



## WIND

UBC • Community • Ambleside • Time • Coastline • President • Partnership • Site

December 2006





OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS SEE Dummand Streat

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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.

### New Landscape Architecture OUBC BY CYNTHIA GIRLING, MBCSLA

t is with pleasure that I introduce this issue of Sitelines featuring the writing and work of students in the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of British Columbia. This issue was created at the suggestion of our student representative to the BCSLA, Jamie Vala. While this issue represents a narrow glimpse into the talents and work of our students. I believe it well represents the values held by them. They are a communitarian group, who care immensely about the public good and inclusive decision-making processes. We are particularly proud of Community Studio (article by Jamie Vala), which clearly represents those values and was conceived and is entirely run by our students on their own time and resources. Fortunately several local landscape designers and landscape architects have supported them on these projects. Our students also hold very strong convictions about the need for our society to prosper with a significantly lighter touch on the land. The articles by Lisa Parker,

Erika Mashig, Cole Hendrigan, and Niki Strutynski are excerpts from either ongoing or completed graduate projects. They express not only these values, but deep insights and very creative ideas about landscape architecture with a light touch. Our students are about to enter the profession of Landscape Architecture and hold very high expectations that this profession will lead the way in designing much more sustainable urban and rural environments around the globe. Dave Flanders' poem leaves us with a charge to this effect.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Chris Sterry, Emma Starritt and the PWL Partnership for their article about investing in education. They recognize and we thank many individuals and local firms who have already stepped forward to provide scholarships and awards to our students.

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Wind can be experienced sensorially; but is visible only when it causes an object to move. Large sails made of a translucent kite-material may hang vertically from one building to another and flap as wind is funnelled through this corridor. When the winds are strong enough to blow the sails into a horizontal position, they will form a grand translucent roof above the corridor. Illustration by Erika Mashig.



BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



**December 8, 2006** 6:00 pm to midnight

> Please RSVP to Tara at (604) 682-5610 by December 6, 2006

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The BCSLA Festive Season Party will be held on December 8, 2006 from 6:00 pm to midnight in the Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver. The no-host bar will benefit the UBC Landscape Architecture Students Association. Refreshments will be served. Bring your family and friends and join in the fun perhaps there will be a partridge in a pear tree. Please note there is a detour route due to transit construction - driving directions are available at

**Bloedel Conservatory** Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver

http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/Parks/parks/queenelizabeth/map.htm

# Community Studio BY JAMIE VALA

ommunity Studio is a student run design outreach group at UBC that helps community groups advance their local place-making projects. Community Studio offers free assistance in the form of case study research, graphic and drawing skills, conceptual designs, site analysis workshops, and facilitation of public engagement or charrette events.

The group formed in 2003 as a response to students' desire to be more involved in the community in which they live. Since then, students have participated in over eleven projects that include: urban community gardens, public art, schoolyard visioning workshops, planting designs for schools and community groups, a roof garden project, and a planting design for a First Nations interpretive centre. In three years, Community Studio has won two awards, including an ASLA Honor Award for Community Service, has been involved in two conferences, and has been featured in several publications. These are substantial accomplishments considering that all of this voluntary work is done in addition to the demands of the MLA program.

Over one-third of the MLA students have participated in one or more of these projects since the inception of Community Studio. The landscape architecture students have also been successful in collaborating with students from other disciplines at UBC including Architecture, Planning, and Land + Food Systems, as well as with students from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. Some projects also have involved collaboration with landscape architecture professionals.

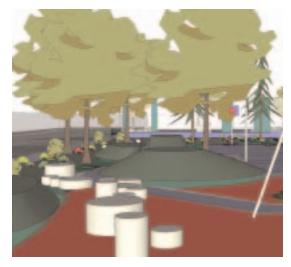
Community Studio works with community groups and local non-profit organizations. Projects are accepted on the basis that there is a community involvement component and the project matches the learning interests of the students. Students participate at different levels of commitment but one or two students act as leaders for each project to provide continuity and coordination between clients and student volunteers. Some of the planting designs have been used by community groups; but the majority of the projects have resulted in conceptual graphics that are used to raise funds and build further support for the project. In some cases, the project and client relationships have evolved into a graduating student's thesis work.

*Two projects are discussed in further detail below.* 

#### Macdonald Elementary Schoolyard Redesign

Macdonald Elementary School is located in east Vancouver on East Hastings Street near Victoria Drive. When they contacted Community Studio in 2005 a committee of teachers, parents, and neighbours were already committed to redesigning the school grounds. As with many community groups, they were full of ideas but were unsure how to realize them. Community Studio helped create a new vision for their school grounds. The school had already planned a day in which students, teachers, parents and the community could vote on the elements that they wanted to see in their school yard. Community Studio prepared a graphic representation of possible program elements to facilitate voting. This helped to reach out to the younger students who could not yet read as well as the large ESL population at the school. This proved to be a simple yet successful way to prioritize programmatic elements.

After the voting day, the committee and Community Studio decided to hold a design workshop in order to bring the stakeholders to the table to discuss current uses and future needs of the school yard. This was a hugely successful event attended by students, teachers, maintenance staff from both the school and the school board,



Community Studio Illustration for a Play Environment.

neighbours, parents, municipal officials, and funding agencies. The participants were broken up into three teams where they discussed current uses on the site, conflicts, and finally created a diagrammatic vision for a new school yard. The teams then took turns presenting their plans and resolving the big issues. Community Studio volunteers then prepared a conceptual site plan and report to document the ideas generated at the charrette. This was presented to the Macdonald School committee who were able to use them in their fundraising campaign. The report contained a basic site analysis, a conceptual site plan with ideas for details, before and after images, perspective sketches, suggested plants for the ethnobotanical and butterfly gardens, and a list of possible resources.

It has been just over a year since the design of the Macdonald Elementary school yard was completed. The Macdonald School committee is currently building garden beds for the food garden. A local firm has volunteered their time to work on the construction details of the outdoor classroom. The project will continue incrementally as funds and resources are available.

#### Windermere Secondary School Entrance Enhancement

Windermere Secondary School has a very active environmental club. In addition to *Continued on page 6* 

#### **Community Projects**

- continued from page 5

several other projects, they had applied for and were awarded a grant from the City of Vancouver to green the entrance to their school last spring. The group was already working with city staff and the Environmental Youth Alliance when Community Studio got involved. The students had many ideas on what they wanted to see in front of their school; but did not know how to organize those ideas into a design. Community Studio took those initial ideas and produced four different design themes entitled 'sunrise sunset', 'modern Vancouver', 'xeriscape', and 'bioregional'. These designs were presented to the environmental club as well as some teachers and parents. The presentations emphasized the theoretical approach to each design, the plant choices, and required maintenance for each scheme. The students had the opportunity to ask questions of the designers and vote on the design they wanted to represent their school. They chose the bioregional design as they felt it was the most closely aligned with their values.

Community Studio adjusted the design slightly to incorporate some new site information and got ready to implement it. The Windermere environmental club and the Environmental Youth Alliance prepared the site by spending a Saturday breaking up the hardpan and adding new soil to the planting beds. The next week, Community Studio joined the team to plant the site. Windermere students were given instruction on proper planting techniques and plant identification. The whole site was planted within a couple of hours thanks to a huge co-operative effort.

The project came in under budget and the club has plans for expansion which includes trying to educate the neighbours on the benefits of native plants. For Community Studio, it was great to see a project designed and implemented in a short couple of months. It was also an excellent opportunity to introduce high school students to the profession of Landscape Architecture. We may have some new recruits.



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## The Wind Blows Through It A Design Proposal for a Natural Capital Centre in the Squamish Valley BY ERIKA MASHIG

Sometimes the most important aspect of a given site is almost intangible. It is not necessarily what remains visible to the eye that matters most; but those forces and events that undergird the evolution of place. -Christopher Girot

he Wind Blows Through It is a design proposed for a Natural Capital Centre (NCC), that responds to the seasonal wind patterns in downtown Squamish. Informed by a detailed wind inventory and analysis, the concept demonstrates how designers can use climate data to work towards a steady convergence of natural force, design and place. The proposed design interventions range from the fundamental organization of the site to detailing of the sensory experience of the wind. The intent is to inspire a multitude of ways to integrate the unique winds in future developments that strengthen a sense of place in downtown Squamish.

The District of Squamish and Ecotrust are working to create a Natural Capital Sustainability Centre as part of an educational cultural zone, as identified in Smart Growth planning. This area, bordered by Mamquam Blind Channel and the Squamish Estuary will become a six block amenity in the heart of Downtown. In addition, the District of Squamish and Ecotrust have stated that the Centre will serve as a tangible demonstration of the town's commitment to sustainable thought and action, including interpretive information related to the proposed windfarm on Alice Ridge.

Squamish is located at the head of Howe Sound and has a reputation for being a very windy place. The powerful winds that pour down the valley and into Howe Sound are a special feature in Squamish and an important part of the town's story. The Squamish name is a word adapted from Sko-mish, the name of the native nation who occupied the territory. It has a general meaning of 'strong wind' or 'birthplace of the great winds' (Mclane, 1994).

The design concept, The Wind Blows Through It, ties these ideas together, demonstrating energy conscious building as it responds to the wind, teaching visitors about the unique windshed and celebrating the strong winds that Squamish is named for. To begin to understand how environmental forces may contribute to a sense of place and how to emphasize them in an urban setting, we must ask the question, What makes a meaningful and educational place, connecting people to the larger environment? in the context of, How can public places demonstrate stewardship of the natural resources that sustain us?

The project framework begins to answer these questions by exploring the relationship between renewable energy and people, or how people understand and experience the natural forces of place, the relationship between renewable energy and place, and how local wind data may be translated into architectural design.

The average windspeeds collected in downtown Squamish for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are averaged and summarized in a wind square. A wind square tabulates, for onehour periods and for each month: the predominant wind speed, the predominant wind direction at that speed, and the per-

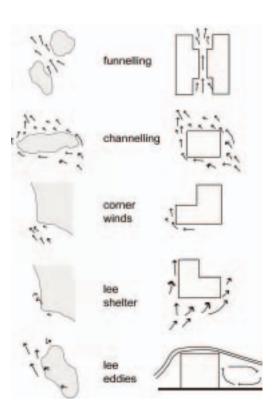


Figure 1, Topographical modifications of wind in Howe Sound, translated into architectural design configurations. Erika Mashig.

centage of time that the wind blows from that direction. Conclusions from the wind square can be drawn about the time of day and time of year the winds are strongest and which direction they are coming from. These conclusions were translated into the physical design of the NCC to block or admit wind, to accommodate energy conservation programs and activities and for bioclimatic comfort.

Figure 1.0 illustrates five topographical modifications of wind in Howe Sound, translated into architectural design configurations. This translation into architectural language was the basis to understanding how to manipulate wind for bioclimatic comfort; while in *Continued on page 8* 

#### The Wind Blows Through It

- continued from page 7

other places emphasizing the behaviour of the wind to demonstrate how wind moves through the Howe Sound windshed.

Wind can be experienced sensorially; but is visible only when it causes an object to move. Large sails made of a translucent kite material may hang vertically from one building to another and flap as wind is funnelled through a wind corridor, as shown on our Cover. When the winds are strong enough to blow the sails into a horizontal position, they will form a grand translucent roof above the corridor.

The wind plaza will be the primary entry point at the southern end of the site. The long and narrow form of the plaza suggests the idea that people will feel blown in to the site. The movement of the long grasses and the trembling aspen trees will create a dance in which any variation in intensity or directional gusts of wind varies the performance, especially in the strong summer southerlies.

Sitting areas on the leeward side of the grass berms provide shelter from the cold northerly winds, also known as the Squamishes. These areas of refuge are small rooms within a larger room called Pier Plaza. Sitting in the lee shelter area, visitors are conscious of the presence of the wind because of the voice it gives to the aspen trees, producing a sound and visual that is capable of evoking powerful memories of this place. Swiveling seats, dispersed along the south side of Pier Plaza, are equipped with tall backs and rudders, shielding people from the wind and enabling them to steer their seat to enjoy 360 degree views.

Wind harps, also called Aeolian harps, transform wind energy into musical sounds known as aeolian tones. The mechanics are very simple. A number of strings are placed over a sound chamber and the wind causes the strings to vibrate and produce a sound. Wind velocity is directly related to the pitch heard by the listener, or the greater the wind speed, the higher the activated overtone. The Sound Room is designed to engage the public in exploring wind phenomena and the sonic experience of wind. This interactive intervention attunes the listener's ears to the orchestration of the Squamish Winds.

The design of the NCC responds to strong local wind patterns, demonstrating how we can use environmental information to understand landscapes and to design places that are distinctive and appropriate. The hope is that this work will encourage the District of Squamish to use the unique wind patterns artfully and sensibly to create inspired, conscientious designs and plans in the downtown.



The wind plaza will be the primary entry point at the southern end of the site. Erika Mashig.

## Ambleside Living by the Water BY COLE HENDRIGAN

**M** ater bisects the Vancouver region in many ways. Coastal geography creates several challenges for transportation between centres and throughout the region. Spanning the water with bridges is limited to select places, is very expensive and controversial to build. However, coastal geography also creates opportunities to expand our transit services to include Passenger Ferries operating on these, otherwise divisive, water corridors.

A network of Ferries will reunite the divided waterfronts of the Burrard Inlet. Many historic waterfronts of the Vancouver region are now accessed and dominated principally by the automobile, in a a planning decision which can destroy the genius of the place and disperse settlement patterns. Passenger Ferries can act as a catalyst to encourage the use of public transit while at the same time reinvigorate the local economy and social network. Careful attention to livability factors, including mix-use land zoning and an attention to alternative transportation connections will be paramount at each node within this network.

My project set out to examine how one particular waterfront, Ambleside in the District of West Vancouver, may act as the armature for water-borne transit to link its historical Ferry- serviced waterfront to the Central Business District of Vancouver and how this may positively affect land use patterns in this neighbourhood. Ambleside has the potential to be an excellent example of in-fill Transit Oriented Development and to provide for a pattern of living with more transit options, close by the water.

There are many places throughout North America which may incorporate principles of Transit Oriented Development. By organizing transit

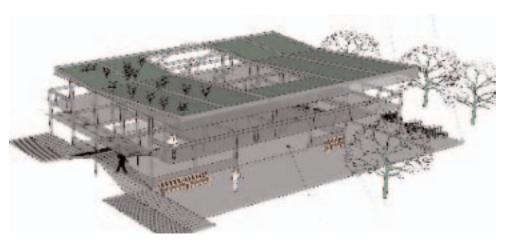
systems in conjunction with a planned development of residential, retail and office space, our cities will benefit. Cities will gain by: lessening the demands upon our existing infrastructure, such as highways; lessening demands for new infrastructure, such as sewers and power; increasing areas of employment ,where auxiliary services may be provided; and increasing population density around the nodes; which will all combine to create a more complete and livable city. Transit Oriented Development can provide a city with centres and neighbourhoods, in which a diversity of people may find homes and employment within a close, walkable relationship. This is an alternative to the option of finding housing farther and farther afield, accessible only by automobile; which has caused our cities to become filled. not with neighbours, but with strangers. Transit Oriented Development is about transit; but it is equally about people and the places they choose to occupy. It is a repeatable model; but not a template, in



Ambleside has the potential to be an excellent example of in-fill Transit Oriented Development and to provide for a pattern of living with more transit options, close by the water. Cole Hendrigan.

which an intensification of land uses are organized around transportation services, to create a more pleasing and diversified, urban environment.

The Ambleside project is about planning and designing for more livable and complete communities. The resulting design gives careful attention to the comfort and safety of the pedestrian realm with curb extensions, wider sidewalks, and an overall design for slower vehicle speeds. An enhancement of the site's ecology was also designed, wherever possible and in small ways with: rain water capture and recharge, native shore plant establishment and a green roof planned for the Ferry Terminal. Continued on page 10



An enhancement of the site's ecology was designed in small ways with: rain water capture and recharge, native shore plant establishment and a green roof planned for the Ferry Terminal. Cole Hendrigan.

## Ambleside - Living by the Water

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Lastly, the transit facility itself is appropriate to the site, opening to the exiting community, and sufficient in scale to accommodate passenger loads, while offering sheltered waiting areas. Amenities such as a coffee shop, bicycle storage and an upper level restaurant are all designed into the transit facility. All this goes into making the building a destination in its own right – not merely as an article of the transit infrastructure; but as an iconic keystone in the community.

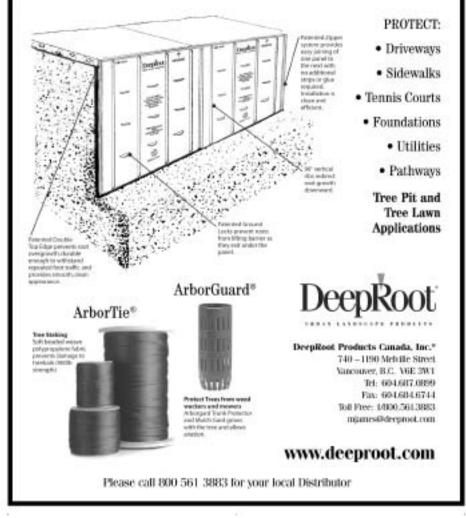
This proposal for a branch of the new Ferry network to once again arrive at the wharf, at the foot of Fourteenth Street, will add yet another layer of meaning to the existing civic fabric; while enhancing the livability of Ambleside. By creating a node of activity with: ferries arriving, people walking, people watching, people eating and people shopping; a defined sense of place emerges. Cresting in form, beside the water, it becomes a place true to its source; which can now serve as a source for renewal. This responsiveness to source will reveal an authentic relationship of space - the meters square - and to this place - the Ambleside community.

Ambleside has the physical space and the appropriate bones to support a wide diversity of transit options, as well as the existing services which will compliment this activity. The community around a renewed ferry service will benefit greatly from the increased interchange of people coming and going from this location. The effects will not only be applicable to Ambleside; but encourage similar projects to make Greater Vancouver ever more livable.



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# Time & Site BY NIKI STRUTYNSKI

While on exchange at the University of Melbourne this past spring, my studio course entered the 2006 International Federation of Landscape Architecture Eastern Region Conference and Student Competition. The theme of the conference and competition was time and the role of landscape architecture; while considering 'time and technology', and 'time as catalyst'. In particular, the competition brief stated that 'landscape is the ideal medium to express time visually' and suggested each student carefully choose his or her own site based on this theme. The discussion in our studio revolved much around questioning the profession and asking What is landscape architecture in Australia? We were encouraged to challenge the competition brief and the notion that landscape is the ideal medium to express time; emphasis was placed on our site selection process.

I have decided to share this because it reflects one of the many reasons I am grateful for the exchange and all I gained from it. The experience let me continue a discussion we sometimes have here at UBC (What is the profession? How will we as new landscape architects define ourselves? What is it we want to do? And so on...); but in the context of a different culture. history, and professional community. This led me to explore some new questions and ideas. At times I felt a definite shift away from what I thought landscape architecture to be. For one, there was little ecological consideration within our discussions and I even wondered how my competition entry related to landscape architecture. In the end, I do believe that the questions raised in this process were relevant. Now, back at UBC, I realize these questions are still relevant even though I am taking courses with an ecological focus and conversing with like-minded students and friends. Even as I begin a final graduate project that connects back to my bachelor

degree in agriculture, I carry these questions with me. This leads me to think that perhaps these questions may be relevant no matter what type of work one does as a landscape architect.

The following are excerpts from the written portion of my entry to the 2006 IFLA Eastern Region Student Competition.



What if I simply filmed and projected the space back onto itself? Would this cause people to notice the site, the way one notices oneself in a mirror, glazed windows, or a security camera TV? Niki Strutynski

Can landscape express time? Landscape can reveal and make visible the processes and effects of time. But what, if anything, expresses time? What is the ideal medium to explore time; in particular, alternative notions of time?

Time and site are both human constructs. Without humans here to observe, outline, measure, and quantify time and site, they do not exist. Through technology we have attempted to capture and control time. Some say that technology 'speeds up time'... But how has harnessing time truly affected our lives? How have we become entrapped in our own web of time and technology?

Likewise, how has our definition and generally accepted understanding of site limited us? Perhaps as landscape architects we need to move beyond working within the traditional bounds of the construction line or the hectare, and reconsider our role as designers with multidisciplinary training and leadership skills. We have the ability to influence positive change in this world, not just by designing better cities or restoring streams; but by bringing awareness and instigating change in the public conscience. With such a goal or sense of responsibility in our hearts we will approach all areas of landscape architecture with a new perspective, whether we are co-creating an innovative way to facilitate a public process or designing art in the landscape. Time is not the catalyst. Time is constant and inevitable. Landscape architecture is the catalyst; landscape architects are the ones with the ability to instigate change.

Following from the previous discussion, my site could be anywhere. Instead of choosing a particular physical location, I proposed to design a piece that is self-contained and portable; it can be transported to any site, its presences thereby creating the site.

One day during studio someone asked: How do we as landscape architects identify and understand the inherent qualities of a site and then design to simply amplify or draw attention to these existing traits? Similarly, Krzysztof Wodiczko once said: Designers must work in the world rather than 'about' it or upon it.

I then asked myself what would happen if I didn't design a site? How can I draw attention to an existing space? One method would be through film. What if I simply filmed and projected the space back onto itself? Would this cause people to notice the site, the way one notices oneself in a mirror, glazed windows, or a security camera TV? *Continued on page 12* 

#### Time and Site

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Film also presents an opportunity to explore the conference theme through perhaps a more appropriate medium. The designed piece will also be a tool for exploring alternative notions of time. In particular, four different concepts of time have been extrapolated from Allan Lightman's book Einstein's Dreams, in which each chapter is a new theory of time. For example, Lightman questions how would people behave differently if they understood time as a circle? What if people knew every action would eventually repeat an infinite amount of times, and every action had already been repeated before? What if time could flow in reverse? Or what if there were infinite dimensions of time, as when light is reflected between two mirrors creating countless copies? What if time was not a flow, but a series of images like photographs captured on film?

These different notions of time may be difficult to imagine, but it is when we push the bounds of our understanding that great discoveries are made. As Einstein said himself, *Imagination is more important than knowledge*.

This proposal to capture site on film will respond to these notions of time by projecting the film back onto the site almost simultaneously; but in looped, backwards, or interrupted rhythms, like a closed-circuit television. In this way, the site (and the image of the site upon itself) seeks to capture people's attention and not only bring their awareness to the space and moment they are in, but to instigate change in the way people notice and experience their surroundings. For unlike a CCTV, their image is not quite real time. Instead, they see themselves and the site slightly removed or out of time, moving backwards, tracing the same steps over and over, or projected and reflected into infinity. In the end, just as I have thought about a different definition of site, perhaps this scheme will be a catalyst for people to think about a different notion of time. As Marcel Proust once said, the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

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# Our Changing Coastlines BY LISA PARKER

ur coastlines are spectacular and diverse, ranging from high mountains plunging down to sheer cliffs, delineated with long stretches of sandy beaches, or merging into extensive marshes and wetlands. It is obvious why our coastlines continue to draw people in record numbers.

A high concentration of people within our coastal environment is not new. As long as fishing and trading have been a part of our communities, the coast has been home. Our desire to be on this edge has morphed from survival (fishing and trading) to entertainment (recreational activities, promenades along the water, and public baths) to a global culture whereupon only a select few can afford to live. The privatization of waterfronts is increasing at alarming rates. Yet the shoreline remains the arena for battles between land and ocean and it is being faced with additional pressures now that climate change is causing rising sea levels and storms are heavier and more frequent.

The shoreline is increasingly battered by both ocean surges and runaway land consumption. It is home to an estimated 50% to 70% of the 5.3 billion people alive today. We are drawn to live in this dynamic environment shaped by forces greater than our imagination; yet we do not want our real estate investment to partake in this battle.

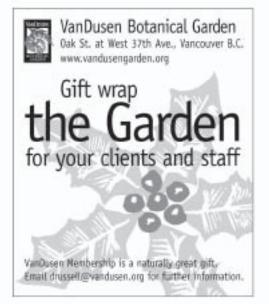
An additional pressure on the coastlines that is difficult to quantify is tourism. Many coastal areas are wildly popular tourist destinations, both in the summer and winter months. We bask in the sun and waves during the summer and in the winter we stand on the edge feeling the waves batter the cliffs below. This flux of development pressure due to tourism is not incorporated into census data, which is commonly used to illustrate coastal population growth patterns.

With land development comes roads, parking lots, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces. As runoff is concentrated, this can

destabilize the cliffs that we perch on if the runoff is not properly handled. Pollutant levels can increase, changes in physical stream shape can result from increased flow velocities, and a reduction in the number of aquatic species are all a result of hardening our water's edge. These potential impacts are often not considered as we continue to develop our coastlines.

The link between land use growth patterns and coastal ecosystem health is not well understood, nor is it adequately considered in much of today's movement to reform development patterns. Can we shift our thinking from developing our coastlines as an extension of the terrestrial boundary to considering it from the ocean's perspective? Can these areas take on new uses and spatial arrangements if we think of it as a part of everyman's transition to the ocean, rather than the last piece of land belonging to a few? Can we dream about new designs and patterns, in light of the fact that this low coastal region is the first ground to explicitly show how the planet is

changing as its ocean is increasing. These are the thoughts that I am playing with as I begin my final design project in the MLA Program. How can I, as a landscape architect, design with this dynamic environment, with development pressures in mind; while attempting to retain the essence of our coastline that we are drawn to?





## A Message from Pawel Gradowski, BCSLA President

t's been a very busy and exciting year at the BCSLA. We hosted the CSLA/CELA Shifting Ground Conference, partnered with allied organizations on a unique day of multi-disciplinary events called Super Saturday, organized continuing education programs and tours, coordinated LARE workshops, developed a communications strategy, hosted a CLARB meeting and many more events. We welcomed seven new Registered Landscape Architects and one Landscape Architect.

Included with this edition of Sitelines you will find your invoice for the 2007 BCSLA Membership dues. At the 2006 Annual General Meeting the Membership approved an annual dues increase of 5% (before taxes) across all categories every year rounding up to the nearest dollar. The Membership wholeheartedly supported the increase to allow funding for part-time clerical support, communications/outreach and to allocate additional funding to the Emergency Fund. The invoice also reflects a \$25 increase in CSLA Membership dues for Registered Landscape Architect and Landscape Architect Members. This is the first increase in several years.

Tom Barratt and Dave Hutch are working with public relations consultant Sonya Hwang, Ki Communications, on a communications Strategy. The strategy is meant to raise the profile of the profession, build BCSLA's reputation and attract media attention. I am working with the webmaster to develop the sitelines.org website that will be the commercial sister to the BCSLA website. It is hoped that this site will generate revenue in the future. We are also hoping to update the BCSLA website.

Pat Harrison and Tara Culham have developed a job description for a part-time clerical support person. This person would share in the day to day operation of the Society and allow Board to work on issues while delegating some responsibility to Tara. We recently updated the office computer and refined the accounting system. A candidate will be hired once the 2006 CSLA/CELA Conference financials are finalized.

A previous Board of Directors established an emergency fund in 2003. Currently the Emergency Fund is in a cashable Term Deposit at VanCity Credit Union in the amount of \$10,506.13. We will be adding to the fund over time.

There is still some interest in purchasing strata titled office but the market has prevented us from proceeding. We have received advice from experts to defer the purchase. There is currently \$12,050.66 in cashable term deposits and we will be adding \$3,000 for 2006 before the end of the year.

We are working with the BC Landscape and Nursery Association on revisions to the BC Landscape Standard. The new and significantly improved publication will include additional sections such as green roofs, invasive plants, integrated pest management and much more. If you would like to volunteer on this group call the BCSLA office today.

BCSLA is in preliminary discussions to hold a BC Land Summit 2009 with the partners from the 2004 event. Other allied organizations have expressed interest in participating. Contact Tara at the BCSLA office to help develop the program and other exciting activities.



Illustration: Cameron Murray

A reminder that the final day of the three year period of the mandatory CE is December 31, 2006. According to the BCSLA CE Policy Registered Landscape Architects, Landscape Architects and Intern Landscape Architects are required to meet the minimum standard of thirty (30) from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006. Inactive Members must meet the minimum standard of fifteen (15) credits.

I encourage all BCSLA Members to volunteer a little (or a lot) of your time on the Board of Directors or a Committee or on a task such as contributing your thoughts and boast a little about your project work to Sitelines newsletter. This is your chance to have a say on how your Society represents you and your profession.

On behalf of the BCSLA Board of Directors we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Best wishes in 2007.

## Education and the Profession Building a Partnership EMMA STARRITT

**P** artnership, collaboration, community responsibility, philanthropy, investing in the future, giving back, call it what you will, but support of educational institutions from the profession is vitally important and beneficial for the long term future of the profession.

The Landscape Architecture program in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia is the only comprehensive landscape architecture educational and research program in the Province. The strength of this program and the quality of the students graduated has a direct impact on the local professional community by ensuring there is an adequate pool of talented graduates entering the field who are fully equipped to deal with the emerging issues in landscape architecture.

PWL Partnership Landscape Architects is proud to support the UBC Landscape Architecture program through the creation of an endowed scholarship, the PWL Partnership Scholarship in Landscape Architecture, to directly support future generations of landscape architects. PWL chose to endow its support so that the program will be supported in perpetuity and to make a lasting contribution to landscape architecture education - while enabling the School to plan better for the future by providing a stable platform of support year after year.

There are a number of reasons for investing in student awards and the benefits are many. The competition for top caliber students is strong and institutions that can help alleviate the financial burden of graduate studies in addition to offering a worldclass education will often win out over those who cannot offer financial support. PWL Partnership wanted to help ensure that those applicants identified as the most

promising choose UBC as their university, and British Columbia as the place, to launch their career in landscape architecture.

Encouraging students to excel in their studies and recognizing outstanding work was another key reason to establish a scholarship for the program. Ann Jackson, a 2006 graduating MLA student demonstrates the importance of awards, "As a student, the financial assistance was always needed and I was grateful for it. But the recognition of my efforts and accomplishments that these awards gave was just as important; being new to design, and often struggling with it, it was encouraging to know that I was making progress. They also gave me the feeling that I had chosen a profession that cares about the achievements of its students and future members."

Scholarship recipients are identified by the Faculty using a criterion based on academic performance in addition to other criteria identified by the donor as important to them. For PWL Partnership it was the wish to support outstanding students entering the latter years of their studies, to reward work achieved and facilitate ongoing study and research - other scholarships might choose to recognize leadership skills, community involvement or excellence in a particular skill area.

Chris Sterry, PWL Partnership's managing partner sees many benefits, "From the company's perspective, the benefits are numerous. We develop a stronger relationship with the landscape architecture program faculty and students; our company's name has a stronger presence on campus and vitality among the students, some of whom we hope will work for us in the future; and it provides us with an opportunity to give back to our profession and our community".

The UBC Landscape Architecture program needs the support of the local professional community to grow and strengthen the program and PWL firmly believe it is the responsibility of the profession to give back to our local educational institution - fostering strong partnerships between the profession and UBC will offer immeasurable benefits through increased collaboration and innovation; ensuring a strong pool of graduates are available and that the curriculum is strong and relevant to the needs of the profession.

PWL Partnership recognizes the importance of supporting the UBC Landscape Architecture program and hopes that other BCSLA members will join them in establishing endowed support for the program.

UBC would also like to recognize Perry + Associates and Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg who have made recent commitments to establish new scholarships for the program and Durante Kreuk Ltd who have endowed their current annual award in order to provide support for the program in perpetuity - thank you.

UBC would also like to acknowledge existing student award donors - Mr. Henry "Syd" Skinner; BC Society of Landscape Architects; Canadian Society of Landscape Architects; DMG Group; Douglas D. Paterson; and the James Rose Foundation. Thank you for your ongoing support.

For further information on the different types of student awards available and how you can become involved please contact either Cynthia Girling, Chair of the Landscape Architecture and Environment Design Programs at UBC T: 604-822-0438 E: cgirling@interchange.ubc.ca or Emma Starritt in the Development Office at T: 604-822-6197 E: emma.starritt@ubc.ca.

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More than sixty BCSLA construction site signs are in circulation throughout the province. Both large and small signs have been manufactured and ar ready to order. The order form is available from the BCSLA office.

#### SITELINES

# out of site, out of mind BY DAVID FLANDERS





i hope we will one day soon

look out into the world

and see with our eyes,

smell with our noses,



and hear with our ears,

the now-hidden costs

of each and every thing we do

that can't be sustained;

instead of leaving that understanding

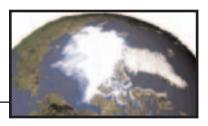
to those that will see, smell, and hear

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December 2006



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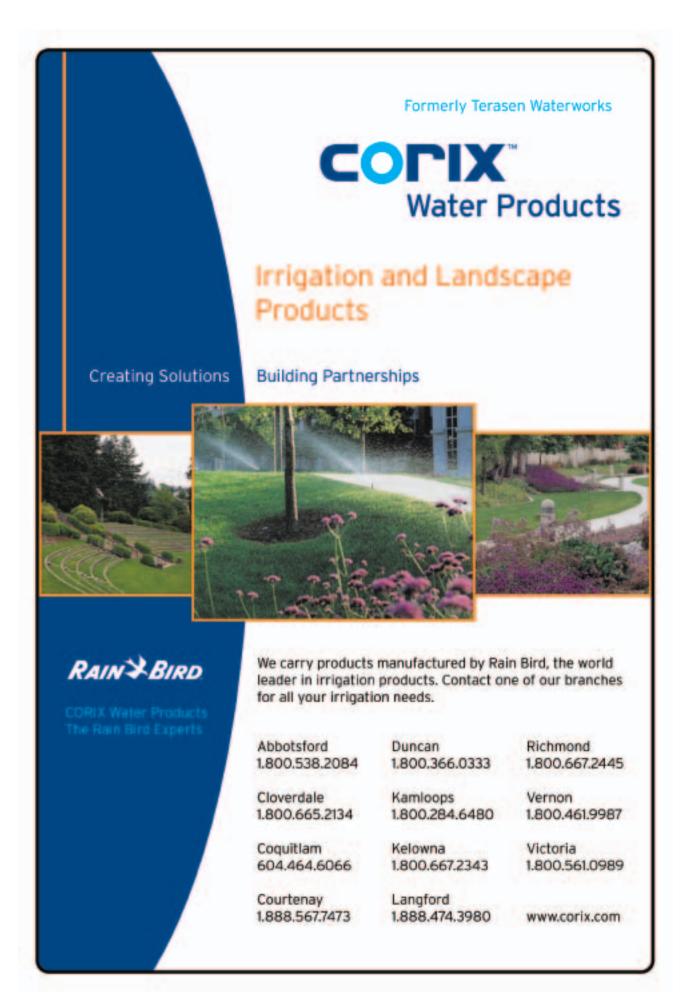
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