



Wassergebundene Decke and Beer Gardens

By Goya Ngan, ngan@planerzirkel.de

Experiences of a Landscape Architect in Germany

Imagine strolling along meandering pathways through a lush hardwood forest. You pass couples with sturdy baby carriages, rollerbladers and elderly people on bicycles. The trees are interrupted by wildflower meadows and perhaps roaming flocks of sheep. A family eats a picnic under a solitary oak among the tall wildflowers. Before long, you start to hear the hum of a large crowd, laughter and the sound of an oompah band. Then you see smoke drifting through the trees and smell roasting sausages. As you walk towards the people sitting at tables laden with beer and Bavarian food, your feet make a pleasant crunching sound on the wassergebundene Decke. What was that? Wassergebundene Decke, a layer of crushed stone over compacted gravel and a staple of German landscape construction. You are at a beer garden inside Munich's green lung, the English Garden.

I arrived in Munich in February 1998 when my boyfriend began postdoctoral studies there. I had not only left family, friends, and colleagues in Vancouver, but also my language and a professional place in the world. So how does



"Chinaturm"

one go about finding work without speaking German and not knowing anyone? Thanks to my French citizenship, I automatically received a work permit. I began by knocking on doors and presenting myself in person since I was unable to deal with the telephone. Every landscape architect that I met this way was extremely friendly and recommended other offices to visit.

After a few months of looking for work and taking German classes, I found a position with Latz und Partner. This firm specializes in transforming industrial sites into parks while retaining much of the existing structures. They are famous for their project Duisburg Nord on

the site of a former steel mill. With them I worked on the design for the Bundesgartenschau 2001 in Potsdam. It's a national garden show held biennially in a different city and provides an opportunity for landscape architects to do innovative work. The 73-hectare site has a total budget of 307 million German marks (\$200 million CDN) and 2.5 million visitors are expected. On another project, I completed a plan for what is termed "extensive roof greening" which differs from "intensive roof greening" in that the layer of planting medium is very thin. It consisted of a coloured gravel pattern separated by steel bands and a detailed planting plan which included low-growing species of *Allium*, *Crocus*, *Sedum*, *Saxifraga*, *Phlox* and *Iris*.

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Experiences of a Landscape
 Architect
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SITELINES • I O • O O

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.

Last year in October, I moved to Halle, a city of 250,000 inhabitants close to Leipzig in the former East Germany. A massive amount of government construction is being undertaken to bring the East up to speed with the West. For a landscape architect this meant finding work within one week. It also means there are construction sites everywhere. Curiously, hard hats, steel-toed boots and construction area fencing do not appear much in the East. Ordinary citizens, heavy machinery, and rebar dangling from cranes all meet together on the crowded streets.

On my first day at Planerzirkel, I was asked if I was able to prepare an "LV" or Leistungsverzeichnis. I looked at the thick stack of paper with German text and lots of numbers and replied, "I'm afraid not". So far I have been spared the task of preparing an LV, the rough equivalent of a bill of quantities, specifications and bid forms all rolled into one. It is used initially as a cost-estimating tool and then submitted with the drawings in the bid package. It has fewer technical descriptions than the Canadian Specifications but is so complete with accounting for each material that it may easily run to 100 pages or more. All technical matters refer to the DIN-Deutsches Institut für Normung, a thorough set of national standards that include height of grass on a lawn-35mm!

One of the design issues I faced at Planerzirkel is the concept of zero runoff. In Germany, the owner

of a property pays per litre for water that drains off their property into the public storm sewer system. This means that the owner is kept not to allow any water to flow off the site. To this purpose, we commonly use a combination of swales, gravel trenches and meadow areas to infiltrate water from adjacent hard-surfaces.

Living in Europe is especially worthwhile because of all the nearby travel opportunities, made even more practical with the minimum five weeks of vacation that everyone gets. An extensive network of bicycle paths exists in Germany allowing one to cycle safely across town or through the countryside. An interesting site close to Halle is **Ferropolis**, an outdoor mining museum. It was designed by Bauhaus students and features five colossal GDR mining machines towering over their work — the raw landscape of a brown-coal open pit mine. Though Germany is rich in post-industrial landscapes, it is lacking in real nature. I long for a walk in our coastal forests and mountains even if there is no beer garden at the peak.



"Ferropolis"

bcsla



grounds

Call for CSLA Awards Juror

The BCSLA requests expressions of interest from those who would like to serve as a CSLA Awards Juror. **The CSLA awards will be judged in February 2001 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.** Participation in this program gives you the opportunity to meet with landscape architects from other parts of Canada and to review some of the best work that is being done across the country. If you are interested in serving as a Juror representing British Columbia, please forward a letter of interest and a current resume to Tara Culham at the BCSLA office within two weeks from receipt of this notice. Travel expenses will be paid by the BCSLA.

The BCSLA Board of Directors adopted a policy for selecting a CSLA Awards Juror in November 1999. The following procedure is to begin this year:

- There will be an annual call for expressions of interest;
- The BCSLA Board of Directors will create a list of individuals based on their experience and the order in which their communications are received;
- The individual at the top of the list will be contacted to ensure their availability;
- Members may serve as a CSLA Juror once every six years;
- Names will remain on the list from year to year unless the Society is asked by an individual to remove their name from consideration.

Call for BCSLA Community Service Awards

The BCSLA Community Service Awards are awarded in five categories:

THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD: recognizing an individual or couple who have, in their day to day activities, made the landscape of our world a more delightful and better place to live whether it be in their creation of a small garden that many people enjoy or in their campaign to preserve a portion of our environment.

THE Q'PANGO AWARD: recognizing a Quasi-Public Agency or Non-Governmental Organization that has made major contributions to our local, provincial or national landscapes through its advocacy — its policy, design-planning or conservation initiatives.

THE PUBLIC SERVANT — PUBLIC AGENCY AWARD: thanking an individual who or an agency that has made major advances in the design, planning and management of place, has demonstrated innovation in that work, and has shown respect for and consideration of the landscape architecture profession.

THE CONTRACTOR AWARD: presented to a contracting firm that, in the opinion of the profession, has done an outstanding job of bringing one or several important projects to completion or, has consistently demonstrated a high quality of professionalism, workmanship and pride in their work.

THE CORPORATE AWARD: recognizing a corporation that has consistently provided a high quality

environment as part of its everyday activities. The corporation could be a developer, a major business, or even a small business that has done an outstanding job of integrating their business activities and facilities into the fabric of our city or countryside.

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

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

Please refer to www.bcsla.org for a nomination form.

BCSLA Bylaws Revision

A revised copy of the **BCSLA Bylaws** is available at www.bcsla.org for review. If you would like a copy of the proposed

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SITELINES • 10 • 00

LEARNING



**Landscape Aesthetic 4:
Greenhouse Agriculture**
by Hermen Eutic



LEARNING
GROUNDS

LEARNING
GROUNDS

On a Personal Note . . .

By Ian Wasson



SITELINES • I O • O O

At our first board meeting in April, Patricia Campbell asked each of the board members to provide a brief description of who we are, what kind of practice we have and what goals we hoped to set for the coming term. As a new face on the board and the new Registrar, I thought that the membership might be interested too. I am a '93 grad from UBC's Landscape Architecture program with a previous degree in Political Science and History (quite a switch!). After a brief stint at Sharp and Diamond Landscape Architects and then an even briefer stint at Jones Nurseries, I had the good fortune to spend a few years on the banks of Mosquito Creek at the North Vancouver offices of Forma Design. There, Bill, Kate and Ron

taught me the tricks of the trade. At the end of 1996, I left to join the City of Abbotsford's Planning Department, where I am now the Park (Urban Design) Planner.

I have only two goals. The first, and possibly the bigger of the two, is to keep up the good work of those registrars that came before me. When I first spoke these words I didn't realize that it is a much greater task than I had imagined (naiveté can lead you to some remarkable places). As I am quickly learning, we have been fortunate to have had some very committed registrars. The second goal, and this was shared by a number of other board members, is to make our processes as transparent as possible. In a future issue of *Sitelines*, I will explore how

this might be achieved. In the mean time I will be following my Handbook carefully and consulting with the former registrars regularly in the hope that I will provide as effective a service to the membership as my predecessors have. **Be nice to each other, pay your dues on time and don't make me work too hard.**

Sincerely,
BC Society of Landscape Architects

**Ian Wasson MBCSLA
Registrar**

board walk

BCSLA Bylaws Revision *. . . continued from page 3*

bylaws sent to you, contact Tara at the BCSLA Office.

Please take some time to read through the proposed changes. If you have any comments or concerns about what you read please contact the Bylaws Committee through the BCSLA Office. Of particular note is the proposed change in the definition of BCSLA membership categories.

The BCSLA Board of Directors has created **two award categories to acknowledge significant activity of BCSLA members**. Accordingly, the Board invites nominations for the following:

Exceptional Contribution to the BCSLA (2000):

All members of the BCSLA are invited to nominate a member for Exceptional Service to the Society in the past year. A statement describing the nature of the contribution will assist the Board of Directors in evaluating the nominations. The deadline for nominations is **November 30, 2000**. Please send your nomination to Tara Culham at the BCSLA office.

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

All members of the BCSLA are invited to nominate a member for this award. The BCSLA Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge members working in public practice who are making a lasting contribution to the profession and enhancing its relationship with local government and the public. Please provide a short explanation of the nature of the contributions and recent accomplishments of the nominee. The deadline is **November 30, 2000**. It may be sent to Tara Culham at the BCSLA office.



SITELINES • I O • O O

13 Acres

by Susan Herrington, Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture Program, UBC

The profession of Landscape Architecture was in part born out of participation in a design competition. In 1858 Frederick Law Olmsted with architect Calvert Vaux won the design competition for Central Park. Signing his name as a landscape architect, Olmsted went on to define the profession through the design of a rich variety of public and private landscapes.

Since that time, landscape architects have continued to participate in both invited and public competitions. Lawrence Halprin's Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington D.C. is a recent example of this continuum. Competitions that involve a rich layering of different people, programs, and systems are particularly suited to landscape architectural design. Landscapes are a repository for cultural, social, and environmental conditions. Because landscapes are physically encountered, they can provide incommensurable experiences with these conditions.

As designers of landscapes we are specifically trained to work with these conditions; ranging from the complex physical dynamics of natural systems, to the cultural importance of public space, to the expression of abstract ideas, and the accommodation of evolving programmatic issues. The 13-acres international design competition

challenges landscape architects to explore the schoolyard as a site for ecological rejuvenation, expression, and education. **The competition is for the design of a combined park and schoolyard site. Proposals should envision the park/schoolyard as a place for "site knowledge," exploration, play, and learning for children, teachers, and the surrounding community.**

The competition site is located within **East Clayton**, a sustainability demonstration site in Surrey, British Columbia. East Clayton is a sustainable community planned for 15,000 people, with 13 acres dedicated to combined school and park use. The 13-acres competition builds upon the mission of this demonstration site by extending further to the park and schoolyard the plan's sustainable mission. The Design Program specifies that designers explore and envision designs that use constructed natural systems as both poetic devices and educational materials. Design entries should layer wetland areas, classroom use, play space, parkland, and community programs in one site.

This competition is open internationally to students and professionals. Interdisciplinary groups involving landscape architects and people who work with children are strongly encouraged. **The entry fee is \$50 CND.** Entries can be in either English or French, meters or feet.

The professional jury members are landscape architects from Canada, the United States, and Europe, and local representatives will also be a part of the evaluation process. The professional jury includes Irene Cinq-Mars (Montreal),

Gina Crandell (Boston), Mark Dudek (London), Mark Francis (Perugia), Cornelia Hahn Oberlander FCCLA (Vancouver), and Peter Latz (Munich).

For details and to register on-line visit our web site at **www.13-acres.org** or mail your name, address and phone number with a certified check for \$50 CDN to:

13-acres Design Competition Landscape Architecture Program, 2357 Main Mall University of British Columbia V6T 1Z4 CANADA.

For further details contact Susan Herrington at: information@13-acres.org.

This competition is funded by The University of British Columbia and the UBC Landscape Architecture Program and James Taylor Chair in Landscape & Livable Environments.



competition

noticeboard

JOB OPPORTUNITY

LandSpace Design Inc. has a position open for a **Landscape Computer Technician** on a contract basis.

The successful candidate shall possess an excellent graphic ability (Mac PowerDraw System preferred).

Contact: **Al Tanzer**
LandSpace Design Inc.
142 Garden Drive
Vancouver, BC V5L 4P4
Tel: (604) 252-9500

Advisory Design Panel Positions

If you have ever had an interest in sitting on an **advisory design panel** there has never been a better opportunity.

There are currently positions available in **Richmond, The City of North Vancouver and Squamish.**

If you are interested in applying for any one of these positions or just putting your name forward for a future opening in a location of your choice, please contact **Bruce Hemstock** at **688-6111** or **bhemstock@pwl.bc.ca.**