



RAIN WATER IS PRECIOUS!

**SF-RIMA™**

The ecological paving stone system that's kind to the environment.

**PERMEABLE PAVEMENT**

Rain water infiltration is important for the regeneration of valuable ground water. SF-Rima™ reduces or eliminates runoff, decreases flooding and relieves sewer systems – yet provides a sturdy pavement for vehicular traffic.

**TURF PAVEMENT**

For the irrigation and cooling of surfaces. Strong enough for parking lots and light trafficked areas. SF-Rima™ – installed with wider joints – environmentally friendly and economical.

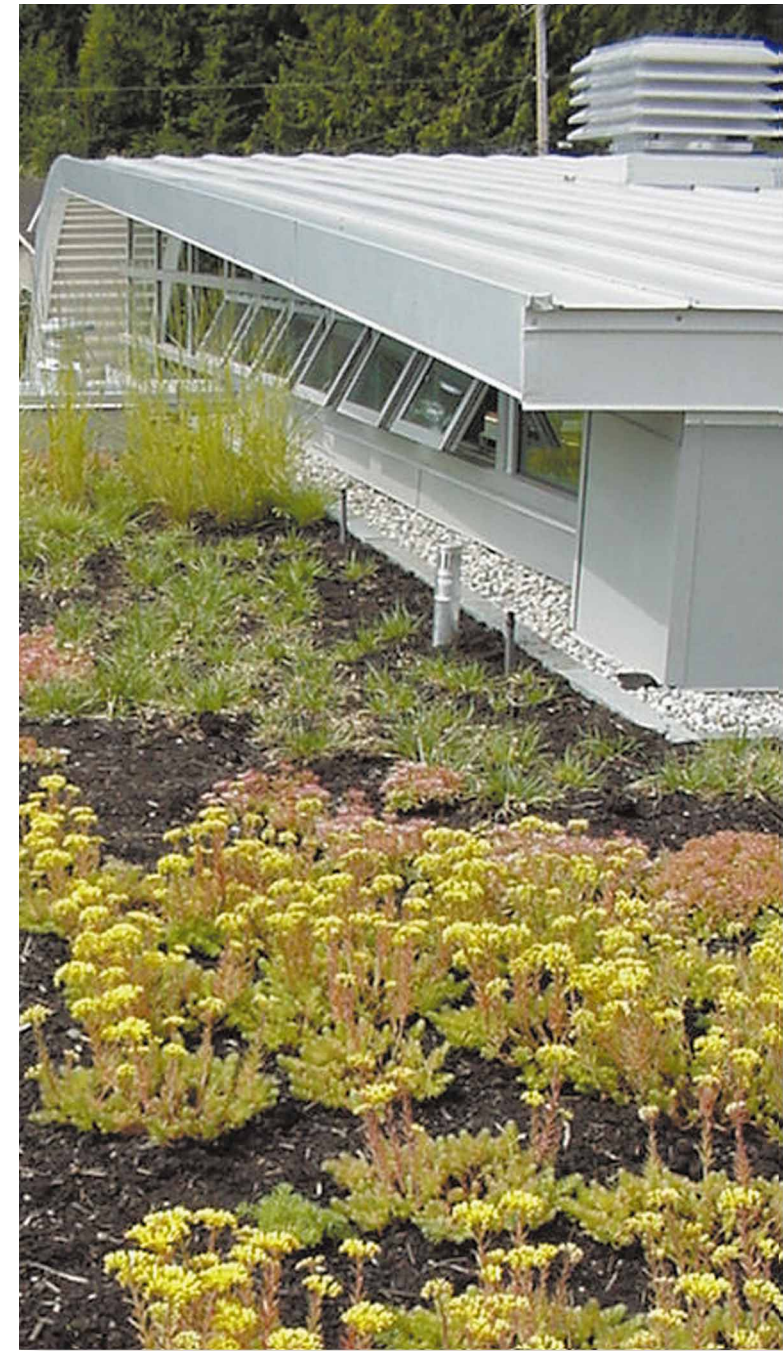
19675 98th Avenue  
 Langley BC Canada V1M 2X5  
 Tel. 604.888.0555 Fax. 604.888.0014

1821 Mayes Road SE  
 Olympia WA 98503-3472  
 Tel. 360.456.7580 Fax. 360.456.7583



WWW.WESTCONPAVERS.COM | EMAIL: INFO@WESTCONPAVERS.COM | TOLL FREE: 1.888.816.2111

**SITELINES**  
 Bimonthly Publication of The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects



Coastal Meadow and a Forest in the Sky

Across the Open Field • Barclay Square • Switzerland • Techno - Apparatus



What if your only deadline was dinner?

Your local Landscape Structures Representative...

**LANDSCAPE  
STRUCTURES INC**

**BC Office**  
3762 Napier Street  
Burnaby, BC V5C 3E5  
ph: (604) 294-4224  
fx: (604) 294-4002



Toll Free: 1-866-HABITAT  
E-mail: [info@habitat-systems.com](mailto:info@habitat-systems.com)  
[www.habitat-systems.com](http://www.habitat-systems.com)

**AB Office**  
PO Box 5131, Stn A  
Calgary, AB T2H 1X3  
ph: (403) 294-1919  
fx: (403) 294-1991



One source –

many  
solutions

For nearly seven decades, Rain Bird has been the preferred choice for contractors who know that time is money.

That means for homes, parks, municipalities, sports fields, commercial centers, schools or golf courses, Terasen Waterworks is your source for Rain Bird irrigation products.



**RAIN BIRD**

Install Confidence.  
Install Rain Bird.

[www.terasen.com](http://www.terasen.com)

Abbotsford  
1-800-538-2084

Courtney  
1-888-567-7473

Duncan  
1-800-366-0333

Victoria  
1-800-561-0989

Grande Prairie  
780-513-5010

Cloverdale  
1-800-665-2134

Kamloops  
1-800-284-6480

Richmond  
1-800-667-2445

Calgary  
1-800-242-3176

Lethbridge  
403-327-9132

Coquitlam  
604-524-6691

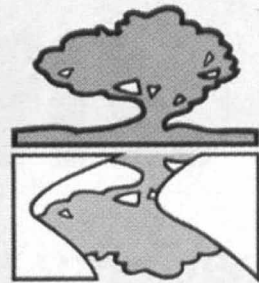
Kelowna  
1-800-667-2343

Vernon  
1-800-461-9987

Edmonton  
1-888-232-9411

Regina  
306-569-5280

**We're more  
than just trees...**



**specimen  
trees**  
WHOLESALE NURSERIES LTD.

Please call us Toll Free  
**1-800-471-4448**

**www.specimentrees.com**

email: inquiry@specimentrees.com

18598 Advent Road  
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2G8  
Canada

Phone: 604-465-7122  
Fax: 604-465-8100

**we're much much more!!**



**BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

110 - 355 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8

Tel: 604.682.5610  
Fax: 604.681.3394  
Email: admin@bcsla.org  
Website: www.bcsla.org

President	Will McKenna	604.530.4983
President Elect	Thomas Llewellyn	604.682.5610
Past President	Peter Kreuk	604.684.4611
Registrar	Ian Wasson	604.294.7216
Treasurer	Margot Long	604.688.6111
Directors	Jeff Cutler	604.646.4110
	Joe Fry	604.738.5768
	Pawel Gradowski	604.684.4611
	Yolanda Leung	604.533.6014
	David Rose	604.904.9804
	Bev Windjack	250.598.0105
CSLA Rep	Adrienne Brown	604.986.9058
Intern Rep	Blair Guppy	604.736.5768
UBC Rep	Doug Paterson	604.822.3786
Student Rep	Julie Lommerse	604.325.9137
Administrator	Tara Culham	604.682.5610

Sitelines is published six times per year; February, April, June, August, October, and December by the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects and is mailed to all BCSLA members, registered landscape architects, associates and affiliates. the editorial deadline is the 8th and advertising is the 16th day of the intervening months. Advertising rate information is available on request. Inquiries regarding editorial, advertising, or other issues should be addressed to the Sidelines Editor, c/o the BCSLA at the above address.

Sitelines Group		
Editors	Laura-Jean Kelly	604.730.4867
	Cameron Murray	604.730.8256
Advertising	Tara Culham	604.682.5610
Editor		fax 604.681.3394
Design	Donna Deschamps	604.875.0825
Printing	Print & Run	604.662.7772

The purpose of Sidelines 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.

## A Coastal Meadow and a Forest in the Sky

### Two Green Roof Case Studies:

The Sechelt Justice Services Centre and the City Farmer Cob Garden Structure

By Randall Sharp, MBCSLA

Over the last several years, green roofs are creating a huge interest among design professionals as solutions to controlling storm water, reducing the heat island effect and improving the quality of the urban environment. Two BC projects have restored a portion of the site's original landscapes lost to urban development. The eco-roof for the Sechelt Justice Building was created to replicate the coastal meadow ecosystem of the Strait of Georgia Basin. On a smaller scale, the City Farmer 'Cob House' and green roof symbolizes a remnant forest landscape in Vancouver.

Both installations use lightweight growing media yet different drainage and water retention components and planting strategies. The flat Sechelt roof demonstrates the use of a Type-A eco-roof profile, a lightweight economical growing medium over a drain mat on a flat roof. The Cob structure features a Type B eco-roof for extra moisture retention on a sloping roof.

The District of Sechelt and the British Columbia Buildings Corporation required a high performance energy efficient yet economical structure to house both a Provincial Courthouse and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The four-way client group was sold on the benefits of a lightweight extensive green roof to reduce storm water runoff, mitigate the heat island effect and to conserve water. The green roof is inaccessible, but provides an attractive vista for the judge's chambers and a habitat for songbirds.

In Sechelt, one block from the Pacific Ocean, the vegetated roof replaces an existing grass meadow lost to development. In the practice of landscape architecture, we restore natural landscapes and establish new plant communities for specific microclimates. Urban rooftops are similar to windy exposed sites characterized by extremes in temperature and moisture stress. The coastal meadow ecosystem of the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound basin lies in the rain shadow of Vancouver Island and the Olympic mountains. These dry coastal sites are exposed, south facing slopes, which receive the full force of dry summer winds and winter storms. Sedums (stonecrop) and hardy grasses grow naturally in 2 - 3" of soil over bedrock, in gaps and on slopes with loose rock.



Coastal Meadow on Cortes Island, Photograph by Randall Sharp

The roof membrane for the Sechelt Justice Building is a Soprema SBS built up roof with a torch down synthetic membrane on a 1% slope. Rainwater from the upper roof cascades into an infiltration basin and dry rock stream. Cost was a prime concern, therefore local soil products and a conventional 1/2" dimpled plastic drain mat with integral filter fabric were used. The weight of the black pumice and soil blend, fully saturated at 3" depth, is 15 lbs. per square foot meeting structural requirements.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### In this Issue:

A Coastal Meadow and a Forest in the Sky	2
Review - Across the Open Field	5
Letter to the Editor	8
Letter from Switzerland	8
Techno-Apparatus	10

The 3" mineral substrate comprises black pumice and blended soil amendments. Black pumice or lapillo, a lightweight aggregate from volcanic activities, was selected for the growing medium because of its quick revegetation. The black pumice was sourced from a volcano near Quesnel in the interior of British Columbia, supplied by Verdir Systems. The 1/8 - 1/4" (3-5mm) black pumice is a volcanic glass of low density and high porosity (60%), which offers both good drainage and moisture retention while anchoring roots and protecting against wind erosion.

The growing medium is a recycled product of the local forest industry, comprising hemlock and fir bark aged 7 to 10 years with a carbon to nitrogen ratio of less than 40:1. The decomposed woody material is blended with well-rotted mushroom manure and landscape green waste. The high percentage of organic matter provides both rapid and slow nutrient release and active microbial activity to provide rapid growth. The green roof was installed in September 2002 by Deluxe Landscaping, in Sechelt and achieved full coverage in 9 months in advance of the hot dry summer.

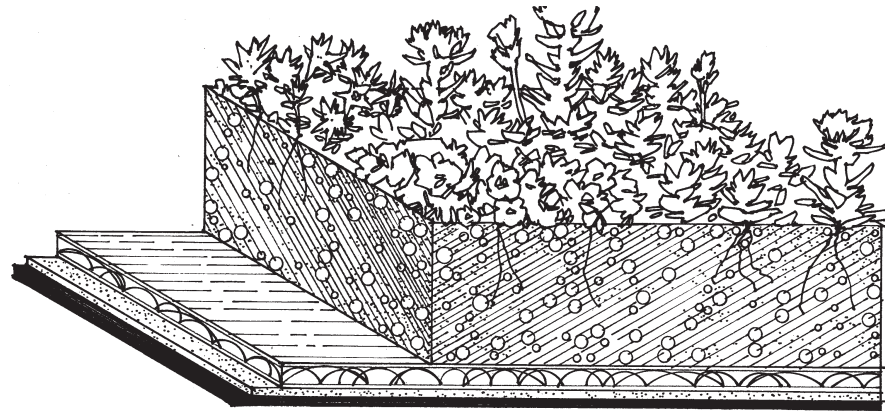
For the Sechelt eco-roof, both native and non-native species were planted for hardiness, drought tolerance, rapid growth and bio-diversity. The colorful design features waves of green and blue grasses turning golden brown complemented by green, red and silver foliated sedums with white, red and yellow blossoms. The grasses and sedums were planted 8" on center from plugs, 1" diameter, 72 to a tray. Species supplied by Peel's Nursery include Broad-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco' and 'Purpurea'), Douglas stonecrop (*S. douglasii* glauca), and Tricolor stonecrop (*S. spurium* "Tricolor"). Grasses comprise Rocky Mountain fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Greenleaf Fescue (*F. viridula*), Arctic bluegrass (*Poa arctica*), and wheatgrass (*Agropyron violaceum*).

The Sechelt green roof was installed four months before building completion, to promote root growth in the fall. The early installation created a few challenges. Construction sub trades trampled plants while installing windows, siding and mechanical equipment. The sedum flowers attract insects and thus songbirds to the roof. However, crows were a nuisance at first, pulling up plant plugs looking for grubs. To accelerate plant coverage, the roof was temporarily irrigated and fertilized, once in the fall and three times the next year. The overhead spray irrigation caused excessive weed growth, but now that system is turned off, the germination of weed seeds are minimal.

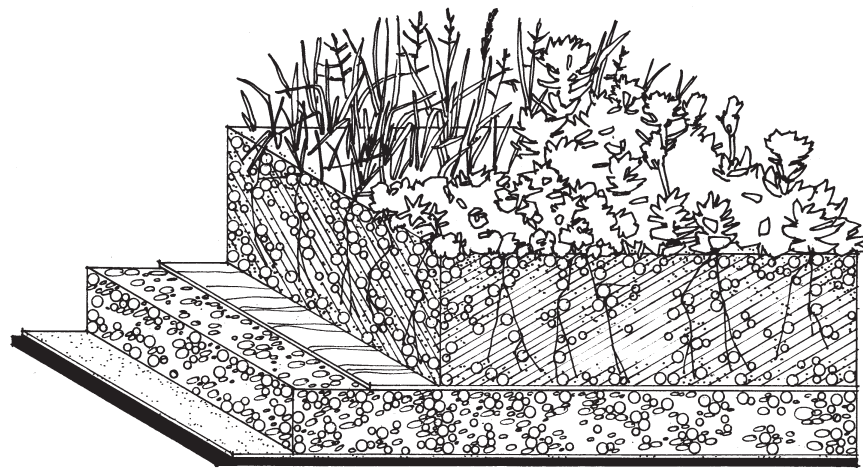
The eco-roof was fully established after nine months exceeding client expectations. The grasses and sedums go dormant in the summer turning shades of golden and russet brown. In our mild winter, the plants turn green again and in the spring produce a spectacular show of color for the enjoyment of the judges and courthouse staff. After three years of research, design and installation, the eco roof for Sechelt is now a 'coastal meadow in the sky'.

In Vancouver, at the 6th and Maple Community

*"Landscape Architects should be at the forefront of sustainable design, pushing the envelope by rolling out the green carpeting for living roofs."*



Eco-Roof A for Sechelt, Verdir Systems Roofgarden



Eco-Roof B for City Farmer, Verdir Systems

Gardens behind the SPEC House, a 'Hobbit House' was built by John Freeman of Erth Design Consultants to celebrate the 25th anniversary of City Farmer. Freeman is a green builder who studied landscape architecture at the University of Toronto and has built cob houses in Victoria and Denman Island. The theme and decorations for the City Farmer garden shed is a profile of the coastal forest floor and the below grade soil horizons, sculpted on the walls of the cob house by artist Shawna Muhic. The roof of the structure is capped by rainforest plants in a sloping mound complete with stumps and logs.

The Cob structure utilizes a Type B eco-roof that includes a 1" deep Tephragro drainage layer covered by a lightweight root permeable separation fabric that allows the roots to grow deeper and tap into a greater depth of moisture. The growing medium varies from 3' on the edges to 10" deep in the center. The composition is similar to the roof in Sechelt, a mix of black pumice (Tephragro) and blended soil amendments available from Verdir Systems.

The Coastal Forest plants include Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Deer Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Spiny-Wood Fern (*Dryopteris expansa*), Low Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), Silverweed (*Potentilla racillis*), Villous Cinquefoil (*Potentilla villosa*), Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), Satin Flower (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*), Broad-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco') and Oregon stonecrop (*Sedum oregonum*), supplied by Peel's Nurseries. Festuca and Poa grasses were seeded directly into the growing medium.

The planting at the Cob House is more experimental, however the green roof is under the shade of a large cherry tree and there are many volunteers at City Farmer who will be looking after the plants. Landscape Architects should be at the forefront of sustainable design pushing the building envelope by rolling out the green carpeting for living roofs.



## BCSLA Calendar of Events

### 2003

October 28	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
October 30	American Society of Landscape Architects Annual General Meeting, New Orleans, LA
November 3	Sitelines Annual Contact Information Updates Due
October 31	CSLA College of Fellows Nominations Deadline
November 14	50th BC Landscape and Nursery Association Annual General Meeting
November	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
November 25	CSLA Professional Awards Juror Submissions Deadline
November 31	BCSLA Festive Season Party
December	Light Resource Lectures on Architecture & Design Cornelia Hahn Oberlander/UBC Lecture Series Featuring: Anuradha Cunha, University of Pennsylvania
December 2	LARE Candidate Sitting, UBC, Vancouver, BC
December 8-9	BCSLA Public Sector Sub-Committee Meeting
December 15	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
December 16	BCSLA 2004 Membership Dues Payable
December 31	BCSLA Continuing Education Form Submission Deadline

### 2004

January 1	Continuing Education Becomes Mandatory
January 27	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
January 30	BCSLA Community Service Awards Nomination Deadline
January 30	BCSLA Membership Application Deadline
January 30	CSLA Professional Awards Submission Deadline
February	BCSLA Credentials Committee Meeting
February	December LARE Scores Released
February	CLARB Region V Meeting
February 24	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
February 28-29	CSLA Professional Awards Adjudication, Winnipeg, MB
March 9	Light Resource Lectures on Architecture & Design Harry J. Webb/ UBC Lecture Series Featuring: Claude Cormier
March 23	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
April 9	LARE Candidate Order Deadline (June 2004 Sitting)
April 27	BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
April 30	BCSLA Board of Examiners Spring Sitting (date tentative)
May 12	BCSLA Annual General Meeting (date tentative)
May	CSLA Professional Awards Presentation
May 12 - 14	BC Land Summit, University of BC - Vancouver
June 14-16	LARE Candidate Sitting
June 16-20	CSLA Annual General Meeting, St. John, NL

**MEADOWS  
LANDSCAPE  
SUPPLY LTD.**

Exclusive Distributors  
of

**CLASSIC  
STONE  
PRODUCTS**

**FUNCTIONAL  
CONCRETE,  
ARCHITECTURAL  
BEAUTY**

in

**Trash Receptacles  
Ashtrays  
Planters  
Picnic Tables /  
Benches  
Park Benches  
Tree Grates**

- \* Composted lawn & garden blend
- \* 24 bulk bins of organic & aggregate materials
- \* Complete line of pond supplies
- \* Pavers & retaining walls
- \* Concrete garden ornaments & fountains

18020 Kennedy Road,  
Pitt Meadows, B.C.  
V3Y 1Z1

Phone: 604-465-1311  
Fax: 604-465-1312  
e-mail: [meadows@telus.net](mailto:meadows@telus.net)  
[meadowslandscapesupply.com](http://meadowslandscapesupply.com)

## December LARE

The December sitting of the Landscape Architectural Registration Exams are scheduled for December 8-9, 2003. A suggested reading list is available on the BCSLA website at [www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/LARE%20BOOKS%2002.PDF](http://www.bcsla.org/pdf.htm/LARE%20BOOKS%2002.PDF). Watch the Friday email for details on workshops.

### BCSLA Book Program

In order to assist BCSLA Intern Members in preparation for the LARE, BCSLA initiated a Book Donation Program with the UBC MacMillan Library. BCSLA donates funds and the library matches those funds for the purchase of titles to be added to the Reserve Collection. The books remain in that collection for the first year and then are reviewed to see if they should be moved to the general collection. The Library recognizes the BCSLA contribution via a bookplate and an acknowledgement on the on-line catalogue. In 2002, six books were purchased from a list supplied by BCSLA. The book program is continuing this year. Watch this space for updates. Many thanks to Linda Nielsen who was instrumental in setting up this program and to Blair Guppy who has succeeded Linda as the BCSLA Intern Representative and who will continue to work on the book program.

### BC Landscape Standard - Sixth Edition

The BCSLA in partnership with the BC Landscape and Nursery Association has taken delivery of the second printing of the BC Landscape Standard. The purpose of the Standard is to document acceptable landscape construction practices for the province of BC as agreed upon by the BCSLA, BCLNA, government authorities and other industry associations. We thank everyone who contributed their time to with the research and organization of the Standard. If you do not have the most recent edition of the BC Landscape Standard contact the BCSLA office to order your copy today.

### ATTN: Intern Landscape Architects

A reminder to complete and submit your Experience Log Forms to the BCSLA office on a regular basis. Please keep a copy for your records. Forms are available online at [www.bcsla.org/education.htm](http://www.bcsla.org/education.htm). Work experience must be obtained to provide sufficient experience to meet generally accepted standards of practical skill and an appropriate level of competence required to engage in the practice of the profession of landscape architecture.

### Mandatory Continuing Education

As voted on at the 2003 BCSLA Annual General Meeting, the Continuing Education program will become mandatory on January 1, 2004.

### 2004 Sitelines Annual and Firm Roster

All BCSLA Members are encouraged to review your listing in the current 2003 Sitelines Annual and Firm Roster. Changes must be received in the BCSLA office by October 31, 2003.

### BC Land Summit Conference - May 12 to 14, 2004

This unique conference brings together professionals from a variety of land-use related professions within BC, to share ideas, network and build understanding across the different professions. The Call for Proposals is open and the deadline for submissions is November 28, 2003. Proposals for presentations and workshops are now sought from a wide range of professionals, practitioners, academics and others to make the program come alive. Interested individuals will be able to directly submit their proposals online. To download the Call for Proposals document directly, go to: [www.bclandsummit.com/BCLS\\_proposals.pdf](http://www.bclandsummit.com/BCLS_proposals.pdf).

### It's a Boy!

Congratulations to former BCSLA Student Liaison, Steve Beebe and his wife on the birth of their son, Matthew Alexander on Sept. 25th. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and is a healthy little guy with a good set of lungs!

# Across the Open Field

## Essays Drawn from English Landscapes

BY LAURIE OLIN, ASLA

University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000

Book Review By Clive Justice, FCSLA

When I recently read *Across the Open Field* I wasn't quite sure how to review Laurie Olin's very personal experiences with the English countryside, especially for a professional audience of Landscape Architects. However, I soon realized it came out of a long line of North Americans who experienced the roots in memory of their landscape heritage on seeing the landscape in southern England. The landscape of William Gilpin, Uvedale Price, Capability Brown, William Kent and Humphry Repton was the landscape in memory for most English, Scottish and Irish immigrants to North America, especially to the Pacific Northwest in the 19th and 20th centuries. What better way than to take the historical approach and compare Laurie Olin's *Across the Open Field* with those who have shared this experience and gone before?

Before there were landscape architects there were surgeon-botanists. In 1792 Archibald Menzies described the eastern shores and islands of Puget Sound and the Georgia Strait in his Journal. *...a fine level country intertwined chiefly covered spots of considerable extent and interest with the various winding branches of Admiralty Inlet. These clear spots or lawns are clothed with a rich carpet of verdure and adorned with clumps of trees and a verge of scattered pines which with their advanta-*

*geous situation on the banks of those inland arms of the sea give them a beauty of prospect equal to the most admired parks of England...the whole seeming as if it had been laid out from the premeditated plan of a judicious landscape designer.*

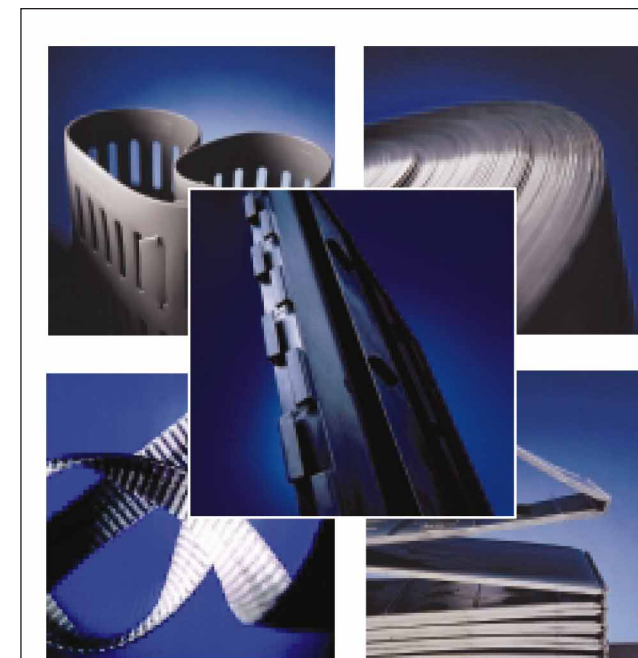
Forty years later, in 1832 another surgeon-botanist William Fraser Tolmie, with the Hudson Bay Company, arrived at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River and was sent to Puget Sound to set up a large farm for the Company. *...passed some pretty green hills, sprinkled with young oaks (Quercus garryana) and winding away to westward, continued along the same plain which extended still as far as the eye could reach to Northward..*

In 1850, Fredrick Law Olmsted, with his brother John and friend Charles Brace, took a tour of the English countryside. Arriving in Liverpool they spent a month backpacking, walking and riding the train. As Witold Rybczynski relates in 'A Clearing in the Distance', *Along the way they experienced some of the most beautiful rural scenery in England, working their way down the valley of the Wye and walking across the Salisbury Plain.*

Rybczynski continues by quoting from a letter Olmsted wrote to his father in Connecticut.

*There we were right in the middle of it! The country and such a country: green, dripping, glistening, gorgeous! We stood dumbstricken by its loveliness, as, from the bleak April and bare brows we had left at home, broke upon us that English May, sunny, leafy, blooming May, in an English Lane; with hedges, English hedges, hawthorn hedges, all in blossom; homely old farm-houses, quaint stables, and hay stacks; the old church spire over the distant trees; the mild sun beaming through the watery atmosphere, and all so quiet, the only sounds the hum of the bees, and the crisp grass-tearing of a silken-skinned, real Hereford cow over the hedge.*

In 1849 New Caledonia had been separated by the US border along the 49th parallel to the Georgia Strait, zig-zagging between the Gulf and San Juan Island groups and on through the Straits of Juan De Fuca. The Governor of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, James Douglas had worked to set up the colonial governments and laws to keep all north of the 49th parallel and Juan de Fuca in the British Empire. He was in need of a long rest, so in late 1845 he left the capital named for Queen Victoria his sovereign, for an extended holiday in England. In his diary he records his captivation with the English countryside, that he had not seen for forty years. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## Urban Forest Friends

In 1976 DeepRoot pioneered a new industry standard and invented the first effective tree root barrier. Today we offer a unique line of the highest quality solutions for urban trees, including DeepRoot®, ArborTie®, ArborGard+®, and Water Barrier. Your best designs demand the best products. Our trees deserve nothing less.

Helping Trees Live In The Urban Environment

**DeepRoot**

URBAN LANDSCAPE PRODUCTS

DeepRoot Products Canada, Inc.

9-1155 Melville Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4C4  
Tel: 604.687.0899 Fax: 604.684.6744 Toll Free: 1/800.561.3883 (Canada Only)  
E-mail: [mjames@deeproot.com](mailto:mjames@deeproot.com) [www.deeproot.com](http://www.deeproot.com)

© 2001 DeepRoot Products Canada, Inc.





**JOHN PEACHEY  
& ASSOCIATES**  
INNOVATIVE SIGNAGE INC.

604-984-4395

permanent signage  
dedication plaques  
cast concrete  
custom decoration  
metal, stone, wood  
exceptional design  
unsurpassed quality

Visit Our Website  
[www.innovativesignage.com](http://www.innovativesignage.com)

*The country charming, every inch cultivated like a garden, bright green fields, sunny slopes, graceful undulations, shady groves, beautiful trees, towns and villages, farm houses, noble seats embowered in trees laid out with an astonishing degree of good taste form an assemblage of objects that fill the mind with delight: to me it was enchanting and as we flew over the ground in a comfortable first class carriage, I could not take my eyes off it for a minute. I gazed in fact till both eye and head ached. Let who will boast of the tropics, to me there is no country half so beautiful as Old England in June.*

In the early spring of 1945, I got my first furlough since arriving in England several months earlier. As a seventeen year old Canadian army infantryman from Vancouver Island, it was my first opportunity to spend a leave with one of the many English relatives that I was expected to visit, none of whom I had ever met. I chose to use my free rail pass to visit my great aunt Carrie and uncle Maberly Byrde. They had been living back in England since before the first war, having retired from managing tea estates in Ceylon. They lived in the village of Milverton, in Somerset.

My unit was billeted at the infantry signals school at Cove, awaiting assignment to the continent. There was a small steam rail line that ran once or twice a week through the Farnborough station. This was the one I was required to take, so with permission on the day prior to the start of my leave, I boarded what seemed like a toy train compared to the enormous Canadian Pullman sleepers and engines I'd taken on the five day trip from Vancouver to Halifax in order to embark for Europe. With my bike in the baggage van, I boarded a third class coach compartment for the trip.

In England, at least in the south during the 1939-45 war, there were no maps, no signposts along the rail routes, roadways or any station signage. All signposts and station names had been removed in 1940 to disorient any invading force when it was feared England would be invaded by Hitler's Nazi Germany. My travel warrant said Taunton, but I was told not to worry as the station master would let me know when I reached my station. It was almost always necessary to ask where you were anyway as the announcements over the station public address systems when you pulled into the station were usually incomprehensible to Canadians.

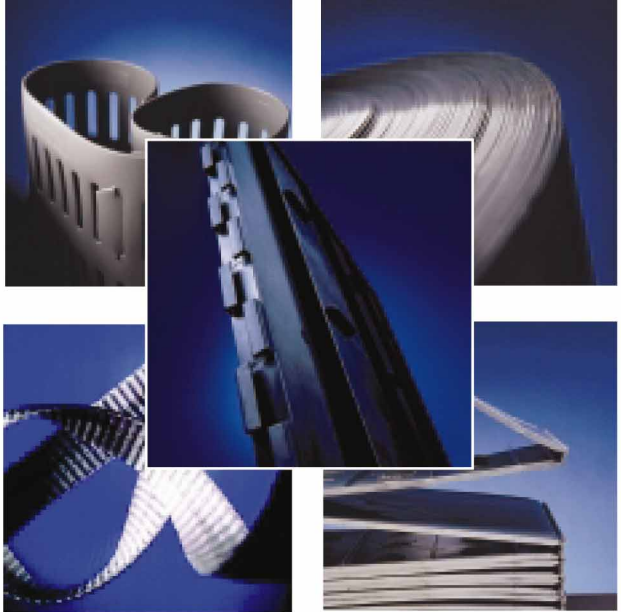
As the trip progressed and the train wound its way westward it presented a passing continuum of a tidy, landscaped, pastoral garden of irregularly shaped small smooth rolling green fields that looked like lawns, trim flowering hedgerows, individual round headed spreading oaks, vase shaped elms and comely woodland copses and open glades. The deep impression this landscape made on me as the train passed through parts of Hampshire, Dorset and Somerset, and the conviction it evoked was to shape my life and determined how I would forever after view nature and the man-made landscape.

What I saw of the southern English countryside on that short trip just before war's end and on the several subsequent days bicycling up into the hills and dales of Exmoor, visiting Dunster Castle and its deer park area convinced me that all the world must look like a garden and the English countryside was that garden. Here it seemed were the perfect landscapes and the way that all the world should look and be cared for. I later learned that on the

first part of the train trip we had passed through Hampshire's New Forest. However, I had not recognized it as a forest, as my concept of a forest was the frontier first growth stands of evergreen Douglas-fir and Western redcedar of central and northern Vancouver Island where I had grown up.

On our transfer to the continent the day after war's end, we traveled up through a continuum of a destroyed, dead and devastated Dutch landscape. We passed miles of shattered stumps that had once been roadside trees and around Arnhem there were pock marked fields with blown-to-bits pieces of wood and shell holes that had been orchards of apple, pear and cherry trees. I resolved then that I would personally take on and try to do all that was possible to restore this devastated landscape.

During the remainder of 1945 and the first half of 1946 I spent among the war's destruction and devastation in northern Holland and northwestern Germany. I hoed weeds in a city tree nursery and watered tropical plants in botanic gardens, but that's another story. However, it convinced me I must become a landscape architect so that I could reshape the world into the image of the English garden landscape that I had seen for the first time on the train trip from Farnborough to Milverton and experienced bicycling in the hills of Exmoor. Having seen it, I knew it was the only landscape there was. When I returned home to Vancouver Island, I was able through the Canadian equivalent of the G I Bill, and because there were no schools of landscape in Canada, to attend the University of California, Berkeley and graduate in Landscape Architecture.



## Urban Forest Friends

In 1976 DeepRoot pioneered a new industry standard and invented the first effective tree root barrier. Today we offer a unique line of the highest quality solutions for urban trees, including DeepRoot®, ArborTie®, ArborGard+®, and Water Barrier. Your best designs demand the best products. Our trees deserve nothing less.

**Helping Trees Live In The Urban Environment**

# DeepRoot

URBAN LANDSCAPE PRODUCTS

**DeepRoot Products Canada, Inc.**  
9-1155 Melville Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4C4  
Tel: 604.687.0899 Fax: 604.684.6744 Toll Free: 1/800.561.3883 (Canada Only)  
E-mail: [mjames@deeproot.com](mailto:mjames@deeproot.com) [www.deeproot.com](http://www.deeproot.com)

© 2001 DeepRoot Products Canada, Inc.

## BCSLA Noticeboard – October 2003

### ATTN: LARE Candidates

Mark Vaughan has very graciously agreed to lead three workshops to help LARE candidates prepare for Sections C+E. Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg has agreed to allow candidates to invade their space for three Sunday sessions. Mark will provide workshop participants with vignette problems to work through individually as in an exam situation. You will then review and mark each vignette as a group.

**Where:** Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg offices  
2327 Yew Street, Vancouver (phone #604-736-5168)

**When:** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Sunday November 2, Sunday November 16th and Sunday November 30 from

**What to bring:** all materials that you would bring to the exam - trace, pencils, scales, triangles, tape, drafting board, roller ruler, etc., etc., etc.

Hopefully most of the LARE candidates are available to participate in each session. If not, please try and make some of them. Please RSVP to Linda Nielsen at [lnielsen@corp.delta.bc.ca](mailto:lnielsen@corp.delta.bc.ca). A big thanks to Linda and to Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg all of their help with the workshop arrangements. BCSLA CE Credits Available.

### BCSLA Construction Site Signs

BCSLA is happy to report that a number of Registered Members are interested in ordering the larger construction site signs (24" x 72"). Please contact the BCSLA office to let us know if you would like your name added to the list as we have ordered 25 large signs. The cost for one of the large signs is \$165.30. If you order two or more the cost is \$159.60. Prices include PST and GST. Nominal delivery charges will apply. Both the large and small signs will be available to order at anytime. The turn around time is usually just a few days. Contact BCSLA for more details. [ Please contact Tara or Cameron for JPEG image to accompany this]

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Sport Utility Vehicle

## Techno-Apparatus in an Age of Urban Decline

By Blair Guppy

*Instead of struggling to keep the public domain in good repair, we find it more effective to take action at the personal level, to defend ourselves from the urban environment with vehicles capable of enduring potholes and missing manhole covers<sup>2</sup>*

The perception of urban decay is a direct result of our seduction into an increasingly technophilic lifestyle. Images we consume, products we use, or landscapes we experience behold connotations and fantasies similar to those associated with the Sport Utility Vehicle. Through these processes of consumption we dissociate ourselves further from the 'real image', allowing ourselves to be allured by an 'ideal image' contrived by current ideological constructs and prevailing mythologies. The result is not only urban decay, but decay of an aura associated with reality.

The ideal image, as suggested by Robert Thayer, is under our own personal control.<sup>3</sup> By controlling a fantastical conception of what our environment actually is we are able to perpetuate an ambivalence toward dystopic visions of reality. Such an image can undermine our understanding of the fragility of the global landscape. It is ironic that the real image of contemporary society, arguably, is the visual and physical manifestation of the technological utopia we all hoped for gone bad. The perception of urban decay is not unfounded. We need only view movies such as *Blade Runner*, *The Road Warrior*, or the *Matrix* to become convinced that our cities are becoming increasingly alienating, estranged and threatening – a dystopia that illustrates our inability to manage and plan our future.

SUVs are but one of many technological defenses we use to arm ourselves against the inherent dangers and annoyances of an urban dystopia. We are empowered by all that we possess. In an age where quantity begets quality, the SUV is the emblem of a fear-laden consumer culture with a desire to become completely self-reliant. But we deny our inherent biophilic connections. As Campanella states, *the sport-utility vehicle is all about this impulse to fortify, to withdraw from the Civitas and pursue life in private.*<sup>2</sup>

Our own conceptualizations of an idyllic world are culturally generated but personally experienced through technological armament and apparatus. The SUV has become a benevolent technology designed to defeat the evil and threatening landscapes of dystopia. Here is a device that expands and extends the powers of the individual in an increasingly hostile world.

The perils of urban life extend themselves far beyond our reaches, into the 'ideal' landscapes outside the city. These ideal images are becoming fantastical illusions, and nostalgic recollections perpetuated by mythological constructs, that *the well-spring of spiritual renewal is located in nature, far from the city.*<sup>2</sup>

As real environmental problems grow and technologies progress, the potential for a global cultural denial of these problems seems inevitable. Is it possible to, *create a landscape fantasy so vivid it threatens to replace reality altogether?*<sup>3</sup>

The SUV is one technological component of a culture that seeks an ideal image of landscape and is willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to experience this image. In an insatiable search for such an illusory image, our cities fall susceptible to decay and degradation.

*The contrast between the machine and the pastoral ideal dramatizes the great issue of our culture.*<sup>3</sup>

As we become entangled with technological innovations; introversion, and a resignation from society and street life is not unrealistic. Increasingly we experience the world through some form of techno-filter. Through the tinted windshields of our SUVs and movie screens; or in sounds recorded on a chip and heard through a portable device; our experience of the 'real image' to which we aspire is becoming further distanced from its tangible and corporeal qualities.

Landscapes have always been a focus of artistic representation and replication. However, with technological advancement, the ability to enhance these representations to a point where they are virtually experiential has become desirable. Whether we experience the 'ideal image' from the comfort of our homes or from the driver's seat of the SUV, the real-life experience of that particular landscape is forever altered.

As Benjamin states, *the situations into which the product of mechanical reproduction can be brought may not touch the actual work of art, yet the quality of its presence is always depreciated*<sup>1</sup>.

Not only are we perpetuating our dissociation from the real image of urban life, we are contriving a new reality that is based entirely on technological invention and a subsequent apathy toward integration into public life.

1 Benjamin, Walter. 1936. *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction. Modern Art and Modernism.* New York: Harper Row.

2 Campanella, Thomas J. 1997. *Mythologies of the Sport-Utility Vehicle.* Harvard Design Magazine., Fall, 1997, 29 – 32.

3 Thayer, Robert L. 1994. *Gray World Green Heart.* New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

In his book *Across the Open Field Essays Drawn from English Landscapes*, Laurie Olin's discovery of the roots of his landscape in memory comes some years after becoming a landscape architect and urban planner. Graduating from the University of Washington, he undertakes an intense practice in Seattle, Los Angeles and eastern cities. Like Governor James Douglas, his work leads him to suffer burnout. In search of some rest and rehabilitation, he took a holiday in England's Oxford area. It is here Olin begins to find his Anglo-Saxon roots through the English landscape that was his family's landscape in memory.

Laurie Olin had grown up in the Pacific Northwest during the 1930's and 40's. It was here that he grew up with the experience that he calls the classical frontier mentality for, *If enough trees were cut down, enough rivers controlled, enough roads built, and crops somehow established, then life would be perfect. The land and its activity, its energy and habits had to be domesticated or tamed at all costs. The people that my grandfather knew in the Klondike during the Gold Rush and that my parents and I knew in Alaska in 1946 were reenacting the story of our Anglo Saxon ancestors, as they labored to create the landscape of southern England.*

Olin's essays in his book recount his first fascination with what he sees and sketches on his Oxford holiday and on subsequent trips by visiting, sketching and researching the making,

and maintaining of the English landscapes he encounters. There are no colour photographs of landscapes in *Across the Open Field*, only Olin's black and white pen sketches. This now archaic illustrative medium that accompanies the writing is a unique personal record of buildings, landscapes and fragments he encountered that make up the English landscape he saw and researched.

I suspect that Olin, like me, got little if any English landscape history at university. For my part, landscape history at Berkeley consisted entirely of Italian and French examples. It wasn't until after I graduated when I found a little book by Vancouver Island native Christopher Tunnard, *Gardens in the Modern Landscape*, written in 1938 before he came to America to teach at Harvard. In it I found there was an English Landscape history. It was not the three approaches to a new technique for twentieth century gardens that had earlier attracted Dan Kiley, Garret Eckbo and James Rose to the book. For me the attraction was Tunnard's first chapter that summarized the history and origins of the 18th and 19th century English landscape. At last I'd found the creators of my landscape in memory: Kent, Capability Brown, Humphry Repton, Loudon, Robinson and Jekyll; those that had made the landscape I had been so taken with on my leave in 1945. English landscape history

was to become my lifelong passion.

Laurie Olin is now a Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. If I remember my student days correctly, it is wise to purchase the book written by the professor who teaches the course you are taking. I would recommend it for Laurie Olin's Essays and Sketches will, I suspect, be the first taste of this landscape of memory for his students. Hopefully, it will lead them to further discovery of their landscape heritage. If I were teaching Landscape history the required reading after Olin's Essays and Sketches would be:

Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

John Dixon Hunt, and Peter Willis, eds., *The Genius of the Place*, The English Landscape Garden 1620 - 1820, London: Paul Elek, 1975.

David Watkin, *The English Vision The Picturesque in Architecture, Landscape and Garden Design*, John Murray, London, 1982.

Witold Rybczynski, *A Clearing in the Distance* Fredrick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century., 1st ed. New York: Simon and Shuster, 1999.

Jane Brown, *The Pursuit of Paradise* A social History of Gardening, Harper Collins, London, 1999



## Big City look.

**Plainwell™** Big City materials on our new, all-aluminum bench make it durable enough for the most active urban spaces. Call for a brochure or log on to [www.landscapeforms.com](http://www.landscapeforms.com) to download a pdf file.

### landscapeforms®

Martin Petersen, Danica Agencies  
[www.landscapeforms.com](http://www.landscapeforms.com)  
PH 604.987.7461  
FX 604.987.7924  
[danicaagencies@shaw.ca](mailto:danicaagencies@shaw.ca)

# Barclay Square Revisited

## A letter to the Editor

By Patricia Campbell, MBCSLA

Nancy MacLean MBCSLA has championed Barclay Heritage Square, (Sitelines August 03), on more than one occasion and for that I am glad. I would, however like to set the record straight on design credit for the Park. A good deal of the credit for Barclay Heritage Square goes to Dan Matsushita MBCSLA, the project Landscape Architect.

The land known initially as Park Site19 was set aside by the City over a number of years. When considering the development of a park, many advocated the retention of some of the existing houses on site for their heritage value. Downs Archambault authored one study, but there were others. Park Site19 was controversial. The Parks Board was hesitant to embrace the concept of integrating houses into a park, as they were not in the housing business. The Iredale Partnership and Dan Matsushita Associates were then retained in September of 1981 to produce a



Dan Matsushita, Drawing by Cameron Murray

master plan for the entire block. Dan was an integral part of the design team and participated wholly in the study and resulting Master Plan. Dan Matsushita developed the design principles and development guidelines.

The design team of architect and landscape architect had long and free wheeling discussions that were inspirational to the design. Participants were: Robert Lemon, Charlotte Murray, Rand Iredale, Al Diamond and Dan Matsushita. Dan

would take particular pride for the development of the Common. Park Site 19 was a long running project with DMA and the project continued with the DM Group, when it was formed in 1984. I had the pleasure of working under the tutelage of Dan to prepare Design Development and Working Drawings for the Park. Dan then carried out Construction Administration, which began with the Northwest corner of Haro and Nicola, referred to as the Open Green and finished with the Common. Dan also worked with Al Diamond on the six CMHC Houses along Haro and Broughton. DM Group designed the Barclay Manor/Watts yard including the Fine Lawn area well into 1985. Later, Roede House garden was designed by Jane Durante MBCSLA and Barclay Manor was designed by Larry Diamond MBCSLA.

Barclay Heritage Square is a very successful open space in the densely populated West End of Vancouver. We can be proud that the idea was superbly developed by the project Landscape Architects, Dan Matsushita Associates, in consultation with the public, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and the Community Arts Council. This intensively used open space with selected heritage houses combining a park with housing, a senior centre, care facilities and a museum received a Heritage British Columbia Award in 1991.

# Letter from Switzerland

By David Bily

The land of cheese and chocolate, Switzerland brings to mind green alpine pastures dotted with black and white cows, a smattering of rustic chalets and maybe a young blond girl skipping through the Edelweiss with her red pocketknife, likely answering to the name of Heidi. OK, maybe that was the mountainous paradise a century back, or just one of those landscapes of our dreams. Well, we have been living in the land of Heidi for two years and after observing this country, more recently celebrated for its watch industry, global banking, and the United Nations, I can tell you that this pastoral image does exist, yet not without some compromises.

Switzerland is composed of three main landscape types. From south to north, the Alpine massif, the central plateau, and the Jura mountains, cover an area about the size of Vancouver Island. The country's seven million inhabitants live on the fertile plateau between the Alps and the Jura, a region including the major cities from Geneva to Zurich. More than fifty percent of the population lives in urban areas, and these cities are usually very dense for western standards. Geneva has a density

of more than eleven thousand inhabitants per square kilometer. Finally, the national density is relatively high with one hundred sixty inhabitants per square kilometer, compared with Canada's two point six.

These statistics reveal a rural landscape dotted with small villages and hamlets, groups of farmhouses and alpine meadows painted with chalets. The roots of this landscape can be traced back to the simple fact that these village centres developed slowly in a pre-automobile world. The pattern that sprang from this slow, small-scale growth still dominates the Swiss landscape.

Unlike Canada, in Switzerland it is not possible to drive for half an hour without passing through a town, or go hiking in the mountains for hours without any sign of civilization. You would rarely find yourself alone in the "wild" over here, yet there is always the sense of being in the country. For a population that has effectively stamped its imprint onto most of the livable land surface, human development has not been overtly invasive. On the contrary, there is the impression that for the most part human settlement and nature are engaged in



Matterhorn drawing by Cameron Murray

a well integrated, symbiotic relationship. The country folds into the towns and the towns quietly spread their fingers into the fields and forests so that the entire country is a weaving of town and country. This weaving of civilization and nature has existed like this for literally thousands of years and still seems right.

For the last few months I have been driving through a monoculture Fir forest managed by the Canton of Fribourg and as I cross the invisible border into the Canton of Vaud the forest suddenly becomes mixed with deciduous trees. This had to be pointed out to me, as everything looked perfectly "natural" through my windshield. The human hand is not always obvious in this managed landscape. Another example is a marsh along the opposite side of the lake from our home. It is a wonderful "natural" area, yet artificial in the sense that the government agency managing it has made a decision to stop any further evolution specifically to maintain the impressive diversity of flora and fauna.

In previous visits to Switzerland I was impressed by the extensive public transportation network. I thought, wow, these people have really figured it out. However, even after this impressive transit investment there are still many transportation problems. In the relatively dense area between Geneva and Lausanne, the autoroute is still a daily nightmare despite the well-traveled train route. New solutions are continually being sought with such proposals as a direct train tunnel under the lake, improving inner-city circulation, augmenting existing pedestrian zones, and encouraging public-use bicycles and electric scooters.

Another problem is the phenomenon of dying villages, victims to super malls and chain stores. I have seen it happen within my short time here, with small butchers, bakers, or grocers going out of business to the bigbox stores and resulting in a collapse of village life. We are fortunate to live in a village that still

supports a bakery, post office, dentist, doctor, wineries, a couple of restaurants, a daycare, and other small businesses. However, even as I write, we are at risk of losing our only remaining "epicerie" and with that loss, reducing street activity and opportunities for villagers to cross paths and interact in a public way.

Nevertheless, amid change and further density of some regions, transportation challenges and perhaps over-managed nature, Switzerland remains a country where humans and nature are never strangers, a country where historically, slow small-scale development has maintained an integrated relationship between the town and country.

A Few Words about the Profession.

Switzerland has seven million inhabitants with about 65% speaking German, 18% French, and 10% Italian. About 350 landscape architects are registered and split similarly into regional groups based on language differences as well as territorial boundaries. German, French and Italian regions each have very separate histories, including landscape architecture. Gurus of 20th century Swiss landscape architecture are both Swiss-German: Dieter Kienast and his apprentice Ernst Cramer. They are unknown outside of Switzerland; yet both extremely accomplished designers with impressive portfolios of built work throughout the country.

Presently there are two main schools of Landscape Architecture: Lullier near Geneva, and Rapperswil near Zurich. Of the two, Rapperswil is more studio focused while

Lullier leans more toward horticulture. The Zurich school has presently about half the number of students as the Geneva school, with a budget of more than double.

Professionally it can sometimes be difficult for private offices to make a go of it. Most private firms are not much bigger than two to four people and many landscape architects choose to find more stable jobs in municipal or cantonal governments. Some local governments tender out work for their public projects while other cities like the more socialist voting La Chaux-de-Fonds almost never concede work to private offices.

Like in Canada, private gardens are often designed and built by landscaping companies, while larger projects over a million francs are often restricted to design professionals and must by law be presented in the form of competitions. However, much of the time there is no requirement for landscape architects to be part of the project team at all and in tough times architects take responsibility for the landscape part of the project. When the landscape architect does get hold of a project the results are usually of high quality and often very insightful reflections of the contemporary landscape.

The pathway to membership is fairly straightforward, and relatively quick. The candidate starts by obtaining a professional degree and then works a minimum of two years under a registered member. Once this has been accomplished, the prospective member simply applies for membership showing proof of diploma, experience and the witness of a minimum of two members. For good or bad, their process leaves out any extensive exam or interview portion. With my degrees and work experience, I simply applied to the Federation and received confirmation of my acceptance within a couple of months. Yearly dues are based on income with minimum annual dues of around \$200.

In less than two years I have been fortunate to work on a number of interesting projects with a couple of different offices, including restoration project of the Villa Jeanneret in La Chaux-de-Fonds (the house Le Corbusier designed for his parents), a town square in the mountain village of Château d'Oex, an evaluation of alpine chalets, and a housing and golf course development in northeastern Spain. The office in which I presently work is managed by two Harvard grads Craig Verzone and Christina Woods. The main office is sitting snugly in one of those idyllic mountain valleys in the Swiss Oberland; but with many projects in Spain there is also a satellite office in Barcelona. It is an office rich in energy welcoming new ideas, and for those UBC students who love fondue, they run a summer internship program for foreign students.

		<p><b>Special Insurance Rates for BCSLA Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Term Life Insurance</li> <li>Income Protection</li> <li>Office Overhead Protection</li> <li>Health &amp; Dental Plans</li> <li>Property Insurance (Homeowners, Tenants, Condo Owners, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Insurance Solutions for Your Peace of Mind</b></p> <p><b>MUMBY</b> Insurance Brokers Inc.</p> <p>1-800-446-5745 Fax: (519) 747-2862 E-mail: inquire@mumby.com Visit us at: www.mumby.com</p>