

site

Lines

summer issue • 2002



BCSLA Fellows

The new BCSLA Board of Directors continued their annual tradition of meeting with the

BC contingent of the CSLA Fellows. **Lively discussions included:** municipal elections, Landscape

Architectural Registration Exams, Heritage Urban Forests and other issues. The Board was pleased to wel-

come input from the Fellows. This meeting is unique to BC and does not occur in any other province. Appearing in the photograph, from left to right are: Jane Durante, Doug Paterson, Cornelia Oberlander, Jeff Phillips, Heinz Berger, Don Vaughan, Chris Phillips, Clive Justice, Dave Mitchell and Phil Tattersfield. Not shown, but attending were Catherine Berris and Art Cowie; while regrets were received from John Lantzius, Cameron Man and Moura Quayle. ☒



BCSLA Fellows — photo by Adrienne Brown

boardwalk

boardwalk

President's Message

At the AGM this year a significant package of By-law revisions and updates was approved by the membership. These changes were a result of a significant amount of hard work by members, committee chairs, and consultants. The Board

of Directors now has the task of moving forward with these changes and implementing as many as possible. Of particular importance has been the registration of the new By-laws with the Province, getting LAP3 underway (the Act Update) and revisiting the Committee Structure. Dave Fushtey has been retained to assist with the

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President's Message
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Act and this work will proceed and be ready for review at the next AGM.

opinion about their community and their world.

The Boards' energy will now be directed to the reinvigoration of the Committee Structure with the intent of using the committees to increase the profile of the profession in the community. Much of our energy recently has been directed to house cleaning, now is the time to direct our energies to the communities in which we work, live and play. At present we have an Environment Committee, chaired by Jennifer Stamp, which is in need of membership and a strong mandate to advocate sustainability and respect for the environment in the community. Other areas for advocacy include Urban Issues, Land Use, Private Public Partnerships, Greenways, Schoolyard Development. The list is endless. We need Landscape Architects who are prepared to take a stand and have an

As the Board moves on organizing the Committees, guidelines will be developed for each Committee. We would like to ensure that the Committees will be heard and supported and that efforts will not be wasted. We also will be contacting membership to request your participation, or even better, contact the BCSLA and volunteer for a Committee of your choice.

Another significant area of effort is in fleshing out the membership categories of Landscape Architect and Landscape Architect Registered. As the By-laws have been approved the Board will proceed to prepare criteria for membership and communicate with the Board of Examiners when they next meet. ☒

Peter G. Kreuk
President, BCSLA

BCSLA

sitelines

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Inquiries regarding editorial, advertising or other issues should be addressed to the Sitelines Editor, c/o The BCSLA at the above address.

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

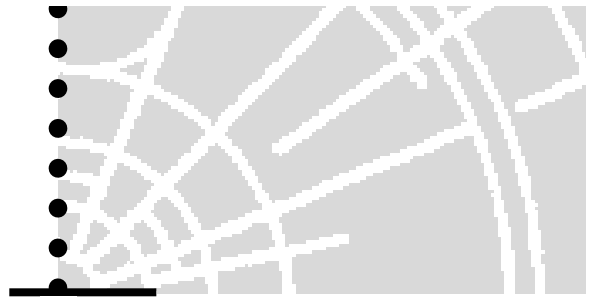
b c s l a

board
walk



Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin — drawing by Cameron Murray



Desmond Muirhead, 1923 - 2002

Desmond Muirhead began his professional life as a Landscape Architect in Vancouver in 1948, soon after he graduated in Plant Pathology from UBC, having also studied Engineering at Cambridge prior to World War II. In partnership with Hans Fischer (trained in horticulture) they began a practice preparing landscape plans for gardens in residential areas of the UBC Endowment Lands, Kerrisdale, British Properties, New Westminster-Sapperton and Victoria-Oak Bay. This was the first professional Landscape Architectural practice west of Winnipeg, that charged a flat fee or percentage for landscape plans, specifications and supervision.

Muirhead & Fischer became Desmond Muirhead and Associates Landscape Architects Ltd after two years when Hans left to work with the Federal Government. Desmond recruited Raymond Brauner, a graduate of the department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon. Desmond had met Ray when taking a summer Design course at Eugene. In 1953 Clive Justice joined Desmond and Ray after graduating in Community & Regional Planning at UBC. That same year Harry

Webb, newly graduated from the Vancouver School of Art (now the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design) joined the firm as Artist and graphic designer.

Some of Desmond's early garden designs included the Wilbanks and Saba gardens in Kerrisdale, the Philip Graham garden at UBC and the Allen garden in the British Properties. These gardens were featured in Western Homes and Living Magazine and were photographed by architectural photographer and long time friend Graham Warrington. As the Pioneer Vancouver Landscape Architectural firm, Desmond Muirhead and Associates had been preceded only by Thomas Mawson the Edwardian Landscape Architect and Planner who opened an office, for a brief period, on Granville Street, just prior to the First World War. Desmond Muirhead & Associates became Muirhead & Justice, then Justice & Webb and finally Justice, Webb & Vincent Landscape Architects. The work of the firm is now held in the City of Vancouver Archives, (Justice, Webb & Vincent — misc. MS 1149).

Desmond's garden designs were very original and his personal style quite flamboyant, reflecting perhaps the paintings of Miro or the work of Brazilian Landscape Architect, Roberto Burle Marx. He wrote many articles on garden

design and plant material for the Vancouver Sun and Western Homes & Living during the 1950s and 60s. He was the moving force in the founding of the Vancouver Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, in 1955, and was the Chapter's first president. Few could best him in his plant knowledge and in his plant arrangement for dramatic effect. He wrote two books: 'Green Days in Garden and Landscape', Mirimar, Los Angeles, 1961; and 'Palms for Gardens', after he left Vancouver to practice in Arizona and Hawaii in the 1960s. Since the 1970s, Desmond Muirhead practiced as a Golf Course Architect and Planning consultant, designing and building avante garde golf courses in Japan, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Desmond Muirhead died from a cardiac arrest at his home in Newport Beach, California on May 2, 2002. He was 79.

With great Respect,

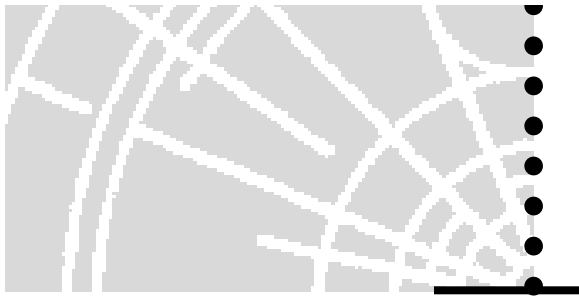
Clive L. Justice,
Msc, BCSLA, FCSLA 

Welcome to **Steve Beebe** who has agreed to serve as the **Landscape Architectural Students Association Representative** to the Board of Directors. Steve will be filling in for Paul DeGreeff while Paul is working away at his summer job on the Island.

tribute



tribute



LEARNING

LEARNING GROUNDS

Nature as a Model for Large Scale Planting Design

By Ali Sepahi

Ali Sepahi received his doctorate from McGill in Plant Breeding in 1971. He has twenty-five years of academic and consulting experience in Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape Architecture. He studied at Cal Poly in the Department of Landscape Architecture with the intent to develop the first School of Landscape Architecture in Iran. The revolution in 1979 prevented those plans from materializing. Dr. Sepahi has since developed an objective design process that can be used as a decision support system for Landscape Architects providing large scale planting designs to their clients. Here is a brief description of his development.

I strongly believe in the concept of 'Design with Nature' and hold that the best way to achieve this imperative is to design using the laws and parameters of nature. Fortunately, in the site planning phase of the design process, the availability of surface modeling software allows this approach to be easily implemented. The site planning of a villa complex on rough topography near Esfahan was determined by finding an acceptable range of slopes for building construction, tree and

native shrub planting, and a maximum slope for access roads. Areas with suitable soil for planting were also determined. With criteria in place, site planning was essentially left to the computer. Locations were determined using the site analysis module of Landcadd. The form of the access roads was a product of the maximum acceptable slope and the existing topography, which led to practically zero longitudinal cut and fill. Of course I made some decisions, such as placing the greenhouse, machinery complex and sport facilities at locations with convenient access. The advantages of this approach are:

- A** a minimal disturbance to the natural topography,
- B** a minimal cost of grading,
- C** a minimal impact of designed elements on the natural surroundings,
- D** an aesthetic form resulting from an interaction of mathematical functions,
- E** a rapid systematic design process, and
- F** an accuracy of design.

When faced with the planting design for this complex, we found no systematic, objective method to determine the plant palette and allocation of trees and shrubs to different locations within the site. So I set out to develop an objective method for this purpose. The procedure involved preparing a computer program that uses native plant communities as a model for large scale planting designs. The project seemed so far fetched that I refrained from submitting it as a research project to the University Research Council and developed it during my own free time. In 1996, after three years, the procedure,

mathematical model and the corresponding computer programming were finished. The computer program consisted of:

- A** a 'Plant Community Specifier Database', that chooses a native plant community suitable to the climate and soil characteristics of a project site,
- B** a 'Law Extracting Package' to determine laws governing the distribution of a species within a native plant community, and
- C** a 'Species Assigning Package' that allocates individual plants to appropriate locations on site.

It was then necessary to test the program by feeding data from a native plant community into the computer and observing how closely the program emulated nature. This became possible during my sabbatical leave at the University of Queensland, Australia, in 1996. There I was able to test the program using forestry data kindly provided by the Queensland Herbarium. In spite of an inadequacy of data, the rate of success of the program was 64%. At this time my immigration to Canada was finalized and I could now use data provided by the Ministry of Forestry, in Victoria, to test the program. The success rate here was 94% and I published my results (Sepahi, A. 'Nature as a Model for Large Scale Planting Design', Landscape Research, Vol. 25, No. 1, 63 - 77, 2000). I also presented a talk at the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly, and the Department of Forestry at UBC.

The method provides an organic distribution of species as a framework

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GROUNDS

Nature as a Model
... continued from page 4

for planting design. A designer can then make necessary changes to specific areas; while using a large palette of plant species. The method can use any number of variables; moreover multiple regression is not the only mathematical model that can be used. In fact, I hope the article will encour-

age further research to find better mathematical models and test them with different native plant communities — a good thesis topic for Landscape Architecture students.

As well as numerous scientific papers, Ali Sepahi is the author of 'Application of Statistics in Agricultural Research', and

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co-author of a 'Dictionary of Agriculture and Natural Resources', published by the Iranian Academy of Sciences. ☒



"Prickly Pear" — photo by Andrew Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS

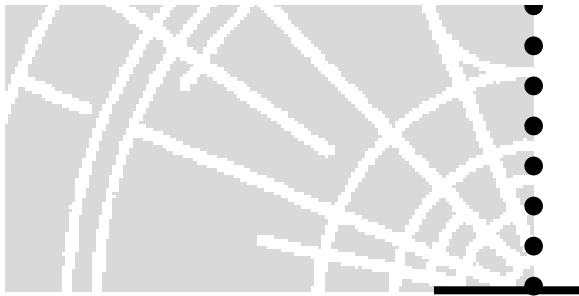
Two BCSLA student members have finished their master's thesis in Landscape Architecture at UBC and will be graduating in 2002. BCSLA wishes both of you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sung-Ae Sim

"Greenway as Cultural Narrative: Designing for Multiculturalism on Carrall-Ontario Greenway"
Graduate Project Advisors: Don Luymes (Chair) — UBC, and Patrick Mooney — UBC

André Kolber

"Bridging the Greenway Gap in Boundary Bay: The Mud Bay Connection"
Graduate Project Advisors Stephen Sheppard — (Chair) UBC, Don Luymes — UBC,
Will Marsh — UBC, and Peter Kreuk — Durante Kreuk Ltd.



Garden Art 2001: Potsdam National Horticultural Show

By Anita Green

This beautifully produced book is visually enticing and provides insight into the collaborative process of large scale landscape architecture where landscape architects, artists, architects, and gardeners tackle a wide range of park ideas and issues. The book is an exploration of people's relation to the landscape as an expression of culture. In its discussions and designs, the book also addresses conflicting park values of the utilitarian and the sacred.

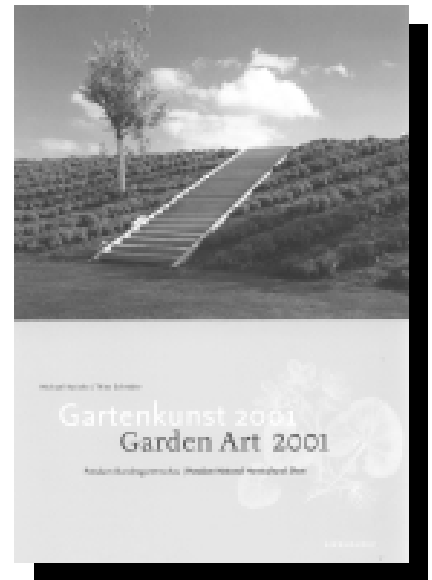
The title of the book "Garden Art 2001" is initially misleading unless you also know the original title "Gartenkunst 2001". The term "Garden" instead of "Landscape" or "Public" Art made me think in terms of residential scale. I was also anticipating more discussion about the art and the artists, as in John Beardsley's book entitled "Earthworks and Beyond". The terms Garden and Art are to be read in the very broad context of public gardens or pleasure grounds in the realm of urban design.

The title reflects the fact the book is written in German and translated into English. Layout is challenging for a book written in two languages. One option is to have the

text and English translation on each page (the approach for used by Lotus International in Quarterly Architectural Reviews). Another option is to have the text as two separate sections (the approach used in "Garden Art 2001"). The former approach allows integration of text and pictures. The latter approach only works if the images are duplicated, which requires additional space and greater cost. "Garden Art 2001" resolved this issue by featuring the pictures in a separate section applicable to each chapter. The layout influences how approachable a book is and how easily it reads. The communication of a visual topic is much stronger when the text and the images are closely linked. "Garden Art 2001" reads more like a text-book than "Earthworks and Beyond". Unlike the latter, where the text supports the images to develop the ideas, in "Garden Art 2001" the text seems almost independent of the images. This can be disappointing when an image catches your eye but you have trouble finding out more about it. One example is a striking image of red lips surrounded by hedges. The brief caption calls it "Lovers Bench" while in the text only the hedge is mentioned.

"Garden Art 2001" refers to the gardens designed to host the International Horticultural Show in Potsdam. The city of Potsdam is in Germany adjacent to Berlin's southwest boundary. It is a historic city where the Brandenburg-Prussian rulers created a fascinating ensemble of palaces, parks, and gardens from surrounding lakes and hills in the 17th century. The landscape architect Peter Joseph Lenne (the German equivalent to Olmstead)

book



united the various palaces and parks into a unique park landscape in the 19th century, which was designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990. Concurrent with the historic gardens is the city's long military history.

The historic landscape and military past were a source of inspiration for the proposed and built designs. It was this recognition and creative utilization of Potsdam's history that makes the book intriguing and the design process universally relevant. The philosophy of one of the key designers, Peter Latz, is that a work should reflect what is found on a site. One example of a landscape concept developed from the site's past is the use of ramparts in vegetation, stone, and steel. Hinnerk Wehberg's sculptural design of Unity Square reflects the diagonal paths of Lenne's 1862

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book review



REVIEW

Garden Art 2001
... continued from page 6



design in layout and visually plays with an old story of the land sinking by raising the triangular areas toward the centre. Paths are at street level but have the illusion of being lower. The pure "horizontal" lines of the steps adjacent to the paths serve as places to sit and create a design of dynamic simplicity.

The art works of Camofields, The Tower and The Fence are worth noting as artistic references to Potsdam's military past. Camofields by BergWork is a field of pillows covered in different camouflage patterns used by armies from around the world reflecting their unique landscapes. The Tower by Annette Wehrmenn is very intriguing. The artwork plays with a watchtower's past role of "keeping watch" by blurring how we see reality with mirrored reflections

and glimpses of the landscape. Artist Ignor Sacharow-Ross with surrounding wire fence and vines transforms the former shooting gallery. The photograph beautifully captures the light from the building through this translucent layer.


The book is peppered with visual ideas to capture the imagination; but there is more depth here than a catalogue of images. Descriptions of the analytical processes of the winning concepts are also included and I also enjoyed seeing 2nd and 3rd place entries to compare approaches. The inclusion of essays concerning issues regarding contemporary "people parks" makes the book more academic with regard to the present and future roles of parks. The text can be dry in places with the images adding the sparkle. For this review,

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I dutifully read the book from front to back, instead of instinctively with the pictures and captions. This latter approach would have overcome minor shortcomings, such as not discovering an overall plan until page 56, and the slow start to the first few essays. The book is definitely worth reading for anyone interested in park design and public art.

Authors — Michael Kasiske & Thies Schroder

Published by Birkhauser, Basel, Berlin, Boston \$70.00

Pages — 141 

book
P R E V I E W



"Coast" — photo by Andrew Wilson

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Smith, Jones & Associates
Vancouver 622-2222

BCSLA construction site signs are available through the BCSLA office.

For more information contact the provincial office or visit www.bcsla.org to download an order form or to see a photo of the sign in use.

PHOTO GALLERY

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IMAGES BY ANDREW WILSON



"Coast" — photo by Andrew Wilson

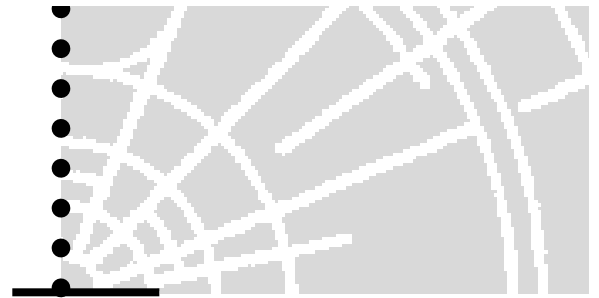


"Materials" — photo by Andrew Wilson

PHOTO GALLERY



noticeboard



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DID YOU KNOW

Members-Only Website

The BCSLA Members-Only page of the website was launched in mid-May.

Registered and Associate (Intern Landscape Architect) Members are encouraged to visit the site.

The site is still under construction and your input is welcome.

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all of those people who expend their time and expertise on BCSLA Committees and Sub-Committees.

We rely on our Members to continue to successfully offer our programs, services and activities.

Contact the BCSLA office for more information on volunteering.

Employment Opportunity

Perry + Associates is looking for a **junior landscape architect** and/or **intermediate landscape architect** to start immediately.

Experience with the preparation of construction drawings and details. Strong graphic skills. Experience with PowerCadd or Vectorworks necessary. Knowledge of Photoshop and Indesign an asset.

Email your resume in pdf digital format to **ln@perryandassociates.ca**.

No phone calls please. Due to time constraints only those invited to an interview will be contacted.

We thank all individuals who express interest in our firm.

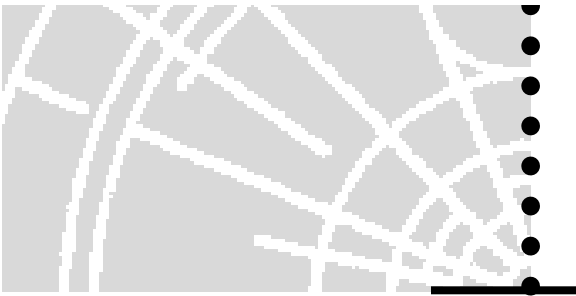
ASLA AGM

American Society of Landscape Architects Annual General Meeting

San Luis Obispo,
California

October 19 -22, 2002

noticeboard



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BCSLA 2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August	June LARE Results
September	BCSLA Membership Committee Meeting Vancouver, BC
September 12 - 15	CLARB Annual General Meeting New Orleans, LA
September 18 - 19	CanWest Hort Show Vancouver, BC
September 23 - 27	Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meeting Whistler, BC
October 10	LARE Candidate Orders
October 19 - 22	American Society of Landscape Architects Annual General Meeting San Luis Obispo, CA
October 25	BCSLA Board of Examiners (date tentative) UBC — Vancouver, BC
November	CSLA Juror Nominations
November	BCSLA Community Service Awards Nominations (deadline TBA)
November	BCSLA Contribution Award Nominations (deadline TBA)
November	CSLA/BCSLA Fellows Nominations
November 22 - 23	BC Landscape & Nursery Association Management Symposium & Think Tank Vancouver, BC
December	BCSLA Festive Season Party
December 9 - 10	LARE Candidate Sitting UBC — Vancouver, BC
December 31	BCSLA Membership Dues Payable



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