

# SITELINES

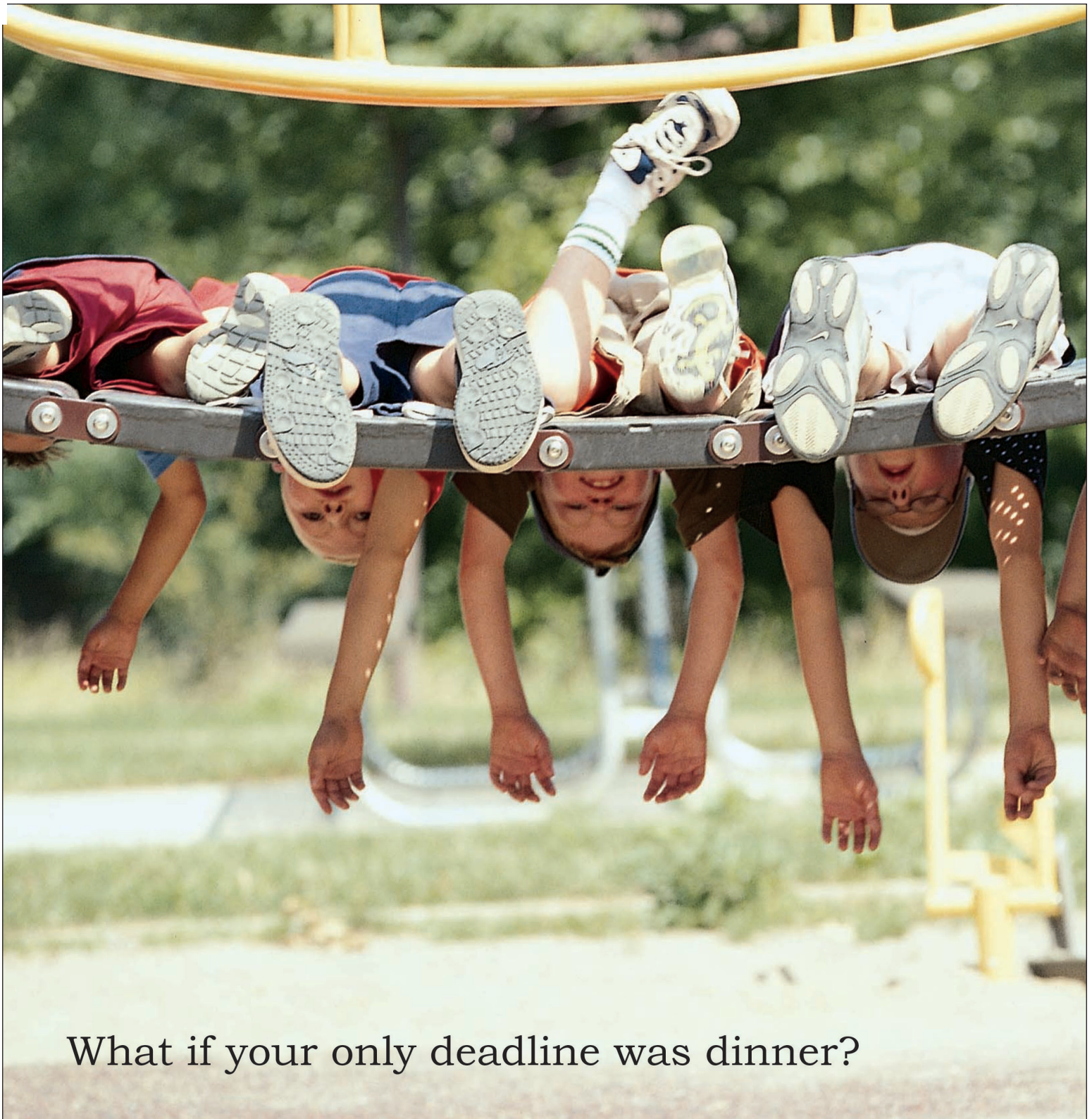
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The purpose of **Sitelines** is to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Individual opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of those of the BCSLA.

# Renewing Victory Square



Photo credit Jonathan Losee November 11 2003



Photo credit Jonathan Losee



Photo credit Bill Pechet November 11 2003

*The Victory Square Watercolour drawing on the cover of this issue is by Nancy Bryant. It illustrates the current revitalization of this Vancouver landmark initiated by the Friends of Victory Square and the Vancouver Parks Board. A historical study and a master plan were prepared by the office of Durante Kreuk Limited. An innovative lighting plan by Pechet + Robb Design includes Soldier lights 'at attention' and 'at ease'. Landscape architectural construction drawings were prepared by Jonathan Losee Limited. The park revitalization is a work in progress, however the first phase was completed in time for Remembrance Day 2003. For more information, please contact Debra Barnes, Victory Square project manager for Vancouver Parks Board.*

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# BCSLA 2004 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

## Exceptional Contribution to the BCSLA in 2003:

All Members of the BCSLA are invited to send in nominations for Exceptional Service to the Society in the past year. A statement regarding the nature and extent of the contribution will assist the Board of Directors in evaluating the nomination.

## Significant Contribution to the Profession on the Part of a Landscape Architect in Public Practice:

All Members of the BCSLA are invited to send in nominations for this award. The BCSLA Board of Directors is looking for examples of Members working in public practice who are making a lasting contribution to the profession and its relationship with local government and the public. Please provide a short explanation of the nature of the contributions and recent accomplishments of the nominee.

## BCSLA Life Member Nominations

According to BCSLA Bylaws the Board of Directors may designate outstanding Members as "Life Members" of the Society, with special privileges including a waiver from annual fees, subject to maintaining exemplary conduct and the following criteria:

"the Member has been a Member in good standing of the Society for twenty-five (25) years or, the Member has been engaged in the full-time practice of landscape architecture for twenty-five (25) years."

## BCSLA Honourary Member Nominations

Any individual may be nominated for consideration by the Board of the designation "BCSLA [Honourary Member]", and such honor if awarded by the Board will include the waiver of fees and such

other privileges as the Board sees fit, in recognition of outstanding community activity related to the Principles or Practice of landscape architecture.

Please submit your nomination letter and two letters of support to the BCSLA Board of Directors by January 15, 2004.

BCSLA  
#110, 355 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8

The BCSLA AGM is slated for May 12, 2004

at 3:30 pm at UBC as part of the BC Land Summit and no award ceremony is scheduled with this event. Peter Kreuk, Past President and Nominations Committee Chair is tasked with organizing all BCSLA awards at an event to be determined at a later date. ■

## AWARD CATEGORIES

### *BCSLA Community Service Awards*

Five awards are offered, one from each of the following categories:

- 1. THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD:** recognizing an individual or couple who have, 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 our environment.
- 2. THE Q'PANGO AWARD:** recognizing a Quasi-Public Agency or Non-Governmental Organization that has made major contributions to our local, provincial or national landscapes through its advocacy – its policy, design-planning or conservation initiatives.
- 3. THE PUBLIC SERVANT-PUBLIC AGENCY AWARD:** thanking an individual who or 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.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

4. **THE CONTRACTOR AWARD:** presented to 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.

5 **THE CORPORATE AWARD:** recognizing a corporation that has consistently provided a high quality environment as part of its everyday activities. The corporation could be a developer, a major business, or even a small business that has done an outstanding job of integrating their business activities and facilities into the fabric of our city or countryside.

With respect to the selection of these awards please note some of the following conditions:

- It is the intention of the Society to make awards only when there are suitable and significant candidates.
- The awards will be made across all regions of the province. As such, in any given year at least one award will be made representing the Vancouver Island region and one award will be made representing the Interior. In addition, the Society will seek worthy candidates from other regions of the province.
- Where two worthy candidates exist in one category and no candidate has been nominated in another category, the Society may consider both of those candidates for awards in the same year.

The Awards offers BCSLA Members a unique opportunity to recognize and honour our "best

citizens". Put your thinking caps on and give us your best advice. If you submitted a candidate's name last year you may wish to consider resubmitting. Each submission should be accompanied by a one-page description on why you believe the candidate deserves the award. The information will also be used for media releases.

The BCSLA AGM is slated for May 12, 2004 at 3:30 pm at UBC as part of the BC Land Summit. Peter Kreuk, Past President and Nominations Committee Chair is tasked with organizing all BCSLA awards at an event to be determined at a later date.

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# 2003 Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Annual General Meeting

*Salt Lake City, September 11-13*

BY ADRIENNE BROWN, BCSLA

I accepted the invitation from CLARB to attend a roundtable discussion on international reciprocity at their AGM, and attended the Administrators meeting, the First General session, and the Region 5 meeting. Paul Morris and Nancy Somerville were there from the ASLA, along with the President of the Engineers Licensing Board, and a representative from NCARB. Canadians at the meeting included myself, Ian Wasson, BCSLA Registrar; and Frank Basciano, Don Naylor and Eha Naylor - all of the OALA. I had ample opportunity to share the information we've gathered over the last year on behalf of the CSLA Reciprocity Task Force. The American landscape architectural community faces many of the same questions that we do in Canada, and they are impressed with the perspective that Canadians bring to professional practice issues.

The Partners for the Advancement of Licensure (PAL) is made up of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council for Educators in Landscape Architecture, CLARB and the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board. This group will be launching a website soon to provide information on its ongoing initiatives. One of their priorities is to address the question of the LARE pass rates.

By continuing to work with the President's Council, the CSLA stands to benefit from their understanding of the larger issues impacting our profession. I remain committed to building these relationships, and with this in mind I've volunteered to join the CLARB International Reciprocity Committee for the coming year.

## LAIT

A number of state Boards have instituted a membership category/program entitled L.A.I.T.: Landscape Architect in Training. In Nevada an LAIT candidate is required to pass sections A & B of the LARE.

## State Exams

Washington State and California are among states that require new registrants to write a take home exam. In Washington the questions cover the Endangered Species Act, the Coastline Management Act and the local Zoning Code. This approach to addressing local legislation and environmental conditions is proving to be very successful; and may be a good approach for the CSLA component associations to take to regional knowledge and requirements.

## C/LARE

The first sitting of the computer version of the LARE took place in August with a total of 170 candidates taking Sections A and B. Laser Grade testing centers have been chosen by CLARB for their affordability and the number of locations (700 in the US and Canada). Scores were sent out 3 weeks later (the goal is 2 weeks in future). The pass rate was similar to that of the paper version written in June, and individual evaluations by candidates were very positive with 95% supporting the process. The plan is to offer the computer version only after a transition period of a year. Section D will be offered in March. It is expected to lower the cost of the exam, and to provide a quicker return of scores.



Photo credit Pawel Gradowski

# LIABILITY INSURANCE

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# Continuing Education:

*Finding the Spark to Make it Worthwhile.*

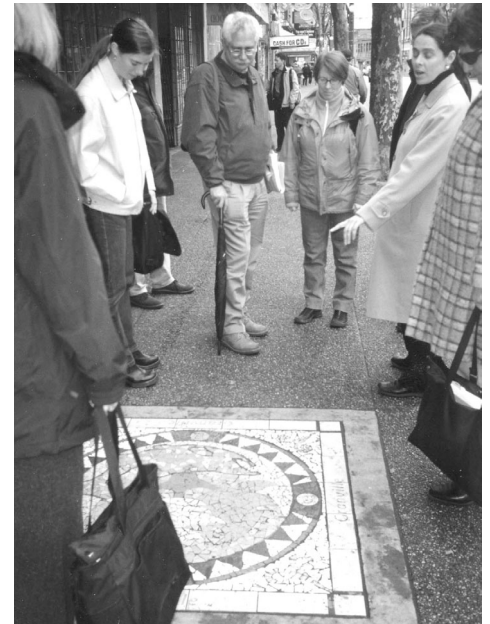
BY JUDY OBERLANDER  
DIRECTOR, THE CITY PROGRAM

As the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects embarks on its mandatory continuing education program, the opportunity exists to consider how one can fulfill this professional responsibility and enjoy learning new tools and techniques about landscape architecture, environmental stewardship and ways to improve the public realm.

Fortunately, there are opportunities for self-directed learning, such as reading books, writing articles, giving presentations and community service. These are recognized parts of continuing education for landscape architects. Mid-career professional education does not need to be onerous or dull. It is an opportunity to reach out into another part of field, explore a topic that intrigues us, or one in which a project requires immediate proficiency. It could be

time to reflect on one's own professional practice, or simply try something new without the stress of a public hearing and interact with other professionals and consider a topic from another angle.

How do we engage the mid-career learner in the classroom? One possibility is through interactive teaching techniques — small group projects and discussions, short site visits designed to encourage visual observation, mini charrettes, and studio-style courses — all of which contribute to the engagement of learning. Building upon each person's personal and professional experience is vital to the success of mid-career professional education. This has been the experience at the City Program at Simon Fraser University over the past ten years. For those of us in continuing education, there is also a



Course participants observing artwork on street while on tour of affordable housing units in Vancouver's downtown eastside.

constant evolution in our work as we strive to improve our courses, work closely with our instructors to refine the curriculum, develop new case studies, and meet the educational needs of busy mid-career professionals.

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When the non-credit Urban Design Certificate program began four years ago, our intention was to offer an interdisciplinary mid-career program which focussed on the interrelationship between the ecological, physical, social and economic aspects of the built environment. In other words, how to gain an understanding about a place and its transformation in the urban fabric. Endorsement of the Urban Design Certificate Program by the BCSLA in 2001 has been important to its continued growth of the program. Landscape architects have been an integral part of the program — from the design of the curriculum to instructors and participants. The program's eight courses— four electives and four core courses including two studios — are designed to encourage participants, from large and small communities in Western Canada, explore new ideas within their professions and gain a wider appreciation of urban design and their roles as stewards of the built environment.

### Integrating the Classroom in the Workplace.

One of the major challenges in mid-career professional education is how to create a synergy between theory and practice — connecting the classroom and the workplace in new ways is a vital part of engaging participants in the learning process. For this reason, courses need to be revised annually, case studies must be relevant to the audience, and there is a need for dynamic instructors who are actively engaged in the field. Although these are some of the essential components, which contribute to the vitality of any education program, perhaps the most important element is the group of participants. Their willingness to share their experiences, hear a variety of viewpoints, try new things and challenge, both the instructors and the other participants, creates a lively classroom environment that invites learning as well as dialogue and debate. As a recent participant noted in their course evaluation, "it was

nice to see a shift from talking about theory and alternative development standards ideas, to how to apply them in the real world".

Here are a few of the ways in which the City Program has observed the integration of workplace and classroom:

- interdisciplinary courses that challenge participants to collaborate with other professionals in a way similar to the workplace
- pre-course assignments encourage participants to briefly consider a site in their community prior to the course
- post-course assignments provide an opportunity to try out new ideas on a project upon the return to one's own community
- participants and instructors who are practicing professionals actively engaged in the fields of landscape architecture, planning, architecture, real estate economics and so on
- a mixture of participants with different professional backgrounds, a range of ages, and who work in the public and private sectors and in urban, suburban and rural communities in Western Canada
- participants' curiosity and willingness to try new approaches to their work — this creates a desire to integrate the classroom experience into their professional practice



Small-group discussion among mid-career professionals—an integral part of the City Program's Urban Design Certificate Program.



And in the end, it is the participants who tell us what works and what does not. Here are a few comments from the participants in our Urban Design courses:

*"(I) like the mix of activities in the course, especially viewing the sites and then discussing them."*

*"I learned a lot from the group exercises by observing the others "leading" the group through the process..."*

*"excellent resource people"*

*"...as well, Michael von Hausen's wit and humour made it FUN!"*

The City Program is delighted that a member of the BCSLA, Michael von Hausen, is our Curriculum Coordinator and a key instructor in the Urban Design Certificate. Michael

has chosen to integrate extensive teaching into his professional practice so that other professionals--architects, planners, engineers, real estate developers, local government administrators and elected officials can benefit from his integrated approach to the study of environmental, economic and social aspects of urban design.

The participation of BCSLA members Randall Sharp (who represents the BCSLA on the Urban Design Certificate Advisory Committee), Patrick Condon, Doug Paterson, Chris Phillips, Erik Lees, and David Reid has added a unique dimension to the study of urban design at the beginning of the 21st century. We are most grateful to all the landscape architects who chose

to join us as instructors and participants — we hope we can give you as much as you bring to the classroom in your commitment to continuing your own education. ■

**Judy Oberlander**  
*Director, The City Program*

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# HISTORY OF GARDEN ART

By Marie Luise Gothein

A REVIEW BY BLAIR GUPPY M.L.A.

For many years, Marie Luise Gothein's *History of Garden Art* has been, and continues to be, a staple of Landscape Architecture history courses nationwide. As we have continued to move ahead in a new millennium with a more holistic understanding of the past, it is imperative that scholarly texts be scrutinized not only for content, but cultural bias also. Gothein has the foundations of a comprehensive history of garden art – from ancient Greece throughout to medieval times in Western Europe. However, it is unfortunate that she has overlooked and under-emphasized the evolution of garden art in the East, in particular South East Asia.

*History of Garden Art* is a chronological record of the evolution and shaping of gardens through history. In documenting and listing these influential places Gothein attempts to make connections between and among classic and medieval cultures. During her 'logical' progression, Gothein creates a book, which speaks to two audiences: those with a background in Landscape Architecture and historical precedent, and those without such knowledge. The charming visual layout of Frescoes, site plans, and photographs provides an enjoyable superficial reading for the layperson, while the written descriptions and historical story telling caters to a better-versed audience. In this sense, she engages the minds of the creators whilst maintaining a traditional view of history, perpetuated through the eyes of a societal majority.

Western gardens for many centuries were architectural, functioning as open-air rooms and demonstrating a Western insistence on physical control of the environment. Gothein is quick to bring this forth in her extensive interpretation of gardens mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*

and those described by Cicero and Pliny during the emergence of the Roman Empire (Gothein 85). Because of a different philosophical approach, Oriental and Eastern gardens are of a totally different type. Gothein mentions the "oriental influence" throughout her book, yet fails to go the next step beyond. It is scholarly literature such as Gothein's that reinforces our limited Western view of historical relevance, and perpetuates a lack of understanding between cultures today.

The timelines that Gothein follows in her work are meant to place important works of garden and architectural design within the context of other significant events of their time. Historical events are not isolated but are connected to, and are often manifestations of important social and political movements. For example, the development of the "cloister life", and gardens of the medieval monasteries occurred when monks, "driven by the necessity of working for their own livelihood" (Gothein 171), began to busy themselves in the garden. This was a direct result of their loss of alms from the outside world. In this respect, I commend Gothein for linking these significant events with their respective architectural and societal developments. I must insist, however, that herein lies the opportunity and necessity for expansion.

Is it unlikely that the influences of Greek



City of Angkor, Cambodia, 1998.



Photo Credit: Blair Guppy

and Roman life reached a greater majority: one other than the 'western' world. It is more likely that Gothein has failed to acknowledge, in all its complexity, the exchanges between East and West. According to the Chinese records, the United Kingdom of Funan was founded around the first century AD (Jessup & Zephir 10). The exact location of the Kingdom, and its size, is unclear today, but is presumed to have occupied a broad band of mainland Southeast Asia. The Funanese were prosperous traders. Situated at the crossroads of all the significant sea trading routes between the Mediterranean and the China Sea, the inhabitants of Funan "unquestionably traded with Rome, India, and China starting in the second century" (Jessup & Zephir 10). With trade came the immigration and

emigration of peoples, as well as the spread of ideas and culture.

With such an all-encompassing title, readers may assume that attention should also be given to Eastern subjects, styles, and issues. However, there is only occasional mention of the "oriental influence" in Gothein's entire history of the Classic and Asian cultures, and analyses of the development of their garden culture. Where are examples of the early parks and gardens of the Chinese dynasties or the growth of the Khmer empire and their majestic monuments and garden plazas? Quite curious – an afterthought – is Gothein's mention of the "glories of Asia" and their influence on the development of Byzantine gardens, seeking the "satisfaction in the multiplication of ideas, the glittering pomp of costly possessions and the creation of elaborate masterpieces" (Gothein 81). In light of the wealth of information on Eastern culture, this treatment is frustratingly limited.

In the chapter entitled 'Ancient Greece', Gothein begins by confessing her reliance on "chance remarks in literature"

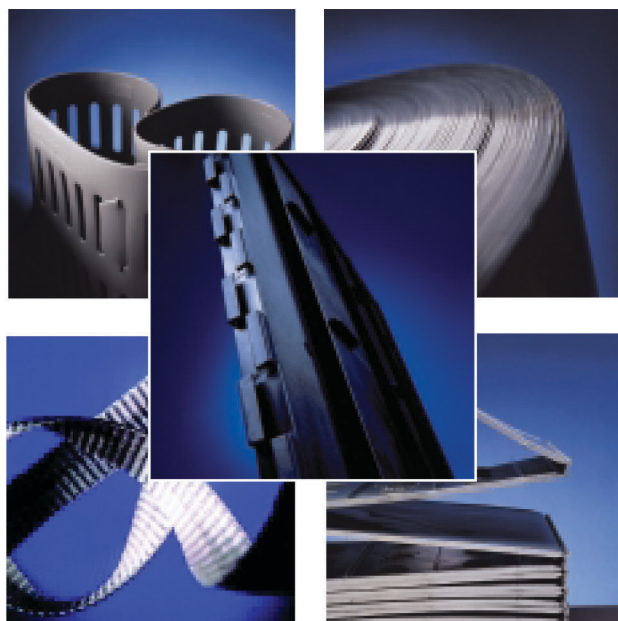
in speculating as to the beginnings of garden culture here. As the reader progresses through a comprehensive documentation of Greek life, it becomes apparent that the Greeks knew exact proportion. It was their adherence to this exactness that resulted in their exquisite structures and garden space. The Khmers knew this exactness also. However dissimilar their ideals, including national laws and the arts, both had the genius of harmony. We see in the literature that 'cloisters', 'galleries', 'porticos' and 'libraries' were not uncommon to the emergence of garden spaces within their city walls. It is easy to assume that such typologies took on a completely different meaning to the Khmer people. However, it is interesting to note that the monuments, temples, aian peoples preceded that of much of the documented material in Gothein's book.

As most gardens and landscapes are usually associated with major buildings, the study of them is intricately bound up with the history of architecture. Throughout four chapters: Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, Byzantine Gardens and the Countries of Islam, and

Middle Ages and the West, Gothein describes many architectural styles and their contribution to the formation of garden space. In fact, she states, "it is only when buildings by their arrangement actually imply the existence of gardens that they must be taken into consideration" (Gothein 99). However, buildings that have survived, and have been discovered through archaeological digs are generally built of stone. The remains of palaces provide important clues in the interpretation of life in the garden. It is important, though, that history be interpreted with a certain amount of skepticism. There are certainly many structures unearthed that could shed an entirely different light on the occupation and development of gardening. Gothein relies on accumulated Western knowledge in these instances, but it is presumptuous that garden life existed in any other form than aristocratic privilege.

There are parallels in several key areas between Eastern forms and the Western concepts that Gothein presents. These similarities include, but are not limited to the following:

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- A ) a square or rectangular enclosure, often a walled compound
- B ) the presence of a dominant focal feature, a temple tower, tomb, pond or palace
- C ) a quartering or other division of the near landscape, often along the cardinal directions, as in the main streets of the city of Angkor Thom
- D ) the use of water as both an ornamental and as an essential religious feature.

It confuses me as to why Gothein fails to investigate some of these seemingly obvious parallels. These similarities are evident in many of the existing structures of the east. Gothein speaks of the Roman's high regard for water in their gardens, but fails to mention even the existence of the immense water features of the Khmer Empire – some nearing the size of large lakes. The hydraulic systems used by the Khmers – adopted from prehistoric Indus civilization – provided them with the amazing ability to transport water over great distances (Jessup & Zephir 92). This ability not only supplied them with adequate irrigation for their food

gardens, but also the pools and fountains within the city and temple walls (MacDonald 122).

Gothein's cursory description of many important "Asiatic", or eastern influences upon the development of gardens throughout history reinforces our ignorance of the past, and the origins of civilization in its entirety. On page 146, Gothein clearly acknowledges "the love of the garden is clearly born in Orientals, as is abundantly shown in their history". In addition, she admits to her confusion as to her ability to "distinguish between the influence of Hellenistic and Sassanid art" in the gardens of Baghdad, where the "ornament in plantation, water devices, and fountains, points to Asiatic influence" (Gothein 148). Perhaps the early Funanese (later the Khmers) affected the development of early gardens and life through their trade relations. It is conceivable that this was possible, for their exists much doubt as to the origins of gardens and their art. It is time for the investigation of the *History of Garden Art* to expand, and for new avenues to be explored. History is more than one culture, or civilizations' voice.

Although *History of Garden Art* is structured in such a way as to allow for easy reference, it lacks comprehensiveness. Gothein's purpose would be better served by a collaborative effort with historians of an alternate voice. This would undoubtedly offer even greater application of Gothein's work, as it would allow both aspiring and practicing landscape architects to superimpose a more holistic understanding of influences on their own works. In addition, a more comprehensive and inclusive work would be a precedent-setting step in the right direction. It is we who have the ability to correct the omissions of the past, and bring them to light in the future. ■

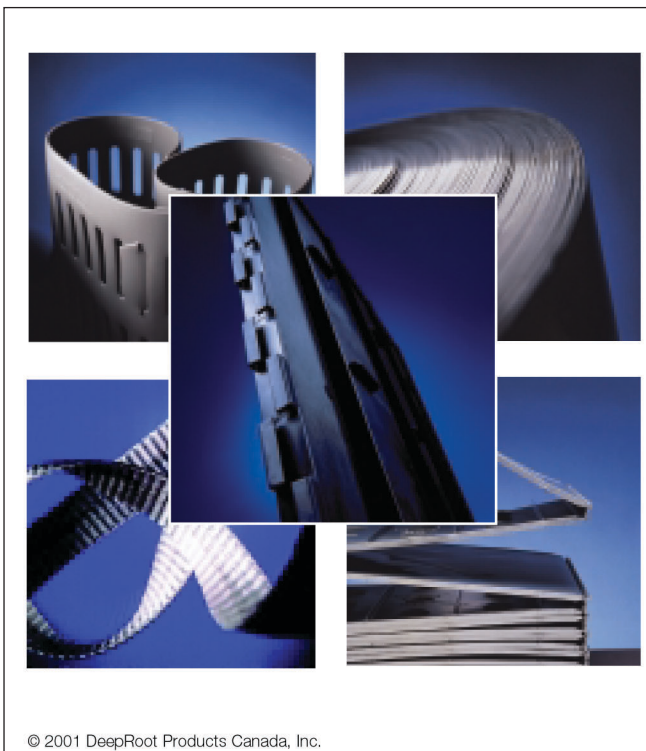
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## In Memorium

### *Fraser Watts*

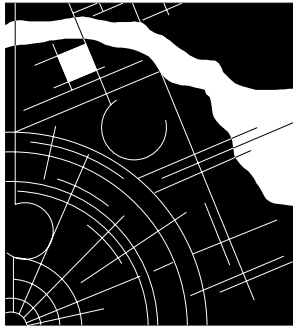
Students of Garden Design History lament the passage of Professor Fraser Watts, on December 10. Toronto born, Fraser studied architecture at Stanford and Yale and completed his studies at Harvard in Landscape Architecture. Fraser's enthusiasm for the elements of Garden Art inspired many students at the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo, where he served as Dean of Architecture. ■

## BCSLA Noticeboard – Winter 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).



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## BCSLA Calendar of Events

### 2003

- December 31 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

## New Members

Katherine Dunster successfully passed the Board of Examiners and is now a BCSLA Member through reciprocity. Alexa Uhrich and Stewart McIntosh successfully passed all of the LARE and the Board of Examiners and we welcome both of them as a Registered Members. We wish you good luck and encourage you to be actively involved in the BCSLA.

We are pleased to welcome three more UBC Students to BCSLA. Lori Philp, Shaun Smakel and Michael Teed are with the UBC MLA Program. We are pleased to have them as Members.

Also new to BCSLA are Bill Awmack, P.Ag as a new BCSLA Affiliate Member representing Quality Seeds West and Theron Horton of Northern Roots Landscaping and Garden Care Inc.

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