

# SITELINES

Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



## PROJECTS AND PEOPLE

award winning • graduating • welcoming • remembering • connecting • gathering • exploring

April 2008

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OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

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The purpose of Sitelines is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.

# 2008 CSLA Professional Awards

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to announce the results of the 2008 CSLA Professional Awards Programme. The annual awards Programme hosted by the University Of Manitoba Department Of Landscape Architecture recognizes excellence in Landscape Architecture in categories of Design, Planning & Analysis, Research, Communications, Landscape Management, New Directions, and new for 2008, Residential Design. A complete list is available on the CSLA website soon.

This year out of 57 entries, there were three National Honour Awards including two from BC:



*Zeidler Partnership Architects*

PROJECT NAME  
Canadian Diplomatic  
Complex, Seoul Korea

FIRM  
Zeidler Partnership  
Architects/Tarek El-Khatib/  
A.D. Regehr

CLIENT  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

CATEGORY  
Design



*PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc. / Don Wuori Design,  
Watercolour by artist Guanghao Qian of GHQ studio*

PROJECT NAME  
East Fraserlands -  
Phase I Public Realm Plan

FIRM  
PWL Partnership Landscape  
Architects Inc./Don Wuori Design

CLIENT  
Parklane Homes WesGroup  
Income Properties LP  
City of Vancouver

CATEGORY  
Planning & Analysis



*Cover Image:*

*Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg  
CSLA National Merit Award  
Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue Washington*

*Continued on page 4*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

2008 CSLA Professional Awards .....	3
2008 MLA Graduation Design Projects .....	5
Welcome New Members .....	8
In Memoriam .....	9
BCSLA Identity Update .....	9
Bridge to Licensure .....	10
April - World Landscape Architecture Month .....	12
The 2009 BC Land Summit .....	14
Whistler Tree Planting .....	15
Group Study Exchange to Brazil .....	16

# 2008 CSLA Professional Awards

– Continued from page 3

More BCSLA winners are listed below:

## National Merit Awards

PROJECT NAME Bellevue City Hall  
 FIRM Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg  
 CLIENT City of Bellevue  
 CATEGORY Design

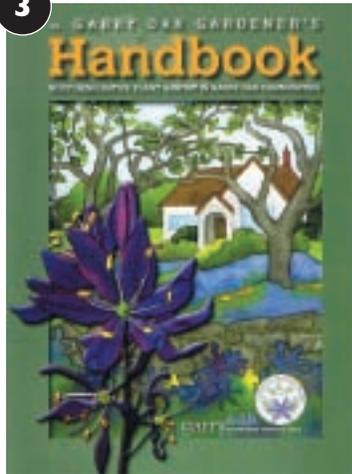
PROJECT NAME UBC Sustainability Street  
 FIRM space2place design inc  
 CLIENT University of British Columbia Campus & Community Planning  
 CATEGORY Design

PROJECT NAME Air India Memorial  
 FIRM Lees & Associates  
 CLIENT Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
 CATEGORY Design

1



3



## National Citation Award

PROJECT NAME The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook  
 FIRM Katherine Dunster - Unfolding Landscapes  
 CLIENT Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team  
 CATEGORY Communication

2



## Regional Citation

PROJECT NAME Eau Claire Plaza Redevelopment  
 FIRM IBI/Landplan Associates Ltd./ Marc Boutin Architect  
 CLIENT The City of Calgary  
 CATEGORY New Directions

4



5



- 1. Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg
- 2. Lees & Associates
- 3. Katherine Dunster
- 4. space2place design inc.
- 5. IBI/Landplan Associates Ltd. / Marc Boutin Architect

# 2008 MLA Graduation Design Projects

Landscape Architecture Program  
School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture  
University of British Columbia

BY CYNTHIA GIRLING CHAIR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

*We are including in this issue of Sitelines a listing of this year's Graduation Design Projects being completed by our MLA students. This year the class as a whole has focused most of their work upon the Still Creek Watershed, which spans across the jurisdictional boundaries of Vancouver and Burnaby.*

**P**roject topics include climate change, stormwater management, habitat restoration, children's play environments, urban redevelopment, historic preservation, multifunctional street-scapes, and restorative gardens. The students started by studying the entire watershed, and then selected specific project sites to explore their individual topics. The project sites in Still Creek Watershed extend from the upper headwater streams in both Renfrew-Collingwood and Kensington neighbourhoods to a cluster of projects in the Brentwood area of Burnaby and along Still Creek itself. Two projects are outside of this watershed, one in Chinatown and one in the Beltline area of Calgary.

All of this great work will be displayed at a poster session during the annual BCSLA Conference. The poster session will take place in the morning of Saturday, May 3 at the conference venue. We encourage you to come and speak with our students about their projects.

## THE PROJECTS:

Yin Lun Chan



*LAYERING UPON CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: CONTINUITY AS A DESIGN VISION FOR VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN*

Successive waves of international migration have inscribed cultural imprints on metropolitan landscapes. In many cases, historic ethnic neighbourhoods within Western metropolises have evolved from the fulfilment of everyday functions into marketed tourist destinations. The current project explores the threats and opportunities that face the preservation and on-going evolution of Vancouver's Chinatown.

Reza Davani



*RAINSCAPES*

This project proposes rainwater management systems inserted onto the landscape of Vancouver's Renfrew-Collingwood neighborhood to protect Still Creek Watershed against flooding and environmental damage, and also engage people with the watershed's hydrological cycles. Rainscapes is a network of different rainwater management facilities at different scales that not only tie the hydrological cycles of the neighborhood onto its landscape, but also enrich the civic experience of water in parks and public space.

Maria Galdon



*URBAN STREET STRATEGIES: RETROFITTING CALGARY'S BELTLINE*

This project focuses on the recalibration of old downtown streets, in order to accommodate a higher diversity in its use of space. Road infrastructure constitutes 20-30% of the urban fabric. Exploring through design how and to what extent they can become both culturally and environmentally sustainable while providing movement is the primary goal of the project. The project also addresses climatic impacts and fundamentally altering how we conceive our future strategies for urban development.



Yun Gao

*BLURRING THE EDGE: THE RESTORATION OF INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE IN THE STILL CREEK INDUSTRIAL AREA*

Traditional industrial park development separates the industrial from the commercial and residential, which cause the inconsonance among industrial activities and surrounding environments. This project re-examines the industrial area along the Still Creek and considers how the strategies of industrial ecology may offer new opportunities, both environmental and economic to industrial areas and integrate them with surrounding commercial, residential areas and parks-blurring the edges among different zones to contribute to the whole urban ecological system.

*Continued on page 6*

## 2008 MLA Graduation Design

– Continued from page 5



### Shannon Kavanaugh

*URBAN ECOTONES: RE-CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN DISCONNECTED LANDSCAPES*

My project uses the ecotone concept to address the edge condition between urban and natural environments. To illustrate this connection I rely primarily on food production to connect human and natural productivity; however other vertical layers of the ecotone include materials, function and form. The horizontal ecotone will emulate the succession of human dominated to wildlife dominated landscapes. The urban design aims to de-emphasise automotive travel by increasing walkability, density, accessibility to community services and transit.

### Jason Lam



*INTERMEDIATE LANDSCAPES: APPLYING LANDSCAPE URBANISM TO BEECHER CREEK*

This project challenges the predominance of the nineteenth-century picturesque model of urban landscapes, by applying theories of landscape urbanism as design process. The test site, along Beecher Creek before it flows into Still Creek, becomes a hybridized surface on which human activity and natural processes are continually driven by changing ecological, cultural, social, and economic forces. The site therefore never stands still, producing intermediate landscapes subject to ongoing transformation.

### Miriam Plishka



*INTER[ACT]*

Inter[ACT] explores how open space design can positively impact both ecological function and play experiences within dense multifamily neighbourhoods. More specifically, the project will reveal and integrate natural processes, including the ecological functions of Chub Creek, in the design of Jim Lorimer Park, located within Brentwood Town Center, so they are made visible and interactive for children and adults.

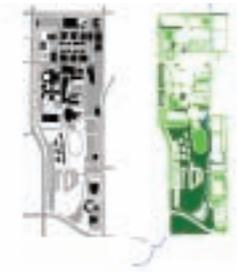
### Ellen Pond



*RETROFITTING RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, A BURNABY CASE STUDY*

My project visualizes a “future plausible” suburban neighbourhood under a climate stabilization scenario, achieving 80% greenhouse gas reductions by 2050. Proposed block scale changes are embedded within a pedestrian and transit-based transportation system, new energy sourcing, local food production, and neighbourhood centres. Core functions become visible as decorative landscapes shift to productive ones, and private dominance is replaced by community resilience. Qualitative changes and quantitative GHG reductions are tracked to 2050.

### Nalon Smith



*BRIDGING THE GAP: RECONNECTING SALMON HABITAT IN THE GUCHION CREEK WATERSHED*

This project envisions a future in which the extension of salmon habitat throughout the Guchion Creek watershed engages the community by providing public open spaces for education, recreation, and reflection. I am exploring multiple scales in this project from sub-watershed habitat enhancements and prescriptions to master plan level design of the BCIT campus. The largest challenge is day-lighting a 673 meter culvert under BCIT to create a strong campus spine and provide a transparent connection between watershed health and its importance to human wellbeing.

### Takashi Tomono



*WINDOWS TO NATURE, RESTORATIVE LANDSCAPES AT BURNABY HOSPITAL*

Experiences in natural environments are known to benefit human mental health. Although the opportunity exists, Burnaby Hospital lacks accessibility and interaction with nature. This project’s purpose is to provide a more restorative landscape surrounding the hospital to connect patients, staff, and visitors with their exterior natural environment.

## Megan Turnock

H.E.A.D. WATERS (HYDROLOGY. EDUCATION. ADAPTATION. DISCOVERY): RETROFITTING AN URBAN PARK TO MEET DIVERSE USER NEEDS AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PRIORITIES

Open spaces that typically only serve single functions can be enhanced and layered with new ecological and social programming features and in doing so, move us toward greater sustainability. Kensington Park offers the opportunity to address unmitigated stormwater runoff, reconnect forest habitat corridors, encourage environmental education, and help residents discover their local watershed.

## Dan Yang



CONNECTIONS + NODES FOR STILL CREEK GREENWAY IN THE CITY OF BURNABY

My vision for Still Creek is to create a great and continuous system of greenways and parks along Still Creek for people to enjoy and wildlife to inhabit in the city of Burnaby. My design is a 1.5 km trail system within a proposed park and riparian corridor. All of them connect the existing trails, the future Central Valley Greenway, Burnaby Lake Park and surrounding residential and industrial areas. Vegetation, water, activity and infrastructure are the four conceptual layers addressed in the design.

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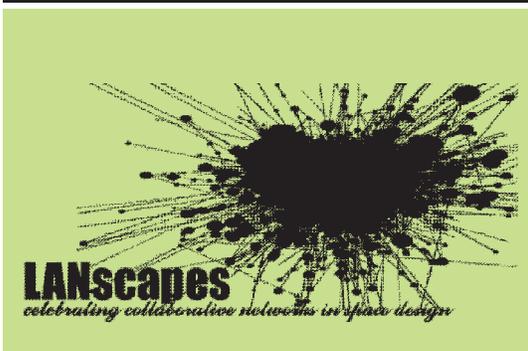
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## LANscapes: Celebrating Collaborative Networks in Space Design

The 2008 BCSLA Annual Conference, Trade Show and AGM will be in Vancouver from May 2-3, 2008. A copy of the program is available at [http://www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/AGM%20Programme%202008\\_final.pdf](http://www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/AGM%20Programme%202008_final.pdf).

The Sponsor/Exhibitor Kit is at <http://www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/INVITATIONFeb13.pdf>

The Program and Registration Kit will be circulated on April 1 with the AGM Reports.



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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BY MARK VAUGHAN, REGISTRAR

On behalf of the BCSLA Board of Directors and Credentials Committee we are pleased to welcome the following new Members to BCSLA:

#### Associates:

Heath Krevesky, Melissa Lawrence and Chris Larouche

#### Interns:

Heather Braun, Nathan Brightbill, Doron Fishman, Cole Hendrigan, Maureen Hetzler, Brett Hitchens, Jacqueline Lowe, Niall McGarvey, Keith Pinkoski, Matthew Thomson, Travis Warren, Josephine Wiens, Gavin Wyman and Zhi (Cheryl) Xiao

#### Students:

Devin Cumming and Marta Klaptocz

#### Affiliates:

Raincity Rock and Waterscapes Ltd. and Yardworks Supply Ltd.

In addition several applicants have been approved to appear before the spring sitting of the Board of Examiners.

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# Eunice Campbell Purdy, LMBCSLA #15

Eunice Campbell Purdy passed way on December 23, 2007. She was the first woman member of the BCSLA. Ms. Purdy found great joy in academic life at Smith College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A small group of devoted women were guided by professors from Harvard as well as prestigious Boston firms and the proximity to Harvard allowed students to attend lectures by Frank Lloyd Wright. She also studied at MIT and the highlight of her Princeton academic life was seeing Albert Einstein as the drafting room was near the laboratory where he worked. Ms Purdy worked on projects in Yellowknife, Boston, Trail, Spokane and Christina Lake. She recorded her own memoirs in *Sitelines* in 2002 entitled "My Life as a Landscape Architect". Please visit <http://www.bcsla.org/Sitelines/SiteApril2002.pdf> to read all about her accomplishments in a time where women were treated differently.



Dan Matsushita, LMBCSLA #022  
A celebration of Dan Matsushita's life will be held on April 18, 2008 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the University Golf Club, 5185 University Blvd., Vancouver, BC. At Dan's request there was no funeral service. Donations to the BC Cancer Society appreciated.

CORRECTION - February 2008 edition of *Sitelines*: Dan Matsushita was born on April 19, 1938 making him 69 years of age when he passed away.

*Both Dan and Eunice will be missed by family, friends and colleagues and our sympathies are extended to all of them.*

*Photo provided by Eunice Campbell Purdy*

## BCSLA Identity Update BY DAVE HUTCH, COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR

Recently, the Society has been undertaking initiatives to raise the profile of the profession in BC. This work has involved focusing communication efforts, media outreach and updates to the BCSLA website. As an outcome of the BCSLA Boards visioning work, the identity and image of the Society was identified as something in need of an update and improvements.

As part of the implementation plan of this visioning work, the BCSLA Board, at its January 2008 meeting, endorsed a motion to proceed with the development of a new BCSLA logo and word mark. Although the current logo (implemented in the mid

1990's) has served the Society well, the Society desires to better reflect the current status of the profession - projecting an image that is consistent with the high level of innovation, creativity, professionalism and diversity of its members.

The Communications Sub-Committee prepared a request for proposals that were subsequently received mid February. At its February meeting the Board awarded (what from here on in will be referred to as) the 'BCSLA Logo Project' to Elio Creative Inc. ([www.eliocreative.com](http://www.eliocreative.com)). Elio Creative, the BCSLA Board and the Communications Sub-committee will be working on the

project over the coming weeks with a goal to developing a final option in time for the May 2008 AGM in Vancouver. Options will be brought forward for input from the BCSLA membership via [bcsla.org](http://bcsla.org). Stay tuned to the Friday File and the BCSLA website in the upcoming weeks for more information and updates as the project proceeds.

# BRIDGE TO LICENSURE

BY TARA CULHAM

*The BCSLA is pleased to introduce an initiative called the “Bridge to Licensure”. The project has been generously supported by the BC Ministry of Economic Development and this may become a pilot project for regulatory bodies across Canada. We have revised the BCSLA website at <http://www.bcsla.org/licensure/> to include a new Licensure section that will provide information for landscape architects from across Canada and around the world on our membership application process with a view to attracting the brightest and the best from around the globe. The BCSLA licensure process does not change but the information is more readily available online in multiple languages including English, French, Simplified Chinese, Farsi, Korean and Spanish. The languages selected represent both of Canada’s official languages and most commonly used languages in BC. We also consulted the UBC Landscape Architecture Program faculty, as to language usage by their students. It may be necessary to adjust computer settings to read some of the languages but it only takes a few moments.*

**T**here are five components to the Solutions to Access government initiative that we are calling the BCSLA Bridge to Licensure. The first three components of the project were recently completed with a view to completing the other two components by July 2008.

## COMPONENT ONE

**Bridge to Licensure Section:** This section features a flow chart detailing the steps for Internationally Trained Professionals (ITP) in English, French, Spanish, Iranian (Farsi) Korean and Chinese (Simplified). The page will also feature resource links for new immigrants, the credentials evaluation service and a language proficiency testing service. This component will be fine-tuned as we go and will be considered under construction even when it is launched later this month.

## COMPONENT TWO

**Homepage:** The homepage will have a different feel as it is a bit small for today’s computer screens and we are adding a new button called “Licensure”. The Licensure page will eventually cover off licensure in BC, the rest of Canada and North America in addition to the ITP’s. Regulatory bodies are increasingly asked to allow for reciprocal registration (Labour Mobility) across Canada.

## COMPONENT THREE

**Database Upgrades:** Currently all ITP’s have their credentials evaluated by a professional service. Changes to the database will allow us to track the progress of ITP’s through the BCSLA licensure process. The database will help us keep track of overseas learning institutions that offer a degree program in landscape architecture. The CE database required major changes and these are being done in tandem with this component of the initiative to save time and costs.

## COMPONENT FOUR

**Bridge to Licensure Brochure:** The brochure will be a step by step guide that provides greater detail than Component 1 in six languages.

## COMPONENT FIVE

**Competency Based Self-Assessment Tool:** The multi-lingual tool will allow applicants to assess which BCSLA membership category and determine which category they should apply in by clicking on a series of logic keys. The information and licensure process remains the same as we currently have, but the tool will address questions in ITP’s own language.

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**Refreshments:** 5:30 pm (no-host bar)      Workshop - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

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**See insert for more details.**



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# APRIL World Landscape Architecture Month

BY CHRISTINE BAVASSA  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (IFLA)  
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (EFLA)  
THE EUROPEAN REGION OF IFLA

April was designated as World Landscape Architecture Month by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) last year when the inaugural event was held. Landscape architects from many of the (now) 61 associations worldwide joined to provide events in their countries that highlighted global issues.

The first event was launched in Beijing China, by the Chinese Society of Landscape Architects.

The month of April is special for the profession as it encompasses the birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park, New York and founder of the American Landscape Architecture profession on April 26; Earth Day on April 22, and the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April.

This year three additional countries, Ireland, Spain and Portugal will join their professional colleagues from countries such as Iceland, who celebrate the start of summer on 1 April, to landscape architects in Uruguay and South Africa. Landscape architects in New Zealand will hold a conference and their biennial 'Pride of Place' awards presentation at the start of April. The Argentine Centre of Landscape Architects (CAAP) is organizing a series of events which include a student workshop coordinated by professors of the different universities where the career is being taught; a commemorative plantation at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism (FADU) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA); the launching of a publication of the Landscape Research Centre of the University of Buenos Aires (FADU - UBA); the call for submissions to the first Contest for a Preliminary Plan on Restoration and Revitalization of Lezama Park organized by the Argentine Centre of Landscape Architects (CAAP) jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Public

Space of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires. The CAAP is also preparing an exhibition granted by the Portuguese Association of Landscape Architects (APAP), with the sponsorship of the Embassy of Portugal. There will be lectures and round tables at the Central Society of Architects (SCA), the Museo Social Argentino University and other related institutions which principal aim is to spread the acknowledgment of the profession and its achievements.

The largest two landscape architecture associations (ASLA and LI) will focus their activities on recruitment of students in April.

In both the United States and Great Britain more practitioners are retiring than are emerging as graduates from universities. At the same time demand is growing in the United States for professional services by 20% a year and firms with high work loads are 'shopping' around the world for staff. Finding good students is a priority and in Great Britain they are setting up a website to help prospective students. In other countries the theme of the month is to be on Landscape and Diversity.

According to Dr. Diane Menzies, IFLA's president "This is an opportunity for our passionate profession of landscape architecture to show what they are doing and involve groups they work with around the world. Landscape architects work with issues at the global scale such as mitigating climate change and repairing and

---

*"This is an opportunity for our passionate profession of landscape architecture to show what they are doing and involve groups they work with around the world..."*

---

rehabilitating landscapes after disasters such as the Asian Tsunami, to smaller scale protection of waterways and designing city plazas."

For further information, please contact  
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# The 2009 BC LAND SUMMIT



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY  
2009 BC LAND SUMMIT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The BC Land Summit will be held at the Telus Whistler Conference Centre in Whistler, BC from May 20-22, 2009. This interdisciplinary conference is expected to attract more than 1,000 land use professionals, 100 speakers and 100 volunteers. The conference partners include the BC Association of the Appraisal Institute of Canada, the BC Institute of Agrologists, BC Society of Landscape Architects, Land Trust Alliance of BC, Planning Institute of BC and major funding partner the Real Estate Institute of BC.

The highly successful 2004 BC Land Summit conference unfolded over three days at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. With a focus on building stronger relationships among the professions, the 2004 BC Land Summit offered opportunities to share innovative ideas and solutions, collaborate with allied professionals and network with others in the field of sustainable land use. The program included provocative keynote speakers, exciting workshops and presentations, informative tours and mobile workshops. The conference was augmented by an exciting line-up of social events and informal networking opportunities. Consistent with the overall theme of collaboration, the program of the 2004 BC Land Summit was channelled into four main streams including Governance, the Value of Land, Changing Land Use Patterns and Information and Understanding.

## 2009 LAND SUMMIT CONFERENCE THEME

A Better Future: Adapting to Change

The broad over-arching conference theme for the 2009 BC Land Summit recognizes the many different processes of change, from the global to the local, affecting land, land-use, and communities' relationship

with the land. This theme also adopts a positive, future-oriented perspective that recognizes the valuable and important need for informed adaptation as we move forward in the face of change. Within the umbrella of the conference theme, the program will be organized into four sub-themes, outlined below.

## THE CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

### Changing Place and Space - Communities in Transition

This sub-theme will focus on human settlements and the built environment, from urban centres to small towns and rural communities, and the many diverse and sometimes contradictory forces of change affecting them. Topic areas that will be covered under this sub-theme include: housing, urban design, downtown revitalization, development economics, municipal taxation, green buildings, small town and rural community issues, issues of locality and identity, community engagement, resource communities in the contemporary context, issues of resort development, and more.

### Changing Environments - Natural and Cultural Diversity

This sub-theme will focus on the complex diversities of people, communities and the natural environment, and the dynamic issues facing them. Topic areas that will be covered under this sub-theme include: First Nations community issues, natural environmental conservation, connecting with nature, water issues, food security and agriculture, regulation of agricultural lands, demographic change, cultural diversity, and more.

### A World of Change - Growth and Globalization

This sub-theme will focus on the major global, dynamic issues and challenges that are affecting and impacting the land, envi-

ronment and all communities and regions. Topic areas that will be covered under this sub-theme will include: climate change, economic issues and globalization, community durability, energy and resources, governance, economics, and more.

### Change in Motion - Movement, Transportation and Travel

This sub-theme will focus primarily on transportation, movement and travel at every level and scale and their vital, interactive relationship with land and land-use. Topic areas that will be covered under this sub-theme include: public transit, transportation infrastructure, cycling, alternate modes of transportation, goods movement, travel and tourism, pedestrianization, jobs and housing balance, green transportation and more.

We are seeking proposals for presentations, papers, workshops, media, and other unique forms of engagement that explore the many dimensions of change which are affecting land, land-use and communities across British Columbia and beyond. The Call for Papers will be released this spring.

## The following BCSLA Members are active on the 2009 BC Land Summit:

Program Committee: Crosland Doak,  
Carolyn Kennedy

Steering Committee: Andre Kolber,  
Nancy McLean

Trade Show: Teri Cantin,  
Linda Nielsen

*To volunteer your time and expertise on this exciting initiative please contact Tara Culham at the BCSLA. There are opportunities to help out with the program, partnership, entertainment, trade show and more and is your chance to become involved and earn valuable CE Credits.*

# Whistler TREE PLANTING

The Resort Municipality of Whistler wanted to ensure that their new public library on Main Street would be a site of special significance to the community, so in November 2007 they installed a Red Oak tree. But this was no ordinary Oak planting.

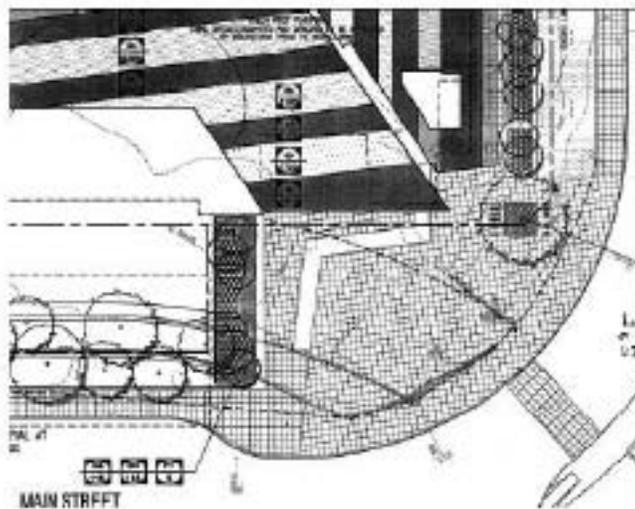
Paul Beswetherick, the Municipal Horticulturist with the Resort Municipality of Whistler, had been struggling to figure out how to accommodate the specific needs of the site. The tree was intended to serve as an identifying symbol of the library for the rest of the community. The site of the tree planting, a plaza in front of the library, also needed to be able to support the weight of a fire truck. Beswetherick knew that without a large soil volume the Oak tree would never grow big enough to fulfill its mission, but he couldn't provide the necessary un-compacted soil volume without compromising the safety and function of the plaza.

Then he attended a seminar led by Mike James, of Deep Root Canada Corp., at the British Columbia Landscape and Contractor show about a new engineering product called the Silva Cell. He learned that the Silva Cell simultaneously provides a sub-surface infrastructure to house vast quantities of soil that nourish the tree and help it achieve its full growth potential, while also supporting paving and meeting vehicle loading standards aboveground. Beswetherick knew that the Silva Cell would be the perfect product for the Whistler Library because it would help ensure that the building would be fronted by a beautiful, healthy tree for decades, while still accommodating and supporting the city's surrounding utilities and hardscapes.

The Parks and Recreation team ordered 60 Silva Cells, intending to stack them two high around the already-sizable tree opening. The Silva Cells arrived at the site and were installed almost immediately,

eliminating the need for storage on- or off- site. The straightforward installation plan was undertaken by a team of four, who found handling the Silva Cells and fitting them into the planting area "very easy." There were no major complications, but because the excavation site abutted other construction going on in the plaza the team was only able to access the tree planting hole from one side. This slowed their progress somewhat and caused the installation to take two days rather than the anticipated one day.

The Parks and Recreation team felt the installation was a success and that DeepRoot was very helpful in terms of product application support, product acquisition, and installation assistance. Nothing about the installation process was confusing or unclear, and only equipment and processes which the Parks and Recreation team was already familiar with were used. Installing the Silva Cell was fast and easy, and the Resort Municipality of Whistler is looking forward to watching the growth of their Red Oak for many years to come. Photographs of the installation and finished site are available at [www.deeprroot.com](http://www.deeprroot.com).



Images provided by Mike James Deep Root Canada Corp.

## INSTALLATION SUMMARY

Total soil volume per tree: 23 m<sup>3</sup> (812 ft<sup>3</sup>)

Total Silva Cells: 60 frames (2 layers), 30 decks

Installation date: November 2007

Project site: Public library

Client: Resort Municipality of Whistler, British Columbia

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Resort Municipality of Whistler:** Liz Stamper  
(604/935-8336 or [lstamper@whistler.ca](mailto:lstamper@whistler.ca))

**Deep Root Canada Corp.:** Mike James  
(604 684 6725 or [mjames@deeprroot.com](mailto:mjames@deeprroot.com))

# GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TO BRAZIL

BY KRISTINA ZALITE BCSLA  
INTERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Traveling as a landscape designer is about discovery, about getting beyond the surface of new cultures. And while many aspects of another culture can be obscured by barriers such as language differences, lack of time spent getting to know an area, and an unwillingness to go off the beaten track, one year ago I was given the opportunity to overcome some of these cultural barriers in Brazil. As someone who is interested in ecological design, I was able to witness some of the paradoxes of the environmental movement in a country that shares many similarities to Canada.

My travel plans were sponsored and organized by the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE), a travel grant for non-Rotarian professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 to have a cultural and vocational experience for one month in another country. Rotary, one of the oldest and largest volunteer organizations, awards these grants to a team of 5 professionals in each Rotary district every year. At the time, I was living on Vancouver Island, which shares its district with the Olympic Peninsula and San Juan Islands. My award included 4 weeks of travel in Brazil (and one day in Paraguay), accommodation and meals with Brazilian hosts, Portuguese language training prior to the trip, pre-arranged meetings with allied professionals in Brazil, and 4 awesome travel companions.

Mato Grosso do Sul is a southwestern state of Brazil that borders Paraguay and Bolivia. The major geographic features are the savannah landscape and the Pantanal, the largest wetland area in the world (195,000 square kilometers). Small cities link a large blanket of agriculture, including sugar cane for ethanol, eucalyptus forests for pulp, and cattle and pineapples for food. Culturally, regionalist attitudes breed proud Brazilians who are caught in an economic and cultural cycle that does little to safeguard natural

resources. Overall, the mainstream attitude is one of growth and prosperity, but our GSE team was able to glimpse into another realm.

One of the goals of the GSE group is for each member to have vocational days. In our case, we were together for most of our vocational days. My team consisted of a South African born Canadian who is a child and youth psychologist, a US English professor with a passion for food and napping, a US chemical engineer who works at a state level with waste-water treatment, and our team leader – a retired social service coordinator from Olympia. When we weren't eating healthy portions of chuhassco barbeque (remember that Brazilian cattle are not fed any hormones or antibiotics) and drinking caiparinias (think REALLY strong sugar cane spirit cocktails), we toured water treatment facilities, orphanages, daycares, hospitals, transition homes, plant nurseries, gardens, and parks.

We stayed in 12 cities with individual families. In the state capitol of Campo Grande I stayed with a famous writer who organized a day tour of a national award-winning river restoration project called Projeto Mudando Para Melhor – Biriti Lagoa. The principal, Jurandyr Abrao, an environmental engineer, highlighted the human resettlement portion of the project in which hundreds of shanty-dwellings were removed and the inhabitants were given a choice of where to live in a neighbouring planned community. The remaining area was within the riparian area of the river, which was replanted with native species. The upland area was designed for walkways and play structures. When Jurandyr showed me the project report, we celebrated the fact that we both had been using the same software and mapping tools to do our respective work in the field of restoration. He spoke no

English and I was thankful for my 2-month Portuguese training and years of mandatory French classes. And, of course, we shared a common language: our love of the environment and the desire to make a positive change in the world.

Our park visits were mainly organized for downtime - snorkeling in the famous ecotourist rivers of Bonito, looking for crocodiles in the River Parana, and hiking the Devil's Summit along the southern border to the state of Parana. However, we hiked through the Parque Estaual do Prosa park that has restored the original savannah forest and two adjoining river systems. Roberto Burle Marx designed the planting scheme. In the middle of the natural park we found a set of beautiful recycling bins – but when we later were introduced to a Minister of Environment and I asked about the recycling efforts in Brazil, we were dismayed to find out that Brazil has no recycling policies whatsoever. The park houses one of the biggest rehabilitation programs for animals that suffered under the conditions of illegal trafficking – the second largest federal offence in Brazil.

In terms of the vernacular urban landscapes, what are most pronounced in Brazilian cities are the mandatory residential fences. Often topped with barbed wire and alarm systems, most are made of concrete and are sometimes disguised with a planted courtyard. I learned from my hosts in Dourados, two famed architects by the names of Armando Lima Matos and Liliana Lima dos Santos Matos, that this landscape of fear can be combated with diligence. The couple lives in and design homes without physical barricades but rather with a planted material and elevation changes that provide a sense of safety. Unfortunately, their office was vandalized once but they are nonetheless committed to pursuing a practice of literal 'barrier-free design'.



*Ficus street tree in Campo Grande.*



*Projecto Campo Grande.*



*Panama Boat Tour*

On the western side of the state, the landscape is undulating cattle pastures layered over remnant savannah forest. Traveling east we saw monocultures of sugar cane. Sugar cane is reported to be the most efficient renewable resource for automobile fuel, and ethanol is already being used by more than 50% of cars in Brazil. Ironically, local environmentalists are worried by the practices of burning sugar cane for extraction because it kills a large number of amphibians that make their homes within the cane fields.

In Canada we are faced with similar dilemmas that pit resource extraction against environmental equilibrium. I have learned in my restoration studies that the single fastest way to increase our chances of carbon balancing is to restore our natural resources like there is no tomorrow. With this in mind, I look ever so fondly on the restoration projects that I saw. And I happily remember the diligence of people like Armando and Liliana Matos to etch out a niche where the natural world will be more respected than one in which our cultural barriers keep us entrenched in the past.

The GSE exchange was an invaluable experience because, being a fully funded exchange, I could relax into the hectic schedule and enjoy the always-changing landscape. I urge you to contact your local Rotary district for more information. For more information on the GSE, visit <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/GroupStudyExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>.

*Kristina Zalite, MLA, is an Intern Landscape Architect living in Vancouver, BC. She practices and teaches ecological landscape design, and is training in natural system restoration at the University of Victoria. kris.littlegrass@gmail.com*

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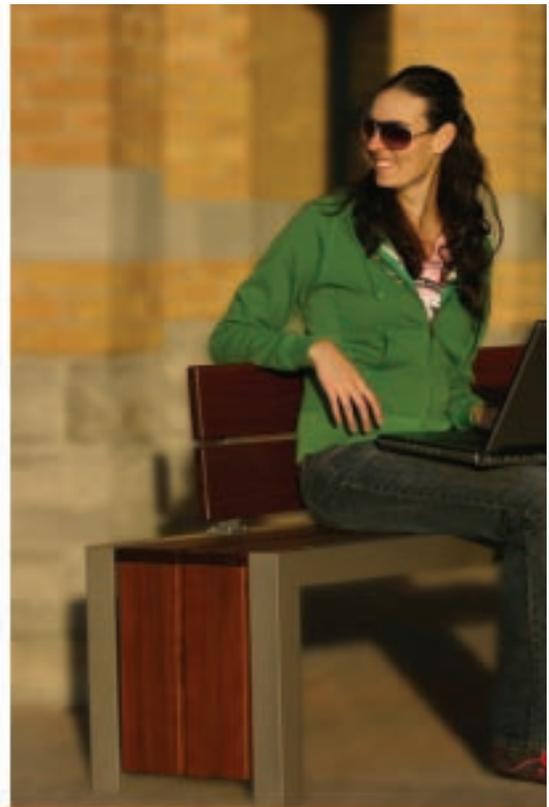
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