

CONFLUENCE

plan. design. preserve.  
a confluence of different elements creates something powerful



2010  
georgiaLANDSCAPE  
magazine

# CONFLUENCE 2010

## COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT & DESIGN

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Introduction 2009–2010

The cover image of this year's *Georgia Landscape Magazine* is a pasture at the historic Shields-Ethridge Farm in Jefferson, Georgia, and embodies the three disciplines represented at the College of Environment and Design (CED). The survival of the farm, founded in 1799, is largely the result of the ingenuity of the Shields-Ethridge family and their application of the three professions present in the College.

With the addition of the Master of Environmental Planning and Design program, the idea of cross-disciplinary collaboration is on the minds of both students and faculty. We feel that the theme **Confluence: Plan. Design. Preserve.** accurately illustrates the direction in which the College is heading. The term confluence, "a coming or flowing together," represents our collaborative efforts while highlighting each discipline individually. For the first time ever, *Georgia Landscape Magazine* staff chose a lead editor from each program with the goal of creating a product that is representative of the College.

We hope that you leave this edition with a sense of the great range of projects, study, and opportunities offered to the students of the College of Environment and Design, and a great enthusiasm for the future of the College. If you have feedback that you would like to share with us, please e-mail us at [galandscapemag@gmail.com](mailto:galandscapemag@gmail.com).

*Georgia Landscape Magazine* Lead Editors

# Alumni Contributions Keep our College Running

## Why Give?

Your annual contribution to the College's annual support fund is key toward providing assistance in areas of critical need within the College.

## CE225

CE225 is the College of Environment and Design's 2009–2010 annual fundraising campaign to celebrate the 225th birthday of The University of Georgia. It is being posed to both our current and future alumni as an interactive fundraising challenge across a span of class years. The overall goal is to secure 1,000 gifts of \$225 to aid our programs and critical need areas.

The CED Alumni Association supports this campaign and urges fellow alumni to take part, as state budget cuts have impacted the College's abilities in many important areas. The challenge results will be monitored by class year and posted on the CED website through June under the Alumni & Giving section.

## Budding Endowments

Historic Preservation Support Fund (2011)

Lathrop Scholarship (2012)

Bill Mann Field Trip Support Fund (2012)

Environmental Ethics Support Fund (2012)

GA ASLA Student Fund (2013)

## Founders Memorial Endowment

The history of the Founders Memorial Garden & House is rich in details spanning over 150 years. However, the Garden, which was designed in 1939, is approaching its 75th birthday. To commemorate this anniversary, as well as to develop a legacy fund to perpetually maintain this important historical site, the College of Environment & Design is seeking support for the Founders Memorial Garden Endowment. Our goal is to raise \$1.5 million by January of 2014, when our Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Garden will take place.

We need and appreciate your support, so please consider making a gift in seeing this crucial endowment fulfilled, and this national treasure preserved. For more information about the Founders Memorial Garden & House, please visit its section of our website: [www.ced.uga.edu/founders](http://www.ced.uga.edu/founders).

HP program support for student and faculty initiatives

BLA Award to support a student in the Cortona study abroad program, who demonstrates excellence in sketching

BLA/MLA program support of the East-West field trips

EECP program support of faculty and student initiatives

BLA Award to support a student demonstrating leadership

If you would like to contribute to any of the programs listed above, please visit: [www.ced.uga.edu/giving](http://www.ced.uga.edu/giving) and click "current initiatives" or call Stephanie Crockatt at 706-542-4727.

With respect for the GA ASLA Executive Committee and their steadfast academic support of our College at UGA, important information is noted here for Georgia registered and all practicing landscape architects:

The GA ASLA Legal Defense Fund (LDF) was established by the GA ASLA Executive Committee in January 2007 for the sole purpose of legally defending against an upsurge of challenges made by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD), regarding the legal right to stamp/seal storm water management plans. Although LAs have historically been champions and pioneers regarding sustainable storm water design and management, many counties within the MNGWPD have heedlessly followed suit, and as a consequence practice areas for the profession have in fact been reduced. Legal counsel has estimated that GA ASLA needs more than \$60,000 to sustain a legal challenge of this scope to reverse and re-establish parameters of practice. Currently, \$30,000 more is needed.

Additional information on the issue as well as how you can be involved with supporting efforts, can be directed through the GA ASLA chapter website at [www.gaasla.org](http://www.gaasla.org)



2010 GA ASLA President

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## RANDY MARSHALL: NEEL REID LECTURER 2010

*Stephanie Crockatt, CED Director of Development*

The College of Environment and Design is proud to welcome Randy Marshall as the 2010 Neel Reid Lecturer.

Mr. Marshall is a 1972 graduate of the Landscape Architecture program at The University of Georgia. He came from New York to study at what was known as the best school in the country; today that school is now a college, and as of January 2009 it is ranked number one in the nation.

Mr. Marshall is a true entrepreneur of the landscape and in integrating the spatial relevance of architecture and place. At age nine he met Frank Lloyd Wright, who was working with Mr. Marshall's father on the NYC Guggenheim Museum. Mr. Wright commented that with his young passions, Mr. Marshall should pursue landscape architecture as a career.

As a result of that recommendation, Mr. Marshall now holds degrees in ornamental horticulture as well as landscape architecture, and his firm Randolph Marshall, PC, Landscape Architects and Site Planners, out of Katonah, New York, has grown into a business of international acclaim. His firm has performed design work for urban spaces, housing developments, and parks and recreation facilities. However, in recent years his specialization has been on historic landscape restorations, and the design of European villas and large American estates.

Mr. Marshall's work takes himself and his wife Helen across thousands of miles abroad annually. He has restored Frank Lloyd Wright properties, created six extensive landscape environments for Ralph Lauren, as well as several properties for Martha Stewart, and he has completed private villas in both France and Italy. The relationship with Ralph Lauren has now grown to a 27-year alliance, and many of his referrals are simply by word of mouth.

Mr. Marshall's style is to bring back the quality of estate and villa sites, to restore the structural integrity of the landscape, statuary, vineyards, and gardens. His work has been featured in many high end publications including *Architectural Digest*, *Town & Country*, and *House & Garden*. Themes to prior lectures he has given have regarded sense of place, value of environmental preservation, sustainable and adaptable environments, and even risk management for the future. Mr. Marshall believes strongly that students are the future.

Thus, in addition to his work in design, Mr. Marshall also has a passion for giving back. In 1982 he helped start the Princess Grace Foundation along with Robert Hausman of Loews Hotels. He is avid in his participation with the American Horticultural Society, the Historic Hudson Valley Society, and the Monaco Garden Club in Monaco. In 1995, Randy and Helen established the Randolph and Helen Marshall Scholarship at the College of Environment & Design at The University of Georgia. The purpose of the fund is to support out-of-state students seeking a degree in Landscape Architecture, and it was created in honor of the efforts of then Dean, Hubert Bond Owens, who came up with a scholarship in 1972 that provided critical support in allowing Mr. Marshall to finish his degree at UGA.

Please join us at the College of Environment and Design on UGA's campus, Saturday, April 17, 2010, as we welcome Randy Marshall as our Neel Reid Lecturer, followed by a luncheon in the Founders Memorial Garden. Randy will be speaking about his international experiences and his focus on historic landscapes, villas, and estates, and the significance of place. He and Helen Marshall will have recently returned from two extensive UGA Alumni Abroad trips: one to Greece and the Mediterranean, and another to South America.

## (T)HERE: Context in Environmental Design

### Circle Gallery Openings

#### FALL 2009

August 19-September 4: **Covington Studio**  
*4 Years of Success – UGA Gives Back to the Community*  
Reception: August 28, 5-7 PM

September 9-25: **Across the Spectrum**  
*2009 ASLA Awards:*  
*Student & Professional, Regional & National*  
Reception: September 11, 5-7 PM

October 1-3: **We Are So Lightly Here**  
*Putting Contemporary Musicians in Their Place*  
*Photographer Michael Wilson*  
Reception: October 1, 5-7 PM

November 4- December 11: **Forming Content**  
*CED Professor Cecile L.K. Martin*  
*Graphic Media Works*  
Reception: November 11, 5-7 PM

#### SPRING 2010

January 7-29: **Italia**  
*Photographs and sketches of Latium, Tuscany and Venetia*  
*Brian LaHaie and Clark Lundell*  
Reception: January 29, 5-7 PM

February 3-24: **Experiencing the Cherokee Landscape**  
*Past, Present, and Future*  
*UGA Institute of Native American Studies and students from Professor Alfie Vick's 2009 Maymester class*  
Reception: February 19, 5-7 PM

March. 1-31: **Cemeteries: Place, Story, Meanings**  
*Janine Duncan, Jim Cothran, and Charlotte Marshall*  
Reception: March 19, 4:30-6:30 PM

April 1-9: **Landscapes for Rain**  
*The Art of Stormwater- Portland Environmental Services*  
Reception: April 1, 4:30-6:30 PM

April 14-29: **You Can Get There from Here**  
*International Engagement Opportunities at CED*  
Reception: April 16, 3-5 PM

\* Alumni Weekend participants are welcome to attend.

May 3-8: **IDEA 42**  
*Senior Project Designs*  
*Capstone Projects of the graduating 5th Year BLA Students*

### CED Lecture Series

#### FALL 2009

September 15: **Eric Bishop/Jim Sipes (EDAW)**  
*Water & the Future of Atlanta*

September 23: **Anthony Tung**  
*Synthetic Approaches to Preservation*

October 14: **Chris Reed (stoSS)**  
*Synthetic Approaches to Preservation*

October 28: **Andrea Kahn**  
*Constellations*

November 10: **Trevor Paglen**  
*Experimental Geography*

November 18 : **HGOR Panel**  
*Bob Hughes (HGOR)*  
*Fred Yalouris (Atlanta Beltline)*  
*Fred Kent (Project for Public Spaces)*  
*Doug Allen (Assoc. Dean, Georgia Tech)*  
*Heidi Davidson (Mayor of Athens)*

#### SPRING 2010

January 28: **Karen Phillips**  
*NYC Commissioner*

February 2: **E. Lynn Miller**  
*Professor Emeritus, The Pennsylvania State University*  
*Lecture Supported by the Dan Franklin Professorship*

February 24: **Jim Urban**  
*Up By Roots - Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment*

March 17: **REBAR**  
*User-Generated Urbanism*

March 24: **Alan Berger**  
*Landscape Beyond Urbanism*

April 5: **Richard Forman**  
*Landscape Ecology*

April 17: **Randy Marshall, Neel Reid Lecturer**  
*Creative Solutions in the Landscape*

YOU  
SAY  
GOODBYE.

## Evolution, Not Revolution

Brian J. LaHaie, Associate Professor and Former MLA Coordinator

As I have noted before, life in the academic environment is highly cyclical. The one constant is change. Classes change, students enter and graduate, and faculty change positions or come and go. It's a natural progression. After the recent accreditation visit, I intuitively knew that it was time for a change. Evolution.

In actuality, the decision to step down as MLA graduate coordinator was contemplated and discussed long before the spring 2009 accreditation visit. Five years as a coordinator is a very reasonable tenure. Administrators (academic or otherwise) live at a quick pace. Small fires need your attention at even the most inopportune times. Some people are naturally wired for this pace; they are natural multi-taskers like hoopsters with new basketball shoes on a fresh hardwood court – ready to cut to the basket or move laterally at a moment's notice. Reactionary.

I, however, am more of a plodder, a distance runner. It is time to turn in my Air Jordans (basketball shoes) and seek a more reasonable pace. Something with more direction, more intention. Jay Griffiths' book, *A Sideways Look at Time*, suggests that the faster you go, the less spontaneous you can be: no pausing, wondering, or re-routing. I prefer wondering. Griffiths goes on to state that "traveling slowly offers more avenues, more choices, more possibilities for meandering or stopping at will." I am looking forward to more choices as I return to full-time instruction as an Associate Professor.

The MLA program, under new leadership, will continue to change in the future, as it should. Recently, I had a conversation with Assistant Professor Doug Pardue regarding the nature of change in the College. He confided in me that he, like many young people, was at times a bit impatient with the speed of change. Change, speed, and revolution always appeal to the young. With maturity comes balance. While terms such as "cutting edge," "progressive," and "high tech" might be a great recruiting tool to lure candidates into the program, the curriculum will need to balance new age ideas with traditional values and professional skills in order to grow thoughtfully, intentionally, and with more choices. Wise men and women know this methodical process – "Evolution, not Revolution."

"Thanks for the Memories" – The old (too old for most of you) Bob Hope tune, keeps swirling around in my head. There are not enough thanks to go around for all that have made the past five years so memorable. Thanks to Bruce Ferguson and Allen Stovall, previous coordinators, for charting the course and navigating the rough seas that preceded my taking the helm as MLA Coordinator. Collectively, they set the bar and established the protocol that defines the current program. Thanks to Deans Crowley, Weinberg, and Nadenicek for their support and to all the coordinators that work collaboratively to improve the school and college. Thanks to dedicated, passionate, and hard working students – they are the spirit that drives the program. Finally, thanks to Donna Gabriel; she is not only the brains, but more importantly the heart and soul of the program. I will miss working with her.



WE  
SAY  
HELLO.

## A New Planning Program Realized

Tracy Hambrick, 1st Year MEPD, and Collin Koonce, 1st Year MEPD

Approximately ten years in the making, the new Master in Environmental Planning and Design (MEPD) program has become a reality. Conception of the idea began with the intent to provide students with a planning degree that would complement and enhance the College of Environment and Design's existing and widely respected Master in Landscape Architecture (MLA) and Master in Historic Preservation (MHP) programs. This addition is a logical and progressive response to the increasing need for responsible planners in our society.

As a planner who has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors, Program Coordinator Jack Crowley developed the vision of a program where students explore design fundamentals in a studio environment as well as understand planning policies that shape the built environment. Rather than position planning professionals as gate keepers, UGA planning graduates will be trained as gate openers and advocates of responsible growth. Development is going to occur, and we need better planning policy that goes beyond a "don't do that here" approach. The challenge for planners is to provide developers with the tools that will guide them to community-appropriate designs.

Crowley explains, "You can't help a developer design if you, as a planner, don't know good design. Therefore policies that guide design cannot be written without first knowing how to design a city, a neighborhood, or a specific site within a community." Thanks to continued efforts by the College's staff and faculty, the new program was carried through the necessary University approval process, and saw the admittance of the first Master of Environmental Planning and Design class in the fall of 2009.

As the inaugural class of the program gathered to meet for the first time in the Founders Memorial Garden during orientation, excitement and anticipation was evident. The anxiety felt by some quickly dissipated as the ten new graduate students from a wide variety of backgrounds prepared to jump into their course work and planning studio. Despite the absence of a stu-

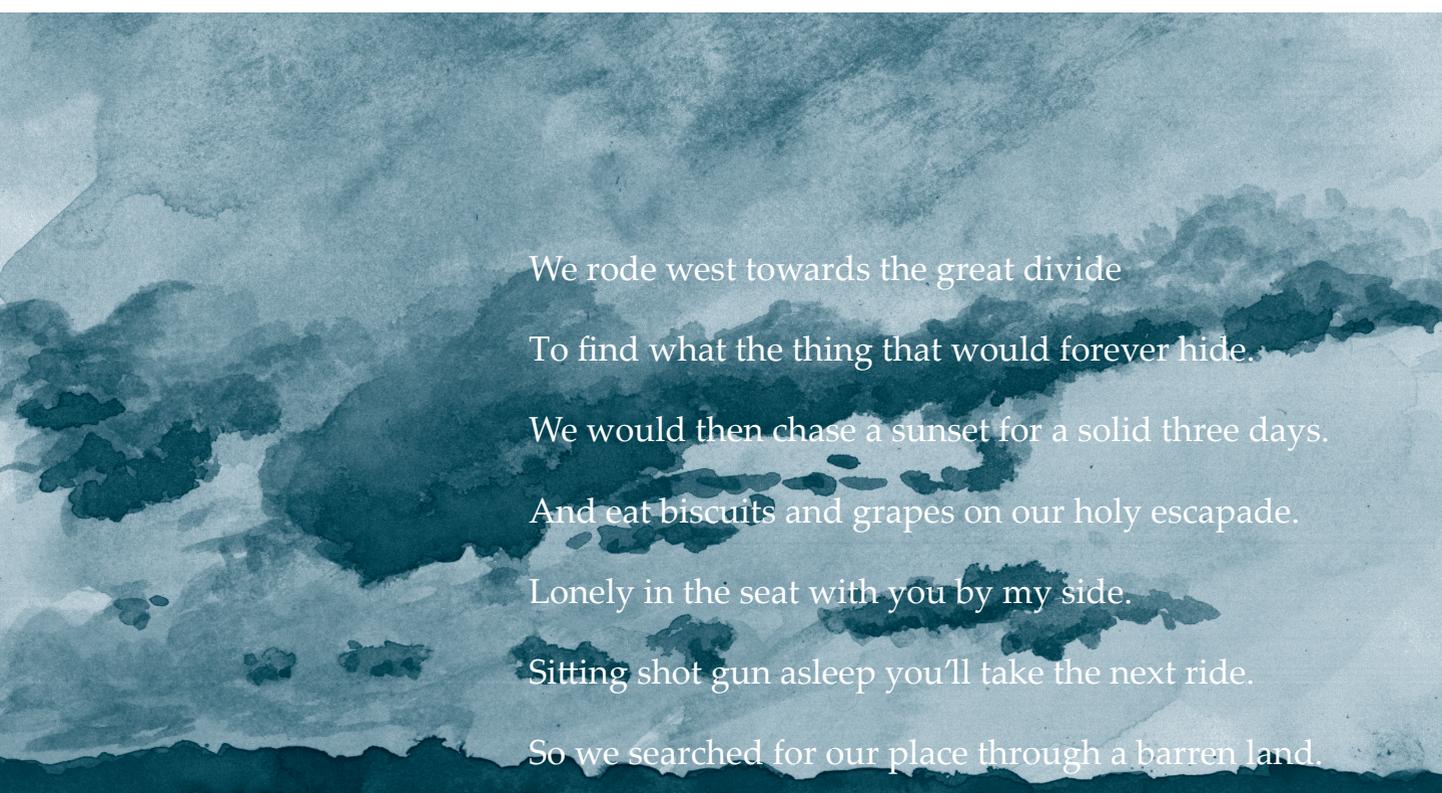
dio space up until a week before classes began, the students found their studio home in the inspiring historic Tanner building. The building, once a lumber supply store, has recently been renovated and retains its historic character. The students quickly set up their home away from home with all the necessities of a typical design studio conducive to long days and late nights of collaboration. Work has since begun on a wide variety of challenging projects. Project work has included developing a master plan for a future reservoir and surrounding development, a regional multi-modal transportation plan, and a neighborhood community outreach and revitalization plan. Each project involved multiple site visits and field trips to existing projects that exemplify best practices in planning and design.

The energy and excitement that surrounded the inaugural class the first day of orientation has not faded. The students are continually motivated with the knowledge that they are on the ground floor of a successful new program that will give them the tools to responsibly plan comprehensive places for people to live, work, and play. As only one of two planning programs within an area serving a rising metro Atlanta population of six million, the expected demand for such a program in Athens is high. This demand, paired with the strong reputation of the other two programs within the College of Environment and Design, mutes any question of future success of the program to attract students. "The applications and inquiries that we are receiving from prospective students without any marketing or advertising is much higher than anticipated," says Crowley. The College of Environment and Design website gives a great explanation of the program's overall goals and objectives: "The Master of Environmental Planning & Design is a professional graduate program with an emphasis on a studio-based integrative planning process grounded in social, environmental, and ecological principles. The purpose is to improve life and ecosystem health in regions and urban centers, incorporating cultural, historic and design elements, while engaging community process to identify and plan for long range city and regional goals."

[www.ced.uga.edu/mepd](http://www.ced.uga.edu/mepd)

# Plateau

Mario Cambardella, 1st Year MEPD



We rode west towards the great divide  
To find what the thing that would forever hide.  
We would then chase a sunset for a solid three days.  
And eat biscuits and grapes on our holy escapade.  
Lonely in the seat with you by my side.  
Sitting shot gun asleep you'll take the next ride.  
So we searched for our place through a barren land.  
Full of cacti and sheep set apart by god's hand.  
Follow the wire runs past dry creeks and buffalo.  
A promise to each other to never plateau.  
What we found before the end was what we came for.  
On the mountain of new dreams and a life of more.

# Food as a Community Planning Tool

Craig Page, 1st Year MEPD

As students at The University of Georgia in the College of Environment and Design, we are being trained to face the challenges of the future including resource scarcity, economic uncertainty, and climate change. These challenges are global in nature, but they must be addressed on local levels. Beyond individual actions, these challenges will require us to work together as a community. Successful communities have a strong sense of identity, recognize their strengths, overcome their weaknesses, protect their local environments, respect their community's economic and human resources, and together work towards a more sustainable future.

Food can be one important tool for building community. Unfortunately, food has become unmoored in our lives, leaving us disconnected from anything beyond the kitchen and supermarket. Most of us do not consider food to be embedded in a larger system that extends to the growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, and disposal of food, in addition to all the inputs and outputs of each of these steps. In the US and most of the world, the dominant food system is an industrial one. The industrial food system excels at getting cheap and plentiful calories to our tables through efficiencies of scale, specialization, mechanization, crop monocultures, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, cheap fuel, and government subsidies.

But some see cracks in the industrial food systems. Our food travels an average of 1,750 miles from field to fork. Our industrialized food system accounts for 19% of our nation's energy consumption and one third of global green house gas emissions. We have lost 75% of our agricultural genetic diversity in the 20th century, including most of the tastiest and regionally-specific heirloom varieties and heritage breeds. Ecosystems are stressed as evidenced by collapsing bee and seafood populations, as well as a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico the size of New Jersey, a result of nutrient enrichment from fertil-

izer run-off. We are overfed and undernourished as a nation due to the proliferation of highly processed convenience and fast foods. Finally, there is an ever-growing threat to the security of our food supply from intentional or unintentional disruptions due to the vulnerabilities of centralized production, centralized processing, and long distribution chains.

One alternative to the industrial food system is a community food system where food production, processing, distribution, and consumption are embedded in a community and enhance the economy, environment, nutritional health, and sense of place. A community food system greatly reduces the distance food travels and the amount of energy inputs required. It protects open space and agrarian landscapes. It creates meaningful jobs and keeps money circulating within local economies. It encourages community self-reliance and provides resiliency from disruptions in the industrial food system. Most importantly, it builds community; facilitates relationships between producers and consumers, and between people and the environment in which they live and depend. A community food system makes a place distinctive by giving it a unique culture and flavor.

Students in the Master in Environmental Planning and Design (MEPD) Program, are learning three complementary approaches to planning that can be applied to building community food systems. First, to seek, compile, and interpret community input along with other data into a comprehensive plan. For community food systems, a planner might participate in food policy council or help conduct a community food assessment.

Second, planners can develop land use policies to protect agricultural land and permit community food projects within cities. Urban growth boundaries and transfer of development rights (TDRs) are two policies to protect agricultural land from development pressure and rising property taxes. Policies can be written to permit community gardens and public orchards on publicly owned land. Schools can be encouraged to have educational schoolyard food gardens.

Finally, the MEPD program focuses on physical planning and developing design solutions based upon environmental and economic inventory and analysis. A physical planning approach would identify suitable sites within an area for community food sources and explore appropriate distribution systems.

# Re-evaluating Urbanization: *a Landscape-Centric Perspective*

Jacob Lange, 3rd Year MLA

When I was first asked to write an article for this edition it was a struggle to formulate a topic that would, first, substantiate the charge of the publication – as suggested by its title – and that would, second, encourage increased urban discourse within the College of Environment and Design. Whether or not the latter of those objectives is fulfilled, and whether or not the complexities of the topic are sufficiently verbalized, the key issues are integral to both the state of Georgia and its landscape. The concepts put forth (none of which are new or unprecedented, but are nonetheless relevant) will, at best, encourage dialogue and interest, and at least incite criticism and haste.

**“Posthaste we must move to post-waste.” - Lars Lerup**

There is a tendency within our profession, when conceptualizing contemporary urbanization, to draw distinctions between the suburbanized and more mature, urbanized portions of the city. The latter remains subordinate to the former (at least in the mind's eye) despite the fact that more than sixty percent of the American population now lives and works in sub-urbanized areas. Accompanying these spatial distinctions are subsequent value differentiations. We continue to define suburban development, or, in more critical parlance, sprawl, as chaotic, disorderly, and wasteful, while we uphold its predecessor as stable, orderly, and healthy. The ultimate

result is an established good/bad, here/there dichotomy that restricts integrated assessment and action. Perhaps our persistence in establishing such boundaries is reaching the point of obsolescence; perhaps a reevaluation of contemporary urban dynamics from a landscape-centric perspective will displace reactionary criticism with evolutionary modes of action, thus improving our sprawled urban environment.

These are not revolutionary concepts. Lars Lerup, architect, professor, and urbanist, hypothesizes that the “demise of the city” in the wake of a newly formed metropolis renders traditional characterizations of

the urban/suburban dynamic both obsolete and problematic<sup>1</sup>. The city – whose etymological origin suggests settlement, centrality, and containment – is no longer relevant because the binding lines between suburb and core have disappeared and left a sprawling network of peripheral nodes. Albert Pope, a colleague of Lerup's, suggests that the periphery is “less an extension or outgrowth of the core than a unique organism, presently at the brink of overwhelming its host”<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the implications of a metropolis without bounds are far more complex than semantic inadequacy alone. As urban de-

velopment spreads rapidly away from the monolithic core where geometry and form once ordered and dominated space, the contemporary metropolis represents a new and unprecedented urban morphology where “space and form have become polarized into discreet, non-intersecting worlds of closed urban forms and their spatial residuum”<sup>3</sup>. Just as the core has become subordinate to the periphery, form has subsided to spatial aggregation.



Despite the apparent ominousness of his charge, there remains hope and potential for those of us who have chosen landscape as a medium. Pope's ‘spatial residuum,’ in more optimistic terms, represents urbanization infused with nature, at least in terms of acreage. In more concrete terms, it represents a twenty-eight percent decrease in urbanized density per square mile (or, depending on perspective, an increase of the same percentage in landscape) since 1960. Lerup



describes the predilection towards lower density as a “preternatural alloy of nature and artifice”<sup>4</sup>. This artifice – single-family houses, the isolated subdivisions where they occur, and the self-contained business parks where their inhabitants work – are devoid of form and substance without the abundant aggregation of space surrounding them. However, these spaces – the lawns, the expansive tracts of in-between lands, and the oversized and too often, empty, parking lots – will remain devoid of nature as long as their potential to do so remains unseen and under-theorized. Landscape within the metropolis requires a bolstered conceptual valuation if it is to ever meet the demands of its spatial prominence.

Much of our sustained inadequacy in conceptualizing the potentials of the landscape abundant metropolis is due to the market speculation that drives its construction, and the preponderance towards defining it using commodity-bound words like building and place. Landscape has been reduced to that which is leftover, the by-product of the market economics that constitutes the contemporary (sub)urban experiment. Both Lerup and Pope recognize this

condition. While Pope provides a reactionary castigation of urban designers’ tendency to imprint form as a means of spatial utilization, Lerup urges them to employ nature to those same ends, “particularly when it appears that ecology may be the only viable challenge to market economics”<sup>5</sup>. It is precisely

here that shifting perspectives of urbanization call on landscape architecture as the mode of action for ensuring the metropolis’ future health.

In his recent book, *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America*, Alan Berger drafts a foundation for employing a landscape-centric perspective towards the contemporary metropolis. He acknowledges that such an endeavor first requires a reevaluation of urbanization since “people concerned with landscape, environment, and sustainability issues almost never consider sprawl a positive opportunity, even though it is largely dominated by landscape development”<sup>6</sup>. Attempting to describe urbanization in terms of traditional value systems – horizontal expansion as chaotic, disorderly, wasteful, and problematic – suspends our profession’s collective creativity and capacity to ensure healthy urban environments. If we were to discard the long-held, and at times nostalgic, notions that the health of our cities is a product of ordered, stable, Euclidian formulations, we might

be able to theorize and formulate new modes of action for strengthening our expansive metropolises.

The contemporary metropolis, this new and unique organism, exists in an expanse of forgotten space and unknown potential. It is insubordinate to architectural form, and values mobility over stability, polyvalence over concentricity, and most importantly, unbounded space over formal geometry. In order to reposition the abundance of space afforded by contemporary urbanization within the realm of landscape, we must reevaluate the “resistance of traditional urban design in the face of radical mobility”<sup>7</sup>. Instead of lamenting the dissolution of bounded urbanization, instead of wading in nostalgic obsolescence, we must forge new conceptual frameworks capable of advancing any number of possible futures. “After all,” Lerup points out, “the historian’s library is not an option for practicing designers”<sup>8</sup>.

1. Lars Lerup, *After the City* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2000)
2. Albert Pope, *Ladders* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996)
3. *Ibid.*, 17
4. Lerup, 23
5. *Ibid.*
6. Alan Berger, *Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006).
7. Lerup, 22



# Students of State Parks

## Learning about Georgia, Nature, and Design

*Lindsey Petersen Hutchison, 2nd Year MLA and Todd Hutchison*

As students of architecture and landscape architecture we are always searching for what makes a place special. As recent transplants to Georgia, we began exploration of our diverse new home state through the state parks. We seek escape in nature from our everyday routines, and being in nature reminds us that we are part of something bigger; removed from the presupposed shelter of modern society, we meet nature face-to-face, learning to appreciate what we take for granted in our daily lives. Our explorations at seven of Georgia's forty-six state parks help us understand place, nurture our love of nature and the outdoors, and informs design.



**Amicalola Falls State Park,**  
August 2008

A stairway followed the river's transition from the cascading waterfall namesake of the park, past a forked water torrent rushing around an island of vegetation, along a quiet, meandering stream, to a placid, man-made fishing lake. Our return hike up the mountain on the Appalachian Trail approach trail featured periodic vegetation openings framing beautiful vistas of the surrounding mountains.



**Victoria Bryant State Park,**  
January 2009

The highly denuded, bright green golf course skirting the trail felt particularly foreign on our walk through the brown winter woods. Within the woods we discovered the American Beech when we observed tan, papery, translucent leaves still anchored to their branches and rustling in the breeze.



**Tallulah Gorge State Park,**  
August 2009, September 2009

Our first camping excursion began on a visually unvaried, highly eroded old roadbed—the only trail accessing the backcountry campsite. Hot and weary, we continued to the lake, waded in the water and relaxed on the dock, enjoying the placid scenery. When hiking out of the backcountry the next day, we got lost in a driving rain due to poor signage, but fortunately we wandered onto a beautiful gorge overlook.



**Watson Mill Bridge,**  
October 2009

The vertical lines in the fall of the wide waterfall echoed the vertical board pattern of the low, horizontal bridge. The swollen river surged over its banks, swirling precariously around our boots. Along the trail, the shaded forest floor and recent heavy rains produced mushrooms in amazing colors.



**Black Rock Mountain State Park,**  
October 2009

We spent the weekend camping and hiking loop trails through spectacular fall foliage to exciting points of destination. Returning again and again to the ever-changing scenery of the mountaintop overlook and basking in the warmth at the sunny lake, we learned that nature is ever-changing but constantly beautiful.



**Panola Mountain State Park,**  
late October 2009

A boardwalk and protective fence guided our tour of the fragile granite dome ecosystem. We re-entered the forest and at a canopy opening provided by a trail intersection, a remarkable tulip tree featured four diverging, unbelievably straight, vertical trunks. Further exploration showed that the magical tree revealed 2, 3, or 4 trunks based on our changing angle of perspective.

## Landscape Architecture & Food Sustainability

Agustina Hein, 4th Year BLA

Located on the fringes of campus is an apple tree that has been forgotten by most, but I had the pleasure of picking fruit from this tree. It made me appreciate a simple but important idea: we should be getting our food locally. Whoever planted this apple tree gets a toast from my apple cider. The abundant fruit on this tree inspired me to believe that landscape architects can help bring about regional food production.

Long before landscape architecture was around, productive gardens were some of the first designed landscapes. The Egyptians, for example, created gardens with abundant fruit for food and flowers for pleasure. In eighteenth century London, agriculture was so tied to the city that livestock were literally walked directly to market. Until post-industrial development and globalization, there was little gap between where food was produced and consumed, so that the landscape retained a balanced matrix of city and agriculture.

Along the way, American culture has forgotten about the garden. Too often we now find vast expanses of sterile grass at our doorstep, devoid of even the tasty “weed” that is the dandelion. To Americans, food is something found processed and packaged at the grocery store while farmland is a scenic backdrop. Faced with endless conventional options at supermarkets and most restaurants, eating local seems like a chore. We don’t feel like asking ourselves where the cabbage in the coleslaw from the “local” BBQ actually comes from. But what if we started making eating local easier? What if we started reminding people that food comes from the very land at their feet? Knowing tricks to eat local or organic is useful, but we should also picture how a disconnect has formed between food, people, and land—and the subsequent reactions that have begun will affect our role as landscape designers.

Luckily for our taste buds, local food is now the fashion. In residential design, homeowners are beginning to expect more from their backyards; kitchen gardens are in vogue. In this realm we should stay sensitive to these new visions and educate ourselves about designing functional gardens. HungryGnome Gardenscapes is an Athens consulting business begun by UGA alumnus Kevin Yates that helps homeowners grow food without compromising the aesthetic they want. Around the

country, the realm of agriculture has seeped into the urban. In the September 2009 *Landscape Architecture Magazine* an article on Richard Haag’s “Edible Estate” was published. Haag uses his Seattle home as a way to grow food and experiment with different methods while creating designed outdoor spaces.

Even UGA has caught the local food bug. Students from a variety of fields have started a new student organization: UGArden (pronounced “u-garden”). UGArden and Athens P.L.A.C.E have submitted a proposal for a community garden on East Campus that would serve as an educational tool for food issues and organic gardening. College of Environment and Design (CED) students have been involved from the planning phase of the garden by drawing out simple design ideas and providing support. Students at CED can take this new organization as a great opportunity to expand their hands-on knowledge of organic gardening and as a great way to connect to other students and organizations that are interested in changing our landscape and the way our society functions.

These small steps point to the larger trend of making our food network energy efficient and ecologically sound; it is designing for sustainability. That is where landscape architects and planners will need to establish their roles in the changing system of food production. We are not quite horticulturalists, gardeners, or farmers, but we will be working with them and many others. As ecologically and socially minded as we strive to be, we should push for such measures as the inclusion of productive perennials in designs and conserving arable or grazing land within the development of regional planning. In dense cities, designing for local food production will fall to marginal lands and implementing creative ways to plant in poor or contaminated soil. Organizations will have to take on new functions and roles in growing food with these pockets of production and these new networks will need leaders.

As local eating increases and the food production chain shortens, landscape architects and planners will have to mediate the physical and social changes that this will require. As students we can expect the appearance of food sustainability in the studio. And in the meantime, planting an apple tree can’t hurt.

## Introducing the Rural Design and Conservation Initiative

Lauren Clementino, 2nd Year MHP

The College of Environment and Design at The University of Georgia is pleased to announce the development of a new Rural Design and Conservation Initiative (RDCI). The Initiative, launched in August 2009, will serve the citizens of rural Georgia and provide students and faculty an opportunity to explore the planning and design challenges these communities face.

In the process of laying the groundwork for this new initiative, graduate students, faculty, and staff grappled with the very nature of rural design and conservation, coming up with five specific areas on which to focus efforts: agriculture, ecological restoration, recreation, cultural and ecological tourism, and history and local arts/crafts.

This process helped establish the major focus during the fall of 2009, which was to create a strategic plan for the establishment of the Initiative. Activities included exploratory field trips through the Piedmont and a day on the Augusta Canal. The group also established an office in the Tanner Building, created a template for a network of interested parties and possible funding sources, formulated databases of maps, institutional resources, and photographs, and started an annotated bibliography of written resources.

The establishment of a regional planning framework for the Savannah River Valley is the first in a series of projects to be undertaken by the Initiative. This project aims to define and explore the bio-region of the Savannah River basin so that planners and designers will better understand the natural and man-made environments, which in turn will better inform decisions made about resource conservation, preservation, and sustainable development. The study will concentrate on a region that roughly corresponds with the watershed of the Savannah River, focusing on the corridor between Augusta and Savannah. This area reflects some of the state’s earliest Anglo-European settlement patterns, as well as a long tradition of Native American cul-

ture. While it is essential that both sides of the river ultimately be considered in any planning or conservation effort, the project is currently limited to the state of Georgia.

“I have lived in Georgia all my life and never knew that Chinese immigrants helped build the Augusta canal in the nineteenth century. Cultural revelations like this are akin to discovering a new plant or a new species of bass in the Savannah. They open yet another window of understanding of the rich and varied world of one of Georgia’s major river watersheds,” said Melissa Tufts, who is helping shape the study with Dr. Eric MacDonald.

The RDCI hopes to draw on the skills of our new planning department in the UGA College of Environmental Design, as well as the MLA and MHP students and faculty. New ideas for sustainability and regeneration that are place-based have fertile ground in the rural communities of the American South. Also included in the founding team of the Initiative are Professors Katherine Melcher and Sungkyung Lee, as well as graduate students Allison Dublinksy (MLA) and Lauren Clementino (MHP). Dean Dan Nadenicek, Jack Crowley, Wayne Brown, and Pratt Cassity also provided inspiration and direction. The first semester of work was made possible with grants from Mr. Jewett Tucker of Smithsonian, Georgia, and the UGA Office of the Vice President for Research.

# Sustaining Preservation

*Helen Person, 2nd Year MHP*

Sustainability. Everywhere you turn today, the latest buzz word for industries associated with building construction, academic programs, budget issues, and you-name-it, will be sprinkled throughout the conversation or written word. If anyone wants to be taken seriously, their product, program or activity must be “sustainable” and it must consider “green” technology.

The preservation of historic sites and cultural resources takes no exception to this latest modus operandi as they proved during the 2009 National Preservation Conference held at the Nashville (Tennessee) Convention Center. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), the Trust Conference, as preservationists distinguish the event, commandeered five days from October 13 – 17 to showcase the latest concepts for weather-proofing everything from historic windows to deteriorating budgets.

The University of Georgia, a cutting edge contributor in the quest to create sustainable methods for restoration and preservation of its building stock, was represented at the event by students and alumni of its Historic Preservation graduate programs. Embracing the role of professional preservationists, The University of Georgia student contingent immersed themselves in workshops designed to offer a taste of the solutions and ideas available in a real-world preservation setting. Serving as emissaries from their respective employers, UGA alumni mentored the students offering suggestions for networking at the conference in an effort to navigate the path to employment.

Dignitaries from the world of preservation demonstrated the personality of the field that began as a social movement dedicated to preserving the homes of American notables. Stopping to chat with old friends, as well as to offer a nugget of advice to the newbie professional, industry supernovas, such as planning professional Nore' Winter and preser-

vation economics guru Donovan Rypkema were among a host of noted authorities presenting workshops on everything sustainable. From developing design guidelines that click with the residents of a rural Rocky Mountain community to transforming the face of preservation to meet the future, everyone from the icons of the field to the local Main Street director offered a glimpse into programs that work. Even former First Lady Laura Bush was on hand to address attendees at the Preserve America luncheon sponsored by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as well as a to receive an award honoring her support for the preservation of the built and natural environments through the adoption of preservation-inspired policies and practices in towns and communities nationwide.

Offering the host city a chance to showcase local preservation successes and processes, conference attendees were given to opportunity to participate in day tours of local sites of interest including Nashville's full-size replica of the Parthenon, as well as the Jack Daniels Distillery in nearby Lynchburg, and Tennessee's early preservation success as demonstrated in Franklin. Examples of adaptive reuse involving former factories-turned-condominiums included the former U.S. Post Office that is today the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, along with the former Werthen Manufacturing factory that now serves as a live example of rehabilitative preservation in action by providing living space for an entire residential community.

NTHP President Richard Moe greeted attendees from the state of the original Grand Ole Opry in Ryman Auditorium during the Opening Plenary. Moe recognized the city for their proactive approach to preserving buildings and sites important to the people of Nashville and the state of Tennessee. As Tennessee's capital city, Nashville serves as the state's flagship in many areas, including the preservation of its history through its buildings and neighborhoods dating back to its early days as Nashboro.

UGA graduate students Ashley Cissel, Brian Wolf, and Melissa Gogo were among the group of eight students who took advantage of a Section 106 Essentials course sponsored by ACHP. A certificate course augmenting class materials taught in Professor James Reap's Preservation Law class at UGA, Section 106 Essentials focuses on the processes involved whenever a designated – or a designation-eligible – property stands to be adversely impacted by a project being fully or partially funded with federal monies. Completion of the two-day course rendered UGA's students better prepared to address issues that arise whenever preservation of historic resources and public works projects find themselves on a collision course. Students were teamed with current professionals in preservation, landscape architecture, archaeology, and other allied fields and given the opportunity to develop solutions to real-life scenarios involving Section 106 processes.

Along with Cissel, Wolf, and Gogo, second year MHP candidates Ashley Baker, Lauren Clementino, Laura Kviklys, Justin Courson, Victoria Wood, and Helen Person seized the opportunity to attend workshops as diverse as Barn Preservation sponsored by the National Barn Alliance to Paying Up for Tearing Down which focused on strategies to discourage property owners from tearing down historic structures that can be rehabilitated for a new use while restoring the exterior to an earlier appearance. Taking in their first Trust Conference at the beginning of their preservation journey, first year MHP students Katie McAlpin, Kristie Naylor, and Caroline Turlington soaked up the voices of experience on topics such as The 21st Century Historic Resources Survey concentrated on the technological advancements that will make performing historic resources surveys for half-million properties in Los Angeles a reality over the next two years.

The Trust Conference doesn't only focus on traditional preservation issues. Outreach to African American and Latino Communities and What if the Past Wasn't So Harmonious?, two workshops that addressed concerns arising from the differences within communities and their ethnic communities, as well as the issues that surface when dealing with segregation architecture and interpreting the history

of these buildings, held great interest for the UGA contingent. Nore' Winter and architect Suzannah Reid addressed a packed house for their Innovations in Rural Preservation Planning: Coordinating Preservation with Sustainability and Community Development Policies, a presentation recapping success stories the pair have enjoyed working together to incorporate a preservation mindset in a community of strong property rights advocates, often those who oppose preservation policy implementation.

Keeping an eye toward the future and the sustainability issues woven into that fabric, Rypkema offered a preservationist's prospective from the mind of the economist. Renowned for his sharp observations in the area of economic redevelopment, Rypkema proposed a transition from the term “Historic Preservation” to that of “Heritage Conservation.” In an effort to align U.S. terminology with that of the world heritage organizations, Rypkema suggested that U.S. preservationists consider a re-focus to the pieces and parcels of local, state, national and international heritage that combine to create a tapestry of events, places, and people significant to both current and future populations rather than only those a over half a century old.

Sustainability. A buzz word. A new way of thinking about preservation and restoration materials, processes and philosophies that will last long into the future. It's the new “green.”

## in depth: Allen Stovall

Amber Christoffersen, 3rd Year MLA

“If I had a sense of mission, it was because I was looking for a way to not only practice but to teach a larger audience.”



The past 50 years has brought about a remarkable amount of change for the Department of Landscape Architecture at The University of Georgia. In the 1950's it was a stand-alone major, followed by the addition of Historic Preservation, a brief tenure with Ecology and finally at home in the growing College of Environment and Design (CED). An influential force during this period, Allen Stovall has fomented a pedagogical model of environmental advocacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement. As a result, Professor Stovall has completed myriad projects which fuse academic and community interests; in his words, “real projects” which extend outside the classroom.

Stovall graduated from the undergraduate program in 1959 and, with several years of design experience in Atlanta and a graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania under his belt, returned to UGA. 1968 marked the beginning of over 40 years of academic stewardship which does not appear to be waning.

Much of his passion and influences can be traced back to Hubert B. Owens, Edward Dougherty, and Ian McHarg. Of these notable mentors, Ian McHarg played a large role in his decision to return to graduate school and develop his educational philosophy. Professor Stovall recalls, “He helped me to understand the role of scholar-practitioner-educator...I brought that with me. So if I had a sense of mission, it was because I was looking for a way to not only practice but to teach a larger audience and that led to the kinds of projects that I took on.”

Those in the academic world are aware of the potential dangers inherent in choosing “real” projects; clients with high-expectations and complex projects are paired with constantly changing student dynamics and curriculum requirements. For Professor Stovall, a self-proclaimed “risk-taker,” these were challenges worth pursuing.

He received numerous grants, followed by awards, to take on projects locally and beyond, especially in his native Georgia mountain region. His local firm, Designers Collaborative, furthered this educator-practitioner relationship. Additionally, he used film, an innovative tool at the time, to communicate landscape and environmental issues in his documentary, “The Region in Change.” So began Professor Stovall’s commitment to use landscape architecture as a means to impact local communities.

In 2004, Stovall gained emeritus status as he stepped down from his position as graduate coordinator. The meaning of the term emeritus is often obscured by its heavy academic use. A definition of the Latin root emereri, “to earn one’s discharge with service,” provides a relevant interpretation and succinct description of his past and present role.

Despite his current academic status and tiny office, Professor Stovall maintains his presence on campus. Interacting with the students, he says, “keeps him young” and continues to aid in his personal growth. He has served as head of fundraising for CED and a long term member of the Alumni Steering Committee.

Whether serving as a guest critic for a studio or attending local City Commission meetings, Professor Stovall continues to pursue his love of education and community service. He has incited a passion for service and a legacy of community advocacy – a lifetime of work that the College is expanding upon. He is encouraged by his colleagues’ commitment to service learning projects. If the Dean’s current mantra for the strategic plan is any indication – “continuity with change” – Professor Stovall can rest assured that students and professors alike will continue to follow in the path he has helped to forge.

## in depth: Bill Ramsey

Alissa Haslam, 1st Year MLA

“Look for the solution within the problem itself” was one of the little gems that Hideo Sasaki passed on to me,” recalls Bill Ramsey. As he recognizes, Professor Ramsey was fortunate enough to be taught by Sasaki as a landscape architecture grad student at Harvard University, as well as working part-time at his firm. Sasaki approached the design process using what he called the rational problem solving system, which is a systematic approach to design. Professor Ramsey summarizes the system succinctly: “Act rationally until you can act intuitively.” Professor Ramsey’s journey into this profession was a serendipitous confluence of people, place, and circumstance that led in a roundabout way to the field of landscape architecture. Professor Ramsey’s first higher education experience was at Erskine College in South Carolina, but it was marked by disappointment – he didn’t make the baseball team.

The only job he could find was delivering laundry to a girl’s dormitory. “The best part of my time there was meeting Lilli, who would eventually become my wife, but in my second year we broke up” Ramsey remembers. He moved back to Atlanta and enrolled at the Georgia Institute of Technology. After a year at Georgia Tech, he was still unsettled.

One night at dinner, while Professor Ramsey was still a student at Georgia Tech, his father asked him if he had ever heard of landscape architecture – he had not. His father introduced him to Hubert Owens, who was the founder and current dean of the School of Landscape Architecture at The University of Georgia. Bill liked what he saw and enrolled in the program at The University of Georgia as a first quarter senior. He graduated in 1958 with his BLA degree. He received encouragement from Owens to continue on in his education and applied to the MLA program at Harvard, graduating from there in 1961. Although Professor Ramsey loved his time there,

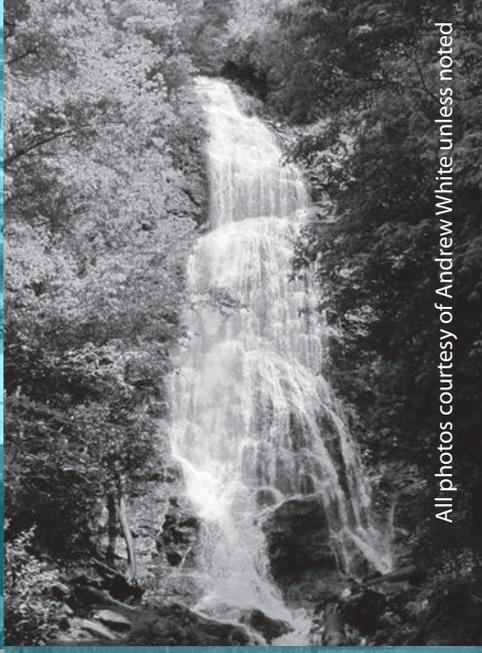
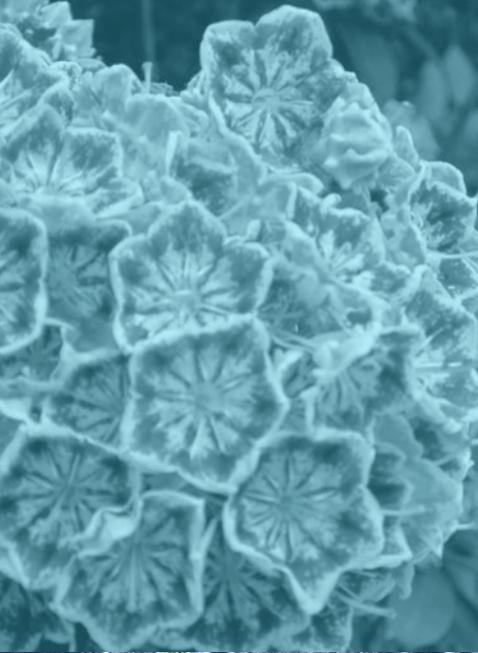
he always felt a draw back to the South where he was born and raised. He distinctly remembers one snowy winter evening walking across the campus quad in Boston with the wind blowing so hard it hurt his face. When he arrived at his house he said to his wife simply, “Lilli, it’s time to go home.” He and his wife have lived and worked in Georgia ever since that time, though his professional practice has included design projects that required travel west over to Texas and up to Virginia.



After graduating from Harvard, Professor Ramsey worked for William Byrd Associates and was exposed to planned communities and golf course design. In 1964, Ramsey started his own design firm, Ramsey Land Planning Consultants (RLPC). As Professor Ramsey describes, “While I was struggling to start my own business, Owens and others fed me projects such as the master plan for Fort Valley State and Columbus State College.” Ramsey acknowledges that his greatest support came from his wife, Lilli: “Hideo Sasaki had a huge influence on my life, but my wife is my biggest inspiration. She is an outstanding second grade teacher. Two years ago, she retired from Athens Academy after thirty years.”

By 1982, Professor Ramsey was teaching landscape architecture courses part-time at The University of Georgia and Georgia Tech’s School of Architecture in addition to managing a thriving firm. He had the great satisfaction of mentoring a handful of students who he encouraged to pursue an MLA degree at Harvard. Current UGA professors Shelley Cannady, David Spooner, Ashley Calabria, Alfie Vick and Amitabh Verma were each, at one time, his students.

Professor Ramsey is currently working on a book about his professional life experiences in the field of landscape architecture. It is titled *In Search of the Undreamed Alternative*.



All photos courtesy of Andrew White unless noted

## A Walk in Savannah

Caroline Turlington, 1st Year MHP

Mies van der Rohe described architecture as a conversation between generations. Walking through the squares and the riverside roads of Savannah, Georgia, students in Professor John Waters' Introduction to Historic Preservation class could not help but hear and speak with the voices of the past. The students and a handful of guests, around thirty people in all, traveled to the venerable city of squares to experience true Southern beauty and the very real results of passionate preservation policies. Professor Waters has taken his students, along with his lovely wife, Charlotte, and their canine companion, Beauregard, to Savannah for a number years. Visiting Savannah is integral to any heritage tourist, and it continues to be an invaluable experience for students of historic preservation.

The trip, as the students were warned, was not a leisurely weekend. The work started early in the morning in Washington, Georgia, where Mr. Griff Polatty led the students around two sites that sit at opposite sides of the preservation spectrum: one site was an example of what not to do to a historic structure and the other was a pristinely maintained Greek Revival home known as the Degas House. After admiring an impressive china collection of the current owner of the Degas House, the caravan headed across the border to the river town of McCormick, South Carolina, where Mr. Polatty lives in a house romantically dubbed "Bordeaux." Mr. Polatty's Neoclassical home is situated off of a farm road, shyly peeking through the pine trees. Upon approaching the property, the students found that there was nothing shy about this mansion. Mr. Polatty, a retired antiques dealer and avid collector of all things decorative, had boldly and expertly furnished his home with a collection that would make any interiors enthusiast swoon. His collections span centuries, genres, artists, and regions. From the collection of pottery from nearby Edgefield, South Carolina, to the silver dining set with over one hundred pieces, to the floor-to-ceiling mural of a desert island in the formal dining room, Mr. Polatty's Bordeaux can be compared to Versailles.

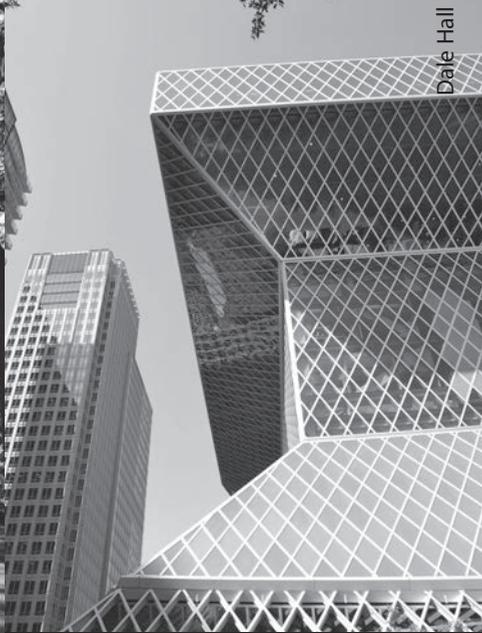
Crossing the border back into Georgia, the convoy stopped for lunch and learning in Augusta. Many students ate lunch on Augusta's Broad Street, followed by a walk down the main boulevard to get a better feel for the town. Students saw many empty storefronts and "For Rent" signs, an all-too familiar sign of a formerly robust downtown economy. Yet Broad Street was not completely dismal: an iconic Kress awning told of a time of unity and passion for civil rights and a bronze statue of James Brown delighted any lover of soul music. While in Augusta, the students visited the Woodrow Wilson House, where Eric Montgomery, curator of this National Historic Landmark, discussed the intimate details of the restoration of the 28th president's former home.

By late afternoon, the group arrived in Savannah and was advised to rest, as the next morning would come early. As cautioned, morning did come early, and the group met in front of the Massie Heritage Center at eight o'clock. There, Ms. Emma Adler, the founder of the Heritage Center, educated the students about the Center and explained featured exhibits. The Center included exhibits on the meticulous planning of Savannah by James Oglethorpe, a demonstration of a restoration project of Victorian porch supports, and a display of the thorough literature of the Greek and Gothic Revival architecture of Savannah. Shortly after visiting Ms. Adler, Professor Waters led the group to the Metropolitan Planning Commission headquarters where Ms. Beth Reiter and her two associates spoke to the group about preservation planning in Savannah; the Planning Commission had recently completed a Comprehensive Preservation Plan for Chatham County and the Savannah Metropolitan area. Speaking with Ms. Reiter about preservation on the local government level was enthralling to those students who are interested in the planning facet of preservation. After the Planning Commission meeting and a well-deserved lunch break, the afternoon's activities included the Owens-Thomas House (the first William Jay-designed house in Savannah), the recently restored Telfair Museum, and the Champion-McAlpin-Folkes House.

With Day Two complete, the students expected a break in the itinerary, but Professor Waters was tireless. Day Three began with an early morning "Discovery Walk" through the wards of Savannah, experiencing the buildings, historic objects, and urban landscape of a unique and iconic Southern city. The subtle warm breezes from the river rustled the heaps of Spanish moss dangling from the massive live oak trees and gradually replaced the morning coolness with the season's last bit of sticky humidity. The students tried to keep up and keep notes, but Professor Waters knows this town like no one else -- to have such an experienced tour guide and preservation specialist was priceless.

The last stop of the trip was to Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island, a military stronghold that has experienced major renovations in recent years. The proximity to history was purer here than in Savannah: walking along the five-sided fort, it is easy to imagine the tremendous artillery bombardment by Union forces during the Civil War that so easily breached its walls and proved brick construction of forts obsolete—never again did anyone build a brick fort. The massive cannons and labyrinthine tunnel systems alluded to the passionate defense of a land where towns like Savannah can flourish for centuries, luring preservation students and vacationers alike to the City of Squares.

Savannah is an enchanting place where the past is just as familiar as the present. The city's commitment to maintaining the unique aura and rich heritage is inspiring to any American settlement. Mies van Der Rohe's conversations are heard loudly and with a clarity surpassed by no other town, and these voices will be talking for many generations to come.



Dale Hall

Dale Hall

Dale Hall

# TRAVEL CHRONICLES



# exploring context

(an adventure story)

Andrew White, 2nd Year MLA

We are cold, wet, and possessed with a furious energy to keep moving. The park ranger had failed to warn us that the water levels would be much higher than usual, and that the hike would require multiple crossings of the river. Consequently, we found ourselves literally (and figuratively) in over our heads. I hurled my pack across the river, steeled myself, plunged into the frigid stream and swam against the current to the opposite shore. Though I did not realize it at the time, I was coming closer to understanding a site 700 miles away.

This past May, a group of nine students from the College of Environment and Design and six students from North Park University led by professors Linda and Alfie Vick undertook a three-week excursion along the Trail of Tears. We went to gather experiences and knowledge we could then apply to a design project at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Oklahoma – we came away with far more. The resulting experience synthesized history, horticulture, mythology, graphics, and ecology into an educational maelstrom that will remain in my memory for my lifetime.

All of us survived our Tennessee canyon hike; more than survive, we reveled in the adventure of each moment. As we reached the end of our hike, an amphitheater-like gorge opened in front of us. Twin waterfalls surged from the bedrock cliffs 125 feet above us and crashed into a virescent pool at our feet. The water, icy and treacherous before, now invited us to engage in our reward. We threw off our gear and energetically dove into the emerald pool. Swimming to the base of these falls, I felt a cold rush of euphoria and accomplishment I now find difficult to describe. I felt connected to the place, connected to my fellow adventurers and connected with my own life all at once. It was rapturous.

We also gained incredible insight into Cherokee culture, history, and religion. A veritable who's-who list of Cherokee experts expanded on topics as diverse as medicine, folk craft, plants, history, and even sports on every stage of our journey. We were so devoted to learning about Cherokee culture that we threw ourselves into one of their most popular sports, Stickball. Fears of bruised shins, stubbed toes and smashed fingers seemed to evaporate as we raced for the ping-pong-sized ball and hurled it with all the accuracy and might we could muster at a wooden fish fixed atop a thirty-foot post in the middle of the playing field. "Hit the fish!" became the battle cry of the day, and was inevitably followed

by triumphant cheers or defeated groans as the ball either hit or missed its mark. Then the scramble began again for control of the game. Breathless and battered afterward, my classmates won highest praise from their Cherokee teammates for being the best group of outsiders to ever play the game.

An experience of this magnitude deserves more description than this short essay can deliver. Before this trip, I had believed that a voyage abroad was the only way to get a taste of a foreign culture. Little did I suspect that such a meaningful cultural experience lay right in my own backyard. By directly experiencing these environments so rich with history and ecology, I came to better understand one of the most complex, tragic, and finally triumphant aspects of American history.

From 1830 to 1838, Andrew Jackson's policy of Indian removal was put into action in the Deep South, resulting in the displacement of five entire nations of people, including the Cherokees. Entire families were rounded up, imprisoned in concentration camps, and forced to march away from their ancestral home to make room for white settlers. An estimated 4,000 Cherokees, a full quarter of their entire population, died as a result of the removal. In spite of this horrific persecution, Cherokee culture, language, and craft survived and continues to thrive in both Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Throughout our travels, we came to a deeper understanding of the context surrounding our site, an interpretive historic village at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. We were to redesign the village in light of new archaeological evidence, ecological principles, and programmatic input from the people who worked in the village. Through direct interaction with the history and environment of the Cherokees, we equipped ourselves with the tools to give them the best design we were capable of producing. After all, a site is not limited to the delineated plot of land over which we, as designers, have control; it extends outward through time and space, including connections to infrastructure, culture, ecology, and history. Understanding these connections is essential to producing a design that remains relevant within its context. By stepping outside the classroom, we plunged into adventure in pursuit of such an understanding and came to know not only the site better, but ourselves and the world we inhabit better as well.



All photos courtesy of Andrew White unless noted

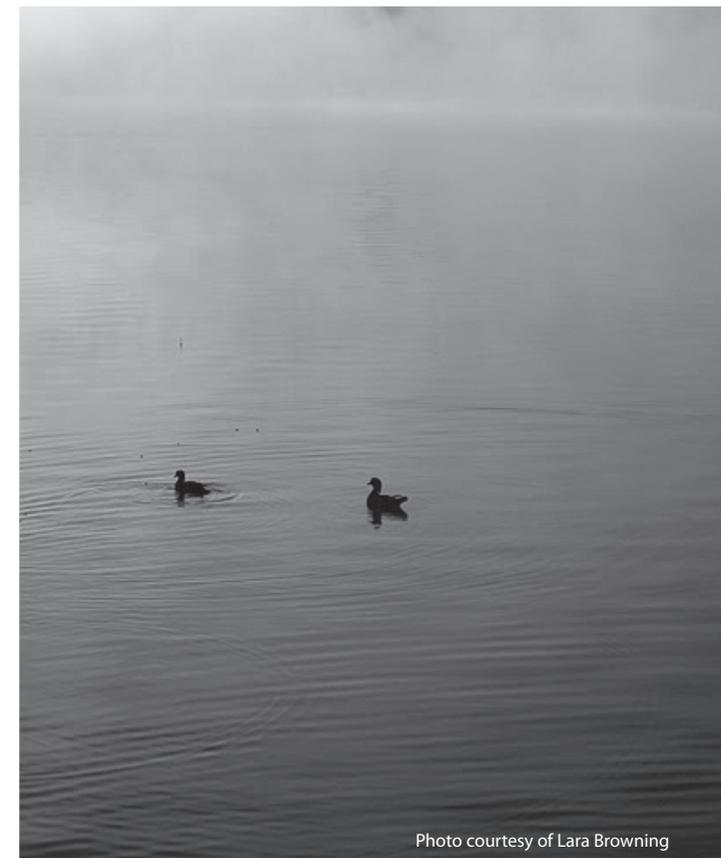


Photo courtesy of Lara Browning



# DESIGNING IN GHANA

Laura Hayden, MLA '09



Of course, these lessons do not apply solely to Ghana or the author. I look forward to presenting these lessons to the CED community as we develop global academic programs in the future, so that other students may be able to influence international design and enhance the caliber of global citizenry.

A developing nation in West Africa is not a traditional classroom setting. However, I found that a village in Ghana provided a unique opportunity for education and an extraordinary life experience. As a participant of the Ghana Summer Service-Learning program for two consecutive summers, I researched and worked in Akyem Oda, Ghana, a rainforest town of approximately 39,000, about three hours from the coast of Guinea. The traditional community life of Akyem Oda inspired me to research the struggles and challenges of other rural settlements in West Africa. The examination resulted in a master's thesis that evaluated the location and design of a market in Nkwantanum, a neighborhood of Akyem Oda. The mostly-female market traders and the dynamism of Ghana's central markets roused me unlike any previous experience. This unprecedented experience compelled me to begin an in-depth investigation of other West African market developments.

Open air markets are the pith of daily commerce and are deeply embedded in African tradition. The markets are not only vital to a community's economic survival, they are essential to understanding West African culture. Thus, a visit to Ghana would not be complete without traveling to one of these markets. Narrow aisles, metal roof covered stalls, traders shouting, frenetic bargaining and an almost overwhelming but delightful display of every conceivable commodity create an overwhelming and delightful experience of a distinct public space. Markets, the traders and the dynamic traditional economies that they support show a different more positive yet realistic image of Africa than the one commonly held by non-Africans.

I learned several lessons while studying the the intricacies of traditional land planning, African market design and Ghanaian politics. What emerged centers around the concept of balancing competing perspectives.

**1) Environmental solutions must be culturally sustainable.** Designing in Africa is a chance to grapple with complex environmental challenges associated unlike those commonly encountered in the United States. Environmental solutions must be sensitive to the unique cultural practices that shape a particular landscape. On one hand, this sensitivity is about respect. On the other hand, it is about finding a culturally sustainable solution that will be embraced by the community and therefore succeed. In the case of Ghana, this might include balancing the design recommendations for solving severe community soil erosion with the preservation of a competing African cultural practice such as the daily sweeping of the ground around a dwelling.

**2) Be aware of conflicting cultural tendencies.** U.S. designers sometimes avoid making the assumption that modern planning solutions are the best ones. This tendency is often misunderstood by citizens of developing countries who desire progress. Consequently, Ghanaians are more eager to embrace Western planning over traditional planning. Each situation should be considered individually to determine which is the most appropriate. For example, traditional planning is well suited for the prevention of malaria, a disease carried by the mosquito. Before colonization, African cities and settlements had lower population densities and were spread farther apart, consequently creating a condition that slowed the transmission of malaria.

**3) Understand that traditional design is often self-organizing** at the individual scale and is a bottom up process. This is true for the traditional markets in Ghana. In a developing nation with a strong informal sector (economic activity that is not taxed or monitored by the government), there is a real tension between self organizing design and government regulated space. Many government initiated markets are not successful because of a fundamental disconnect with the surrounding communities. A skilled designer will recognize that overplanning and too much oversight can render a cultural space sterile. It seems that designers can make more of an impact selecting a market's location or by addressing the urban conditions around a market than by actually determining the arrangement of shops and stalls.

# (PROF)ILES

## Wayde Brown

Wayde Brown's current research interests are focused on the development and interpretation of historic sites. Recent efforts in this area have resulted in a forthcoming chapter, "Left-behind Places of Memory: Comparing Grand Pré and New Echota," in the book *Remembering Home: Migrants, Belonging, Self-Identity*, and an article in the Journal of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada entitled, "Percy Nobbs and the Memorial Garden at Grand Pré." Professor Brown has also been working on the development of a new graduate-level course, Historic Site Interpretation, which was offered for first time in the fall of 2009.

## Jose Buitrago

Jose Buitrago's recent recently worked on the 2nd revision of his book, *Computer Graphics for Landscape Architects: An Introduction*. He also has a new book proposal on the topic of hand rendering techniques and has a CELA paper entitled "Looking Back and Learning from Las Vegas." Professor Buitrago is in charge of the Maymester program in Puerto Rico.

## Ashley Calabria

Ashley Calabria, who teaches hand and computer graphics, is conducting research that tracks the shifts in graphic communication media in landscape architecture. These shifts occur not only between hand and computer graphics, but also in computer applications and how they are used. This research has developed into conference publications and presentations, as well as a co-authored book with Professor Buitrago in 2008, titled *Computer Graphics for Landscape Architects: An Introduction*. Professor Calabria also serves as the technology editor for *Landscape Architect and Specifier News*. Her most recent work has been in developing a Brazilian-American exchange program with landscape architecture faculty, students, and professionals in Brazil. A recent trip to Rio de Janeiro to attend the International Federation of Landscape Architects conference brought about potential relationships for furthering this development -- she hopes it becomes not only a cultural and experiential adventure but also a practical one for extending a more global presence of our college and profession.

## Shelley Cannady

Shelley Cannady focuses her research on how other cultures express themselves in the landscape, concentrating on historical use and narrative of public space in Russian cities and spatial, sensory, and temporal experiences in the designed landscapes of Japan. Professor Cannady's years spent abroad have fostered this interest in global trends and classical garden styles. She is also interested in the incorporation of food into the designed landscape, as resource and economic limitations will demand the need for food production to become more localized. Her affinity for the agricultural landscape is expressed in commercial wine grape production and management of the family horse farm in northern Georgia. Current class projects include the planning and design of the Georgia Agricultural Education Center in Madison County and an international design competition for farmers markets, of which four students were finalists.

## Pratt Cassity

Pratt Cassity continues to organize six community design charettes each year. He helps staff the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and he is working with the Fanning Institute and the UGA Land Use Clinic to develop a standard service delivery methodology for Brownfield assistants in residential areas. He conducts community design training programs, conference sessions, guest lectures, and he is exploring new service learning.

## Gregg Coyle

Gregg Coyle continues as the Director of Resident Instruction for the BLA program who also serves as the Internship Program Coordinator and the Chair of the Scholarship Committee in the CED. Professor Coyle primarily teaches graphic communication and plant materials at the graduate and undergraduate level. As campus landscape architect for UGA Costa Rica, he has been designing and overseeing the construction of the Costa Rica campus from the land acquisition to future completion. He also developed the master plan for the UGA Coastal Gardens and Historic Bamboo Farm, Savannah, Georgia, in 2009.

## Marianne Cramer

Marianne Cramer teaches adaptive landscape management, cultural landscape preservation, eco-revelatory design, landscape urbanism, and park design. She has been involved with landscape management plans for the Founders Memorial Garden.

### Jack Crowley

Jack Crowley received a Kaiser Family Foundation Grant which placed him as a Visiting Professor in the College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma for the last year-and-a-half, which provided the opportunity to serve as Special Adviser to the Mayor of Tulsa. In this role, Crowley was involved with extensive urban planning and development research that resulted in an extensive Downtown Master Plan, beginning plans for a rail transit system, and more than \$200 million value of other downtown amenities. While continuing to counsel Tulsa on urban planning issues, he maintains a five-year "pro bono" relationship with Campus Planning and Development of Zamorano University in Honduras. In his "spare time," Crowley developed the CED's new two-year MEPD program, which welcomed its first students in August 2009.

### Dorinda Dallmeyer

Dorinda Dallmeyer continues to direct The University of Georgia's Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, which is entering its twenty-sixth year of interdisciplinary education. She presented the commencement speech for December 2009 ceremonies for the Graduate School. Her next book, *Bartram's Living Legacy: the Travels and the Nature of the South*, will be published by Mercer University Press in the fall.

### Brad Davis

Brad Davis spends much of his time dedicated to research on people-plant relationships. This past year, Professor Davis was awarded a Seed Grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research to explore some of the challenges associated with design-worthy plants through study of one of Georgia's native evergreen vines, *Smilax smalli*. This study, which will be completed during the summer of 2010, involves documentation and the cultural exploration of the use of *Smilax smalli* in partnership with Dr. Matthew Chappell in the College of Agriculture. Professor Davis believes that this kind of groundwork and collaboration between landscape architects and scientists yields exciting and regionally appropriate planting solutions applicable across a broad range of design contexts. Professor Davis is also engaged in service learning through his planting design studio, where students are working on the design and installation of a grant funded learning garden for a local elementary school.

### Bruce Ferguson

Bruce Ferguson is continuing his long-term project to study urban history and social systems as the underpinning for urban design, alongside the environmental systems that he has studied previously for many years. In the meantime, he is working with Design Workshop on a comprehensive upgrading of South Grand Boulevard in St. Louis, Missouri. In recent months, Professor Ferguson's speaking engagements have taken him to: Nashville, Tennessee; Boston, Massachusetts; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chicago, Illinois; St. John's, Newfoundland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Montreal, Quebec; and Coventry, England. He will soon begin work on a second edition of his book, *Porous Pavements*.

### Dale A. Hall

Dale A. Hall received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University and Masters in Public Administration from The University of Georgia. His combined practical experience in public and private sector planning and design spans over two decades where he specialized in governmental management, city planning and urban design. Along with teaching various design studio and lecture courses, he is currently working on his MLA where his research interest is founded on leadership associations and values between public administration and environmental planning.

### Georgia Harrison

Georgia Harrison is currently involved in two of the College's external projects: Wormsloe – State Historic Site Master Plan; and the UGA Coastal Gardens and the Historic Bamboo Farm Master Plan. She continues her research on Robert Marvin with a comparative study of the South Carolina low country coastal developments utilizing GIS mapping.

### Brian LaHaie

Brian LaHaie stepped down as the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Landscape Architecture program in December 2009. After five years of serving in that role; he feels it is time for others to contribute to the growth and development of the MLA graduate program. He is returning to his former post as a full-time teacher and possibly seeking other administrative positions as they develop. Professor LaHaie hopes that this will also allow more time to pursue research, writing, creative activities, and service to the College, University, and the profession of landscape architecture. His current scholarly interests are in memorial landscapes, landscape interpretation and heritage and regional tourism; his creative interests are in watercolor, pastels, and photography. However, Professor LaHaie is not pulling away from administrative duties altogether, as he is particularly interested in promoting the Dean's strategic planning agendas of international travel and curriculum review.

### Sungkyung Lee

Sungkyung Lee joins the CED faculty as an assistant professor in 2009. She grew up in South Korea and graduated with honors from Dong-A University with a degree in landscape architecture in 2001. She came to the United States to pursue graduate studies in landscape architecture; she earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004, and completed her Ph.D. there in 2009. Professor Lee's research interests include cultural understanding of place in contemporary cities, social sustainability in built environments, place-oriented urban design, healing garden design, and behavioral responses to healthcare environment designs.

### Eric MacDonald

Eric Macdonald is interested in environmental design history and cultural landscape interpretation and management. He is a part of the Wormsloe Institute of Environmental History as a cultural resource expert. He recently completed an essay on Actor-Network Theory for "Gardening and Philosophy", to be released in 2010.

### Cecile Martin

Cecile Martin's work has been shown in four one-person shows over the past two years, with one currently on view in Greenville, South Carolina. A retrospective exhibition is scheduled for this summer at Pickens Museum of Art in South Carolina. Her work has also been included in group exhibits in 2009, both in South Carolina and in Pennsylvania. As a result, Professor Martin has accumulated several awards over the past two years from organizations throughout the southeast region. She is also presenting a paper this spring at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

### Katherine Melcher

Katherine Melcher's areas of interest are how design can have a positive impact on the world and incite community pride and economic development. Additionally her research revolves around community-based design, vernacular and cultural landscapes, and social factors in public place and neighborhood design. Professor Mecher's most recent projects include: East Bay Greenway Concept Plan, Oakland, California; APA California Northern Section, Focused Issue Planning Award for the East Bay Greenway Concept Plan, 2009.

### Dean Daniel Nadenicek

Daniel Nadenicek became the new dean of the College of Environment and Design as of August 15, 2009. He is a widely published scholar in areas of historic preservation, landscape architecture and urban design, including more than ninety articles, reviews, reports, and proceedings. He has presented more than seventy-five lectures, papers, and panel presentations, including presentations in Germany, France, and Canada.

### David Nichols

David Nichols is serving as the director of the Founders Memorial Garden and working with Brad Davis on a textbook for plant materials that will be published by The University of Georgia Press in 2012. In addition, Professor Nichols is continuing to work on the East and West Coast Field Trips (LAND 4800/6800), this year marking twenty years of doing so.

### Doug Pardue

Doug Pardue is Assistant Professor of Urban Design, Urban Ecology, Construction and Graphics, and organizer of the College of Environment and Design Lecture Series. He is currently working on a grant with several graduate students to design the ICPI website. His research interest employs an integrated systems approach to social, economic and ecological issues at the landscape level in Athens and beyond.

### James Reap

James Reap's interests include heritage law, local preservation commissions, professionalism and ethics, and international issues in heritage conservation. Reap is currently working with Turath, a Jordanian architecture and urban design firm on a heritage conservation study for Amman, Jordan. As the program director for the UGA Croatia Maymester Study Abroad program, he has developed a course focusing on regional heritage conservation, which will be offered in Croatia this May. Other research interests include legal, administrative, and ethical issues involving historic preservation commissions, particularly training for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

### Mark Reinberger

Mark Reinberger is teaching his usual collection of architectural history and historic preservation courses. Additionally, he is offering a new Maymester course, a Preservation Field School on the Georgia coast. Moreover, students in his Building Materials Conservation course (co-taught with Tim Walsh) in fall 2009, produced condition assessments and restoration recommendations for buildings at the historic Shields-Ethridge Farm in Jackson County. He has recently completed a manuscript and submitted it for publication: *The Philadelphia Country House, Architecture and Landscape in Colonial America*. He has also begun a research project on the Greek Revival houses of Athens, and will present a paper on the topic at the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians conference.

### Ron Sawhill

Ron Sawhill continues to bring over twenty-five years of professional practice experience into the classroom, training students in land planning, site design, landscape construction, and landscape engineering. Outside of university classes, he conducts continuing education workshops for landscape architects and related professionals in the area of storm-water management. His research lies chiefly in the areas of storm-water management as well as land planning and design. Sawhill is the current President for the CED Alumni Association.

### Rene Shoemaker

Rene Shoemaker is the librarian and gallery director for the Owens Library & Circle Gallery. She recently had an exhibit, "A Common Thread," at the Textile Center from January through February 2010. Other commissions and permanent installations include "Passages" and "Kind Words Rising" at the Ramsey Center and "Sucession" at Heyward Allen Toyota here in Athens. She has continued to create art in Athens for the past thirty years.

### David Spooner

David Spooner is an assistant professor whose teaching responsibilities include an undergraduate studio in American Garden Design as well as a graduate level studio that investigates ideas related to Community and Place. He also teaches an introductory classes in Reading the Landscape and Implementation Documents. David is a licensed landscape architect in the states of Georgia and North Carolina with 12 years of private practice experience. He serves as coordinator of the Georgia LARE review and is a commissioner on the North Oconee Greenway Commission. His research interest broadly centers on how the built environment affects human behavior; as a result, he has spent the last few years conducting post occupancy evaluations of recently built campus spaces.

### Amitabh Verma

Amitabh Verma teaches Urban Design, Architecture, Construction and Portfolio Design in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Studying urban design and city planning within cross-cultural contexts, he examines patterns of contemporary city growth in developing countries, particularly India, and identifying optimal strategies for the future creation of communities. Simultaneously, he explores the transforming relationship between the city and water, focusing on meaningful public spaces along waterfronts. He has presented his research internationally at IFLA, EDRA, and CLEA conferences in the Netherlands, Mexico, and China. Recently, his research was selected for the Best Paper award at the UNESCO-ICCROM conference held in Macau in December 2009.

### Alfie Vick

Alfie Vick is conducting ongoing Cherokee ethnobotany research in addition to his teaching duties. He is trying to document the various strategies that helped the citizens of the Cherokee Nation to maintain and adopt their traditional ethnobotanical practices despite the relocation to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. He is also continuing to investigate better ways to bring low impact stormwater strategies to various land use and project types that have been slow to adopt them in the past.

### Judith Wasserman

Judith Wasserman is now the graduate coordinator of the Master of Landscape Architecture program. She is learning and thinking across disciplines, as she feels this is essential for enhancing the design process and product. She believes understanding dance and refining how we think about movement systems can revitalize the pedestrian experience into one of action and joy, encouraging greater community participation. To enrich her knowledge of the choreography of place, Professor Wasserman is gaining a deeper understanding of the thinking and process of Lawrence Halprin's work by studying his writings and current use of his designed places.

### John Waters

John Waters currently serves as the graduate coordinator of the Master of Historic Preservation program. His research interests include historic preservation philosophy, history, practice and advocacy. Waters also serves on the Founders Memorial Garden and House committee and was recently involved with the creation of an endowment for the complex.

### Scott S. Weinberg

Scott S. Weinberg serves as the Associate Dean for the College of Environment and Design. Professor Weinberg continues in his off-campus role as an Athens-Clarke County Planning Commissioner. He continues to work with local government to improve the Athens area by providing his expertise as a landscape architect to proposed developments. His on-campus responsibilities have him representing the College of Environment and Design on the Curriculum Committee and Admissions Committee at The University of Georgia.



## 2009-2010 GEORGIA LANDSCAPE MAGAZINE PRODUCTION STAFF

This issue of Georgia Landscape is the product of an exceptional team of talented, hardworking and motivated students. Recognizing the value of this magazine as a forum for their own voices and opinions, they eagerly took the opportunity to represent themselves in their own words and approached the task with enthusiasm, even during the long hours in the studio that were necessary to get the job done. I have really enjoyed working with them and would like to commend them for their initiative, effort and ability to have fun together. – Amitabh Verma, Faculty Advisor

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