

site

Lines

summer issue • 2001

13-acres International Design Competition

By Susan Herrington

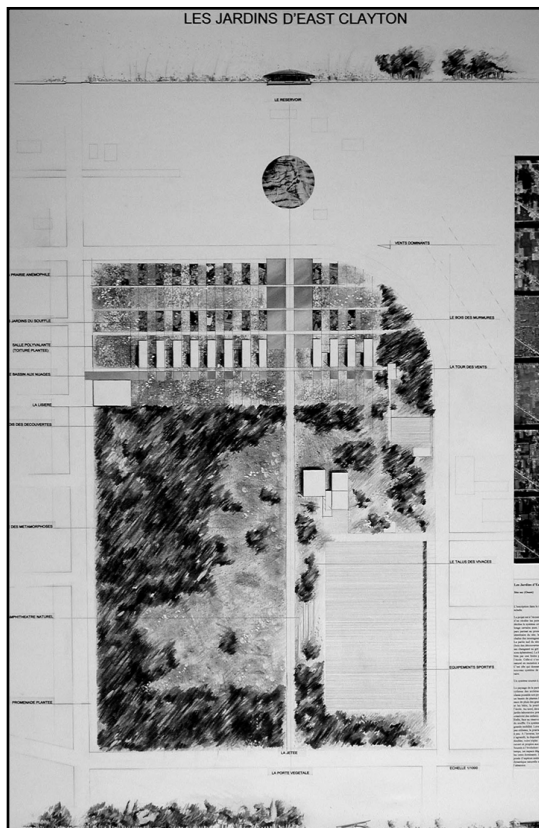
The 13-acre international design competition challenged designers to explore the schoolyard as a site for ecological rejuvenation, expression, and education. Two combined park and school

parcels, Dry Site and Wet Site, located in East Clayton, a sustainability demonstration site in Surrey served as the competition sites. School and community gardens were the dominant site programs

for the Dry Site, and water retention was the primary program for the Wet Site. The school architecture was based on a modular system designed by Erno Goldfinger in England during the 1930s, and was given to all registrants for modification. 13-acres received 254 entries from 32 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Belgium, England, France, Germany, India, Italy, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Scotland, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States and Yugoslavia. The boards were

mounted at the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues. An opening preview of the entries was hosted by the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects with the University of British Columbia Landscape Architecture Program. The event was attended by a broad spectrum of landscape architecture professionals, faculty members, students and judges. The international jury members included Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, FCSLA, Peter Latz, Latz + Partners, Mark Dudek, School of Architecture University of Sheffield, Gina Crandell, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Mark Francis, FASLA University of California at Davis and Norway, Irene Cinq-Mars, Ecole Architecture de Paysage University of Montreal, and Susan

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First Place Design
'Les Jardins d'East Clayton'
by Nicholas Gisoul.

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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.

Herrington, (Moderator) University of British Columbia. Local Jury members were Francisco Molina, Surrey Senior Planner, Urban Designer; Lorna Fraser, Surrey DPAC; and Umer Olcay of Surrey School Board Facilities Manager.

First place prize was awarded to Nicholas Gilsoul of Brussels, Belgium, Second Place Prize was awarded to Claudia Illanes Barrera with Andrew Harris Diez, and Loles Herrero Canela of Barcelona, Spain, and Third Place Prize was awarded to Kamni Gill, a Canadian living in Massachusetts, United States. The idea of change both culturally and physically became an important lens through which the designers considered their proposals. Random change, forced change, and rates of change became integrated into how they envisioned their designs in East Clayton. The most successful entries were able to articulate the mutability of cultural and/or biological processes as educational

moments for the students and wider community. Nicholas Gilsoul's first place entry, Les Jardins D'East Clayton addresses the competition's Dry site and proposes a schoolyard/park that responds to the larger territory and a school which is virtually indistinguishable from the 13-acre landscape infrastructure. According to Gilsoul, "the project is listening and responding to the larger landscape. It's trying to reveal its potentials." The jury was particularly impressed with Gilsoul's concept of "a system submitted to randomness." Gilsoul's scheme expresses to the children the green infrastructure of the landscape. The roof system plays a significant role in collecting and transporting storm water to the vegetative filtration systems that irrigate the school gardens. Strips of meadow planted with species relying on winds for dispersal and propagation, slope up and on top of segments of the school building roof to provide a



Results



Second Place Design

'Children in the Wooded Area'
by Claudia Illanes, Andrew Harris Diez
& Loles Herrero Canela.

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13-acres Competition
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launching platform for the seeds. Gilsoul's sensitive handling of the site's ecological processes illuminates connections between larger systems and the daily life of the school and community gardens. Nicholas Gilsoul lives in Brussels and has an office in Paris, and has worked with Gilles Clement on the Museum of Primal Arts there. Last year he was in Villa Medici in

Rome as a winner of the French Academy in Rome.

The second prize entry submitted by Claudia Illanes Barrera with Andrew Harris Diez, and Loles Herrero Canela addressed the wet site. Their Wet Site design is characterized by bold changes to the terrain that create different use areas for people and wildlife. These diverse site areas are connected for the children

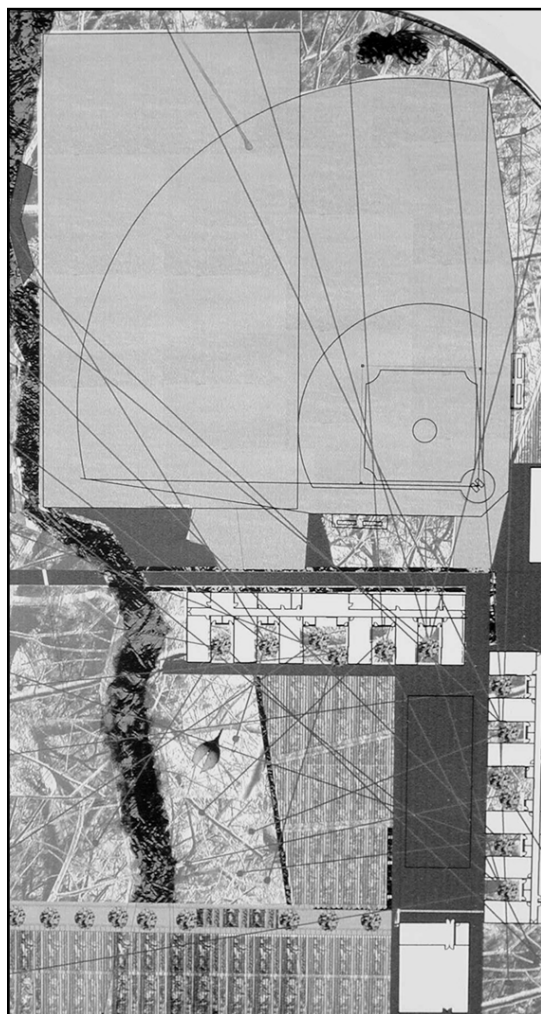
with a series of footbridges, an observation tower, and a uniquely articulated wetland design. Four footbridges extend across delicate slivers of water, marsh and undulating topography, which register the hydrological fluctuations of the site. The jury was impressed with the organization of the site plan as it relates to programs for diverse interactions, and to the detailed attention given to the grading and planting. Claudia Illanes Barrera is a landscape architect in Barcelona. She has participated in several Landscape and Urban Design Completions including First Prize in the National Biennial Competition on Urban Space.

Kamni Gill's third placed entry entitled Ditches spoke to the potentials of a common landscape type: the ditch. Gill

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addressed the dry site and used irrigation and drainage ditches as an organizing system for both pragmatic and poetic events. According to Gill. "A ditch becomes a ground for learning about the environment, a human community and ones place within it". The ditches both collect and filter water, and provide enclaves for plants and animals, and messy pockets for exploration by children. The ditches are also a receptacle of human relationships: they evoke the site's agricultural history and the communal necessity of water. Kamni Gill is a landscape architect in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but she was born and raised in Calgary, Canada.

The Jury gave nine Honorable Mentions. 1st Honorable Mention was awarded to Peter O'Shea with Sara Wilson of Charlottesville, Virginia, United States; 2nd Honorable Mention was awarded to Joel Agacki and Michael Striegel of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States; and 3rd Honorable Mention went to Barbara Le Strat of Versailles, France. Honorable mentions were given to Franck Jarosz of Strasbourg, France; Dave Hutch and Jean Kindratsky of Vancouver, Canada; Robert Dorgan of Las Vegas, Nevada, United States; Philippe Luc Barman and Gabriela Barman at Nonlinear Architecture in New York City, United States; Robert Kastelic and Carina Rose at Ultrapolis of Toronto, Canada; and Herve Meyer and Angela Morague of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

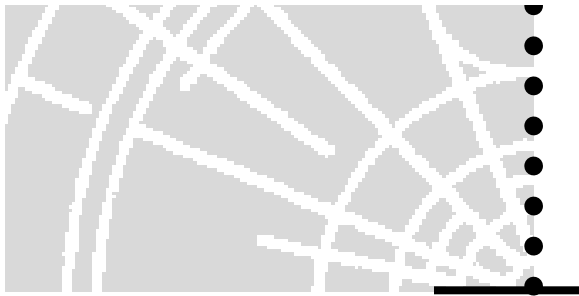


Third Place Design
'Plan of Ditches'
by Kamni Gill.



competition

Results



UBC REPORTS:

The Landscape Architecture Program at UBC:

By Doug Paterson, FCSLA, Director

We are delighted to be asked to report regularly on the events, activities, and initiatives taking place in the **Landscape Architecture Program at UBC**. This is one of several ways in which we hope to **improve communications between the Profession and the Program on a continuing basis**. We are a small profession facing some huge challenges; effective communication and cooperation are, as such, particularly essential to our future as a profession and, more importantly, to the future of a vibrant and healthy landscape.

Your BCSLA Executive got the ball rolling. Under the relentless, yet gracious prodding of **Pat Campbell and Adrienne Brown**, we simply could not resist the Society's invitation to have the Program Director serve as a non-voting member of the Society's Board of Governors! I have now been to three Board meetings and must say that I am immensely impressed with the dedication and diligence of the Board. To reciprocate, we recently invited the membership to join us in a tour of our facilities at UBC and learn about what we are doing and hope to accomplish over the next five or so years. Some 25 members turned out for the event and, from

the comments received to date, found the evening to be enjoyable and informative. Indeed, we intend to invite those of you who were unable to make this first gathering to visit another **program open house early in November of this year** — so keep posted for an actual date and time!

The context within which **landscape architectural education** operates has **changed dramatically** over the 21 years that the Program has been in existence at UBC. In 1985, we operated a small undergraduate program threatened with termination; in 2001, we deliver a graduate program with a landscape architect as our Faculty's Dean. In 1985, getting any research money at all was a major achievement; in the 2000–01 academic year the program faculty was successful in obtaining well over **\$250,000.00** in research monies. And now we have **eight faculty members, instead of four and a new studio on campus**. Perhaps the only consistent element throughout these years has been the long list of fine BCSLA professionals who have served as first-rate sessional lecturers in the Program — without professional remuneration!

While these changes to the Program have been significant, the challenges the Program face in the immediate future will be even greater. The blurring of disciplinary lines, as a result of the pressing need for interdisciplinary research, mixes talents and titles across the University — what does landscape architecture bring to this new discussion? The relentless and expensive onslaught of information technology

gives power to those who can best manage the information and digitally demonstrate what change will look like — can a small profession such as landscape architecture ever hope to be competitive in such a high tech society and, if so, how? The urgent need for the academic community to respond to pressing international issues changes the nature of the students and courses we teach — but what happens to the local landscape and will we be educating a sufficient number of local graduates to assure a healthy membership for the BCSLA's future? These issues are, in turn, coupled with the need for the University (read also Dean and Program Director) to be both promoter and fundraiser in ways that were not even considered only ten or fifteen years ago.

One of my first tasks in resuming the reigns of Program Director was, at the request of the President's Office, to write a **long-term Academic Plan** for the Program to deal with these changing and uncertain futures. A few of the highlights from that plan were presented at our open-house session. Full copies of the plan have been distributed to the Board and are also available to those of you who are in the mood for reading a 21-page tome! Please give us a call if you would like a copy (we do hope to have the full text on our web site by mid-July). **Individual aspects of the plan will be discussed in greater detail in future issues of Sitelines.** However, to give you an idea of what some of the topics in the Plan cover, I have attached the Table of Contents from the Plan.

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UBC Reports
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In the next issue of Sitelines I would like to talk more about our recently approved Centre for Landscape Research. It is something about which we are particularly excited. But, for this issue, I now suspect that I have run out of space! Suffice it to say in closing that we invite any and all of you to visit the Program at any time — it is, after all, ultimately your Program too.

The Table of Contents for The Academic Plan:

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

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- 1b Increasing Shared Courses with Architecture and Planning
- 1c Establishing Joint Degrees with Architecture and Planning
- 1d Examining Potentials for Different Professional Study Streams
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- 1f Enriching the Teaching-Learning Environment

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- 2a Maintaining a Healthy and Diverse Faculty
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- 2c Recognizing Faculty Strengths and Weaknesses

- 2d Maintaining and Effective Body of Sessional Lecturers
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- 2f Welcoming Visiting Professors, Guest Critics, and Professional Theses' Advisors
- 2g Providing More Travel, Continuing Education, and Professional Assistance
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- 3b Scholarships, Bursaries and Fellowships
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- 3d Making the Student's Time in University More Efficient and Productive
- 3e Enriching the Student Experience

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- 4b Establishing a Centre for Landscape Research
- 4c Making Research Knowledge More Available
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- 5a Furthering the Efforts of the Community Design Council

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- 5b Increasing Linkages with Other UBC Sustainable Development Groups
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6. THE PROGRAM AND THE PROFESSION:

- 6a Improving Connections between the Program and the Profession
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- 6c Establishing Continuing Education Programs for the Profession

7. THE PROGRAM AND THE LOCAL-PROVINCIAL-NATIONAL COMMUNITIES:

8. THE PROGRAM IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:

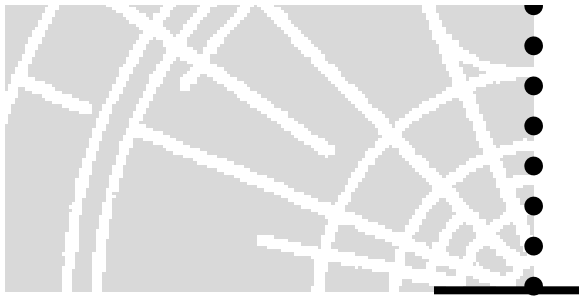
9. THE BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PROGRAM:

10. SPACE, EQUIPMENT AND FUNDING NEEDS:

11. PROGRAM FUNDING:

12. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PRIORITIES:

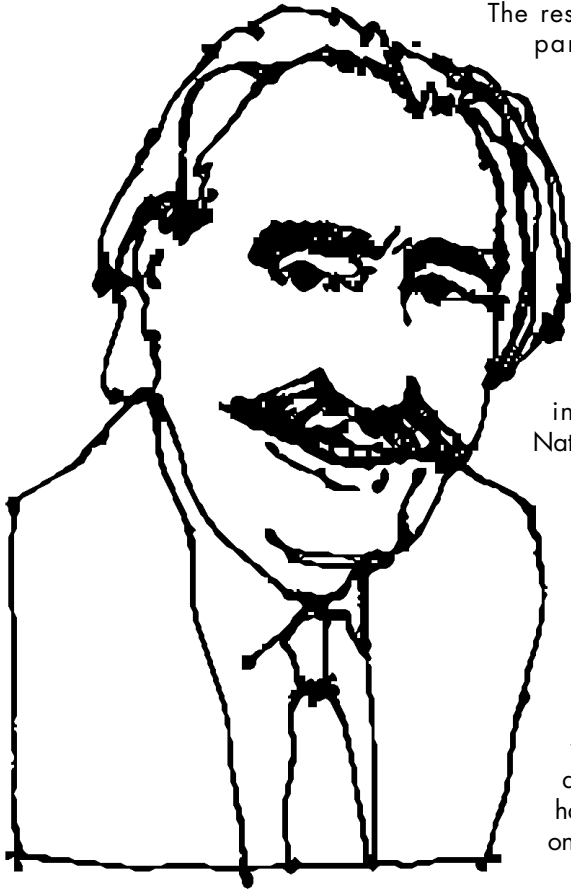




Design with Nature

By Cameron Murray

"When at the age of sixteen I found that there might be a possibility of spending a life giving to others the benison which nature gave to me, and that this was called Landscape Architecture, I accepted the opportunity with enthusiasm."



Sketched by Cameron Murray

The author of *Design with Nature* has passed away at the age of eighty. Ian McHarg travelled from Glasgow and endured the war in Europe to teach a course entitled *Man & Environment* for students of Landscape Architecture in Philadelphia. He offered a bird's eye view, one that transcended narrow academic traditions to consider landscapes and cityscapes as ecosystems. Landscape Architecture hasn't been the same since.

Design with Nature was written in 1967 as a collection of lecture notes dovetailed with a travel log through personal landscapes.

The result is part academia, part autobiography.

Ecology was an emerging field in those days and McHarg lists Canadian ecologist Pierre Dansereau among his influences. Ecology provided a framework for understanding the place of Man within Nature. Design intervention follows Nature interpretation.

Malcolm Wells suggested in a *Progressive Architecture* review that *Design with Nature* was so potent that it should be issued with a warning as on a pack of cigarettes: 'dangerous to your architectural practice'. He had just begun a project on the New Jersey dunes.

"The New Jersey Shore is not a certain land mass. It is contin-

uously involved in a contest with the Sea; its shape is dynamic."

Lewis Mumford, meanwhile placed McHarg in the company of Hippocrates, Henry David Thoreau, Patrick Geddes, Carl Sauer and Rachel Carson. Mumford wrote in the original introduction to *Design with Nature*, that it is "... a book to live with, to absorb slowly, and to return to, as one's own experience and knowledge increases."

A generation of Landscape Architects, Planners, Environmentalists and Academics have been influenced by McHarg's teaching and writing. Michael Laurie and Peter Walker participated in the University of Pennsylvania Study of the New Jersey Shore. Larry Diamond BCSLA was inspired to proceed from Architecture studies at Pennsylvania into Landscape Architecture.

Design with Nature invites us to consider Landscape in all its beauty and complexity; while presenting a coherent system to comprehend it. 'The River Basin' chapter illustrates the most comprehensive example of the Ecological Method. Watershed provides a natural boundary for a study of the Potomac, encompassing the political landscape of the American capital.

Design with Nature offers a luminous beacon toward which to steer our craft — 'Landscape Architecture'.

Design with Nature,
by Ian McHarg, Wiley, New York 1992, Originally published by Natural History Press, Garden City, NY 1969

LEARNING



GROUNDS

Environment Committee Report

By Kevin Connery

The **Environment Committee** has been meeting one to two times each month for the last 5 months to develop the **City of Vancouver Green map**. Other specific initiatives have been put on hold pending the announcement of the provincial government's new minister of Environment, Lands and Parks. The committee is prepared to undertake issues that the Board or other members of the Society identify are worth discussing with the new minister once the appointment is official. In the meantime the following is a summary of the Green Map Project. **The map is being developed by BCSLA members and others interested in the initiative.**

GOAL

The Vancouver Green Map will enhance our awareness of, and connection to the diverse, environmentally focused or inspired resources that exist in Vancouver. Using a series of graphic icons borrowed from the worldwide Green Map System, the Vancouver Green Map will identify a variety of urban spaces, places, community facilities and businesses that aspire to enhance our city's urban ecosystem.

It will illuminate the inter-connections between society, nature and the built environment, helping people make lower impact, lifestyle choices and discover ways to get involved in the ecology of the city. Simultaneously the Green Map will guide visitors (especially virtual ones) to successful initiatives they can replicate back home. The Vancouver Green Map will be developed as a traditional hard copy map, as well as a virtual internet-based map. This will allow it to adapt and grow in charting the green places, environmental resources and socially related sites in Vancouver.

GREEN MAP ORIGINS

From its beginning, the Green Map System was inspired by a desire to help urban dwellers around the world and of all ages;

1. represent and share the ecological and cultural resources in their cities;
2. promote good greening efforts underway in the community,
3. build inclusive networks that extend community capacity and expedite progress toward sustainability,

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4. employ the info-web in service of the web-of-life to celebrate and learn from the beauty, brilliance and diversity of Nature, and together, make cities a better, healthier place in which to live.

The spark that brought these ideas together was the response to the original Green Map, NYC's Green Apple Map, which was created by Modern World Design in 1991. A globally designed, common set of icons symbolizing various green sites were developed for use in the preparation of Green Maps. Today, the program is truly global, with active participants on every continent who are developing maps unique to their communities.

In Canada there are Green Maps currently underway in 10 Canadian cities and well in excess of 100 maps worldwide.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Smith, Jones & Associates

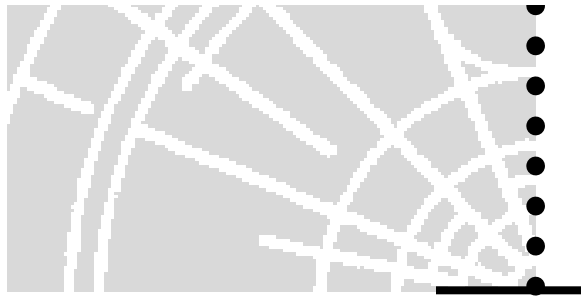
Vancouver 622-2222

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.

environment





noticeboard

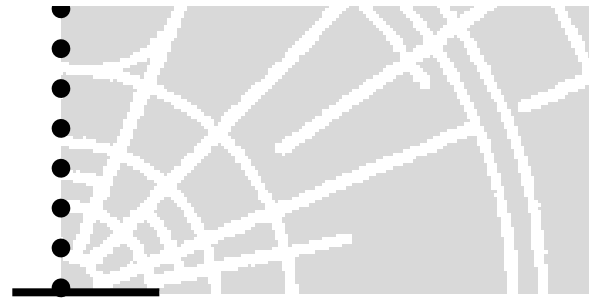
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BCSLA 2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| July 21 | Landscape Architecture Project II
The Architecture (Landscape) Act Workshop
Vancouver, BC |
| July 27 | BCSLA Membership Application Deadline |
| August | BCSLA Membership Committee Meeting
Vancouver, BC |
| September 13 - 15 | CLARB Annual General Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT |
| September 19 - 20 | CanWest Hort Show
Vancouver, BC |
| September 22 - 24 | CSLA / ASLA Joint Congress
Montreal, PQ |
| October | BCSLA Board of Directors Meeting
Victoria, BC
(contact the BCSLA office for details) |
| October 10 | LARE Candidate Order Deadline |
| October 19 | BCSLA Board of Examiners
UBC — Vancouver, BC |
| November | CSLA Fellows Nomination Deadline |
| November | BCSLA Community Service Award Nominations Due |
| November | BCSLA Contribution Award Nominations Due |
| December | Festive Season Party |
| December 3 - 4 | LARE Candidate Sitting
UBC — Vancouver, BC |
| December 31 | BCSLA Membership Dues Submission Deadline |



noticeboard



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROJECT II CODE OF ETHICS WORKSHOP

As adopted by Special Resolution at the 2001 BCSLA Annual General Meeting, we are actively working on the Landscape Architecture Project II (LAP II). The membership has expressed a desire for the LAP II to focus on three areas; advocacy, developing material that will promote the BCSLA and the contributions of its members to communities throughout the province; a review of Membership requirements and the exploration of expanding our membership; and a review of our Act, Code of Ethics and Bylaws for a refinement of the legislation that govern the Society and its Members.

After some investigation the Board of Directors agreed to retain David Fushtey as a consultant. Not only is Mr. Fushtey well versed in law but he is in the unique position of being a landscape architect as well. In preparation for the workshops several volunteers from the Professional Practice Working Group conducted extensive research in preparation for the legal review. Information from the research has been assembled in binders, which are available for loan from the BCSLA office.

On a beautiful Saturday morning in May BCSLA members generously gave up their time to participate in the Code of Ethics Workshop. Discussions regarding the history of the existing BCSLA Code of Conduct and how to approach a more comprehensive and contemporary Code of Professional Conduct took place. The purpose of the code and issues for further dialogue were also addressed at this meeting.

The task now is to prepare a draft Code of Professional Conduct with fundamental principles and rules for presentation to a committee for further review. Once the committee has had the opportunity to review the draft, a fall workshop will be scheduled for further input from members before it's presented at the 2002 Annual General Meeting.

We strongly encourage every member to participate. The future of the profession for the next decade and beyond may be determined at these meetings. Long-time members are urged to participate to provide their insight into the history of these issues. In addition to this, members will have the opportunity to refresh their knowledge of professional practice.

Please see the insert in this edition of Sitelines for details of the upcoming workshop on the Act. If you cannot attend this meeting, we invite you to forward your comments and suggestions to the Chair. You can also ask that your name be added to the mailing list of members receiving handouts from the workshops.

If your name is not included on the BCSLA broadcast email list please contact Tara Culham to add your name or to have the information sent to you by fax or mail. The announcements comprise of seminar information, special event invitation, continuing education opportunities, job postings and items of interest to BCSLA members. We welcome your events or listings to add to the announcements.

The BCSLA Membership Committee will meet in late August to review membership applications. **The application deadline is July 27, 2001.**





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SmartGrowth Conference Update

By Adrienne Brown

On Thursday June 6th I attended the Vancouver session of the **SmartGrowth conference at SFU Harbour Centre**. This independent organization is **funded by the Vancouver Foundation, Working Together for the**

Georgia Basin, and the Federal and Provincial Governments. SmartGrowth works to bring people together from a broad range of disciplines to discuss alternative strategies for urban planning and development. The workshops last week were effectively planned to put ideas and new information into action. I believe that it is important for us, both as individuals and as a profession, to participate in these conferences on an ongoing basis. Not only do we hear about the most recent innovations on the subject of growth management and transportation planning in BC, but we have a chance to meet a

variety of people from throughout the province who have similar concerns with the direction that development can and should take.

The **'SmartGrowth Toolkit'** includes **'The BC Sprawl Report 2001'** along with a number of other reports and articles on the kinds of strategies and incentives which are being used to influence the form of development. If you were unable to attend the conference and would like a copy of the toolkit for \$25.00 plus postage call:

(604) 915-5234 or email info@smartgrowth.bc.ca.



.....

marketplace

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome **Yolanda Leung** and **Stephen Vincent** as registered members.

Yolanda is currently working as a Park Designer with the Township of Langley.

Stephen is busy working with Durante Kreuk Ltd.

Good luck!

The Sitelines Group wish to thank Andrew Wilson for his valiant efforts as Editor of Sitelines during the last five years of the Twentieth Century. Andrew also managed to organize the 1999 Vancouver CSLA Congress, served as BCSLA President, and practice Landscape Architecture with UBC Campus Planning during this time.

As our CSLA representative, Andrew continues to participate in meetings of the BCSLA Board of Directors. We look forward to receiving Andrew's postcards from Ottawa and submissions of landscape photography.

**Greg Hill,
Laura-Jean Kelly,
Cameron Murray**

The **Sitelines Committee** is always looking for articles and content for our newsletter.

If you have a topic you would like to see covered, a book review or seen an article that interests you please contact Tara at the **BCSLA office** or:

Greg Hill by email at ghill@sharpdiamond.com or by phone 604-681-3303,

Laura-Jean Kelly by email at lj_kelly@telus.net or by phone 604-730-4867,

Cameron Murray by email at cameronmurray@telus.net or by phone 604-730-8256