the preeminent laboratory of landscape architectural design innovation in the world and building the discipline's capacity through his role on the Board of the Landscape Architecture Foundation. Currently he is Creative Director for the 2016 Australian Festival of Landscape architecture "Not in My Backyard."

KEYNOTE PANEL 5: CULTURE & UTILITY

This panel addressed how landscape architects and designers might avoid the disciplinary rifts of the 1970s/80s/90s that polarized the field between the "science" of environmental planning and the "art" of landscape architecture. It questioned how landscape architecture could address climatic change, which alters culturally meaningful places, and how landscape architecture's utilitarian mandate might optimize the discipline's imaginative capacity. It considered the instrumentality of landscape architecture to address issues of social inequity, vulnerability and environmental justice.

ANURADHA MATHUR

Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Anuradha Mathur, an architect and landscape architect, is Professor in the Landscape Architecture Department, University of Pennsylvania. In collaboration with her partner Dilip da Cunha she is author of *Mississippi Floods: Designing a Shifting Landscape* (Yale University Press, 2001), *Deccan Traverses: the Making of Bangalore's Terrain* (Delhi: Rupa & Co., 2006) and *Soak: Mumbai's Estuary* (Delhi:

NGMA and Rupa & Co., 2009), and co-editor of *Design in the Terrain of Water* (A+RD Publishers, San Francisco, 2014). In 2011 and 2012 Mathur and da Cunha curated an international symposium titled *In the Terrain of Water*, held at PennDesign (<http://terrain.design.upenn.edu/about>). In 2013/2014 they led a PennDesign Team for the project *Structures of Coastal Resilience* supported by the Rockefeller Foundation (www.structuresofcoastalresilience.org).

CATHERINE MOSBACH

Founding Partner, Mosbach Paysagiste

Catherine Mosbach is a graduate of the Landscape Architecture School of Versailles. She opened her Paris studio in 1987, and with Marc Claramunt, Pascale Jacotot and Vincent Tricaud founded the magazine *Pages Paysages*. Among her many projects, the archaeological park of Solutre -Saone-et-Loire, walk sluice of Saint -Denis, the Botanical Garden of Bordeaux, the other side -Quebec City, Shan Shui at the International Horticultural Exposition -Xian, the Place de la Republique -Paris, walking Mediterranean Fort Saint Jean -Marseille, the museum park Louvre -Lens and Phase Shift Park -Taichung. The equerre d'Argent award -Paris was awarded to Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa of Sanaa and Catherine Mosbach for Louvre Lens Museum Park, 2013. Phase Shifts Park (Gateway Park) was honored in 2014 in the Iconic Concept Award category by the German Design Council, Munich. Mosbach exhibited 'In a Net of Desires' in XXI Triennale di Milano 2016 International Exhibition "21 Century and Design after Design" Architecture as Art.

RENNIE TANG

Assistant Professor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Rennie Tang is Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture where she coordinates and teaches the Design Foundations curriculum. Her research interests include intergenerational cities, inclusive landscapes and kinesis public engagement. Her projects are often fueled by transdisciplinary collaborations with visual artists, choreographers and occupational therapists. This work is driven by concepts and methods drawn from her background in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and dance. Her article 'Body As Urban Unit' was recently published in the book *Schmuck Als Urbaner Prozess: Artistic Interventions in Urban Space*. Notable projects include, 'Punt-Point,' a self-guided public tour for the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, 'Residual City' walk/urban exploration for the Berlin Unlimited Urban Arts Festival and the design of KidAbilities sensory integration clinic in Santa Monica. She holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from McGill University and a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University. (www.rennietang.com)

MEL CHIN

Environmental Artist

Mel Chin, from Houston, Texas, is known for his broad range of approaches in his art, including works that require multi-disciplinary, collaborative teamwork and works that conjoin cross-cultural aesthetics with complex ideas. He developed Revival Field (1989-ongoing), a project that pioneered the field of "green remediation," the use of plants to remove toxic, heavy metals from the soil. The Hundred Dollar Bill Project/Operation Paydirt focuses on national awareness and prevention of childhood lead-poisoning through art-making. The Tie that Binds is an artwork for the 2016 Current: LA Public Art Biennial initiating a new form of monumental land art, forging a unique collective relationship between a site, the city, plants and people, as a response for a water-starved city. Mel is also well known for his iconic sculptures and installations, works that often address the importance of memory and collective identity, and for inserting art into unlikely places, including destroyed homes, toxic landfills, and even popular television, investigating how art can provoke greater social awareness and responsibility.

LECTURES & EVENTS



Henri Bava Agence Ter

MARTHA SCHWARTZ

Principal, Martha Schwartz & Partners, London, NYC, Shanghai

Nov. 16, 6:00 pm

Gin D. Wong, FAIA Conference Center, Harris Hall

MIA LEHRER

Founder & President, Mia Lehrer + Associates,
Visiting Faculty, USC School of Architecture

Recalibrating the Los Angeles River

Nov. 2, 2:30 PM

Watt One, Watt Hall Basement

KATHRYN GUSTAFSON

Founding Principal, Gustafson Guthrie Nichol,
Seattle & Washington, DC

Founding Partner, Gustafson Porter, London

Feb. 8, 6:00 pm

Gin D. Wong, FAIA Conference Center, Harris Hall

EXHIBIT: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AS NECESSITY

Kelly Shannon RUA Cantho Vietnam

ADVISORY BOARD

MIA LEHRER



FAB PARK LOS ANGELES, CA. STUDIO MLA (2017-ONGOING)

First & Broadway civic center park celebrates Southern California's natural arroyo landscapes to instill awareness and sensitivity to drought and climate change. It is part of a radical transformation of urban space integrating contemporary social and cultural life with nature and artifice.

Ben Feldman, Margot Jacobs, Astrid Sykes, Kush Parekh, Kenny Tang, Eden Ferry, Jeremy Jarin of Studio-MLA

Architecture: OMA

Lighting Design: Francis Krahe & Associates

Civil Engineer: Psomas

Park Management: Mjm Management

Art Consultant: Cusick Consulting

Restaurant Consultant: Muhlke Consulting

Food Culture Consultant: Street Virus

Community Outreach: Arellano Associates

Cost Consultant: Lenax

Constructability Review: Development Industries



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ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
RIOS CLEMENTE HALE STUDIOS

The original design for the 4.4 acre Pete V. Domenici US Courthouse diminished in Albuquerque's extreme climate. Our team was challenged to transform the existing landscape into a model of sustainable renovation to support improved facility efficiency and operations. Drawing on the history of both the site and region, this environmentally unfriendly plaza transformed into a model of sustainable urban design. Earning 2 Stars as a Sustainable Sites Initiative Pilot Project, the design's creative re-use of materials, comprehensive water management program, and use of solar power demonstrates how retrofitted sites can use resources more efficiently, to better connect with users.

Project Completion
2013

Image Credit
Robert Reck Photography



ADVISORY BOARD

JOE EDMISTON



MRCA PROJECTS
MARSH PARK
VISTA HERMOSA PARK
LOS ANGELES, CA.
JOE EDMISTON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MRCA

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is the leader in providing innovative and inviting nature parks in urban areas of Southern California, and one of the principal agencies working towards revitalization of the Los Angeles River.



ALUMNI

HAORAN LIU



CHRIST CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL ORANGE, CA RCH STUDIOS

Master Plan and Landscape Design to integrate the beauty of landscape and the unique religious meaning of the site

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange's acquisition of the legendary Crystal Cathedral is an opportunity to reimagine the entire 34-acre campus as the focal point for Orange County's Catholics and a global center for Catholic life, with Philip Johnson's iconic cathedral at its center.

The liturgical space of the Cathedral is the core of both the Diocesan mission and the campus itself. A new plaza rings that sacred heart of the campus with four overlapping courtyards to welcome the entire community—Catholic & non-Catholic alike—for liturgical and non-liturgical programming. Around the edge of the plaza, a canopy of trees shades the perimeter and creates a transitional margin that allows for more varied uses of the space, while also separating the more profane, everyday world from the sacred space of the cathedral and the surrounding plaza.

Our overarching goal is to create a landscape that is commensurate in design excellence to the existing architecture on the campus, and that prioritizes people over cars to create flexible opportunities for large, communal ceremonies and programs. Worshippers pass through a series of thresholds within a 'concentric gradient of sacredness.'

Client
Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange

Campus Master Plan Architect
Rios Clementi Hale Studios

Landscape Architect
Rios Clementi Hale Studios

Cathedral Renovation Architect
Johnson Fain

Our Lady of Lavang Shrine Architect
Torrance Architects

Project Team
Mark Rios
Frank Clementi
Samantha Harris
Michael Sweeney
Brent Jacobsen
Mike Tramutola
Haoran Liu
(USC Alumni, Project Manager, and Associate)

Image Credit
Courtesy of Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange

Rendering by Shimahara Illustration
Plan and Diagram by Rios Clementi Hale Studios

ALUMNI

TINA CHEE



**LARIVER SCULPTURE PARK AND RIVER
CROSSING**
LOS ANGELES, CA.
CHEESALETTE
2017

A major part of the new land created above the rails is devoted to a large public park of approximately 10 acres with native vegetation, passive uses, active amenities, and wide views of the river and the downtown skyline. The park is envisioned as a place to view large outdoor sculptures and exhibit artwork in a series of gallery/maker spaces, which could be simply housed in prefabricated structures in keeping with the industrial character of the site. Along the bank, the sculpture park becomes a stepped promenade forming cascading gardens overhanging the existing channel, making it possible to view the river during high water. The promenade continues to step down to reach the riverbank below and descends into the channel itself as a playful set of stepping stones and aquatic gardens that foster habitat, help cleanse the water, and provide access to the riverbed as well as a crossing to the other side during normal flow conditions.

ALUMNI

ZHIHANG LUO



Images copyright: Skidmore Owings & Merrill LLP.

SEAGULL ISLAND PEARL RIVER DELTA, CHINA SOM

At its essence, Seagull Island is a place between land and water. Its history is one of transition and change as the Pearl River has shaped its edges. Today, approximately 50% of the island area is aquaculture ponds, canals, or other types of water elements. This is the foundation for Seagull's future vision.

The proposed master plan for Seagull Island defines a clear path for this important location at the heart of the Pearl River Delta. The Plan mediates between the demands of a rapidly urbanizing region and the need to repair ecosystems, providing new economic and transportation infrastructure while returning over 35% of the island to native ecosystems and habitat.

The master plan indicates the sustainable integration of environmental restoration and economic development, connected by a network of roads and other transportation systems. Villages will be encouraged to grow organically, gradually transitioning to an economic future defined by eco-tourism, agriculture, and new sustainable industries.

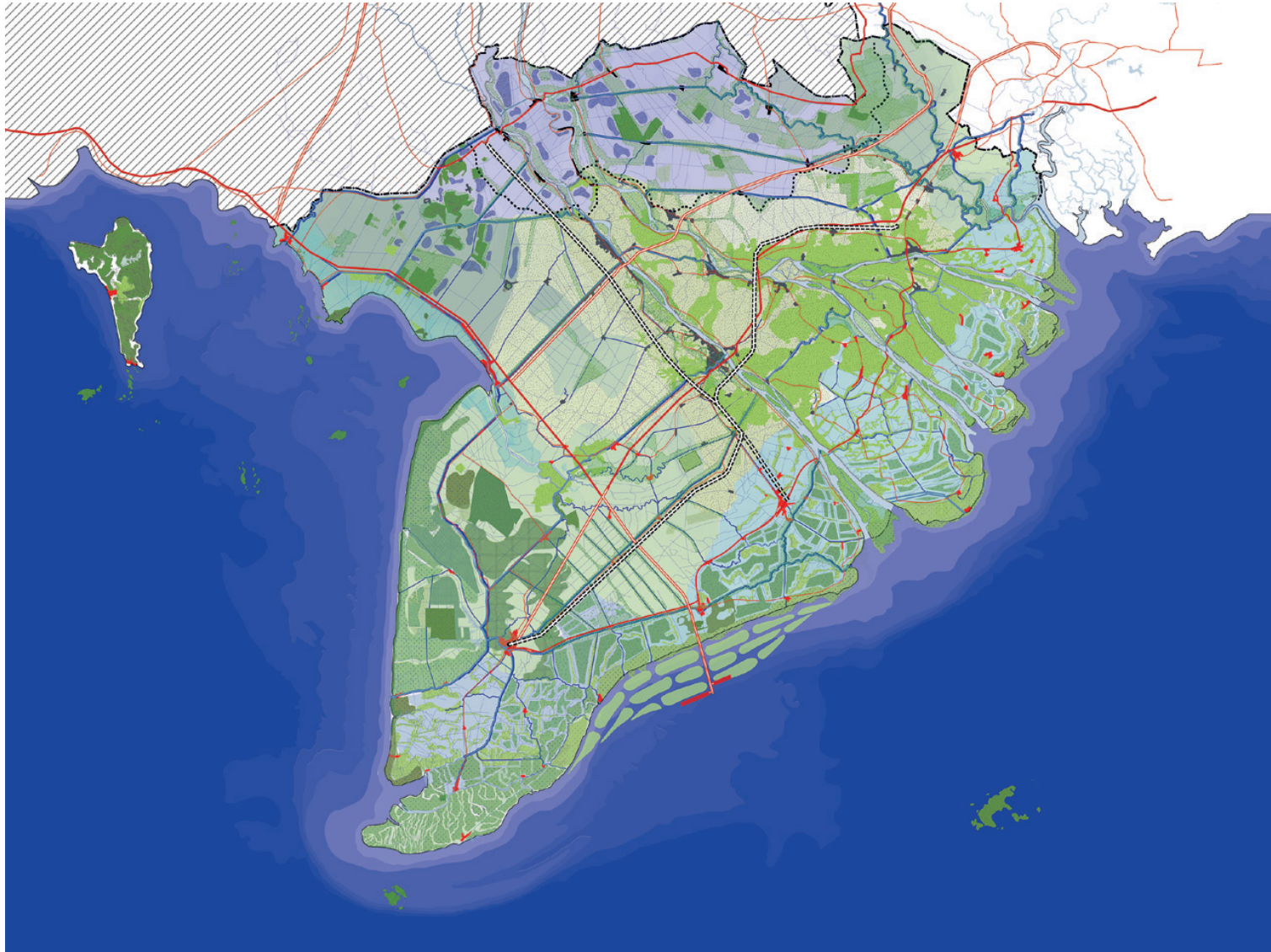
The Seagull Island Master Plan is composed of six elements that will contribute to the overall economic, ecological and sustainable future of the Island. They should be considered as complementary concepts and can be implemented in coordination with the others.

The key concepts of the plan are:

1. Water: Reconnect and cleanse water systems.
2. Ecology: Restore native ecologies and habitat.
3. New Economies: Create new economic opportunities for residents.
4. Agriculture: Enhance agriculture and promote organic food.
5. Communities: Strengthen existing communities and provide modern services.
6. Mobility: Provide multiple options for Island transportation.

FACULTY

KELLY SHANNON



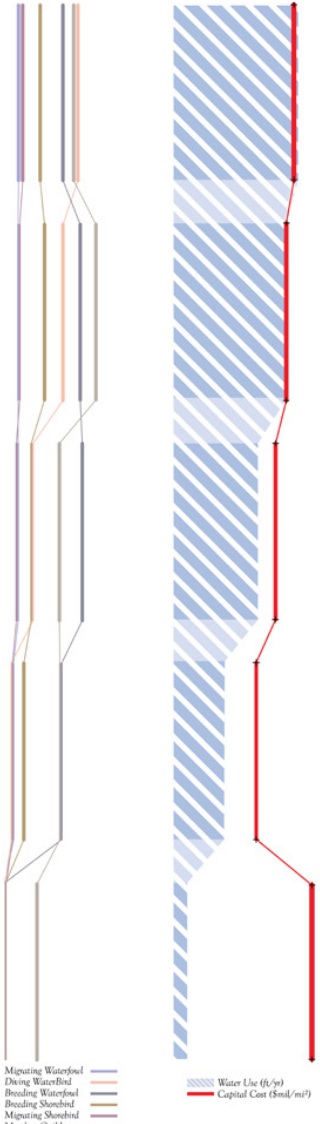
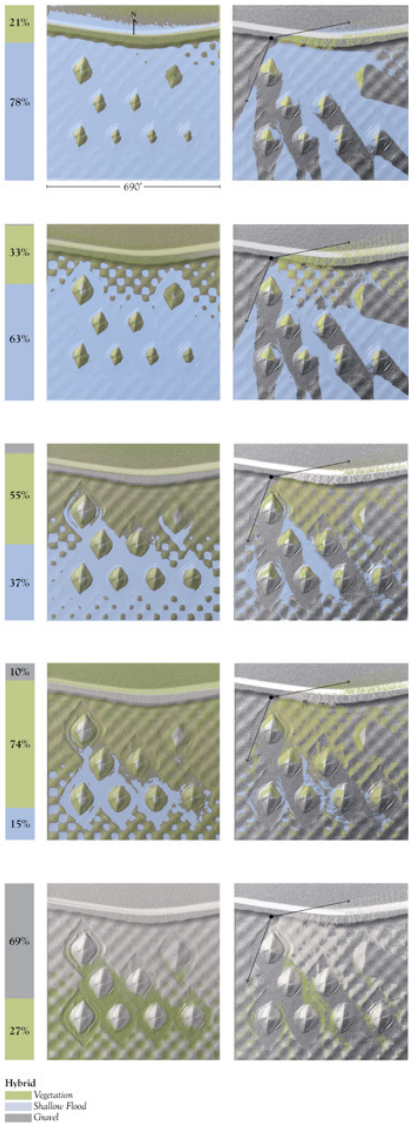
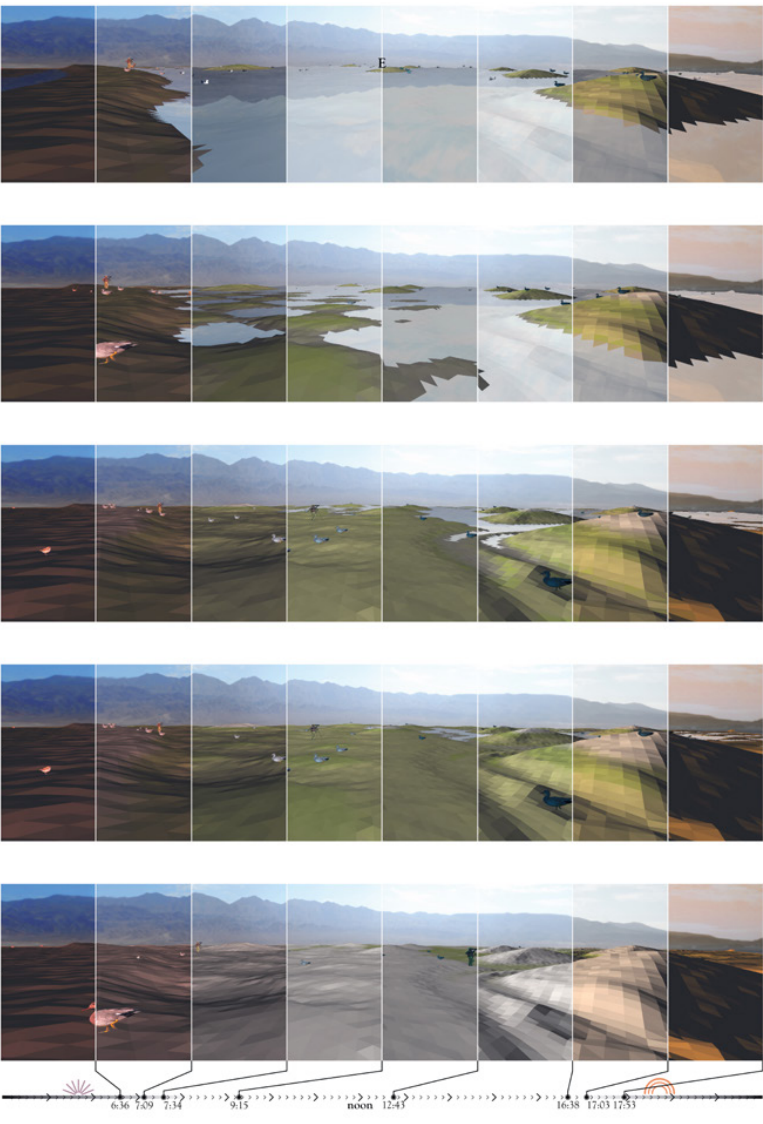
REVISION TO MEKONG DELTA REGION PLAN
2030
VISION TO 2050
MEKONG DELTA
VIETNAM
(2014–PRESENT)

Infrastructure and development are realigned to take advantage of climate change and the opportunities of the landscape. The delta is optimized as a productive landscape. New state-of-the-art typologies are conceived for living with the forces of nature.

Kelly Shannon, Bruno De Meulder with Claudia Lucia Rojas Bernal of RUA and Tracy Collier, Eric Heikkila, Chris Keseteloot, Michael Waibel, Donielle Kaufman, Christina Hood as collaborators (as consultants for the Ministry of Construction, Hanoi and SISP (Southern Institute of Spatial Planning, HCMC)).

FACULTY

ALEX ROBINSON



SPOILS OF DUST: REINVENTING THE LAKE THAT MADE LOS ANGELES

OWENS LAKE, CALIFORNIA

(2013- PRESENT)

Humphrey Repton inspired synthetic map-pings of proposed Owens Lake dust control landscapes, modeled in sand and rendered in custom software, spanning parameters and analytics of water, daylight, habitat, cost, and vision.

Alexander Robinson with Ryan Hughes, Alex Nuffer and Sarah Swanseen

FACULTY

ESTHER MARGULIES



EDMUNDS.COM HEADQUARTERS
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

The courtyard expands comfortable and collegial spaces for everyday work on the ground floor. Edmunds business model is highly dependent upon well-furnished and inspiring social space. Linear planters and water features create a layered and scaled landscape for meetings, corporate events and gatherings.

Esther Margulies of the Office of the Designed Landscape with Brendan Kempf and Charles Anderson

Architects
M+M Creative, Lewis Schoeplein Architects

Photographer
Chris Mitchell
Benny Chan Fotoworks



FACULTY

SARAH COWLES

THE LOW FLOW, ARROYO SECO
LOS ANGELES, CA.
2016

The Low Flow: a careful inscription of the concrete that draws attention to moments where water is manifested in the channel. Subtle re-faceting of the concrete allows for the “washing” of water across that will darken some portions of the slabs.



FACULTY REBECCA HILL

NEW YORK FLOWS
NEW YORK, NY
REBECCA HILL RAFT LANDSCAPE

This street in the future efficiently moves more people while performing critical new ecological functions. The underground void of the S-shuttle is utilized for storm water storage and then directed east and west recreating streams that once flowed through the island.

Rebecca Hill, Matt Donham | Raft Landscape
Architecture and special thanks to Anne Clark Baker



FACULTY

VINAYAK BHARNE

CORAL COVE MARINA VILLAGE COLON, PANAMA MOULE POLYZOIDES

A 600-acre marina village located near the San Blas islands north of Panama City. The nexus of four ecologies on the site—beach, coral reefs, mangroves and rain forests—makes this master plan as much about conserving fragile ecosystems as demanding both design and lifestyle attitudes from its designers and residents that are deeply respectful of this ecology. The marina is designed as a compact series of carefully situated villages with a balanced mix of dwellings, workplaces, shops, and civic buildings organized along individual blocks, interconnected streets, and diverse open spaces, all accessible on foot from each dwelling.

Project Date

Master Plan completed 2015

Urban Design & Landscape

Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists

Collaborating Architects

George Moreno & Partners, Panama

Collaborating Planners

OBMI

Ecology Consultant

Daniel Cotton

Marina Design Consultants

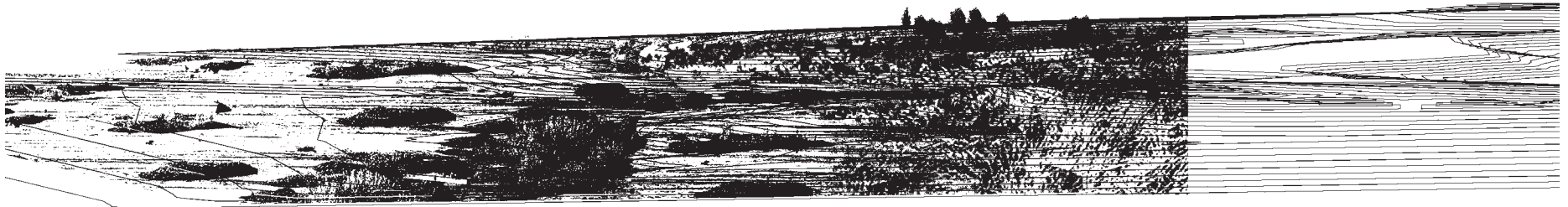
Applied Technology & Management Inc.

Real Estate Consultants

Norton Consulting



STUDENT AWARDS

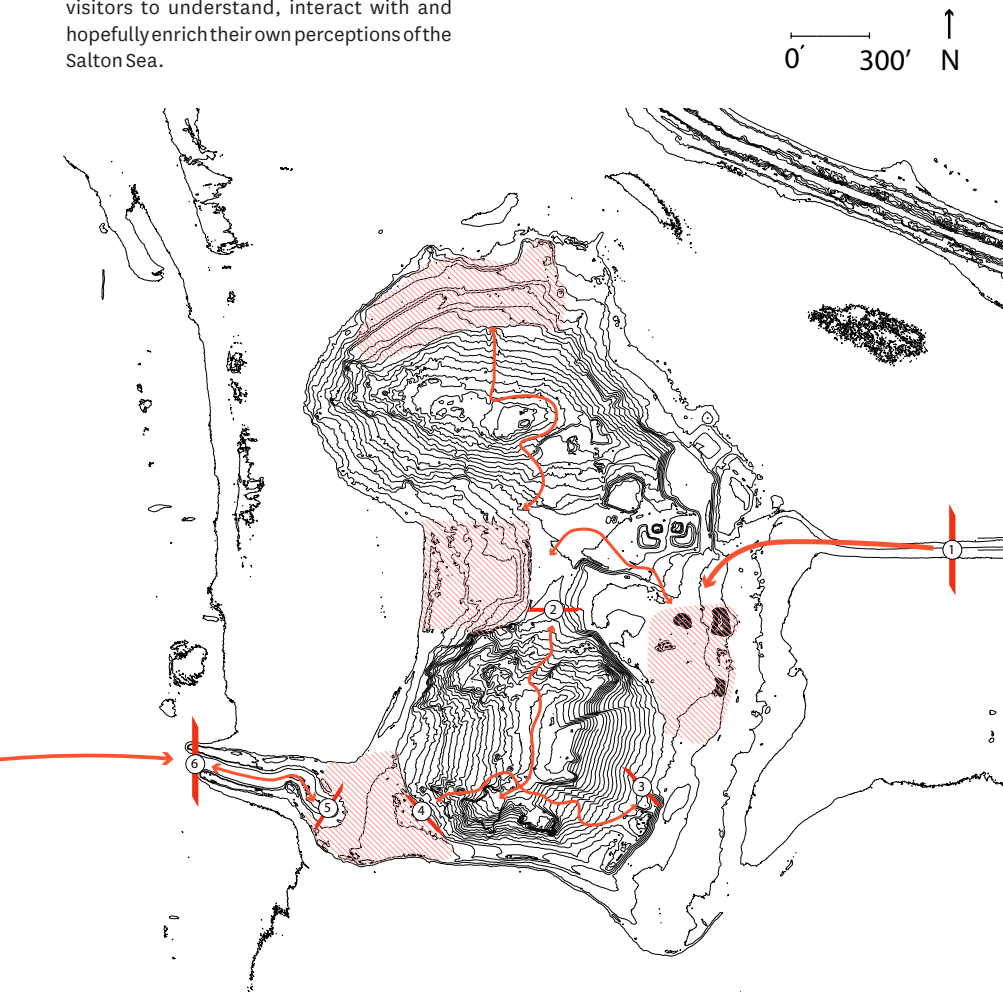


Donielle Kaufman '17

Design Research Thesis *Soil, Seed & Surplus: Initiating Landscape Process for Botanical Garden Design*
Instructor Sarah Cowles

Outstanding Thesis Project

Recent proposals for landscape and environmental interventions at the Salton Sea frame the landscape as a rapidly approaching ecological catastrophe. While there is no denying the threat to public health and the bird habitat, this perspective perpetuates the dangerous utilitarian mentality responsible for the creation of the Sea. This thesis explores a less dominant perspective of the Salton Sea and Colorado Desert; it looks through the lens of the desert as a place with spiritual or transcendental qualities. Focus is placed on a single volcanic butte to explore the potential to create new opportunities for visitors to understand, interact with and hopefully enrich their own perceptions of the Salton Sea.



BLAKE WEBER
Design Research Thesis
Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
Professor Sarah Cowles

Perceptions of a Sea reframes the landscape of the Salton Sea as a rapidly approaching ecological catastrophe. The newly exposed lakebed raises several major public health, environmental and economic development concerns. The dominant lens of the design research investigation was on the desert and the Salton Sea as a place with spiritual or transcendental qualities. The primary focus is placed on a single volcanic butte to explore the potential to create new opportunities for visitors to understand, interact and hopefully enrich their own perceptions of the Salton Sea.

Southern California Chapter ASLA Awards 2017

YAO YAO, ASLA CERTIFICATE OF HONOR

*“excellent display of design thought process
through graphics,” “strong philosophy.”
“logication,” and “theory and research coalesce
into thoughtful design.”*

The discipline of landscape architecture evolved from agricultural production with gardens that emerged representing wilderness and cultivated land. This thesis explores the idea of landscape architecture as a way to reconcile cultural conflicts and contradictions by referring to various modes of land use throughout history, and examines how this approach can create distinct identity in a rapidly changing city.

The Los Angeles area is culturally enriched by its diverse demographic, and that diversity also brings cultural complexities and dissonance over time. Thinking forward to the future Los Angeles, recognizing cultural relevance and addressing cultural disparity through the lens of place-making in civic settings will be one key approach to avoiding ubiquitous development.

By researching and tracing the history of changing and counter cultures, and how

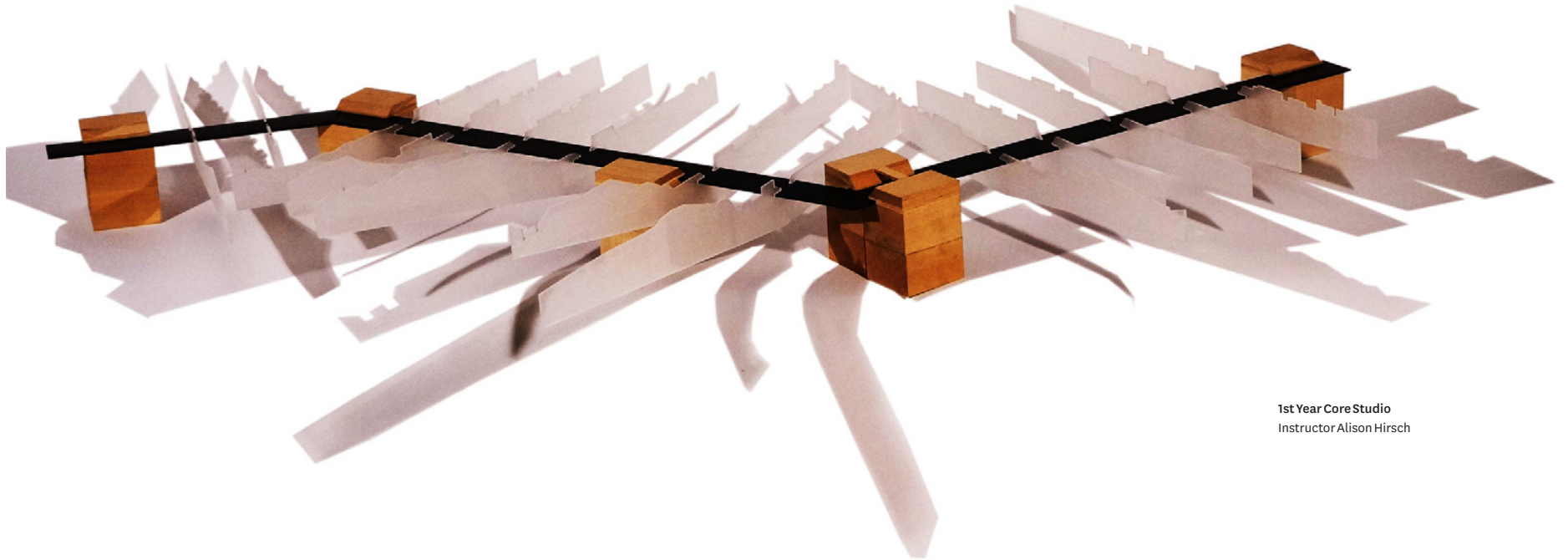
they evolved over time, this thesis tries to bring out multiple design iterations and stances towards future settings, which are extrapolated through demographic character, trend of climate change and water resources. Those iterations will be used as the foundation to further examine consequences of certain landscape operations. In this dialogue, vegetation becomes the main factor to link spatial characters to the social and economic implication. Design solutions developed through the idea around vegetation could provide additional layers of meanings and effects besides ecological values as long as we understand that physical environment can change social environment not only from the consequences of the physical construct but also from the process of making.



Design Research Thesis Metro Memory Maker
Instructor Peter Culley



CHRISTINA HOOD, ASLA CERTIFICATE OF HONOR

[illegible]

54 STUDENT AWARDS

Southern California Chapter ASLA Awards 2017

ZHENG GUO, ASLA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

“Great sense of color,” “lovely graphics,” “confident, enthusiastic communication,” “logical solutions, strong vision and thoughtful planning,” “great use of diagrams,” “good combination of analog and digital graphics,” and “the solution’s story is well displayed.”

Landscape theorists and ecologists have sought to envision landscapes as complexes of processes and forces that are driven by dynamic temporal relationships rather than deterministic trends. This thesis layers mutable landscape patterns into urban infrastructures to achieve ecological productivity and aesthetic interest. San Diego Creek (Irvine, Orange County) was selected as a site to explore and experiment with natural systems pattern making. The emphasis of this thesis is to manifest mutable landscape patterns at small scales

to increase the visibility of San Diego creek and engage residents and visitors to increase their interaction with the river. The thesis tests multiple ways of discovering and creating landscape patterns based on river dynamics at a human scale. Rather than developing a deterministic product, the landscape is manifested through a series of hydraulic models with emphasis on process, scale, and time.



Layering Mutable Landscape Patterns into Urban Infrastructure
An Ecological Applique for the Channelized San Diego Creek
Instructor Sarah Cowles

Southern California Chapter ASLA Awards 2017

DONIELLE KAUFMAN, ASLA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

“clear, succinct... great graphics,” “the intellectual approach to bringing conventional ideas of landscape architecture to a different light, and bringing a different level of awareness into the public realm is very admirable,” and “very concise, well thought out solutions.”

This thesis examines the ecological and cultural role of the botanical garden in the 21st century. I am interested in how the construction of a contemporary botanical garden might provide a framework for new ecological aesthetics grounded in mineral processes, hydraulic surplus and horticultural hybridity. Through careful study of the “deeply symbolic and cultural understanding” of botanic garden design with the “massive environmental transformations to come,” I test how a botanical system might expand beyond the enclosed garden and taxonomic bed, and into the city (Girot and Imhof 2016: 11).

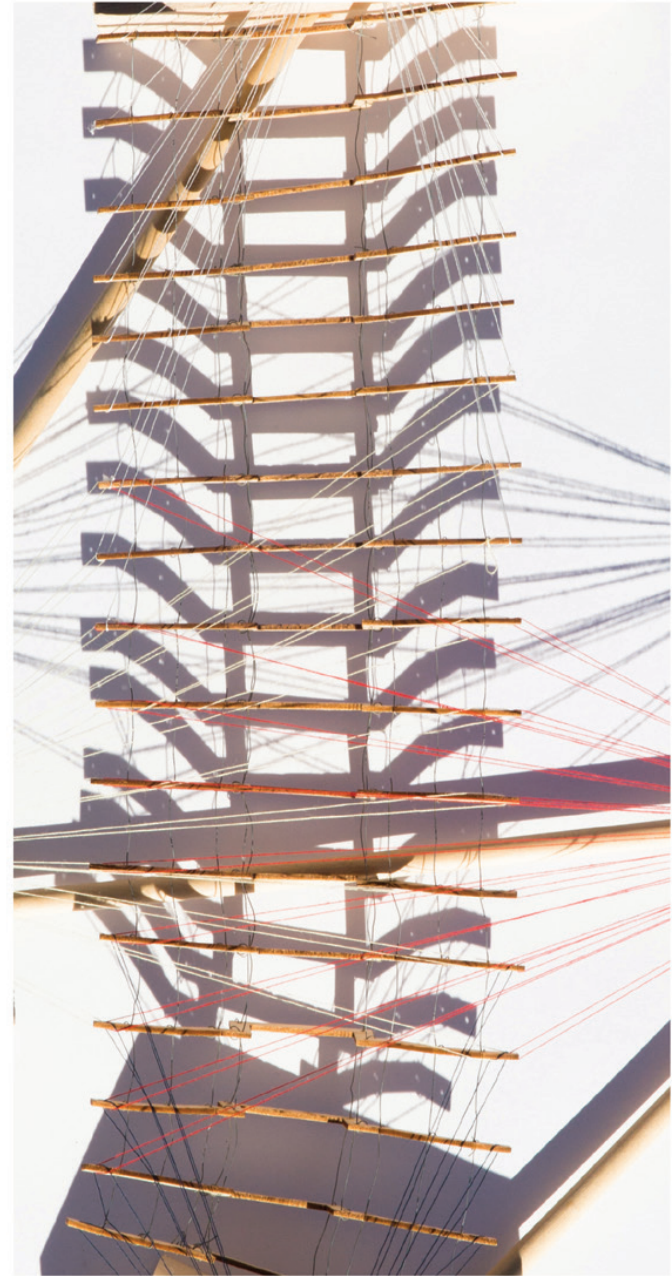
The 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles provides the ultimate testing grounds to exploit the mythologies

of the botanic garden in pursuit of a new urban landscape. These games, slated to be the most sustainable Olympiad in history, will utilize existing stadiums and mobility networks.

The proposed sites are spread across Los Angeles County and include one emergent venue: Sepulveda Basin. The Basin is the City’s primary defense against winter floodwaters. Here, the architecture of sports and the necessary infrastructure of stormwater management will provide the economic engine and maintenance regimes to reimagine the Sepulveda Basin as a superbly botanical site.



Design Research Thesis *Soil, Seed & Surplus: Initiating Landscape Process for Botanical Garden Design*
Instructor Sarah Cowles



First Year Core Studio
Instructor Alison Hirsch

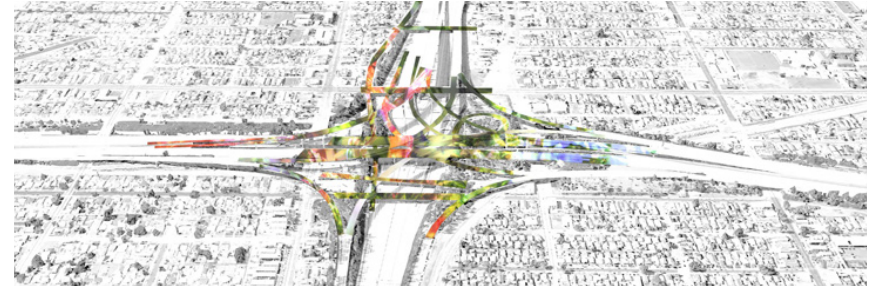
USC Olmsted Scholar 2017

DONIELLE KAUFMAN

Olmsted Scholars Program is the premiere national award and recognition program for landscape architecture students. It is sponsored by the Landscape Architecture Foundation and began in 2007. The program honors students with exceptional leadership potential who are using ideas, influence, communication and service to advance sustainable design and foster human and societal benefits. Named for Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture, the *Olmsted Scholars Program* allows each accredited graduate landscape architecture program in the U.S. and Canada graduate program to nominate one student per year and an independent jury chooses a single winner who is awarded \$25,000. Students are both honored for past achievements and recognized for their future potential to influence the landscape architecture profession. All nominees become Olmsted Scholars and join a growing community of nearly 500 past and present future leaders of the profession. The prestige and publicity associated with the award serve to promote the significance of the landscape architecture profession and help attract inspired and motivated leaders.

I believe the act of contextualizing an art object in the 21st century employs a sensitivity to time and place that is similar to the contemporary practices of landscape architecture. The act of presenting a work of art or designing a river corridor is a complex task that demands the practitioner respond to qualities—both manifest and latent—of shared public space and cultural multiplicity. The difficult and vital task involves the practitioner making these qualities relevant to the public. Unlike exhibition design, the field of landscape architecture is exciting to me because it moves beyond discourse and temporary installation, into the realm of ‘botanical time.’ This long-term impact on people’s lives, through design intervention at the small and territorial scales, compelled me to leave the museum and to pursue a career in landscape architecture.

I will be graduating this spring at a moment of ‘alternative facts’ and disputed borders, profound spatial disparity and sanctuary cities. I keep asking myself, how, as a young landscape designer, I might design for multiplicity. What will it mean to create locally specific experiences that mediate diverse cultural traditions under increasing political and climatic distress? Landscape architect Christophe Girot’s proclamation, “Landscape architecture must be one of the few disciplines capable of merging a deeply symbolic and cultural understanding of nature with the massive environmental transformations to come,” gives me hope for the necessity of landscape architectural practice in the 21st-century (Girot 2016: 11). Due to my unique positioning, I am poised to develop a ‘greater cultural understanding of nature’ that moves beyond the ever-present binary of ‘art vs. ecology.’ I aim to develop a more synthetic approach to landscape architecture practice by integrating the criticality of curatorial discourse within the spatial practices of landscape architecture. I believe that this positioning will enable me to develop new ecological aesthetics and to curate experiences that illicit profound connections between humanity and the natural world.



Design Research Thesis *Soil, Seed & Surplus: Initiating Landscape Process for Botanical Garden Design*
Instructor Sarah Cowles

PROJECT PROPOSAL: SPATIAL PRACTICES FOR SANCTUARY CITIES

Since 1955, the City of Kassel has served as host to the recurring art exhibition, *documenta*. Originally intended to document European modern art that was not available for public viewing during the Nazi era, *documenta* has since shifted focus towards global contemporary art practices with a public exhibition every five years. Within the halls of Kassel’s Fridericianum, 13 unique *documenta* programs have identified, presented, and debated aesthetic currents and significant changes to contemporary life. This summer’s upcoming exhibition, *documenta 14: Universes in Universe*, is sited in both Kassel and Athens and will focus on the social and ecological context of asylum in the Mediterranean region. I believe *documenta 14*, due to its focus on the physical and symbolic implications of territory and cultural heritage, is a rich subject for design research and can inform landscape-driven solutions for American sanctuary cities. *Spatial Practices for Sanctuary Cities* will use the agenda set forth by *documenta 14* to further explore the notion of ‘sanctuary city’ in Los Angeles.

Art practice and exhibition design, unlike landscape architecture, is nimble and can be used as testing grounds for new spatial practices. Throughout *documenta*’s exhibition history, participating artists have engaged ecological and infrastructural topics central to the landscape architect’s project, often demonstrating an immediate response to aesthetic and political currents when compared to the lengthy construction timelines

demanded of landscape architecture. Seminal works exhibited at *documenta*, including 7000 Oaks (Joseph Beuys, *documenta 7*, 1982), Doing Nothing Garden (Song Dong, *documenta 13*, 2012), and South as a State of Mind (Adam Szymczyk and others, *documenta 14*, 2015), suggest that *documenta* has a long history of artistic experimentation that engages both art and ecology. This synthetic approach to art and landscape intervention foregrounds new spatial practices, making *documenta 14* a vital learning tool for landscape architects and students.

Spatial Practices for Sanctuary Cities will address the geographical implications faced by the 1 million undocumented residents who call Los Angeles home through the development of a research lab. I propose to visit *documenta 14* in both Kassel and Athens in order to catalyze a Los Angeles-based research lab that will test spatial practices for immigrants against the bewildering conditions of present-day politics. Upon arrival in Los Angeles, I will leverage my background in curatorial practice to develop an exhibition program that engages my initial design research from *documenta 14*, as well as work from Los Angeles-based artists and design practitioners, in discourse and continued testing of landscape-driven solutions for sanctuary cities. This research project seeks to cultivate design agency for landscape architects to create a democratic public realm for all.

Girot, C. (2016), *Thinking the Contemporary Landscape* (New York City: Princeton Architectural Press).

STUDIO WORK

Emine Buran
1st Year Core Studio
Instructors Astrid Sykes and Ben Feldman

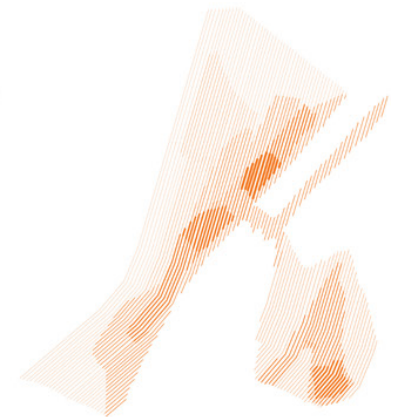
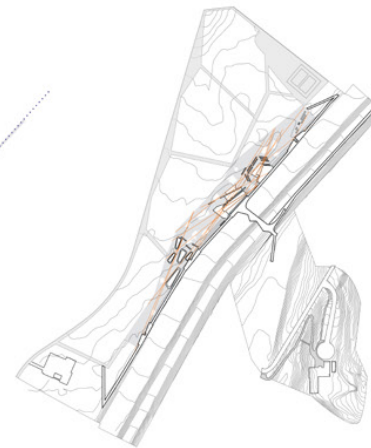
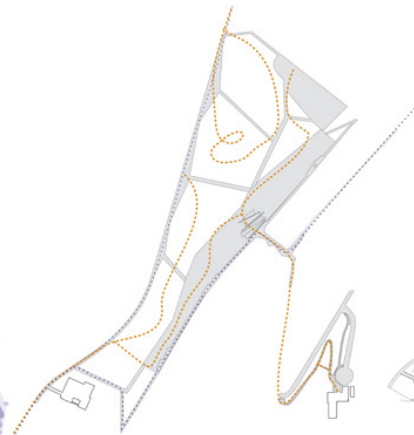
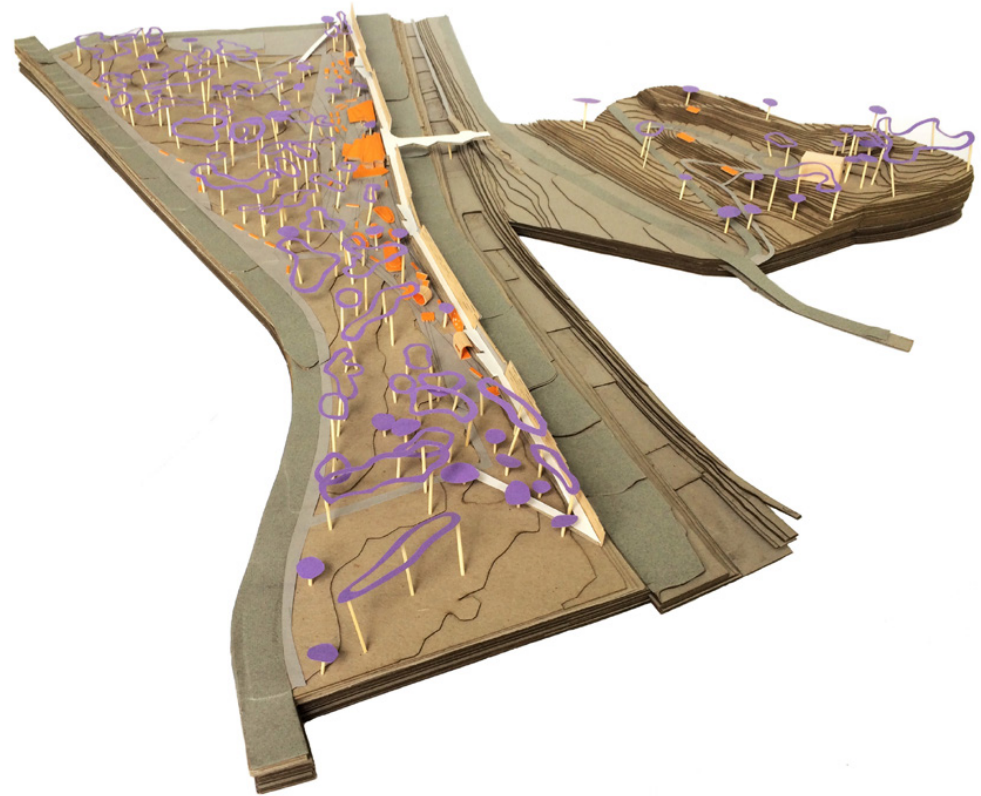
1st Year Studio Fall 2016

Concepts Analysis + Design Territorial
Traces, Armature + Seeds + Field-Surface

INSTRUCTOR
Katherine Harvey

STUDENT
Sarah Swanseen

A transect through the Arroyo Seco was researched and documented with notational mapping to read the diverse natural and cultural history of the site. A series of proposed interventions physically separates the linear park from the adjacent freeway and provides a series of event and gathering spaces responding to the varied daily uses of the park.



1st Year Studio Fall 2016

Threading the Urban Landscape:
Re:Connecting the Arroyo

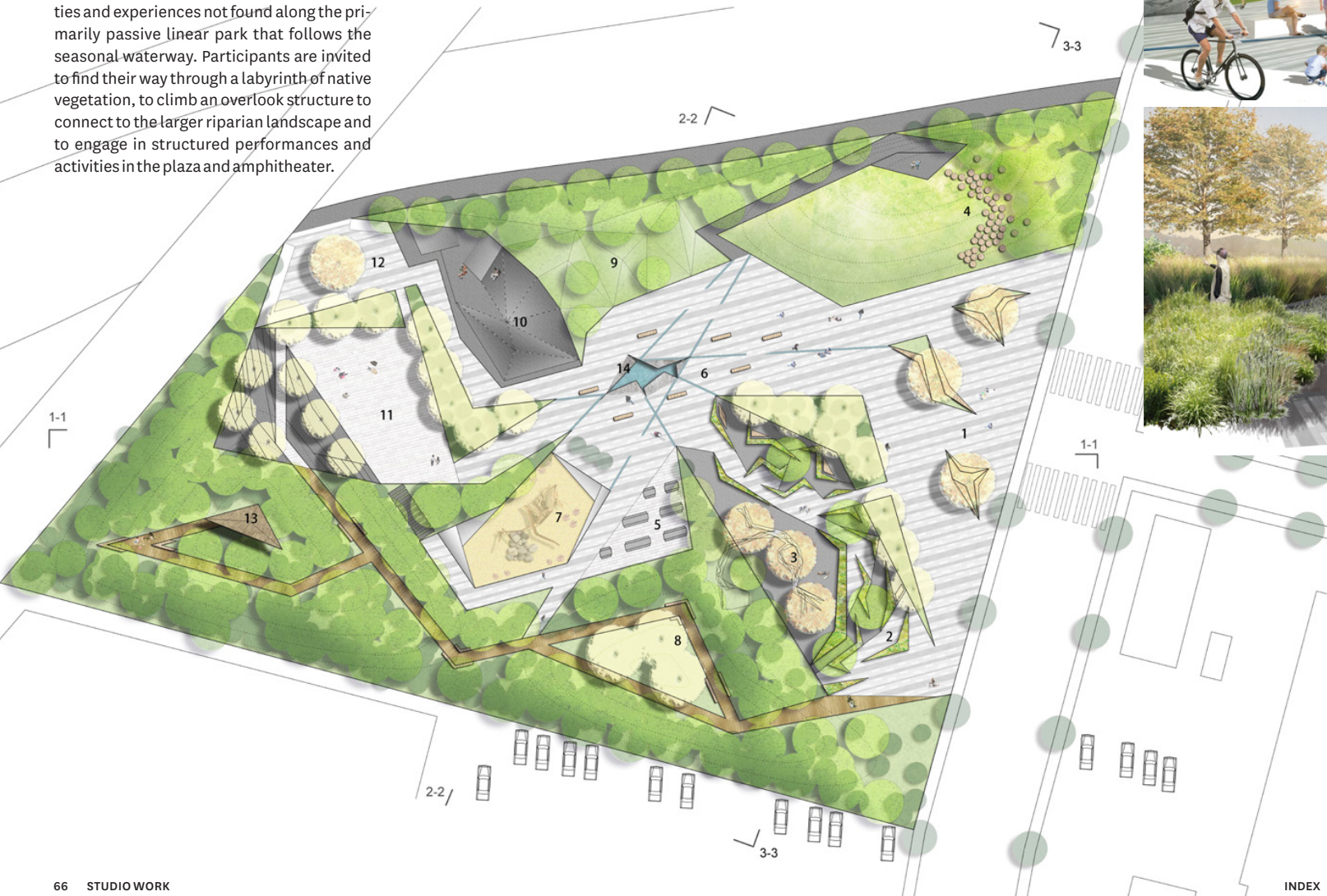
INSTRUCTORS

Kelly Majewski and Chris Torres

STUDENT

Zhiya Huang

The proposed park energizes three acres of open space along the Arroyo Seco with activities and experiences not found along the primarily passive linear park that follows the seasonal waterway. Participants are invited to find their way through a labyrinth of native vegetation, to climb an overlook structure to connect to the larger riparian landscape and to engage in structured performances and activities in the plaza and amphitheater.



1st Year Studio Spring 2016

Interstitial Ecologies: Reframing the Urban
Landscape

INSTRUCTORS

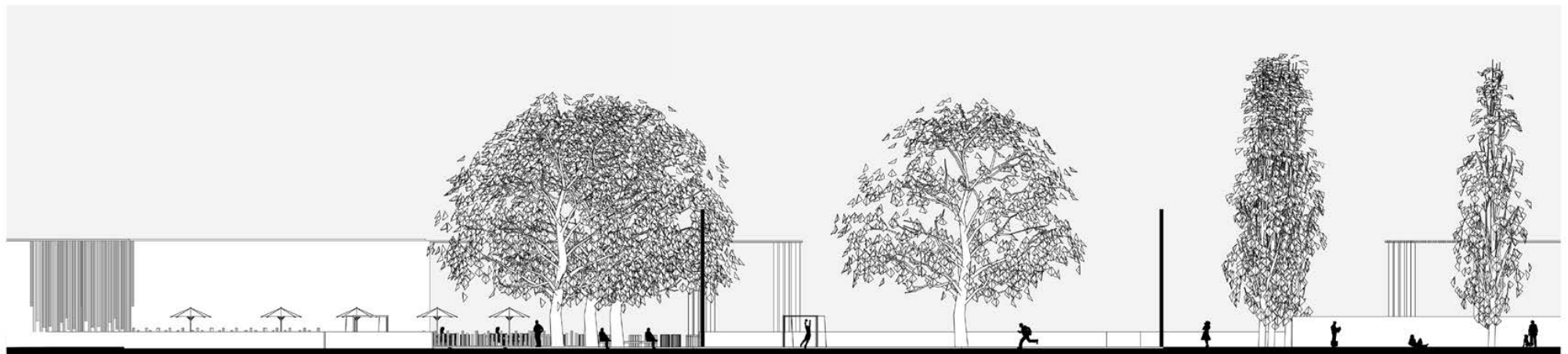
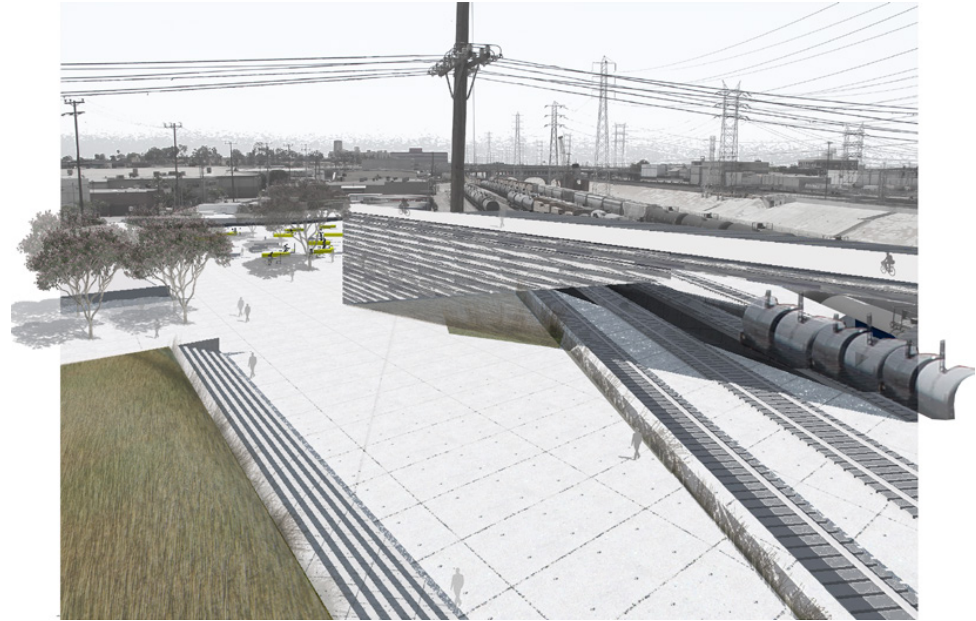
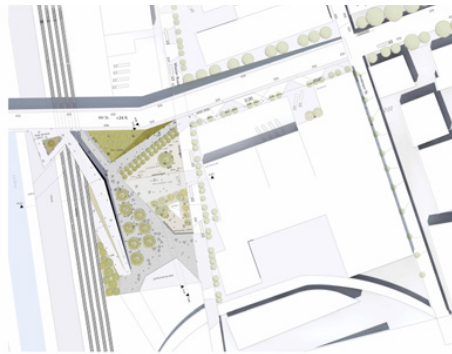
Astrid Sykes and Ben Feldman

STUDENT

Emine Buran

URBAN LIVING ROOM

In the rapidly gentrifying and contested river bank of Boyle Flats, an ambitious public space navigates the vertical space between the low-lying post-industrial district and the historic 4th Street bridge above. In a city of 4 million residents, with a tradition of minimal civic space, this highly urban public space captures the creative spirit of the New Downtown and anticipates a more vibrant river culture in the future.



2nd Year Studio

Fall 2016

Landscape + Urbanism: Territorial Scale
Refugee Camp Urbanism to Migrant Housing:
A Landscape Infrastructure Approach

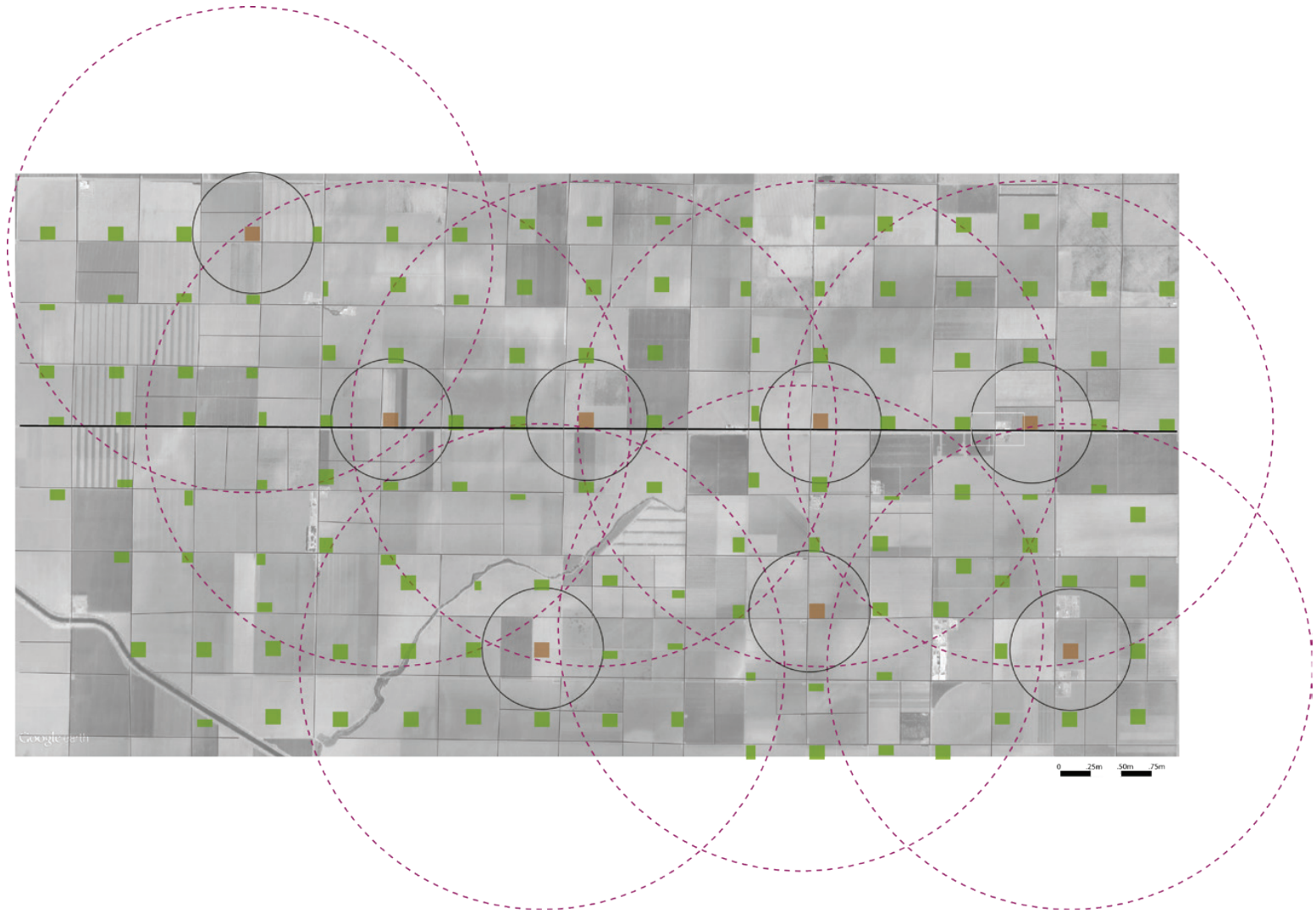
INSTRUCTORS

Kelly Shannon and Dima Rachid

STUDENT

Jade Orr

California's Central Valley presents a territory to explore new models and paradigms for refugee resettlement in the US. Traditional and experimental agricultural strategies create an armature for new settlements providing a dignified and necessary role for recent emigrants to support the vital agricultural economy of California. A long-term approach to soil remediation and development of apiculture and aquaculture at the territorial scale provide logic and structure for social, economic and ecological recovery.



2nd Year Studio

Spring 2017

TopicsStudio:
Liwan District, Guangzhou, China

INSTRUCTOR
Vinayak Bharne

STUDENTS
Tiffany Swift and Peter Woodley

Spurred by the opening of the new Canton Opera Art Museum and the prospect of rehabilitating the ecological value of waterways in the Liwan district, a network of waterways and public spaces will revitalize long neglected neighborhoods. Canal walkways with small parks provide residents with appealing pathways and places for recreation including fishing. Community gardens provide healthy food resources and social spaces. Small permeable parks filter and clean stormwater before it enters the canal system and ultimately reaches the Zhujiang River.



2nd Year Studio Spring 2017

TopicsStudio: Malaysia Biennial

INSTRUCTOR

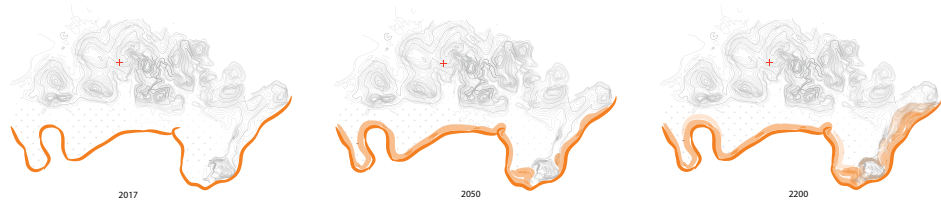
Warren Techentin

STUDENTS

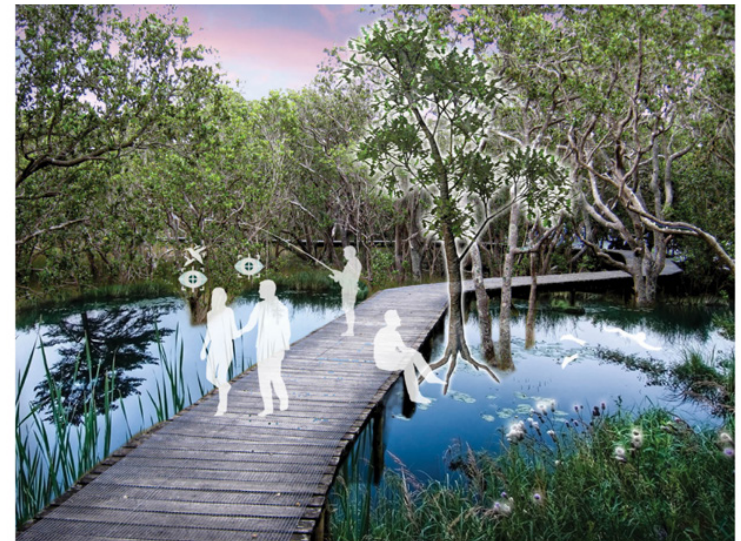
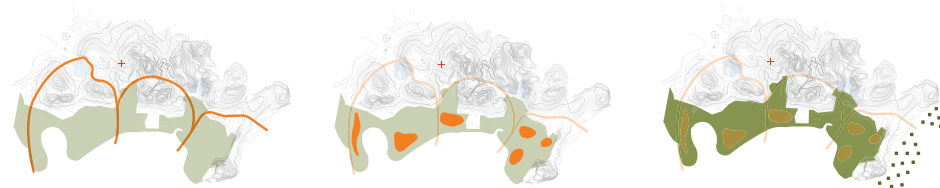
Hollis Brashear with Ansh Vakil & Amy Brar

HEALTH20

A proposal for the waterfront neighborhood in Medini utilizes land and water to improve health and wellness in the next century. Mitigation strategies for rising sea level and flood risks are integrated into canals, retention pools and a more water-focused infrastructure. The neighborhood will achieve a net positive position through the development of water catchment and infiltration, algae biofuel production, bio-luminescent planting, pollution capture and solar energy.



SOLUTION: INTEGRATION OF WATER SURGE CREATES 'ISLAND DISTRICT'



Design Research Thesis Studio

Testing Beauty

INSTRUCTOR

Sarah Cowles

STUDENTS

Donielle Kaufman, Teeney Hood and
Michelle Villareal

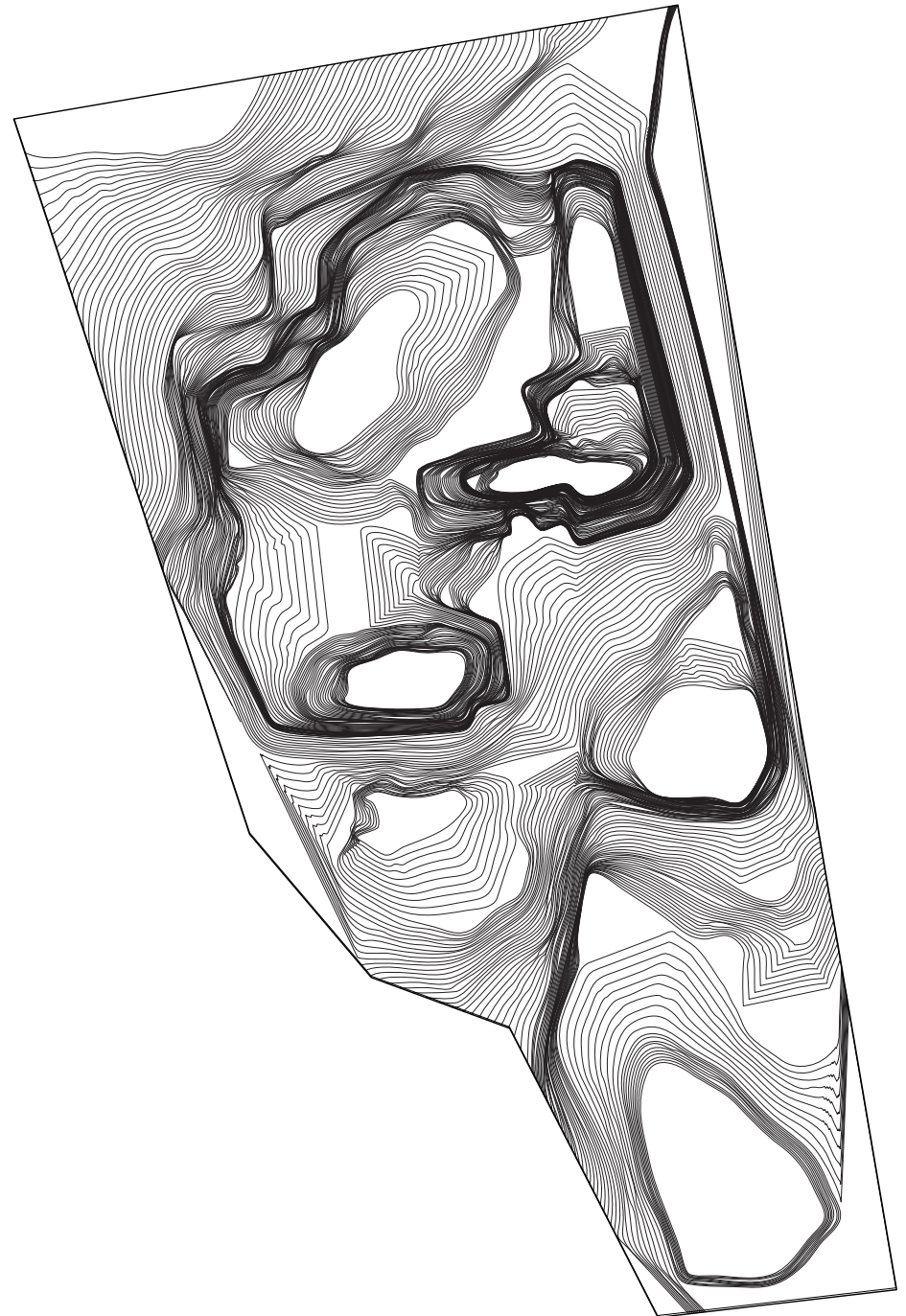
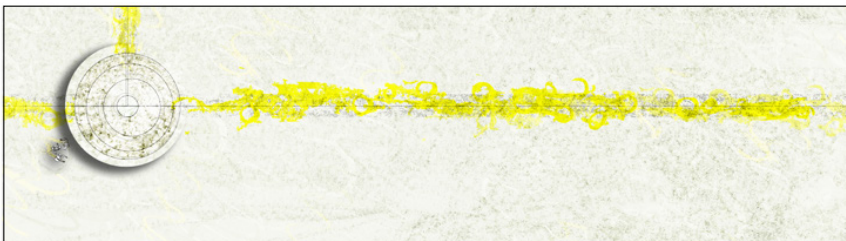
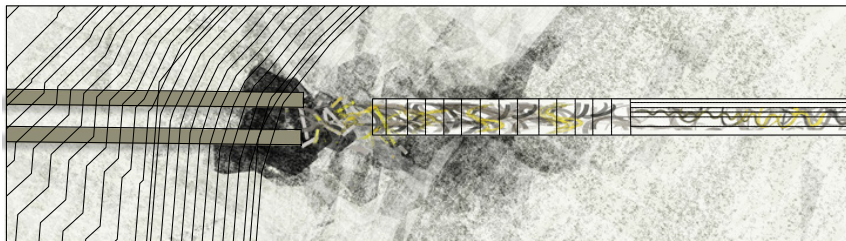
GERMINATION

In order to 'test frameworks for germination,' we created a series of rules and armatures that would allow the processes of germination to unfold and enable our 'super meadow' to self-seed. Quarry surfaces between 0-3% slope were first prepped with a mulch made from ruderal vegetation. Now fertile, these surfaces were hydro-seeded with the meadow mix.

The southern meadow, mesic in nature due to the redirection of the storm channel, included geotextiles and whips to capture seeds and create micro topography while the northern meadow, xeric, was subject to atmosphere. Debris piles are crated from loose aggregate within a 100 sq m grid in the northern meadow. These piles, variant in size and conglomerate, also aid the capture of seeds.

The tectonics and hydric-capacities of the two meadows created distinct possibilities for germination. While the meadow may appear vibrant the first year, due to its overlay of rich soil, another year (such as the fifth) could present a drought while another (the 10th), a surplus of rain.

Consequently, with natural processes leading the spatial arrangement of the garden, its aesthetic will become dynamic, unhinged from any preconceived notion of a formal garden. Our goal was to create a sense of botanical time for visitors: the super meadow acts as a datum for natural processes, climatic extremes, and efflorescent display.



Design Research Thesis Projects

INSTRUCTOR
Sarah Cowles

STUDENT
Blake Weber

THE BEGINNING OF THE PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

The pilgrim's journey through the Red Hill Marina begins with an ascent up the multi-colored rhyolite butte. The 100-foot gain in elevation might not seem like the greatest number, but in a relatively flat landscape, the butte offers a rare elevated panoramic view of the Southern end of the Salton Sea. Following the cresting moment, the visitor descends down through complex and textural changing rhyolite rock outcroppings.

WORKING MODEL

The integration of a working physical model and concept sketches allowed me to quickly iterate different ideas for moving people through this landscape. Revolving between guard rails, lamp posts, embedded pathways, metal scaffolding staircases, the physical model provided a physical understanding for each ideation.



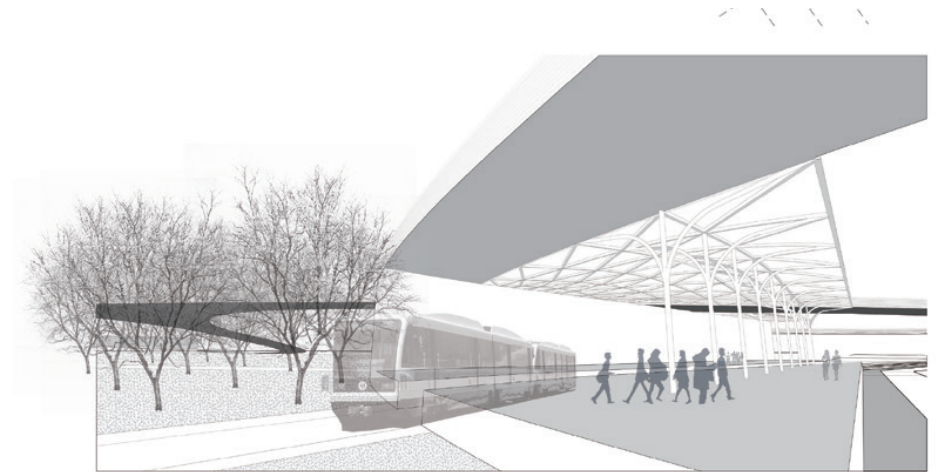
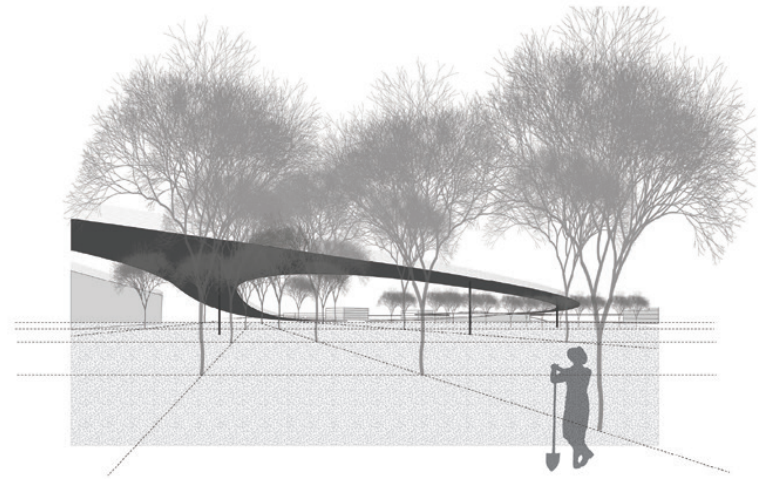
Design Research Thesis Projects

INSTRUCTOR
Peter Culley

STUDENT
Yao Yao

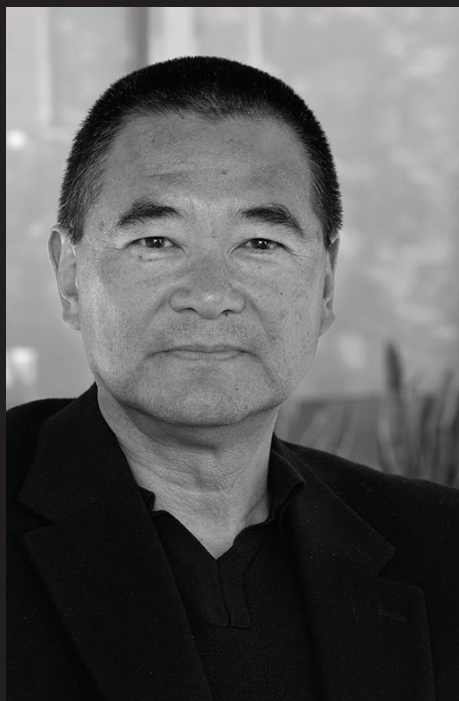
METRO MEMORY MAKER

This thesis explores the idea of landscape architecture as a way to reconcile cultural conflicts and contradictions by referring to various modes of land use throughout history, and examines how this approach can create distinct identity in a rapidly changing city. In this dialogue, vegetation becomes the main factor to link spatial characters to the social and economic implication. Design solutions developed through the idea around vegetation could provide additional layers of meanings and effects besides ecological values as long as we understand that physical environment can change social environment not only from the consequences of the physical construct but also from the process of making.



‘FOUR STATES OF BEING’ A LAND-SCAPE ARCHITECT

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017
CALVIN ABE, MAY 11, 2017



Congratulations on an amazing accomplishment! All of you should be proud of this moment. I want to be the first person to welcome you to this amazing and diverse profession of landscape architecture. I welcome you because we need you to help us heal the planet and to inform the world how nature is the source and context for our urban issues. I wanted to talk to you today about this momentous time in your life and how it's possible to create a career where you'll have many meaningful moments throughout your life.

I want to share with you my secret recipe. Okay, it may not be a secret, but it is my recipe for any success I have had in my career over the last 30-plus years. This is the foundation that shaped my career. I was like you, a new career in front of me, wondering what I will be doing with a graduate degree in landscape architecture. I knew I wanted something more within the profession. I wanted to make an impact on the world.

At the time I think I did something smart. I found a business mentor and coach. I know it was smart because I am still working with him after 32 years. Over a dinner conversation with this mentor, I created the possibility of my company. I remember he asked me three questions about my life in general:

“What is your vision in the world?”

“What is your life going to be about, and is it going to make a difference?”

“What future do you see for this planet in when you leave this world?”

These were profound questions that initially threw me for a loop. Truthfully, I was astounded by them. No one had ever presented me with these long range questions before, but I also trusted him. He suggested that I think about them and then meet again. When we next saw each other I shared that I had begun to see how these questions could be an influence on my personal and professional life. I saw that this inquiry could give both meaning. Can you imagine such dinner conversations? They were not ordinary or familiar.

The third time we met my mentor related something very practical. He said you need a structure and method to fulfill your dreams. He said dreams don't do anything and remain as dreams unless they are turned into action. During our dinner, he told me about a structure that he called “the four states of being.” It served as a practical guide for implementing, inspiring action, and acknowledging accomplishments. I've used it for my entire professional career. Here are the four states of being:

1. formulation
2. concentration
3. momentum
4. stability

The power of the four states is to acknowledge your stage in life. It's a guideline, a way of thinking and being; it's both a practice and discipline.

FORMULATION

I'm a big formulator; I love this state. In my work, I find myself spending a lot of time formulating ideas, project approaches, etc. In formulation, the first thing I do is ask questions such as:

What are we up to in the world?
What are the economic drivers currently in the marketplace?
Where are our weak points and where are our strengths?
What impact will my practice make on the planet?

From an inquiry, I began to formulate an idea, vision and, most importantly, a context within which my practice could operate. For example, I thought early on that my firm needed to make an impact in the public realm. It didn't exclude the private, but I knew the public arena would be an important practice focus.

As a young professional, you may be asking yourself questions like:

"Where's my heart?"
"What am I committed to?"
"What do I want to strive for?"

So, I began with an inquiry. Talk to a friend, teacher and mentor. Of course, I must admit that it sounds easier than it really is. It is challenging to ask yourself these questions because, I believe, it gets to the heart of why you are really in the profession. One of the outcomes of formulation is that you take a stand in the world. Think about how you feel when you hear someone take a stand—it's exciting. For example, when John Fitzgerald Kennedy said, "we will put a man on the moon by the end of the decade" or Martin Luther King "I have a dream...", these stands moved the world when there was no evidence that such positions were possible.

I should emphasize that one's journey starts inside as an inquiry and must move outward. Your message must be spoken to the world outside. It can't be kept to yourself. So, try it! Find someone to discuss a personal inquiry with in order to position yourself in the profession. I guarantee that you will discover something of yourself in this process.

CONCENTRATION

Concentration is where the rubber meets the road. Here, you're doing what I call, "Putting out 50 and getting back 1." I mean this metaphorically and literally, too. This state is also very practical. When I first started my company, I would commit to areas that I knew were challenging for me. For example, I wasn't

a known entity so I would make commitments where I felt the most uncomfortable—like marketing calls. In business, "making 10 cold calls a day to potential clients" is key. I would be blown away when one client would call back. I committed to reading one design or art book a month. I made commitments to sketching something every day. It didn't matter what it was or if it was great. I understood that I was in concentration mode and I needed to build as much knowledge, experience and insight as possible about my career.

Practice is not an eight-hour job. As you can see, concentration is the state where you're putting out a lot of energy and you're not getting much back. Thinking about Giving Up. It is hard work. Concentration is also the state where a lot of people give up. It becomes too hard. This is the reason why most businesses fail within the first five years. And do you know why people don't make it or prosper? There is one simple reason. They cannot tolerate the "nos" and the constant rejections. Believe me, it doesn't feel great when you're going after a project and don't get it, and then don't get another one, and then another one. People ask me how I got through this period of concentration with so many rejections and nos. My simple answer is, I always go back to what I formulated as my purpose—to make a difference.

MOMENTUM

I believe momentum is straightforward. It is about seeing some successes. I've found that momentum is like you're putting out 10 and you're getting back one. That's a lot better statistically than the previous 50 to one. In this state, I always found myself drifting back and forth into concentration. It was still hard work.

STABILITY

Stability is not about having made it. It is about acknowledging that you have achieved some successes. In my practice, it is a slight shift in energy from doing, doing, doing to creating, creating, creating.

In the state of stability, I found that it was sometimes better to focus more on the practice and the creative work—allowing for experimentation, time for research, and independent projects with non-profit

organizations or academia. With stability, you've become a strong part of the market. Now people value you, your work, your vision and they are calling you.

Just in case you were wondering...at any moment, you can be thrown back to a different state. If you are in stability, you could be back to concentration or even formulation. Sorry, I don't mean to rain on the celebratory parade but, at some point in time, there will be shifts in the paradigm. You can count on these:

There will be changes in the economy.
Things become obsolete.
Ideas become irrelevant.
Political events change the objectives.

The way you operate means you should be ready to change, which means you also must be willing to shift to an appropriate state.

Let me give you a quick example of a small paradigm shift that was major for us. 20% of the work in my office was coming from the Redevelopment Agencies throughout Southern California. Guess what happened in 2012? Governor Brown abolished the Redevelopment Agencies and requested all their funding be returned to the state's general fund. 20% of our work disappeared overnight. That was a major change in state.

Having the ability to dance with the world is key. And if you can dance with the music of your purpose in life, you will succeed.

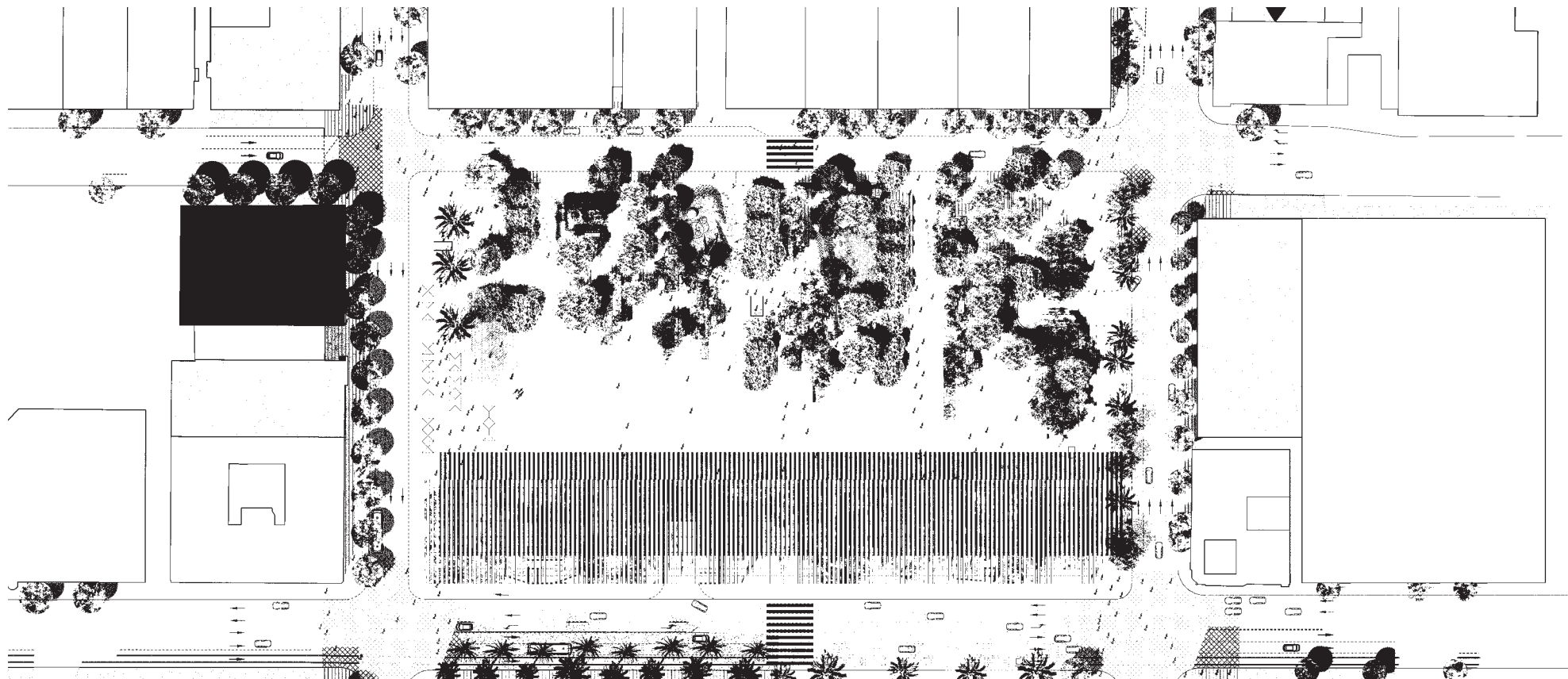
Let me conclude by asking you to consider using the Four States of Being soon, maybe as soon as today. I'd like to leave you with three things to help you as you are moving forward in life:

1. Speak your Purpose. A friend, a colleague, a sibling, a parent, a spouse, and talk to them. Share with one person what you are committed to accomplishing in this profession. And if you are the friend listening, my advice to you is to just listen and hear the other person's future.
2. Find a mentor. Build a working relationship with that life teacher. After you leave here—and yes, I know it is counterintuitive to leave school and start searching for a teacher. But find one. Someone who can help you think about formulating your life and your future, and who is willing to be there for you consistently and, hopefully, for years to come.
3. Be Active! Don't wait. Take steps in creating your career. Beyond interviewing or working in the firm where you are, take bold steps and see where your vision and commitment can reach outside to the community. Be in motion to build your successful career in the world.

LASTLY—I know I said "three things"—I am also going to suggest you go out this week and buy a small plant and plant it. Get your hands dirty; keep getting into nature. You are landscape architects. Let this be a metaphor, symbol, and recognition of the beginning your career. Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments.

Now go out there and grow a great career.

FACULTY ACHIEVE- MENTS



Kelly Shannon & Agence Ter

Verdes blue butterfly. During the year, he presented two papers at the International Urban Wildlife Conference, two at the *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*, a workshop on Ecologically Sensitive Lighting Design at the *American Society of Landscape Architects* annual meeting, and a poster and a paper at the 9th *California Channel Islands Symposium*, and was an invited speaker on “Envisioning nature in the city” at the *California Naturalist 2016 Conference*. Travis is sought after as an expert on urban nature issues, and was quoted in such outlets as the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Financial Times*, *McLean’s*, *CityLab*, and *Christian Science Monitor* in addition to *USC News*.

ESTHER MARGULIES

In November 2016, Esther was a featured speaker in the show *On the Map* at Angels Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro. The exhibit featured interpretive maps created by her students in the Urban Process and Place class she taught in 2015. Esther participated in a research project with Kelly Shannon to study social and environmental justice in 15 community parks in the City of Los Angeles. The study was commissioned by the Los Angeles City Controller, completed with partners The Rand Corporation and KH consulting, and modelled on the *NYC Parks Report Cards*. In the spring of 2016, she was appointed as the president of the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. Esther’s practice, *Office of the Designed Landscape* (OotDL), completed work at the Maimonides Gindi Academy, a feasibility study to create an elevated library park in Koreatown and the renovation of the pool and bathhouse at Van Ness Park with JFAK Architects. The firm is working on the design of a performing arts education center composed of shipping container units and a charter school in South Los Angeles.

ALEXANDER ROBINSON

In September, Alexander presented at the *Landscape Architecture as Necessity Conference* at USC on water urbanisms and open space in Los Angeles. In October, he was part of panel on landscape modeling and simulation at the *ASLA Annual Conference* in New Orleans and was interviewed for a podcast by *Architect* on the Los Angeles River. In November, he participated and presented at an invited colloquium called “Realms and Realities” at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. In April 2017, he was invited to part of a public panel on the Silver Lake reservoir hosted by *Los Angeles Times* critic Christopher Hawthorne. In May, he was invited for a week-long residency aboard the *Center for Land Use and Interpretation’s* (CLUI), Great Salt Lake Exploration Platform (GSLEP), exploring Gunnison Bay in an experimental watercraft. In July, he participated and presented at a conference with the *United States Army Corps of Engineers Design*

with *Nature Group* at the Corp’s Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This entire year Alex has been hard at work on his manuscript, *Spoils of Dust: Reinventing the Lake that Made Los Angeles*, which was recently contracted with AR+D and is due to be published by summer 2018.

KELLY SHANNON

In September, Kelly and Alison Hirsh co-chaired the *Landscape Architecture as Necessity Conference* at USC; proceedings were made and a book is underway. Kelly was awarded a USC *Advancing Scholarship in Humanities and Social Sciences* (ASHSS) *Research and Creative Project Grant* for 2016-17 for “Water Urbanisms of the Mekong Delta: An Atlas for Adaptation to Climate Change.” The award sponsored fieldwork trips in the Cambodian region of the Mekong Delta during the dry season (December-January) and again in monsoon season (May-June), as well as archival work at the National Bibliothèque Paris and the Archives Nationales d’Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence. She also developed research on “L.A. Parks: Condition Survey and Report Card,” collaborating with Esther Margulies and USC landscape architecture graduates as sub-consultants to KH Consulting; the project was a commission from the Los Angeles City Controller. USC input focused on interpretative mapping of 15 community parks through the lens of social and environmental justice. Kelly was invited to give four keynote lectures: in November at the *ACSA Administrators’ Conference, Gaps and Overlaps (Landscape/ Urbanism)* in Chicago; in January at the *Changing Climates: Evolving Landscapes, 12th Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA) Annual Conference*, Goa; in May at the *Constructing the Public Realm* discussion with Inaki Alday, in Washington, DC; and in June at the *Embrace the Water Conference*, International Water Association (IWA), in Gothenburg, Sweden. She also lectured in March at IIT’s Crown Hall on “Settling Waters: Design Agency for Environmental & Social Justice.” She wrote two blogposts for *Landezine*: “WANTED: Visionary Projects to Realign Trump Policy” (April 2017) and “Janus Face of L.A.” (August 2017, with V. Jones), an article for *Topos 97* “From Civil to Civic: Replacement of an icon, The Ribbon of Light Viaduct in L.A.” (December 2016, with V. Jones), a book review for the *Journal of Landscape Architecture (JoLA)* “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate, N. Klein, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014” (January, 2017), an interview with V. Bharne “Urbanism as a Necessity” and selection of design work in *My Livable City* (Jan.-Mar. 2017). She was on three juries: International Landscape Design Competition for Han River, Da Nang City (Vietnam) in November 2016; the Maeder-York Fellowship in Landscape Studies at the Elizabeth Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston in March 2017; and the undergraduate



Kelly Shannon, *Megalopolis*



Alexander Robinson CLUI Residency Salt Lake City



Katherine Harvey Stoss Glendale Freeway

prize of Landscape Architecture Foundation's 2017 Olmsted Scholars Program in April 2017. In July 2017, Kelly co-taught with B. De Mulder, R. Daher and M. Motti an intensive international workshop in the Greek mining city of Megalopolis "Re-configuring Productive Metropolis."

ADJUNCT FACULTY

VINAYAK BHARNE

Vinayak is co-editing with Trudi Sandmeier (Director of the School of Architecture's Heritage Conservation Program), the *Routledge Companion of Global Heritage Conservation* (London: Routledge, expected publication spring 2018). The 30-chapter volume examines the overlaps and contrasts in contemporary heritage conservation planning practices across geographic and cultural boundaries. The effort follows Vinayak's three earlier books, *The Emerging Asian City: Concomitant Urbanities & Urbanisms* (London: Routledge, 2012), *Rediscovering the Hindu Temple: The Sacred Architecture and Urbanism of India* (London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), and *Zen Spaces & Neon Places: Reflections on Japanese Architecture and Urbanism* (San Francisco: AR+D, 2014). In 2016, Vinayak received a research grant from the USC Center for Japanese Religion & Culture to continue his field studies on the Ise Shrine in Mie, Japan. The research project is mapping the complete ecology of the Ise Shrine environs including its diminishing forests and surrounding towns to examine their environmental impacts on the shrine's 1600-year-old 20-year cyclical reconstruction practice. In 2016, Vinayak was nominated as Affiliated Faculty at the USC Center for East Asian Studies. In 2015, he was elected to the editorial board of the *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, London, and also appointed executive editor of the quarterly *My Liveable City* in Mumbai, India. In his capacity as Director of Design at Moule & Polyzoides Architects, he is currently involved in a number of professional projects such as the 100-acre Buenaventura Marina Village in Panama and the mile-square Provence Mid-Town master plan in Zhengzhou, China. He also serves as the urban design and planning advisor to the Government of Karnataka in India, where his projects include a Public Bicycle Share Plan for the center city of Mysuru in India.

PETER CULLEY

Peter was on the panel for an accreditation review at the Korean National University of Arts School of Visual Arts in his capacity as a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Visiting Board. He saw the formal reopening of Crosstown Concourse in Memphis, TN, a previously abandoned 1.5 million square foot

Sears distribution center and 16-acre site, for which he provided both the site-wide and building master-plans with his company, Spatial Affairs Bureau. Construction neared completion for his 40,000 sq ft Crosstown Arts space inside the Concourse building while construction commenced for a new-build 450-seat theater for the same complex which is due for completion in 2018, and in London for a new 5,500 sq ft artist studio, gallery, and double residence with bog, tree-fern and roof gardens, that will be completed in 2019. Meanwhile, his 2 mile-long *Richmond Bridge Park* project moved towards the feasibility stage with structural engineer, Buro Happold, and was featured alongside projects by OMA, Thomas Heatherwick and Benthem Crouwel in the December 2016 edition of *BaunetzWoche*, 'Erhabene Oasen: Parks Auf Stelzen.' For the second year, Peter headlined at a week-long conference at University of Richmond for The Joan Oats, Partners in the Arts organization, guiding approaches for educators to teach urbanism, architecture and landscape in elementary and high school classrooms using techniques of making, research and group dialogue.

KATHERINE HARVEY

In 2016, Katherine became the Studio Director for the Los Angeles office of StoSS Landscape Urbanism. She led the effort for the winning design-build competition for Venice High School in Venice, CA. She was awarded a professional fellowship from the *Association for Women in Architect and Design*, for her proposal 1200 Play Yards. This research was exhibited at USC's Watt Hall, the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and accompanied by a panel discussion organized by Katherine and her partner Janica Ley in June 2017. Katherine also published her review of "Yayoi Kusama: Narcissus Garden" in the Spring 2017 edition of *Art Papers*.

KELLY MAJEWSKI

In 2016, Kelly co-founded the landscape architecture and urban design firm *Superjacent* with two partners. She has led the design and management of many of the firms' diverse projects including; a Podium Park in Vancouver, Canada with the office of Neil Denari Architects, a large mixed-use development in the heart of Hollywood, and redevelopment of an old hospital into housing. The firm was invited to be part of the MAK Center's 'LUSH' Exhibition, which re-envisioned the future of residential landscapes in Southern California. *Superjacent* has been featured in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Architect*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and multiple other publications. Kelly was part of a panel at the 2016 ASLA Annual Conference that examined the role the designer plays in the process of gentrification.

BOB PERRY

In August 2016, Bob participated in an international seminar in Santiago, Chile and presented “Jardins Méditerranéens Del Sureste De California.” The talk addressed issues of landscape water conservation and sustainability practices in Mediterranean and arid climate zones of California. From August through May, Bob was retained by the Chino Basin Water Conservation District to design and produce a website pertaining to landscape plants. The interactive website was completed in May 2017 and is part of the outreach and education materials being provided to residents of the districts’ service area. It contains information and images on more than 350 landscape plant species that can be searched and downloaded to assist with the implementation of water conserving landscapes (inlandvalleygardenplanner.org). Bob and his firm continued work on several restoration and sustainable landscape projects in Moreno Valley with the use of native species and without use of irrigation systems. Additionally, Bob maintained his affiliation with James Corner Field Operations as a horticultural consultant on the Presidio Headlands project in San Francisco.

DIMA RACHID

Along with colleagues in landscape urbanism, urban planning, policy and architecture, Dima is currently in the process of establishing a cross-regional interdisciplinary urban collaborative in the Middle East. In progress is a research proposal on the vernacular landscapes of Bahrain. On the boards is a new waterfront project for the city of Beirut focused on the pragmatic integration of multi-scalar landscape thinking as a means to retrieving the right to public coastal landscapes. Dima was commissioned to lead the project as a landscape architect by the consultants to the Municipality of Beirut.

ASTRID SYKES

Over the last six months, Astrid oversaw the opening of two of ML+A’s projects, Ishihara Park in Santa Monica and a new kitchen garden at Hauser Wirth Gallery in the Arts District. In September 2016, Astrid delivered the keynote address on “Recalibrating the City: Advocacy by Design” at the *Institute for Landscape Architecture in South Africa (ILASA)* Conference in Johannesburg, on behalf of ML+A. Astrid serves on the Executive Board of the *Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design* and co-edited with Chris Torres the spring/summer newsletter entitled “Space Made Public.” Astrid will be moderating a panel conversation this fall at the *ASLA Annual Conference* entitled, “Museum Without Walls.”

CHRISTORRES

In 2016, Chris worked to establish *Superjacent Landscape Architecture and Urban Design*. At *Superjacent*, he has worked on projects throughout Southern California, Hawaii, Kansas City and Vancouver. The firm is actively working across multiple scales; public landscapes, multi-family housing/mixed use, creative office, master planning and high-end residential estates. At *Superjacent*, he led the design effort on the Lincoln Heights Jail Competition, currently shortlisted by the City of Los Angeles. Chris is also the Co-Vice President of Development for the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design. At the LA Forum he co-curated the Summer journal with Astrid Sykes, entitled ‘Making Space Public,’ that studied emerging forms of public space in Los Angeles. Chris is also the Director of *Design for Proyecto Mega Agua*, a research-based company based out of Santiago, Chile, studying the potential for using sustainable energy to provide potable water throughout South America.

BRIAN TICHENOR

Brian has been working on ‘Outside In: the Houses and Gardens of Tichenor and Thorp,’ a survey of his firm’s work which will be published by Vendome Press in 2017. He has also been preparing for the 2017 Huntington Library/California Garden and Landscape History Society’s lecture on California landscape architect Ralph Cornell. He was a featured speaker, with his partner Raun Thorp, at the *ADAC Conference* in Atlanta, GA, and was interviewed by the *New York Times* editor Tom Delavan for this year’s ‘What’s New, What’s Next’ in NYC. Brian’s current projects at Tichenor and Thorp include the architecture and landscape for Villa del Mar, a four hundred apartment complex on a peninsula in Marina del Rey, the Mariposa Clinic, an 80,000 sq. ft. immunotherapy clinic in El Segundo, a complete remodel and new site plan for an eight-story tower near LAX, and a campus for a multinational bio-tech corporation in Culver City. Additionally, his firm continues their residential work with 14 houses and their landscapes currently under construction. Brian is also currently the lead design advisor to the Verity system of hospitals, coordinating design efforts on seven hospitals in California, among which are St. Vincent’s in Los Angeles (for which his firm is currently developing the master site plan) and St. Francis in Lakewood.



Astrid Sykes Studio MLA, Ishihara Park

DEAN'S LETTER

USC is fortunate to have the Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism professional degree program situated within an architecture school that also has superb undergraduate and graduate architecture degree programs.

USC has an enduring history as one of the leading research universities in the world. USC and the USC School of Architecture are embedded into the urban fabric of Los Angeles and South Los Angeles - an area of tremendous growth and transformation. The City of Los Angeles, California, the Pacific Rim and Latin America - all within close geographic proximity to the university and the School - are on the frontlines of rampant urbanization, social movements for civil and social rights, and undergoing significant economic change. Navigating the world and the complexities of identity and space requires a capacious intellect and an imaginative mind. The USC School of Architecture has been educating explorers since its founding in 1919. Our educational offerings include architecture, landscape architecture + urbanism, building science and heritage conservation. With over 700 students and 100 faculty members, the School has the reach and scale of few others nationwide.

The pedagogy and curriculum of USC Architecture's Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism celebrates a pluralistic approach to contemporary ecological issues while testing the boundaries of design research, design thinking and implementation. Our students are the new explorers - the tradition of exploration that is at the core of the School's genesis - and draw inspiration from the dynamic and rapidly evolving city of Los Angeles. Our graduates are being equipped with competencies that range in scope from technical skills in designing landscapes; conceptual precision in articulating ideas and linking 'architecture thinking' to other discourses including the humanities and social sciences; to representational finesse in utilizing analog, digital, and moving image methods to communicate ideas.

It is exciting to share the work of our students and faculty with you.