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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 BSCLA.

CELEBRATING Our People

BY JANE GREEN

I was in my first year back at UBC since the 70's, first year MLA, when I went to my first BCSLA AGM. I was standing by myself at the evening reception and remember thinking how lucky I was to be in a room full of such nice people. It was a year of firsts for me. My husband of 24 years had died a few months before, and I was taking on new challenges every day. I had been to lots of business functions in the past but never had this feeling of belonging and ease in what could have been a somewhat intimidating social situation. My first impressions of landscape architects in this setting were positive, and in all my encounters with landscape architects, whether they were hired by me to design the hardscape of my home in the past, or whether they taught me at UBC, or since I began working as an intern landscape architect, they have remained the same. I still feel fortunate, and pleased to be part of BCSLA and a community of people I admire and who make a difference in the lives of many people in the work they do designing places. It is with great pleasure that I introduce some of our members in this issue. We chose a random selection of people from various stages of careers and locales and asked them why they decided to pursue landscape architecture as a career, and where those decisions have taken them. Thanks to all who have contributed their stories. Our unique cover image shows Mike Teed, BCSLA Intern, 'celebrating' his choice to pursue landscape architecture as a career, after receiving an ASLA award in San Francisco. Enjoy!



Mike Teed in front of the 'Painted Ladies' in San Francisco, photo by Peter Christian Grønfeldt

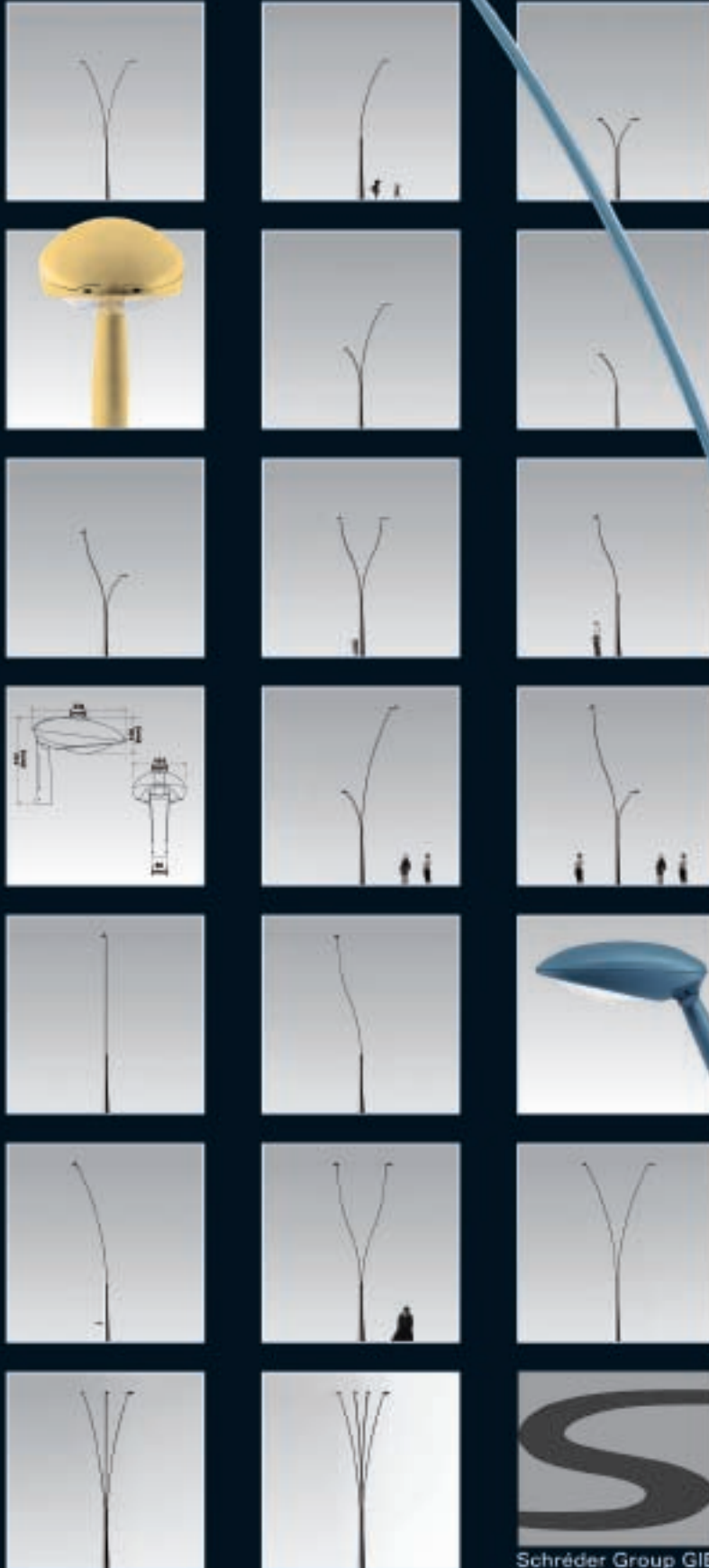
CORRECTIONS:

In the October 2007 issue of Sitelines, the cover photo was taken by Tilo Driessen.

On page 5, Drawing 1 was by Reza M Davani and Drawing 2 was by Sara Kasaei.

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Welcome

From the Desk of the BCSLA Registrar

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: MARK VAUGHAN, REGISTRAR

On behalf of the BCSLA Board of Directors and the Credentials Committee we are pleased to welcome the following new Registered Landscape Architects. These Members have worked hard to pass the LARE or have successfully applied through reciprocity or as a senior practitioner:

Dean Gregory	Lin Lin	Daniel Roehr
Sarah Howie	Cara MacDonald	Dimitri Samaridis
Terry Klassen	Elaine Naisby	
Alex Kurnicki	Andrew Robertson	

Murray Kopp has passed the oral exams and his name has been added to the Landscape Architect Membership category.

All Members who became Registered Landscape Architects or Landscape Architects in 2007 will be formally recognized at the New Members Luncheon on May 1, 2008 at the Plaza 500 Hotel and Convention Centre. Clive Justice will be on hand to continue the tradition of honouring New Members with the New Member Book Awards that are sponsored by Cedar Crest Lands (B.C.) Ltd.

In October 2007 BCSLA welcomed twenty-three new Intern/Associate Members:

Interns:


Peter Buckley	Liz Nguyen	Xenia Semeniuk
Marie-Laurence Chureau	Colin O'Byrne	Niki Strutynski
Cecilia Crondahl Cooper	Lisa Parker	Elizabeth Towsley
David Flanders	Heidi Redman	Tenille Thompson
Phyllis Carol Hejl	Maria Rommel	Jamie Vala
Yukata Ikeuchi	Gabe Ross	Benjamin Walker
Qin Liu	Gregory Roleau	Kezia Wong


Associates

Richard Fortin
Mariel Swann

We wish you good luck in the profession A big thanks to the Credentials Committee for dedicating their time and expertise to BCSLA.

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Cecilia Achiam

BCSLA, CSLA, MCIP

Acting Director of Development
City of Richmond
Richmond BC

I spent my childhood in Hong Kong where vertical concrete towers dominated the skyline and nature did not play a prominent role in the public realm. It was an accidental discovery of Cornelia Oberlander's roof garden at the Law Courts on Robson Street that sparked my appreciation of the role of a landscape architect in place making and planted the seed for me to become a Landscape Architect.

It was during a rare pre-Christmas snowfall in Vancouver, on a December night, that I "discovered" the Robson Square garden. Robson Street was filled with shoppers finishing their Christmas shopping and the smell of hotdogs and roasting chestnuts from the street vendors filled the air. People were skating to festive Christmas music beneath the dome under Robson Street. Yet, up above the grand "stramps", the stairs/ramp combination designed by Arthur Erickson, I encountered an enchanted snow-draped oasis. Sharing this other world apart from the hustle and bustle of city life were a couple snuggled up beneath the branches of a Maple tree and a joyous red-cheeked toddler giggling at the falling snow and marvelling at the snow angel he created on the ground. I smiled at a hobo, with his hands cupped around a cup of hot beverage, who, under the glistening snow, seemed like a grand literary figure stepping out of a novel. It was magical.

I returned to the garden in late spring the following year in hope to recapture the magic. It was sunny, and the downtown workers were out having their lunches on the benches, pedestrians and bicycles were cutting through the square, and the café clientele spilled out onto the skating rink that was not in use. The place was lively but the magic of that wondrous evening spent exploring my "secret garden" was no longer apparent. It was then that I understood the importance of creating public places to provide

the setting for an ever-changing array of activities and the ephemeral influence of nature on that human experience. Only years later did I realize place making was not accidental but a rather deliberate act, and that the profession of landscape architecture holds the key to the "magic" of space.

My personal journey towards landscape architecture was convoluted. That snowy night happened during my college years studying Building Technologies at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. I graduated during the recession and was fortunate to begin a career of over a decade in the public sector as a Municipal Plan Reviewer. The notion of exploring place making magic took a back seat to job security and starting a family. However, I felt restless and continued a haphazard quest for self-improvement and career development by delving into various undergraduate courses as well as completing a diploma in urban land economics.

As often happened with motherhood, I came to a crossroad and began to contemplate my life's purpose. What legacy would I want to leave to my child? Do I want to set an example of a life lived with passion or play it safe? Should I remain on a career path that offered security but did not provide intellectual stimulation? What were my contributions to bettering the world around me?

Eventually, I returned to school full time and entered the Landscape Architect Program at UBC as a mature student. The program expanded my appreciation far beyond an education in landscape architecture. I learned the importance of good urban design, the need to consider ecological needs of all species, the fragility of natural systems and the role sustainability must play in securing our common future. In addition to the devoted professors and teaching assistants who provided constant

inspiration and challenged us to "dig deeper" for more creative solutions, I was blessed with having a group of talented and inquisitive peers who pushed my thinking forward and provide emotional and spiritual support. The academic experience was so positive that I subsequently completed the master degree in community planning and became a city planner.

Today, I regard myself as a planning practitioner with the heart of a landscape architect who applies design thinking to solve problems and promotes sustainability as a guiding principle in all aspects of my life. I use three dimensional visualization and graphic skills to communicate ideas and to illustrate the impact of planning policies on urban design and the public realm.

Congratulations! To add to our celebration, on November 14, 2007 at the University of Victoria, Don Vaughan MBCSLA, FCSLA, FASLA, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws. Honorary degrees are awarded on the basis of exceptional distinction and achievement in scholarship, research, teaching, the creative arts, or public service, and was conferred in part because Don worked on the initial landscape plan for the campus and served as its landscape consultant for more than 40 years.

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Robert T. Evans MBCSLA, CSLA

Principal, Site360 Consulting Inc.
Kelowna BC

< Photo by LA Evans

It was a crisp New Year's Day morning in 1993 when we crossed the U.S. border at Osoyoos into our new home Province of British Columbia. We were on the final leg of a 4000 km journey that had begun in downtown Toronto a little over a week earlier. The coffee shop owner told us that it was unusually cold for the Interior at -20C, and it had been a long time since I remembered driving on tires that felt more square than round. Few cars were evident along Highway 97, and the snow encrusted landscape was stark but beautiful.

"Welcome to British Columbia", I said to my wife in a brave and excited tone. On the inside I thought to myself, what I have done? I had just transplanted my wife, five months pregnant with our first child, from our comfortable home and secure jobs in Ontario. We had lived and worked in downtown Toronto; two young professional Landscape Architects with decidedly urban lifestyles. Both graduates from the B.L.A. program at the University of Guelph, we had enjoyed many years of working for large successful design firms. Now we were driving along a road that was deserted, to a town that seemed small and isolated within the Interior, and a completely new professional frontier. What had we done?

Our enthusiasm rekindled somewhat when we arrived in Kelowna and anticipated settling into our home in a few days. We caught glimpses again of the town we had fallen in love with several months prior. We checked into our hotel and rested awhile before preparing to go out for dinner. It was 8 pm.; a time that we would regularly eat in Toronto. To our surprise we were greeted with "closed" signs at every restaurant downtown. Then we stumbled upon a small second floor Thai place that

happily agreed to cook us something even though they were just closing... as long as we didn't mind that there was no heat in the restaurant that day.

The next fifteen years brought challenges, victories, readjustments, and major life changes, but it has ultimately been a completely fulfilling experience. I've seldom looked back.

I became registered in British Columbia, and in 1996 I established a Landscape Architecture practice in Kelowna that has evolved into Site360 Consulting Inc. Partnering with a Civil Engineer, we employ over twenty people, including eight with degrees in Landscape Architecture. Our firm has enjoyed success on many projects including City Planning mandates, Resort Masterplans, and numerous park spaces and housing developments around the province. The collaboration between our in-house disciplines of Landscape

Architecture, Planning, Urban Design and Engineering, while presenting the usual communication challenges, has enabled all sides to learn and grow stronger professionally. My Engineering partner finally understands why we get so excited about design.

I am very thankful for and passionate about my adopted community Kelowna, and have volunteered my time to a variety of City Committees including the Planning Commission and Arts Foundation as well as a local church and School Board.

British Columbia has been very good to the Evans family. We have grown to a family of five and we are firmly planted here, God willing, for the rest our lives. We have replaced our urban Toronto lifestyle with a western philosophy that includes time for water-skiing, soccer, hiking, golfing, skiing and, oh yeah, the occasional trip to the office.

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Shira Golden

BCSLA Intern Landscape Architect

Park Designer
City of Burnaby
Burnaby BC

Photo provided by Shira Golden

My interest in landscape architecture was sparked in 1997 while taking an introductory course in urban design with Professor Moura Quayle at UBC. At the time, I was completing a Masters degree in Resource and Environmental Management at SFU and chose to take an elective at UBC on a whim. Moura's course helped me appreciate how designed spaces influence people's interactions with their environment and community. With a background in environmental management, I was now keen to add a design component to my education as my interest in landscape evolved from environmental policy to on the ground design. I found that my science background provided a good framework for understanding the processes behind sustainable site design and I enjoyed combining my skills as I completed my MLA degree at UBC.

Since graduating from UBC in 2001, I have worked both in the public and private sectors, and currently as a park designer with the City of Burnaby. My work at the City is focussed on designing public parks, playgrounds and open spaces, and I am interested in designing spaces that are inherently accessible to all visitors. As an experienced wheelchair user, I am keenly aware of designed spaces which are inaccessible, "visibly" accessible, or inherently accessible. In my work, I try to design playgrounds and parks with all users in mind, and attempt to minimize using obviously accessible playground equipment or circulation routes. I am always looking for unique solutions for addressing grade changes, for example, without awkward transitions, ramps, railings and signage.

Through my work at the City, I have been

involved in projects including the transformation of an old landfill site to an active park, development of playgrounds, master plans and park site plans, coordination of community open houses, as well as planning access and circulation enhancements to parks. It has been challenging and interesting to try to incorporate as many sustainability and accessibility principles as possible into each project.

In addition to my work at the City, I am on a playground advisory committee for Let's Play, a joint initiative between the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Province. The initiative encourages the creation of accessible public play spaces for children under six in BC, and builds awareness about accessible play and related best practices. I am excited about the opportunity to promote the use of natural elements to encourage play, while at the same time provide access to all children, parents and caregivers. Again, this type of initiative focuses on "inherent" design principles to embed sustainability and accessibility, creating good public spaces.

As an outdoor enthusiast and traveller, I am always interested in finding new campsites, good kayak launching spots, ski hills and hiking trails that are either accessible or nearly accessible. As a professional, I have consulted with other municipalities and organizations to help enhance accessibility in public open spaces. I would like to continue working in this area to assist outdoor travel and tourism businesses improve accessibility at their sites. The challenge of course is to provide access to wilderness or semi wilderness areas without altering the experience for the user. As the population ages, the demand for accessible outdoor recreation and facilities will only increase, and municipalities, parks agencies and tourism operators should be encouraged to work with design professionals to seamlessly and thoughtfully enhance their sites.

I look forward to being involved with designing, as well as experiencing great outdoor spaces.

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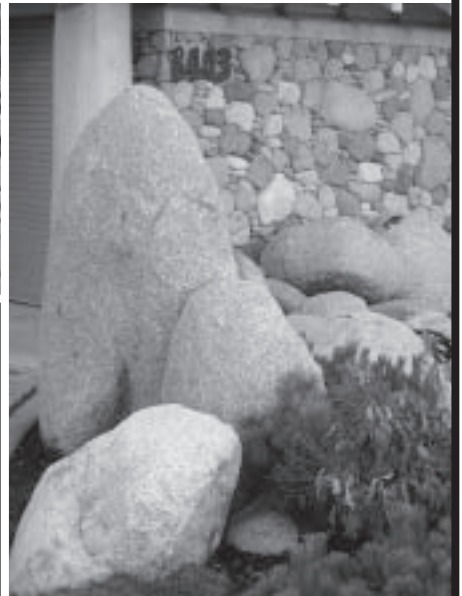
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Ray Visser

MBCSLA , CSLA

Principal, L.A. West Associates Inc.
Kamloops BC

<Family Photo

Getting into Landscape Architecture as a career was not even on my radar screen in 1975 when I enrolled in Architecture Technology at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in my hometown, Edmonton, Alberta. Instead, as a pimply-faced Alberta kid fresh out of high school, I was trying to focus on understanding the finer points of architectural design and building construction, such as floor joists, door jambs and window sill details. Exciting stuff, wouldn't you agree?

I guess it was not long afterwards that it became clear – this was not my bag and thankfully, it only cost me a couple thousand dollars and one year of my life to find out! I suppose it was not a big investment for me to fully realize that I did not want to do this for the rest of my life, so with some trepidation I crossed it off my list – goodbye to a life-long career in architecture.

Alas, beginning my second year at NAIT, I dug out the course outline and called a strategy meeting with my parents to review potential options to take within the architecture program. After lengthy discussion I made my choice and landscape architecture got the green light. Little did I know that enrolling in such an inspiring course would lead me in a new direction, ultimately changing my life. There was some hesitation from my parents, however. Mom asked, "Why landscaping?" "Well," I explained, "it sounds more interesting than drafting weeping tile details for a living and hey, it looks like fun! You get to draw and design with trees and plants – cool!" (I guess I was a little naïve and memorizing all those Latin plant names sure put a clarifier on the word 'fun'. But I digress...)

As I was saying, my life changed in the Landscape Architecture Technology

program. My instructor, Robert Scott, a graduate of the Landscape Architecture program at Utah State University, instilled in our small class a passion for landscape design that exemplified understanding the site and working with nature. After graduating from NAIT, Mr. Scott encouraged many of us to further our education and he literally paved the way for me and other NAIT graduates to enroll in the landscape architecture program at Utah State. So in 1979, after earning my Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree, I reluctantly left the U.S. and returned to Alberta in search of work in my chosen field.

My first full time job in landscape architecture was with Lombard North Group Ltd. in Calgary where I worked under well known Landscape Architects, such as James Taylor, Larry Paterson and Douglas Walters. I owe a lot to these gentlemen for giving me ample opportunities to gain valuable learning and working experiences as a junior L.A. Unfortunately, soon after in 1982, interest rates skyrocketed and jobs were falling faster than leaves off a Fraxinus pennsylvanica in October. So I did the 'wise' thing – I left Lombard North Group and moved to BC with a business partner to start a landscape design business! Da...?

Seriously, the first few years in Kamloops in the early 1980's were very tough to say the least. Securing a design contract was difficult because there was very little development underway and competition for every project was fierce. Reminiscing about those days, it's a wonder I made it through, although, I am confident this made me a stronger, smarter person, both as a landscape architect and as a businessman. The evidence for this is that 25 years later I'm still living in Kamloops, running

my own business and proud to be a landscape architect.

Growing older with Kamloops over the last quarter century has strengthened my belief in fostering a strong sense of community, both in the day-to-day operations of my small design practice and as a volunteer for various committees and community organizations. My volunteerism began in the mid-1980's when I became a director for the Kamloops Wildlife Park (presently the BC Wildlife Park). Later, I contributed 13 years as a director and chairperson on the Kamloops Heritage Commission and for the past seven years, I have been a director for the Graffiti Task Force Society and a member of the Kamloops Communities in Bloom Committee.

For the last ten years, I have also been a volunteer director for my neighbourhood society which has been trying to cope with the recent mountain pine beetle infestation that has so severely impacted nearly every property owner in our community. So in an effort to shed a positive light on this bleak situation, I prepared a brochure entitled "New Trees for Our Neighbourhoods – A Tree Planting Guide for Kamloops' Neighbourhoods Affected by the Pine Beetle". I prepared the brochure mainly as an inspirational and educational tool for people who wanted more information about planting new trees and to encourage the community to replenish our urban forest. The brochure was well received and the City of Kamloops in association with the Communities in Bloom Committee distributed over 30,000 copies last spring.

Over the years I have been fortunate to have many talented people work with me at L.A. West, including Gregg Lindros, Scott Wright, Alison Mewett, Paul Whitehead and Laura Nanninga. These, and other dedicated people, contributed immensely to building the foundation for my business and I am confident that we have positively influenced one another's careers during our professional collaboration. Perhaps building a solid foundation is the key to understanding the importance of 'community' and my one year in architecture technology was worth the time and effort after all.



Randy Sharp

MBCSLA, CSLA Fellow-Elect, ASLA, LEED® Professional

Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture Inc.
Vancouver BC

< Photo by Steve Whysall at Vancouver Aquarium Living Wall

My name is Randy Sharp, I am a practicing landscape architect in Vancouver, with Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture. Our firm is committed to ecological based solutions for buildings and site development, and when possible, our aesthetic is based on a concept of a working, self-sustaining landscape.

In addition to project work, I enjoy participating with the Cascadia Chapter of the US and Canada Green Building Council, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, and the BCIT Centre for the Advancement of Green Roof Technology. I also teach Green Walls 101, an introduction to the design and installation of green facades, living walls and vertical gardens in cities across North America.

I graduated in Landscape Architecture in the mid 1970's from the University of Oregon. At that time hot topics in landscape architecture were permaculture, territecture, and living roofs – including designing structures into hillsides and planting the 'edible landscape'. We were very good at hiding buildings!

An ecological approach to design has always been a cornerstone of Sharp & Diamond, and 30 years later, urban agriculture and environmental solutions for buildings are again in the forefront of design. Using the landscape as a filter for air pollutants, storm-water management, noise attenuation and mitigation of the urban heat island are now being considered and

in many cases, required, as the focus on green development becomes mainstream.

At Sharp & Diamond, we see design as a collaborative process; we prefer to sit down with the client, architect, engineers and building operators to set objectives at the beginning an integrated design process. My role is often to educate the team about reducing the environmental footprint, through innovative landscape and architectural strategies. Design mentoring at Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture is part of a program to empower staff to build confidence in their own ability to generate creative yet practical solutions. Design sessions, project field trips and industry-sponsored events are conducted on a regular basis. We often work with local manufacturers and suppliers to introduce new sustainable products to the marketplace.

Landscape Architecture is one of fastest growing professions in Canada. The prospects for continued growth and innovation in the professional are great.

Today our practice is becoming more international in scope with several projects in design and under construction in California, and with requests coming from Japan, India and the East Coast, although our core clientele is still in British Columbia.

It is an exciting time to be part of 'pushing the envelope' and to put 'architecture' back into 'landscape architecture'.

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Photo taken at UBC Botanical Garden

Gemma McIntock

BCSLA Student Representative

2nd Year UBC MLA

2007-2008 Vice-President External Landscape Architecture Student Association (LASA)

I want an interdisciplinary education. Like many of my classmates, I entered Landscape Architecture after studying in the Social Sciences. Specifically, my undergraduate work was in the field of Communication Studies, focusing on the theory of Cultural Studies, which culminated in a B.A. from Concordia University. I was concerned with studying different forms of visual communication, while at the same time conducting studio work in photography. During this time an interest in landscape architecture emerged and articulated itself in my research and studio arts projects. Where pieces of contemporary art engage landscape in the form of installation is of particular interest to me.

The world around us always demonstrates a strong potential to engage us and be communicative. I am intrigued by the way that cultural ideologies emerge

in our design of the landscape and the emergence of a sense of place. Public infrastructure and the programming and design of cultural institutions were of great interest to me upon entering the program. Currently at UBC, my focus is on urban design and the complex problem of sustainability. Urban design presents numerous challenges at a variety of scales, and encourages me to consider the assumptions and core values of urbanization. I will endeavour to understand these in a cross-cultural context and seek an understanding of what they mean and how they occur in different parts of the world.

I am presently working in an integrated studio, with 2nd and 3rd architecture and planning students, to propose a new scheme for the public realm in the Arts Precinct of the UBC campus.



Fiona Chamberlain

MA (Hons), MBCSLA, CSLA

OutLand Design Landscape Architects
Kelowna BC

Photo by Zargon Studios

My earliest inkling of what it meant to be a designer came when my grandfather, then a practicing architect, described and drew for my sister and me, the vanishing point in a perspective sketch. Nothing unusual about that, but for the fact that we were eight years old at the time.

Something must have stuck; both Karen and I became registered professionals in the field of architecture, Karen an architect, myself a landscape architect. I can still recall my grandfather to this day, standing in front of the National Gallery of Scotland

in Edinburgh, Scotland, asking us what type of architectural column the building had – Doric, Ionic or Corinthian? It certainly didn't occur to us at the time, but what a blessing to have such a mentor.

Scotland is where I originally hail from. I'm a graduate of the school of landscape architecture at the Edinburgh College of Art, and also had the opportunity to hang my hat for a while at Guelph University at their landscape architecture school. Those ventures, coupled with an exchange to the Rhode Island School of Design, rounded out my schooling and

experience of landscape architecture in a few different settings.

I currently practice as a landscape architect in the Interior of British Columbia. After five years with the Regional District of Central Okanagan under the brilliant mentorship of the Assistant Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, I recently made the leap from public practice back into the private sector to grow a company called Outland Design Landscape Architects. Wow! What a ride. It's been seven months now, and it was only the night before last that I actually slept through the night. Nobody truly tells you about that part of running a landscape architecture practice, do they?

I'm not sure precisely how I would define myself as a landscape architect, other than to say, like everyone else, really busy and engaged in the job at hand. But that's probably a cop-out answer. I believe strongly that it is the responsibility of the

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Photo: Lanarc Consultants

David Reid MBCSLA , FCSLA

Principal Lanarc Consultants Ltd.
Nanaimo BC

During recent travels to a water management conference in Australia, I was amazed to hear knowledgeable discussion about the water crisis at Walkerton, Ontario Canada. I never knew my birthplace (or at least a town close by) would be world famous.

As a small town boy, landscape architecture was attractive as a career that combined environmental ethics with design, that included both indoor and outdoor aspects, and that looked creative and always interesting. I had no idea at the time how varied and exciting the career would be.

In fact, my future was in music. Like many in their youth, my passion was performing in a live rock band, and I went into landscape architecture to get qualifications to fall back upon if my music future failed. Strangely, a music career is still in the future.

My 32 years in landscape architecture started with graduation from the University of Guelph in 1975. At the old age of 22, I agreed to man Landplan's Vancouver office for three months in 1976. The three months grew to five years in Vancouver and a practice of ten professionals, with Brian Guzzi and Don Wuori key colleagues. In 1981 I convinced Landplan to let me start a branch office on Vancouver Island. There were no landscape architects north of Victoria at the time, and I moved to Nanaimo to fill that niche.

When Landplan pulled back to Ontario, I stayed on the Island, by that time happily married. The descendant firm, Lanarc Consultants, is now a diversified consultancy of fifteen, with partners Doug Backhouse and Don Crockett, and offices in Nanaimo and the Lower Mainland BC.

One of the great opportunities on Vancouver Island was that there was limited knowledge of what a 'Landscape Architect' should do. So, in effect, we were able to tell our clients what we thought we should do, and then proceed to do that. Although it didn't happen overnight, I am very surprised at the breadth and depth of the services we have offered, and at our success in building an extremely rewarding practice.

Many projects have included waterfront improvements or watercourse conservation or restoration. Lanarc is also heavily involved in Community Planning and Environmental Design – with a specialty in incorporating environmental policies into community plans, and in integrating environmental solutions into development. Current clients include Simon Fraser UniverCity, Malaspina University/College, and many local governments in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, including Coquitlam, Burnaby, Esquimalt, Nanaimo, and Campbell River, and more recently, Kelowna.

With Lanarc, I practice as both a land use planner and a landscape architect, and am also heavily involved in site and stormwater engineering. Among several awards, I was nominated 'Fellow' of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' in 2003 – an honour that is still a surprise today.

My passion is to 'make sustainable development standard practice'. Our clients are proceeding rapidly towards that goal. The following is a summary of recent progress towards the mission by Lanarc Consultants.

Making Sustainable Development Standard Practice

Local governments and the development community will almost universally express support for sustainable development. Each may place a different emphasis on one of economic, social or environmental goals, but they all support the principle.

Most are also frustrated by the barriers that delay implementation of sustainable development. The barriers may be economic. They may be time or effort. They may be lack of understanding. They are, far too often, regulatory barriers.

Lanarc Consultants have been working for a good part of their 25-year history to not just talk about, but to implement, sustainable development. The effort has ranged through:

- 'Smart Growth' neighbourhood plans for up to 10,000 people.
- A myriad of ambitious park, trail and habitat restoration projects – both strategies and those that have been constructed.

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David Reid

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- Regional scale transportation strategies for rail, rails with trails, and related real estate assets (the Island Corridor Foundation).
- Financing and fund-raising strategies to support sustainable projects.
- ‘Environmental Programs’ for local governments that integrate habitat, stormwater, energy and other initiatives into a cohesive and affordable strategy. Drinking Water Protection programs. Stewardship programs. Water Conservation strategies.
- Visualizations, life cycle analysis and other techniques that increase understanding of alternatives.
- Web and special event outreach to public and stakeholders – including lighthearted approaches. I remember making up large question marks on coat hangers to hang in parks around the City of North Vancouver – as a way of getting the public to attend open house events concerning a parks strategic plan. On the web side, Lanarc has three full-time web programmers working on what we call ‘Information Architecture’.
- Design and technical guidelines in magazine, video, and web formats – including educational posters that we think of as ‘bathroom art’ for planning and engineering offices.
- Many ‘get it built’ projects that include real innovation and monitoring of BMPs.
- Worldwide research on current practices in water conservation and in stormwater management.

- Writing new and flexible design standards and specifications for local government engineers – that appeal to both small and large developers, and that integrate planning, engineering, parks and environmental objectives.
- Installation auditing and Contractor training.

Who’d have ever expected to write an engineering standard in a landscape architecture career? Is the list above a landscape architecture practice? To me, it doesn’t matter – it’s where our skills and our colleagues have taken us.

I was asked when presenting at University of Guelph last winter – what advice could you give to future graduates. I had two insights.

First, if you judge your career based on the first year, you will be disappointed – but if you review your career after a decade, you will be amazed at what you have accomplished.

Second, if you want an area for research and action – focus on climate change – the adaptations triggered by it could occupy entire careers over the next 40 years.

As far as my own future, I am fully engaged and energized, most days, by progress towards sustainable development. And I am still getting back to my music future. Actually, even at 55 I still have a four-piece band – we do soft rock with strong vocals – playing out about once a month.

My wife and I look back and say ‘We never expected our lives to be this good’. Maybe our expectations were low. But they have been exceeded beyond our wildest dreams. Thanks, in large part, to being patient, persistent, daring sometimes – and surrounding ourselves with talented and trustworthy people.

Fiona Chamberlain

– Continued from page 12

community of landscape architects to promote the development of the profession through sharing of information and the mentorship of the generations of landscape architects coming up behind us. I’d like to think that through the work I do, I’m contributing towards the mentorship of other individuals in the profession, in much the same way that my grandfather shared his knowledge with my sister and me.

I’m also an advocate of sustainable design, particularly in the hot and dry Okanagan Valley (regardless of what my co-worker Dale thinks..!). The work of retired University of Georgia Professor Darrel Morrison and his long time promotion of the use of native vegetation in landscape design and restoration inspire me daily to incorporate environmentally sound design in my design work. As a reminder to live and breathe the words of sustainability and not just to ‘talk-the-talk’, I’ve hung the following quotation from Professor Morrison above my desk: ‘urban, suburban’ and rural landscapes can be designed to integrate and connect with the greater biological community and contribute to ecosystem services – such as wildlife habitat and water retention – as well as provide human enjoyment of natural spaces that fit a regional ‘sense of place’. Words to live by in my field of landscape architecture!



Cam Campbell

MBCSLA, CSLA, P.Ag.

Research Assistant / Ph.D. Candidate
Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning
Faculty of Forestry, UBC

Photo by Karen Jarvis

I am a Landscape Architect and Professional Agrologist and hold a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from UBC and a MSC in Forestry from the University of Oxford. It is difficult to identify precisely what influenced my decision to choose Landscape Architecture as a profession over others, as multiple factors including chance encounters with people familiar with the profession, and the nature of my experiences in the working world all played a role.

My interest in landscape in general, and landscape character and the cultural landscape in particular, were shaped, in part, by growing up in Richmond B.C. at a time when the community was undergoing rapid growth and change. There I experienced first hand the transformation of my community from a semi-rural / suburban environment to a predominately suburban setting embracing many of the worst excesses of the auto age. While young, the impacts were profound enough that I viewed the changes critically, questioning whether the rate, extent and nature of change had to occur as it did, and wondering why Richmond did not seem quite as diverse and rich an environment as before.

My interest in the larger landscape and the relationship people have with their physical environment developed during my time working in the forest industry at various locations along BC's coast during the 1970's through early 1980's. During this period I worked first as a coastal logger and later, as an engineering crewman engaged in the field design and layout of forest roads and harvest areas. The nature of the work combined with a life in remote coastal communities fostered a keen interest in

physical design and planning, and helped me learn to appreciate landscape from perceptual and political perspectives. While operational forestry was fascinating, its scope (at that time) was not broad enough to allow me to follow these interests. Some limited exposure to Pem Van Heek's (Honourary Member of the BCSLA, now deceased) pioneering work in Landscape Forestry in BC as well as a passing acquaintance with the landscape planning work of Jones and Jones and the Integrated Resource Management Branch of BC, among others, suggested Landscape Architecture might make a good fit, leading me to explore how I might enter the profession.

I was accepted to the UBC Landscape Architecture programme in 1984 where, thanks to a wonderful faculty, I broadened my understanding of landscape and place, fostered an interest in research and teaching, and set in motion a process of learning that continues to this day. In the two decades subsequent to graduation I have had the good fortune to continue to explore my interests through a very diverse practice. At different points in time I have served as a planner with local government and in private practice with firms such as Civitas and Ekistics, a Visual Landscape design specialist and Landscape forester with the BC Ministry of Forests, a Landscape Planning Consultant and Sessional lecturer. Representative projects include landscape inventories and character assessments for First Nations and other clients, physical design and master plans for new residential development in various locations throughout B.C., delivery of Visual Landscape Design training on behalf

of the BC Ministry of Forests, preparation of an Integrated Visual Design planning course syllabus and developing a townscape / landscape character mapping and visual preference survey method for Smart Growth on the Ground's community engagement process for the town of Oliver project.

I have returned to University as a Research Assistant with the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning at UBC, and am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Faculty of Forestry with Dr. Stephen Sheppard. My research explores methods to help identify and sustain critical landscape values such as character and sense of place in small towns and rural communities experiencing rapid growth and change. Until key dimensions of these values can be expressed in physical terms amenable to physical design, the extent to which they can be meaningfully addressed in land and resource planning will remain limited. Employing visual preference testing, community mapping and cognitive mapping methods in combination with 3D visualisations of incremental landscape change, the study explores this issue by developing and testing an approach for:

1. Defining character and place in terms of the physical attributes and conditions supporting these values, as grounded in the perceptions of local residents and;
2. Using this knowledge to explore how incremental change in key aspects of landscape influence resident perceptions about the local character and their sense of place.



Cheryl Bouwmeester BES (Hons)

2nd. Year UBC MLA

2007-2008 President Landscape Architecture Student Association (LASA)

< Image created by Cheryl Bouwmeester

I completed my Bachelor of Environmental Studies Honours program at the University of Waterloo, focusing on urban planning while specializing in urban design. My attention was then lead to the left-over sites and undesirable places of the city, mainly focusing on the opportunities to be found in brownfield development sites, re-claimed land and infill within existing patterns. One of my fellow classmates mentioned that she was applying for her Master's of Landscape Architecture and suggested that if I wanted to continue my path with design and creating space, I should as well. A few short months later I found myself moving across the country to B.C. preparing for the beginning of the rest of my life.

The program took hold right away and forced us to jump in with both feet, completely unprepared. With my first year completed, and currently working through my first term of second year, I have learned so much. That's not to say that I always remember many designers' names with their acclaimed work, but understanding their style, space and scale has made a difference in my own work. This current year I was chosen as the president of the Landscape Architecture Student Association (LASA) and have faced many headaches, and have had to accept the fact that I am only human, and that having a strong team behind me, working together is more important than stressing as an individual. Knowing this in principle is one thing, yet accomplishing a balance between which team member does what and well is another.

During my short time at UBC my interests have evolved to better understanding sustainability, and creating a true definition for what my work will be and how my goals can be accomplished. I have also discovered a love of materials and tend to

try to use wood, brick and metal in almost everything that I have created thus far in the program. Although, not always practical in the first schematic they always make an appearance. This new interest pushes me to analyze and understand the site and its conditions, to ensure that my design is able to withstand the elements, weather respectably, and suit the site and its users.

Landscape Architecture supports a part of me that wants to ensure that everyone has a space to enjoy, whether it is a personal backyard, a park space or a public courtyard, and that every space that is left-over has a purpose and a design that suits its users.



In my grade 7 yearbook I wrote that when I grow up I wanted to be a landscaper or an architect. So it would be no surprise to my grade 7 teacher that now, at 27, I'm an Intern Landscape Architect, building my professional experience and working towards my registration.

For as long as I can remember I've found joy in designing, both in the graphic and problem solving sense, and in my experience with the curiosities of the physical and sociological world. Early memories of my parent's half-acre Coquitlam property that backed onto a wooded ravine had

I believe that my design style will continue to evolve, and my focus narrow, as I continue to learn through my education and through interaction with individuals who are currently practicing. My interest will continue to focus on brownfield and redevelopment opportunities that lie within the existing built fabric, yet, with the understanding that the environmental and ecological aspects of each site are paramount in importance, I also hope to develop designs that will regenerate the prosperity of these sites while maintaining a high design style. I am certain my interest will continue to grow through adaptation and continual education of the topic.

Mike Teed

BLA MLA BCSLA Intern Landscape Architect

space2place design inc. / LANDinc Vancouver BC

< Photo by Tracy Harford

me imagining what magical worlds existed within the steep forested slopes beyond our property line. I recall the endless hours with my friends that we spent concealed under thick arching junipers and dashing along garden paths living out stories of superheroes and making up jokes.

My elementary school was nestled in a temperate forest where we had seemingly endless freedom to play amongst the thick understorey and climb up into hollowed old stumps. We had a traditional wood playground that was well used as the home base for the

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adventures that transpired among the trees, boulders, and native shrubbery. One area in our elementary school woods had become a building site where we would stack movable logs between boulders to create lean-tos that we claimed were castles, houses, or forts. As if we were practicing our SAS survival skills, these structures would be demolished and rebuilt periodically. We used salal leaves for money, with which we purchased chunks of soft, decomposing wood from fallen trees we called gun powder, a commodity that was readily accepted throughout our land of recess and lunch. Throughout my years at public school I honed my doodling skills, which I must have known subconsciously would be useful one day.

In 1999, I packed up and drove to Guelph where I started developing my practical design abilities for Landscape Architecture. While in Ontario, I longed for home and the mountains, evergreens and rich organic air of the West Coast. Whenever I had the opportunity, I would relate my studies to the Lower Mainland.

My undergraduate thesis entitled, *'The Downtown Eastside Dignity Project: Nurturing Hope Through Design'* was my first attempt at exploring Landscape Architecture's role in addressing serious problems. 'The DTES Dignity Project' drew the conclusion that by protecting and embracing the unique eclectic nature of the Downtown Eastside community and engaging its people in the design of their own environment, people are empowered within their environment. I argued that Landscape Architecture's role in nurturing solutions to the major problems in the Downtown Eastside is also dependent on an approach that embraces workable solutions to the drug and homelessness problems in the area. I really thought I was onto something with my research back in 2003, but didn't move to action on what I had learned. I watched silently as Vancouver's homeless numbers surged and political powers shifted away from supporting progressive drug policies.

In the late spring of 2007, the spirit of my undergraduate thesis was revived as I found myself with the fortunate opportunity of applying my passion for designing for marginalized people in the Downtown Eastside. The project is an upgrade of Oppenheimer Park, one of Vancouver's oldest and most heavily used public green spaces. This park is barely one hectare, but rich with history, functioning as the grounds for the first legal public protests in the City and former home to the legendary Asahi Tigers baseball team. Within a community that faces so many challenges, Oppenheimer Park is a place where all people can come to socialize, relax and recreate. The park is staffed daily to create safety and provide recreational services that are cherished by people using the park.

The approach we are taking with the design process is to involve the people of Oppenheimer from the start to share their ideas about the park and what they want to result from the upgrades. The ideas that they have shared set the course for the goals and vision for the park and existing field house and will ultimately shape this vital public environment. During several occasions throughout the design process, the people of Oppenheimer will be called upon to share their voice and be heard, ensuring that we, the designers, are on the right track.

Design has become a collaborative process for me. My passion for learning, problem solving and working with people is continually fed through landscape architecture. However, my passion wasn't clear to me until recently.

As I completed my Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, I hesitated to jump into a career, concerned that if I didn't have clarity around my passion, I might end up working in a job doing things I didn't believe in. To buy myself time, I stayed in school until I received a Master of Landscape Architecture from UBC. Inspired by the emphasis on sustainability from my professors and sessional instructors at UBC, as well as extracurricular studies of the peak-oil crisis, I refocused on identifying my passions. My key area of research became the suburbs, as they are most

commonly understood within North America. The suburbs are a prevalent and vastly consumptive living typology and, judged by the Ecological Footprint Theory of William Rees, clearly unsustainable in their current form. New Urbanists offer a more practical alternative to new development, but what are we to do with our existing suburban infrastructure? The hypothesis I explored in my graduate thesis, *'Living Lightly: Minimizing Impact and Maximizing Function of Suburban Yards'* was about offering existing suburban homeowners alternatives that will help sustain or improve their existing quality of life during a time of population increase and resource depletion. I created a scoring system that homeowners can use to assess their current yard's conformance to best practice guidelines. The same scoring system can be used as a checklist for landscape designers who want to design yards that achieve best-practice goals. *'Living lightly'* showed the installed and annual cost-savings for designing with the scorecard over conventional suburban design, as well as annual reductions of maintenance time, fuel, water, and chemicals typically required by conventional landscape design.

Not satisfied to let this one collect dust, I submitted *'Living Lightly'* to the ASLA Student Awards competition and won an Honour Award in Research. Attending this year's ASLA conference in San Francisco exceeded my expectations. I was impressed with the profile of profession in America and was inspired by the passionate words of Lawrence Halprin and Al Gore, who addressed the crowd of about 6,000 following the awards presentation.

Back at home in the Lower Mainland, I feel privileged to be in a position to do what I love while making a difference in the world. My vehicle is Landscape Architecture. Through research and collaborative design I am on course to one day be a leader in environmental and social stewardship. At 27, I am aware that my deep appreciation for the value of our environment I discovered as a child has remained, while my understanding of it continues to grow.

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