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Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



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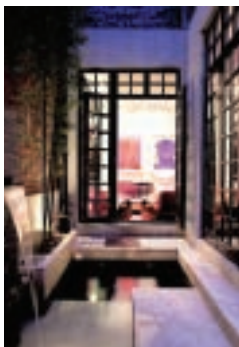
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The purpose of *Sitelines* is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.



Cover Image:
Interior Courtyard, Shanghai
 Bryce Gauthier

Planting Plans

BY JANE GREEN

Landscape architects concern themselves with many things in the course of their professional lives, and projects may take them anywhere from place making, and environmental and spatial design, to urban planning and beyond. Planting plans are an integral part of any successful project from concept through completion. But plants are more than just conceptual design elements, as the familiar term ‘shrub it up’ might imply.

This is the time of year when the conceptual can be the stuff of dreams, but in real time. I savoured the scent of sarcococca at my front door in January, followed by the sweet wafts of witch hazel as I walked to the garage in February, and enjoyed the snowstorm of pink petals from the cherry trees as they came into their full glory and are beginning to fade. Recently I marvelled at magnolias in bloom everywhere as I travelled through Vancouver streets, so many varieties, mass planted in front of multi-family residences, commercial developments and elsewhere, trees that I have been driving by without stopping to figure out what they were, and now I know. They are what the landscape architect envisioned while looking at a site plan, not the slender saplings that were specified ten years ago, but as they were imagined in the designer’s eye, circles on a planting plan, and names from a book, descriptions that sounded promising and were sometimes chosen without truly knowing how they would turn out to be. Rather like what I imagine Capability Brown might have envisioned with his immense estates, young trees that eventually grew to match the scale of his landscape plans.

At the moment I am still able to look at the branch structure of the robinia pseudo-acacias in the lane as they are slow to leaf out, but the soft greens of new leaves are disguising that structure in many trees as the days lengthen, and the thermometer slowly rises. The understory is a continuous show of colour and I just want to capture for future planting plans all the

botanical surprises that unfold around me each day, while I try to remind myself to remember how great the chartreuse of just emerging cutleaf maple leaves and euphorbia looks against the shock of mauve azaleas, with white iberis and the glare of forgotten orange tulips. This issue is, in part, dedicated to the plants that we all use in our everyday practises, that show up on plant lists, that are just lines of type on a set of drawings, until ten years have gone by and they tell the world that they were chosen for the locations they occupy by a landscape architect.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Planting Plans	3
A Flip Side	5
DIY XVII and XVIII Century Landscapes	7
The Bulb	9
President’s Message	11
BCSLA 2008 Awards	13
Change in Local Insurance Brokers	13
Shanghai Spaces	15

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A Flip Side

BY PAWEL GRADOWSKI MBCSLA

Writing this article was prompted by my reflections related to a very successful recent landscape installation that assisted a hard working design team in their efforts to reintroduce several forms of wildlife back into an urban area of a big city. What made this project more interesting was the fact that this environmental component was installed on a site that has been transformed from an old industrial quarter into a high density, multifamily residential community. This design concept was influenced by our understanding that human population is only one of many forms of life that must coexist in our cities. Looking back on our recent history, we can see why urban growth in the Seventies, which was often concentrating on short term economic growth, lead many of our cities into some major ecological, social and consequently large scale economic troubles. Some big cities already face extremely difficult problems resulting from bad planning or lack of comprehensive vision of a long term urban development. Today, we are trying to undo these mistakes by promoting “environment friendly” practice. However, even the best intended action may cause some awkward unforeseen results. Without good understanding of the intricate interdependencies between environmental science, social relationships and economy, or by concentrating only on selected goals, we may accomplish surprising and unintended outcomes that may or may not be desired.

In that recently completed project, an area adjacent to some residential towers was selected to become a wildlife sanctuary. It was envisioned that storm water collected from the entire site would flow through



Urban wildlife sanctuary in December

a number of detention ponds and only after a significant rain events water would overflow into an adjacent creek. The design team, which included Civil Engineer, Environmental Consultant and Landscape Architect, carefully designed the size and shape of the water course, selected native plant material, strategically placed natural wood debris to increase biodiversity, selected the most appropriate type of growing medium, installed a temporary irrigation system to help with the establishing of the plants and provided engineering solutions allowing for a safe flow of storm water. Considerable efforts were made to create a natural ecosystem where ducks, frogs, and other forms of wildlife could coexist with humans within an urban environment. In less than two years from project installation the intended goal turned out to be a great success. Not only did wild ducks and many

other bird species settle in this area, but also a wide variety of other animals made their home in this artificially created environment. Even a family of beavers settled in the ponds, which are only 30 m from modern, concrete towers with hundreds of apartments, underground parking, children’s play areas and paved roads full of cars.

However, shortly after the beavers settled down, these new furry residents tried building a dam and altered the carefully calculated storm water management plan. As for the building material, beavers managed to cut down a significant number of recently planted trees in the area and started causing a considerable problem for the landscape maintenance within the site. The only chance for the remaining trees to survive was to protect them with an unattractive wire mesh. The new dam had to be taken apart on several occasions. ▶



Beaver-felled bosque of trees

Some people expressed their hope that maybe the local owners of dogs walking for daily strolls with their domesticated pets running near the water would eventually persuade the beavers to move away.

This unfortunate incident made me think of similar situations where well intended initiatives aimed at promoting good, sustainable design, sometimes cause side-effects resulting in considerable problems that were never intended. A good example of that situation can be the implementing of the LEED system that was developed in recent years and quickly become a design standard for many municipalities. The LEED system was intended to help urban planners, developers, engineers, architects, etc. make wise decisions related to construction practices. This system applied equally for the entire North America, allows for quantifying “environment friendly” initiatives in almost any project. Its intention is to provide a simple to calculate point system, allowing one to objectively measure the “friendliness” of a particular development to the surrounding environment. In the macro scale, a project labeled as LEED Gold is generally considered as more sustainable than a project that has fewer points and is therefore recognized as LEED Silver.

However, it appears that when considering long term sustainability issues, projects that were relying only on maximizing the number of “points”, created some unsustainable problems that are now difficult and costly to correct. I believe that besides counting the points one must also consider the micro scale effect of the project and carefully analyze the implemented initiatives within the particular site context.

For example, a close analysis may demonstrate that the decision to delete an irrigation system from a project, which protects potable water resources and is recommended by the LEED point system, may also result in total deterioration of a newly installed landscape, if it is installed on top of a building’s roof or on a slab above underground parking. Not everybody considers the fact that plants separated from ground water may have hard time surviving dry weather without supplementary irrigation water. Barely surviving plants may grow at much lower rate than intended. Therefore the anticipated cooling effect that plants were to provide on site may be significantly reduced. In addition, dry, unprotected growing medium may turn into dust and the entire landscape treatment may simply dry out and disappear within a relatively

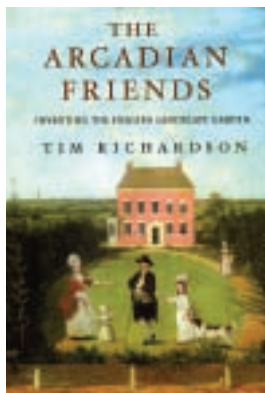
short period of time. This example describes how a well intended decision of eliminating a non-sustainable irrigation system may result in a total destruction of a landscape treatment.

By altering a seemingly very small aspect of a created ecosystem one may unintentionally cause unforeseen problem that can cause a chain reaction and devastating consequences at a larger scale. There are many other examples where well intended decisions related to landscape architecture initiatives may result in awkward consequences. Heavy metals from air pollution may accumulate in the root vegetables grown within an urban agriculture, making them potentially harmful if consumed. A detention pond with a standing still water collected from rain events may become smelly or result in increasing local mosquito populations. Some composting bins in cities, installed to reduce the size of landfill sites may become smelly and full of fruit flies affecting the lifestyle of the residents. Attractive plant material that is well adapted to the urban environment, when planted in large groups of same or similar species, may become devastated by the spread of plant disease or an infestation with some unwelcomed insects. People tend to forget that nature has its own rules that may not necessary follow our objectives, even if they were very well intended.

In today’s busy time when professionals often rely on already established standards, it may be hard to “think outside the box” and keep questioning commonly accepted practice. However, I believe that if we want to be at the forefront of the environmental initiatives that are to shape our future cities, we have to keep carefully analyzing all new and old practice standards in relation to the long term, factual results of such practice. Only by critical thinking, while incorporating current environmental, social and economic issues into our practice, may landscape architects be able to minimize future potential problems and continue finding well thought through solutions to today’s challenges.



Wildlife sanctuary in the City



Do-it-yourself XVII and XVIII century landscapes with a little help from friends the Dutch, and backup from the Grand Tour

Book review of *The Arcadian Friends Inventing the Landscape Garden*, by Tim Richardson

BY CLIVE L. JUSTICE BSC UC BERKLEY, MSC UBC, LMBCSLA, FCSLA, GARDEN AND PLANT HISTORIAN

Cover of the *Arcadian Friends Inventing the English Landscape*

I read Gillian Darley's review of Tim Richardson's *The Arcadian Friends Inventing the English Landscape*, 359pp, Bantam press, 2007 that appeared in the London Times Literary Supplement under the TLS title "*Pretty, Political Landscips*" in the November 23rd issue last year. I knew as a garden and landscape historian, I had to have this book and know what it said, in spite of the £25, Cad\$65 price.

It took me a while to read it and familiarize myself with the political history of England during the so called Age of Enlightenment beginning roughly in mid to late 1600s and extending into the mid 1700s. It melded into the Age of Discovery, especially in botanical and garden plant terms.

In terms of landscape history, it began when the demise of the Baroque Formal French garden layout morphed into the smooth and 'natural' landscapes of Capability Brown, near the end of the 1700s. In royal and political terms the Age of Enlightenment began with the end of the Catholic Stuart's reigns of James II that continued into William and Bloody Mary's and saw the decline of the Jacobite and Tory influences in society. The Hanoverian royalty were in ascendancy: Kings George I, II and III, (1714, 1727 and 1760), Princesses Henrietta and Anne, the Princes Rupert and Fredrick, along with the protestant Whig politicians and gentry. The royalty had Dutch connections with Holland's William of Orange and Hans William Bentinck (1649-1709)¹ who in turn masterminded Dutch links and the Anglo-Dutch landscape of the flat, flower parterre into England.

It is these Princes, other lesser royalty, gentry, lords and ladies, with assorted hangers-on who Richardson writes about in *The Arcadian Friends*. They were egged on by the 'sources, delights and absurdities' beginning with the open woodland planting that permitted casual and natural horse-back riding through it, and the twists and turns of the serpentine walk, giving different viewpoints of nature and views of distant garden features from these 'wiggles' in the garden. Additionally, there were the strong tenets chronicled by the poet-gardener Alexander Pope (1688-1744) in his *Pastorals* with his adaptation of Virgil's poems of the Seasons (Greek and Roman classics) moulded to fit with English conditions and scenery, and Joseph Addison, (1672-1719) another of the literary lights who helped, but advised "to help and regulate nature without reforming her too much."

This initiated a series of very personal 'do-it-yourself' garden making, guided by these poets and writer's and the garden owner's idiosyncrasies, partly to show off their knowledge and understanding of the Greek and Roman Classic Arcadia. Richardson's writing inferred that clients did their garden and landscape making while the landscape architects like William Kent and 'Chinese' Chambers and others watched from the shadows for orders. Chambers, on his own, didn't do too badly later on.

Of these 17-18th century gardens that have been restored by England's National Trust and are open to the public, Richardson appends a list by regions of England: the North, the Midlands, the East of England, London, the South and the West Country.

There are fifty-four gardens all told. Sixteen are in the hands of the National Trust. Richardson stars eighteen as "the best preserved landscape gardens." Six of these are National Trust properties and have a best preserved garden rating:

- Gibside, Tyne and Wear National Trust
- Studley Royal North Yorkshire National Trust
- Claremont Surrey National Trust
- Stowe, Buckinghamshire National Trust
- Stourhead, Wiltshire National Trust
- Westbury Court, Gloucestershire National Trust

In his last chapter, "*A Different View*" Richardson writes:

"It so happens we are at the moment just coming down from a peak of interest in the eighteenth-century landscape garden: the 1980s and 1990s saw a large number of restoration projects and great academic interest in the topic. One irony was the overgrown decay into which many of these gardens had fallen in fact enhanced their romantic appeal and seemed to make them more rather than less intense as an experience. But the hand of restoration has become more gentle in recent years with conservation the watch word. New research into flower and shrub content of these landscapes means that the coming decades will most likely see as much emphasis on renewing plantings as on restoring buildings."

I can't help but agree, having visited five or six of these 18th century gardens while guiding the 'Rhododendron Roots Tour' in 1994, and rediscovering what I already knew but not realized, its scope. Rhododendrons were not a part of the 18th century garden. ▶

Many of these garden restorations which we saw had not recognized this fact and were crowded with late 19th century informal plantings of these evergreen plants, perhaps for good reason. They attract visitors when they flower and require little maintenance. Elements of the real arcadia can be had by a tour of Italian gardens. For the rhododendron plant lover in me and those on the on the Rhododendron Roots Tour, when I wanted to put on my landscape historian's hat and visit a garden with a Ha-Ha and no rhodos, I was summarily voted down by the other members of the tour group.

Two years later, alone on assignment in the Ukraine, I visited Sofiyivka an 18th century garden. It was originally a Greek Arcadia and it had been Romanized in the 19th century but not 'rhododendronized' like those in England. I took upon myself an academic exercise to try and purify the Romanizing of it by suggesting those plant materials that should be in it, if it were a Greek Arcadian garden. (See Sitelines 2006 Sophówka (Sofiyivka) an Arcadia in Ukraine.)

Sofiyivka is in Canadian Agriculture zone 4/5 in north western Ukraine, with a continental climate, unlike Greece with a Mediterranean climate in plant hardiness zones 9/10.

Here is my list of missing plant material and plants with substitutes for the Ukrainian colder climate. You would or should expect to find a grove at stream side of nine Golden Poplars, *Populus x canadensis* 'Serotina aurea,' representing the nine Muses of Greek poetry and art, as follows²:

- Calliope, the muse of epic poetry
- Clio, the muse of history
- Erato, muse of lyric poetry
- Euterpe, muse of the flute
- Melpomene, muse of tragedy
- Polyhymnia, muse of mime
- Terpsichore, muse of dance
- Thalia, muse of comedy
- Urania, muse of Astronomy

There must be a thicket of silver coyote willow, *Salix exigua*, to provide a hiding place where Acteon saw Artemis and her nymphs bathing naked and a nearby Laurel tree, the hardy Laurel willow, *Salix pentandra*, where Artemis turned into a tree when Apollo

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tried to have her. Similarly a shrub thicket near a stream, perhaps *Cornus alba* elegantissima, where Aretuosa, the wood nymph, hung up her clothes and where she met Alpheus the stream god. Hephaistos assaulted Athene and managed to spill semen on her thigh only to have her wipe it off and fling it to the ground. The semen engendered the first Athenian king. Athene also gave Athens the gift of the olive tree. In Sofiyivka this should have been the Russian olive, *Eleagnus angustifolia*. I would have noticed had it been there. You can see what improvements planting a few trees can do.



Artemis becoming a tree to escape Apollo

1 The house of Wilem Bentinck were movers and shakers in English Whig society throughout much the 17th Century. That is why the two arms on the B.C. coast bear the Bentinck name. North Bentinck Arm off Burke Channel ends at Bella Coola while South Bentinck Arm turns south at Menzies Point. The arm ends at the small, Pop 2 in 1967 Indian Reservation of Teleomy at the mouth of the Noeick River that flows off Mount Saugstad in the coast range. Both were charted and named by Capt Vancouver, 'in these waters', 1792. See Justice, Clive L. *Mr Menzies Garden legacy, Plant Collecting on the Northwest Coast*, Vancouver, 2000.

2 Major and minor Greek characters and their exploits are summarized in David Leeming's *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology*, Oxford University Press, London, New York and Toronto, 2005. You get some of the full stories complete with sexy illustrations in some of Brian Holme's compilation of Bulfinch's *Mythology The Greek and Roman Fables Illustrated*, Viking press, New York, 1979. The problem with Bulfinch is he mixes up Greek and Roman names for the gods.

Advisory Design Panel (ADP) Report

Rory Dafoe, MBCSLA #182, has been volunteering his time and expertise on the District of Maple Ridge Advisory Design Panel since 2005. His name was accidentally omitted from the 2007 and 2008 Advisory Design Panel Report to the BCSLA Annual General Meeting. We apologize for the omission and thank Rory for continuing to assist the BCSLA.

Respectfully Submitted By:
ADP Sub-Committee

THE BULB

The word rolls out round and full of promise BY KATREEN GRADOWSKA, PIROCHE PLANTS

This west coast spring has certainly proved to be cool and made one reluctant to walk in this year, however, there is a good side to a cooler weather. Early blooming plants had a chance for an uncommonly long show of their colours. Typically daffodils and tulips come into flower and then quickly give a way to bedding annuals. This time energy stored in a bulb or rhizome really had a chance to shine and brighten the somewhat gray mornings.

Planting bulbs in the fall is an act of defiance towards winter. The Van Noort company catalogue (<http://www.vannoortbulb.com/cms/>) provides great selection of plant material and choosing varieties is always thrilling. After planting comes a staring match with local squirrels but the stage is set for next year's joy.

It seems that bulb planting is mostly left to homeowners and city crews. There are several obstacles to incorporating bulbs into regular commercial designs. The planting time and availability of material is very specific (fall or spring) with very little room for compromise in between. As landscape installation in commercial projects tends to develop along their own not always predictable timing, incorporating bulb planting into their schedule might prove rather inconvenient.

Garden varieties and native bulbs are generally poisonous. These poisonous compounds, for example colchicine, (*Colchicum autumnale*), are extremely toxic. Colchicine solutions are used in plant breeding as a method of inducing chromosome mutations. Other bulbs are toxic to various degrees and use the toxins as a perfect self-defense against hungry animals. Raccoons on the other hand, are quite fond of tulips. They can eat them like apples and come back for seconds. The poisonous nature of bulbs may be a consideration preventing their widespread application in public spaces.

There are quite a few West Coast native bulb plants- *Allium acuminatum*, *A.cernuum*, *Erythronium revolutum*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Lilium columbianum*, *Fritillaria lanceolata*, *Camassia quamash* available from the local nurseries (see Native Plants Society of BC website: <http://www.npsbc.org/>). Use of native bulbs is very appropriate in landscape settings bordering the natural growth and woodland sites. Garden varieties of Mediterranean (*Crocus* sp., *Narcissus* sp.) or Middle East origin (*Tulipa* sp., *Muscari* sp.) are quite bold in color and form and fit somewhat better in more formal setting of urban plantings. Many bulbs will naturalize (establish, grow and multiply on their own), as long as the maintenance practices are friendly towards the bulb life cycle. *Muscari*- grape hyacinth, *Galanthus*- snowdrop, *Scilla*- bluebell and *Narcissus*- daffodil are the best choices for long-term plantings. ▶

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1. *Fritillaria meleagris* 2. *Muscari* 3. *Convallaria majalis*

Many spring flowering species become dormant during summer heat months. Summer dormancy could prove to be an asset in the arid areas and water saving gardens. Green roofs plantings incorporated native bulbs in their mixes together with grasses and stonecrops. (http://www.natsnursery.com/LiveRoof_Modular_System.php)

I find bulb species quite fascinating. Their origin and life cycle are proof of resilience and adaptation. I would like to see more permanent, naturalized bulb plantings in urban and woodland parks. The *Fritillaria meleagris* (Checkered lily) flowers have a reptilian air about them as they emerge from the ground. It never ceases to amaze me how stunning they are.

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President's Message

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY G BLAIR GUPPY MBCSLA

"Greatness comes by beginning something that doesn't end with you." (Robin Sharma)

It gives me great pleasure to continue to contribute to the profession – helping to facilitate the efforts, initiatives and outstanding work that is being executed by your Board of Directors – as your BCSLA President.

We owe a great thanks to all Members that contributed to the nomination process this past spring as well as those who stood forward at this year's AGM. I am pleased to report that Dr. Katherine Dunster was acclaimed as President-Elect. Rounding out our new Directors, please welcome Cecilia Achiam, Gerald Fleming and Ray Visser. Dylan Chernoff, Dave Hutch and Carolyn Kennedy each have one year remaining in their terms as Mark Vaughan was elected by acclamation as the CSLA representative at the AGM but due to personal commitments he was forced to resign shortly after his election. Pawel Gradowski had expressed interest in the position prior to the AGM and he was appointed (in compliance with Bylaw #3.38-3.39) at the May Board meeting as Mark's replacement. (Many thanks to Liane McKenna for committing herself fully to this position for the past four years.) Geoff Gooderham has succeeded Kate Davis-Johnson as Treasurer for a two-year term. Andrew Robertson has agreed to serve as Registrar. Cynthia Girling will continue to represent the University of British Columbia on the Board. Teri Cantin is your Intern/ Associate Member Representative and will continue through the summer at which time her replacement will be appointed. A Student Representative will be appointed later this year.

'LANscapes: Celebrating Collaborative Networks in Space Design' – the 2008 BCSLA Annual Conference and Trade Show – saw an outstanding turnout from sponsors,

Top right: Blair Guppy and guest speaker Richard Haag

Bottom left: Afternoon Reception

Bottom right: Cornelia Oberlander enjoying the Annual Trade Show



Members, and local media. This is, without a doubt, a result of a tremendously organized and well-publicized effort on behalf of our Conference Organizing Committee and team of volunteers. Booked beyond capacity, this year's presenters and invited guests stepped up in a brilliant effort with much relevant and reliable content. Feedback during the Conference, and since, has been overwhelmingly positive. I would like to extend my personal thanks to our Member firms, and sponsors for donating funds, staff, time, services and in-kind support. Our exhibitors offered much positive feedback also. However, without their participation and support and on-hand personal expertise, our annual Conference would be much less successful. I would posit that our Members who were the lucky recipients of raffled gifts from our sponsors this year would concur – a big thanks to Lumec Inc. and Mumby Professional Insurance Brokers.

The coming year promises to be an exciting one. Fuelled by the frenzied influences of Olympic pressure Landscape Architects in British Columbia will be participants in many exciting local and regional changes. To further the broadened public and political acknowledgement and efforts of the profession and its Members, Communications will see a marked increase in spending, precise planning, and much-needed volunteer effort. Dave Hutch and the Communications Subcommittee will continue to move forward on the development and implementation of the Society's identity – strengthening our

print and on-line presence at the national and international level. 'Sitelines.org' will continue to evolve as part of this process, providing a more publicly accessible snapshot of our Society, its Members, and the profession.

We have seen the benefits that publicity efforts have afforded us to date. It is critical that we stay the course and continue to broaden our reach and influence. As Ray Visser is a new Director who lives and works in Kamloops, he will be invited to help with this initiative. Ray has been recognized in the past for his volunteer work on community projects and dedication to further the goals of the profession. It is my intention that an Interior Chapter of the BCSLA be established to ensure that our more rural member's issues are given a provincial forum to be heard, and to allow our collective voice to be representative of the province of British Columbia. Work on networking and CE activities continues on Vancouver Island with the tireless efforts by volunteers from those communities and Gerald Fleming will be taking the lead on the Island.

A committee of volunteers will be continuing work with our allied organizations on proposed legislative changes. This past year I had the opportunity to participate in some exciting and promising meetings with members of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) to discern future opportunities for collaboration with both Provincial and State Governments. We are the leaders in

Canada for internationally trained professionals and our ITP site is being used as a sample for other regulatory bodies in Canada and the US. This is progress, but it is the work of the Landscape Architecture Project (LAP III) Sub-Committee and its volunteers who will ultimately see this gap bridged.

There have been many inquiries from Members and the public for our professional fee guide. Building on the information provided by the Workplace Survey, spear-headed and completed this past year by Chris Sterry, it is our goal to have the fee guide re-posted to the BCSLA website within the coming year.

To date, in 2008, the Credentials Committee and Board of Directors approved fifteen Intern Member three Associate Member and two student applications. One candidate was invited to appear before the Spring 2008 Board of Examiners in the Landscape Architect category and four new candidates were approved in the Registered Landscape Architect category as reciprocity or senior practitioner candidates. In total sixteen candidates are eligible to sit for the Board of Examiners and eight candidates will sit for the exams in late May.

Vacancies currently exist on a number of Sub-Committees and leaders are needed for many on-going, recent, and past initiatives. Unfortunately, nowhere is the gap between professional ideals and practice more apparent than on the issues of professional responsibility. It is my belief that ALL Members have obligations to assist the profession. Those of us who have assumed, or been nominated to those obligations have made tremendous contributions to the BCSLA in order to better ourselves in the public interest. Yet the proportion of landscape architects who continue to contribute has remained dispiritingly small.

Volunteer work offers young students, interns and professionals a range of practical benefits, such as training, experience, and professional contacts. It is a way for any individual to expand ones perspectives, explore alternative work options, and build our problem-solving skill sets.

Volunteer work also benefits participants

collectively as well as individually. Providing free services is one of the best ways to improve the public image and standing of landscape architects and landscape architectural practice. In addition, volunteer activity generates valuable good will amongst the broader design community. I envision a 'LANscape Sub-Committee' be established to support and execute one public project every year.


There is one final justification for volunteering one's time to the profession – to establish a network of peers and provide an open venue for presenting and discussing ideas. *We must BECOME the change we want to see* (Ghandi). An empowered organization is one in which individuals share their knowledge, skills, and desires to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success. The significant challenges we face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we are accustomed to.

We have a young and ambitious group of individuals this year. Building on the momentum associated with our Communications and Identity initiatives, it is my hope that the BCSLA Board of Directors will seek to give rise to a network of programs and publicity that will increase our numbers and garner the political and public recognition this organization deserves. In order to ensure the success of our initiatives 'WE NEED YOU'.




Delegates during one of the many presentations.

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BC Landscape Architects Honour Some of BC's Best Citizens

BY TARA CULHAM

On May 3, 2008 the BC Society of Landscape Architects took the opportunity to honour some of BC's best citizens at our Annual Awards Dinner.

The BCSLA Community Service Awards began many years ago to mark the 25th Anniversary of the BCSLA.

JAMES EVANS was recognized in the Individual Award category which recognizes an individual who has, in their day to day activities, made the landscape of our world a more delightful and better place to live whether it be in their creation of a small garden that many people enjoy or in their campaign to preserve a portion of our environment. Mr. Evans is the spokesman for the Victoria Park Neighbourhood Group.

Dawn Hanna represented the JERICHO STEWARDSHIP GROUP in the Quasi-Public Agency or Non-Governmental Organization category that recognizes major contributions to our local, provincial or national landscapes through its advocacy – its policy, design-planning or conservation initiative. Jericho Park is a 54-hectare Vancouver Park east of Spanish Banks. The Jericho Stewardship Group is a collection of volunteers and representatives from non-profit organizations who are working in conjunction with the Vancouver Board of Parks and

Recreation to restore and enhance the natural habitat of Jericho Park.

Michael Moscone from T. Moscone & Bros. Landscaping Ltd. was on hand to accept the BCSLA Community Service Award in the Contractor Award Category, which recognizes a contracting firm that, in the opinion of the profession, has done an outstanding job of bringing one or several important projects to completion or, has consistently demonstrated a high quality of professionalism, workmanship and pride in their work. Moscone & Brothers are celebrating sixty years of business in Vancouver.

BCSLA is pleased to recognize the work done by THE REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION OF BC. For more than twenty years they have generously supported sustainable real estate and land use practices for the benefit of British Columbians. They are the recipients of the BCSLA Community Service Award in the Public Agency Category. The award recognizes an agency that has made major advances in the design, planning and management of place, has demonstrated innovation in that work, and has shown respect for and consideration of the landscape architecture profession.

Dave Thompson, Past President, honoured TERE CANTIN, Intern/Associate Rep. Teri has volunteered by: providing valuable input at Board meetings, assisting new Intern and Associate Members in the Road

to Registration, taking the lead on many annual conference tasks, organizing licensure exam preparation workshops and selection of books for the UBC/BCSLA Book Program.

Exceptional Contribution to the BCSLA:

All Members of the BCSLA are invited to send in nominations for Exceptional Service to the Society in the past year. Two Members were honoured as Members who made a special contribution to the Society.

CYNTHIA GIRLING continues to take a lead role in organizing UBC student events such as the mentoring day, organized sessional instructors, set up the student and professional liaison events and more. Cynthia has represented BCSLA on the recent CSLA Professional Awards Jury and on the BCSLA Board of Examiners.

JAY LAZZARIN is the recipient of this award for his continued dedication to BCSLA and our Members. He has been the “go-to” volunteer on insurance options and BCSLA is fortunate that he volunteers his time and expertise. Jay also served on the BCSLA Board of Directors.

NANCY MCLEAN was recognized in the Significant Contribution to the Profession on the Part of a Landscape Architect in Public Practice. Nancy often takes the time to teach staff, fellow professionals, and the community at large on the environmental value of trees and the benefits of creating an “urban quilt” of wildlife corridors and patches of green. In addition she volunteers her time to several professional and community services organizations.

Change in Local Insurance Brokers

BY JAY LAZZARIN MBCSLA AND BCSLA INSURANCE SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR

For a number of years, Mumby Insurance Brokers Inc. has been offering BCSLA members the opportunity of purchasing various insurance plans at group discounts.

Recently the local broker who provides home, excess private auto and business insurance has changed. The new broker is:

Axis Insurance Managers Inc. Contact: Brenda Erickson
11058 - 8th Ave. West, Vancouver, BC V6H 3Z5
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BCSLA's local contact Eileen Luongo will continue to provide preferred programs for life, disability, office expense, income protection and dental insurance. You can reach Eileen at;

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You owe it to yourself to review these voluntary insurance plans. There is no cost for a personal insurance or business proposal. Our contract for BCSLA group commercial errors and omission insurance options remains unchanged. Contact Metrix Professional Insurance Brokers at Tel: (604) 683-5583; metrix@mpib.com.



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SHANGHAI SPACES:

BY BRYCE GAUTHIER
BCSLA INTERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Living and working in Shanghai



Top: Connecting Spaces Bottom: Tall spaces

Shanghai's archetypical urban form is the Lilong, a narrow row-house dwelling, typically only a few meters wide. Long rows of these attached dwellings are the threads of Shanghai's urban fabric, a fabric that is rapidly disappearing as whole neighbourhoods are razed to make room for modern condos and high rises.

While living in Shanghai, my wife and I received offers to renovate several Lilongs for successful foreign and Chinese entrepreneurs who wanted to convert them into boutiques, bars or residences. Typically, when a client purchased a Lilong, they were buying barely a shell, punished by years of neglect. It was our

Yesterday I met with a friend whom I had worked with in a landscape architecture office in China. He had recently returned from the hustle of life in Shanghai, and was still suffering from a bad case of reverse culture shock. Craving Chinese street food, we sought out a dive off Kingsway and after few plates of noodles and dumplings, began to reminisce about our lives in Shanghai and becoming re-acquainted to Canada. We laughed at having to remember to obey traffic lights; complained about having to file our own paperwork; and lamented about having to CAD rather than draw by hand.

"I drive people crazy always talking about China", I said.

"I don't even try. No one understands."

I told him I had offered to write an article on living and working in China. He looked at me like I had gone mad.

"How many words?"

"1200".

"That's it?? Good luck."

How do I distill living and working in Shanghai in such a small space? How do I describe the frenetic activity of a city of 20 million people, or the pace of work? Or setting up an office for a Canadian company, or working in a massive Chinese landscape architecture office, or starting my own design business all in a few years? It sounds like an exaggerated story, but it really isn't that unusual for Shanghai, a city where fortunes are made and lost on a daily basis.

Perhaps the most unique story I can tell is the one of the business I started and how the design of tiny 10 square meter courtyards came to challenge all of my perceptions about space, precedent and place.

job to not just restore them, but to turn them into show pieces they could use to impress friends and neighbours.

As a landscape designer, naturally my role was to focus on the exterior. Lilongs typically consist of several enclosed outdoor spaces: an entry court, a small light well in the center, and roof decks. This typology ensured adequate light and ventilation in every room. It also creates a powerful relationship between interior and exterior space and many opportunities to design interesting landscapes in very small spaces.

In the past, these exterior spaces served strictly functional purposes. Entry courts were used for storage, light wells for

preparing food, and roof decks for hanging laundry. As a result of years of neglect and abuse, the outdoor spaces were often in the worst shape, walls were pitted and stained, entry gates found rusting off their hinges, and ornaments smashed – a legacy of the Cultural Revolution. But my challenges went beyond mere renovation issues.

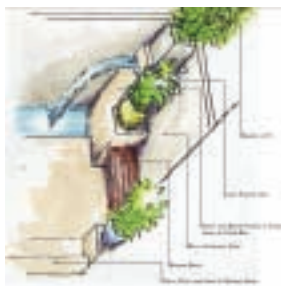
First, there were practical constraints. Lawn or large planting areas were difficult to maintain given that good planting soil, mulch and irrigation were next to impossible to find. Because these tiny courtyards were surrounded by 2 meter high concrete walls, they were not the best environment for plants.

Second, our clients were not interested in ►

the typical Canadian backyard. Shanghai's climate is not conducive to outdoor entertainment, and most of our clients did not really have any interest in occupying these spaces. Instead they wanted something they could appreciate from the comfort of their living room and show-off to their guests.

Charged with delivering a captivating experience in a tiny space for particular clients, I needed inspiration. I realized I had to approach things differently. I needed something rooted in the unique place and time I was living in, but with a strong link to Shanghai's past. The layout of the Lilong house, with its strong relationship between interior and exterior spaces, led me back to the basic premise of the courtyard house and its distant relationship to traditional Chinese gardens. The concept of framed landscapes forming a carefully composed picture, like a painting, seen from adjacent living spaces, was my first inspiration.

To achieve this, we installed glass floor-to-ceiling doors and windows along the



entire length of the court to bring the view completely into the adjoining rooms. We weren't interested just in a connection between inside and outside; we wanted to virtually eliminate the distinction between the two.

Small details were refined, and then elevated to focal points, because there was room for little else. There was only space to emphasize a singular element, such as an over-sized door, a water feature or a cast-in-place seat. These elements had to be resolved in such a way that they ceased to be seen as such functional items, and instead became feature elements in themselves. Water features were favoured elements, designed to create a dramatic entry, but also to provide cooling and muffle noise from the lane. In a neighbourly nod to socialism, entryways were always understated from the lane, with enticing details hinting at the wealth behind them.

The light wells located in the center of the house had windows on all sides, creating a view from every room. Statues and water features were added to create a glass box effect that was striking at night. One project featured metal planters, suspended from above with down-lights installed underneath, creating the effect of passing under a giant green chandelier.

Roof decks were transformed into outdoor lounges, used to entertain at night when the heat became less intense. One project had a 4m long bar made from a hand-hewn timber posts and concrete seats that were lit from underneath. The lounge area became a favourite place for guests to take-in the Gotham-like views of Shanghai at night.

The abundance of vintage architectural detail that these old houses contained was restored, then juxtaposed with modern materials and finishes. We made water features out of copper and planters out of polished stone. We re-polished terrazzo and marble floors or carefully cleaned and reused old Spanish inlaid tiles, reminiscent of Shanghai's last great colonial era.

The story of the people who helped us build these little creations is the most interesting of all. They were migrant, semi-literate peasants who, like me, had come to Shanghai seeking opportunity. Their entire families would move right into the construction site. Wives cooked and hung laundry in the rafters, while children played in the piles of debris, inhaling dust and worse. In spring and fall, they returned to their village to plant or harvest rice, but they would always come back, or sent family members in their stead, if they found better work elsewhere.

Though we came from very different backgrounds and cultures, we shared a common enthusiasm and appreciation for our work. The relationship between us was closer than a typical contractor-architect relationship, as what we were doing was unique to both of us. They spoke no English. We communicated in basic Chinese and hand gestures. Details were drawn or sketched in the sand, or mocked up. In a way, this method of communication brought us closer than if we had been able to speak to each other directly.

We were kids in a candy shop, living a kind of designer's fantasy. What I designed, imagined and drew always got built, with few compromises, and we were there, every day, working with the contractors to see it built – ten square meters at a time.

Since graduating with a Masters in Landscape Architecture at UBC in 2001, Bryce Gauthier has been dividing his time between design firms in China and North America. He recently spent 3 years living in Shanghai as a design consultant to both foreign and local architecture offices. He also obtained several independent commissions focusing on the design of small urban spaces, particularly custom gardens, destination hotels spas and commercial plazas. He is currently working at Sharp + Diamond Landscape Architecture Inc. on projects with a particular focus on sustainable urban design. More images and information relating to Bryce's work in Shanghai are available at www.gauthierwan.com.

Top: Courtyard detail • Bottom : Shanghai Old and New

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