

BE A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT!



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Saitama Plaza, by Peter Walker & Partners, photo by Kazuaki Hosokawa.



2003 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, JInji Lake Public Open Space, Park, and Landscape, by EDAW, Inc., photo by Dixi Carrillo.

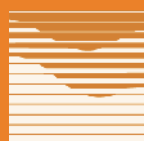
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, The Eastbank Esplanade, by Mayer/Reed, photo by Bruce Forster Photography.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Seonyudo Park, by SeoAhn Total Landscape, photo by Yang, Hae Nam.



AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS

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DISCOVER A REWARDING CAREER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Interested in the environment, science, and art? Do you enjoy being creative and solving complex problems? Do you like to work with people? Landscape architecture offers an exciting future and great earning potential and it just might be the right career for you.



2003 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, 560 Mission Street, by Hart Howerton, photo by Christian Lemon.

What is landscape architecture?

Think about a place that you enjoy. This place is probably a landscape—a seashore, a national forest, a grassy picnic site, or your favorite climbing tree. People need to have elements of nature nearby. Think about some of the places that are familiar in your daily life—your neighborhood, the path where you bike, the mall where you shop, or the grounds around your school. Who planted the trees on each side of the street or decided what plants would look nice around your school? It is likely that a landscape architect was part of a team that created many of the places in your daily life.

Landscape architecture is the analysis, planning, design, and management of the natural and built environment. Landscape architects enhance the quality of our lives by adding beauty—but they're also problem solvers who analyze the environmental impact of proposed development, plan for pedestrian and automobile traffic, and determine the best use of each site.

The term *landscape architect* was coined by Frederick Law Olmsted, an American whose best-known work is Central Park in New York City. Before that, the profession can be traced through the great European landscape designers, such as Capability Brown, who planned the landscapes of many of England's great estates in the 18th century and Andre LeNotre, designer of the gardens of Versailles outside Paris. Examples of what we now know as landscape architecture can be found as early in history as the hanging gardens of Babylonia.

Today, landscape architects may design parks, playgrounds, zoos, skate parks, residential developments, campuses, shopping centers, gardens, golf courses, and recreation areas, to name a few examples. They may be involved in the creation of small urban parks or huge national forests. What all landscape architects have in common is a deep appreciation for the environment, commitment to the highest standards of planning and design, and the reward of work that directly enhances the quality of people's lives.



"I was attracted to the profession of landscape architecture because it brought together my interests in both art and the environment. The profession is broad in scope and range of types of work and practice. Creating livable and environmentally sound places is one of the challenges of our contemporary society."

KEN SMITH, ASLA

PRINCIPAL, KEN SMITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, NEW YORK, NY

What do landscape architects do?

By sketching and using computer-aided design tools and computer mapping systems, landscape architects plan the location and arrangement of buildings, walkways, roads, water features, site furnishings, plants, flowers, and trees. Just a few of the things landscape architects do include:

- » Analyzing the natural elements of a site, such as climate, soil, drainage, vegetation, and where sunlight falls at different times of the day. *What plants will grow there? Where will each plant grow best?*
- » Considering how the site will be used. *Will kids play there? Will cars drive there and need to park? Will there be stores and shoppers?*
- » Assessing existing buildings, roads, water features, and utilities. *Will new roads need to be built? Will electrical power lines need to be added?*
- » Evaluating the project's impact on the natural environment and local wildlife. *Will the project disrupt the habitat of local wildlife? Will stormwater runoff cause an existing stream to flood?*
- » Taking into account laws and regulations that may affect the site.
- » Producing detailed site plans, including sketches, models, photographs, land use studies, written reports, and cost estimates for approval by the client and regulatory agencies.
- » Developing a plant list and plan of what plants, trees, flowers, and shrubs will go where.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Copia: The American Center for Food, Wine, and Arts, by Peter Walker & Partners, photo by Tim Wight-Peter Walker & Partners.

Landscape Architects are COOL!

Cool Careers for Dummies by Marty Nemko and Paul and Sarah Edwards, published by Hungry Minds, Inc., lists landscape architecture in its list of *Supercool Careers (the best of the best)*. The publication can be purchased at Amazon.com



2002 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Rijksmuseum Twente (National Museum), by Lodewijk Baljon Landscape Architects, photo by Lodewijk Baljon.

IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE THE CAREER FOR YOU?

This short quiz will help determine your interest in landscape architecture. There are no wrong answers. Just check each one that applies to you. Then score your interest below.

- I think about important environmental questions and problems such as global warming, water and air pollution, and population growth.
- I enjoy spending time outdoors.
- I think it is important to preserve the environment.
- I notice attractive yards, parks, and plazas.
- I believe there is a delicate balance between nature and people.
- I would enjoy creating places that provide a balance between people and the environment.
- I like to draw and design things.
- I would prefer a job that allows me to work both indoors and outdoors.
- My science projects mostly involve nature.
- I spend time thinking about how to improve my community and the quality of life for people.

RESULTS

If you checked:

- 3-4** You have an interest in landscape architecture.
- 5-6** You have a strong interest in landscape architecture.
- 7 or more** You have an exceptional interest in landscape architecture.

How do you become a landscape architect?

You need a professional degree to become a landscape architect. There are two types of undergraduate professional degrees in landscape architecture: a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) and a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA). These degrees usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and the natural and social sciences.

There are generally three types of graduate degree programs, including an MLA for people who have an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture or another field, or an MA or MS degree for people who want to conduct research in landscape architecture, but don't want to become professional practitioners.

To protect the public's health, safety, and welfare, most states require landscape architects to be licensed. Becoming licensed generally requires holding a professional degree, passing a national licensing examination, and in some states, completing a period of supervised practice.

Did you know?

- There are about 30,000 landscape architects in the United States and many more are needed—it's a profession that's in demand!
- More than 70 percent of landscape architects spend at least part of their time designing residential projects, such as play areas, gardens, pools, fences, and other amenities. Residential design constitutes 40 percent of the U.S. market for landscape architecture services.
- Nearly 23 percent of landscape architects are self-employed—that's more than three times the average for all professionals.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, General Mills Corporate Headquarters, by oslund.and.assoc., photo by Tadd Kreun.

"When I first went to college, I knew I had a passion for design, for creating patterns and working with the space around me. Landscape architecture offered me the opportunity to do just that. I am in my element the moment I step outdoors, whether it's outside of my home or really any building. As a landscape architect, the ability to work with spaces and to find a solution to a problem or challenge, while at the same time creating something aesthetically pleasing, is really inspirational. The opportunity to establish my own business and to present another side of myself—beyond the football field—is the realization of a dream. I love the landscape and I'm looking forward to a long career as a landscape architect."



EDDIE GEORGE, ASSOCIATE ASLA

**PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER AND FIRM PRINCIPAL, THE EDGE GROUP
DUBLIN, OHIO**

Where do landscape architects work?

There is a wide range of opportunities for landscape architects. They may be employed in a variety of private, public, and academic organizations. In addition, many landscape architects are self-employed, start their own firms, or work on a consultant basis.

Most landscape architects work in a private firm. These jobs are found in landscape architecture, engineering, architecture, and planning firms. Landscape architects may also work with other types of private corporations that have physical planning departments—such as college campuses or retail chains—or that offer products and services related to land planning and development.

Some landscape architects work for federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation, and others. State and local governments offer landscape architects many more opportunities.

Landscape architects can also teach and conduct research in the professional programs offered by colleges and universities across the country.



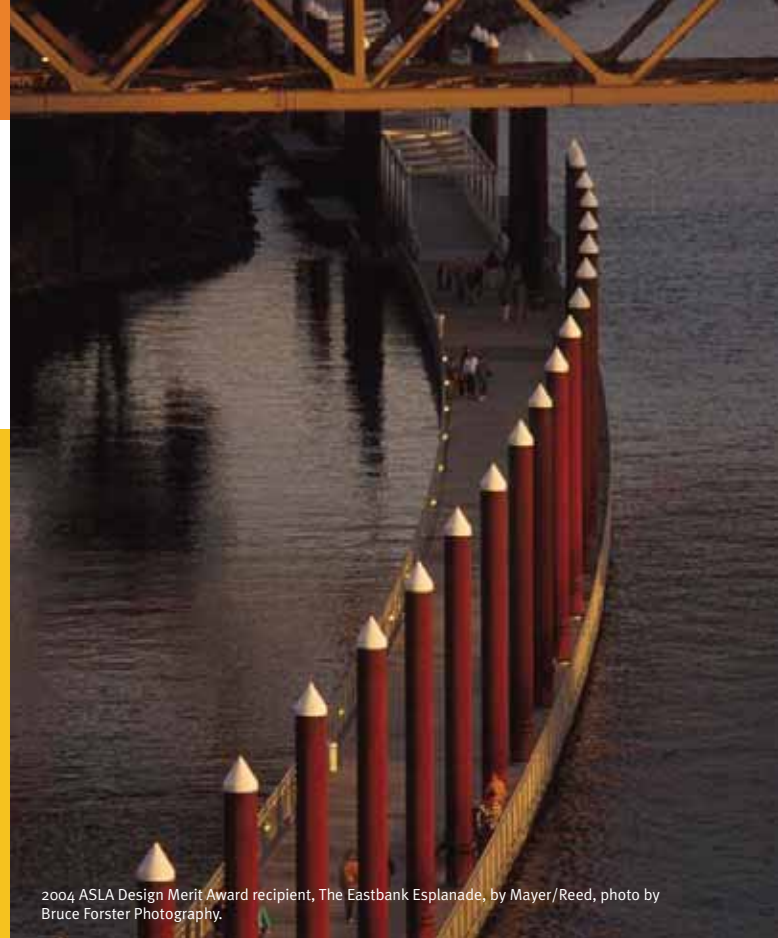
2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Pacific Heights Residence, by Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture, photo by Holly Stewart.

What do landscape architects earn?

Salaries for landscape architects vary depending on years of experience, geographical location, and type of position. In 2006, the average salary for entry-level landscape architects was \$39,300. The national average compensation (salary and bonuses) for all landscape architects was \$89,700, and experienced landscape architects and firm principals can earn much more.

Did you know?

Deciding what school to choose is often not an easy decision. There is no system for ranking landscape architecture programs. Besides, you want to find the best school for you. To choose a school, develop a list of questions that you can use to obtain information that will help you make a decision. A list of sample questions is available on ASLA's web site at www.asla.org.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, The Eastbank Esplanade, by Mayer/Reed, photo by Bruce Forster Photography.



"I became a landscape architect by accident. I had wanted to go to college to study art. My parents told me that I had to make money when I got out of school so studying art was not an option. My other love was natural sciences, being in nature, and animals. I entered college with the idea that I would become a veterinarian. When I signed up for my classes as a freshman, the animal science class was full and I took a class called environmental issues instead. In this class, every week a guest speaker came to talk about a different aspect of the environment. One of the speakers was the head of the landscape architecture department. I had never heard of landscape architecture before and at that moment it became apparent that landscape architecture was the perfect marriage of art and science for me. I have been a landscape architect for over 25 years and my work has actually become more and more art based. I have become the artist that I dreamed of becoming and yes, I do get paid for it!"

ANDIE COCHRAN, ASLA

PRINCIPAL, ANDREA COCHRAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Copia: The American Center for Food, Wine, and Arts, by Peter Walker & Partners, photo by Tim Wight-Peter Walker & Partners.

About ASLA

The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 16,500 members. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship.



"I've always enjoyed drawing, and through an aptitude test I discovered landscape architecture. I was instantly captivated by the idea of contributing to the creation of green space. Over the years, my love for this profession has grown, and I am gratified to know that my work contributes to society's ability to enjoy and be inspired by natural settings."

RAMIRO VILLALVAZO, ASLA

CHIEF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, LORTON, VA



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Learning Garden for P.S. 19, by Ken Smith Landscape Architect, photo by Paul Warchol Photography Inc.

Join ASLA!

ASLA is committed to providing students who are interested in pursuing degrees in landscape architecture with the necessary tools and resources to help them in their pursuit of becoming a landscape architect.

You are invited to join ASLA as a Student Affiliate member. All you need is an interest in landscape architecture and a desire to learn more about it. Student Affiliate membership includes a one-year subscription to *Landscape Architecture* magazine—the authority on landscape planning and design. For more information, visit www.asla.org.

Resources

PUBLICATIONS

Many books and journals are available to help you learn more about the profession. Prospective students should examine *Landscape Architecture*, a monthly magazine sent to all ASLA Student Affiliate Members. A few introductory books are listed below:

- » Laurie, Michael. ***An Introduction to Landscape Architecture***. New York: American Elsevier, 1975.
- » Marsh, William M. ***Landscape Planning, Environmental Application***. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1991.
- » Newton, Norman T. ***Design on the Land, The Development of Landscape Architecture***. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.

- » Simonds, John O. ***Landscape Architecture***. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1983.

WEB SITES

- » www.asla.org – The official web site of the American Society of Landscape Architects
- » Laprofession.org – A site that provides scholarship and career information.
- » <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos039.htm> – An occupational outlook handbook published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Saitama Plaza, by Peter Walker & Partners, photo by Hiroshi Tanaka.



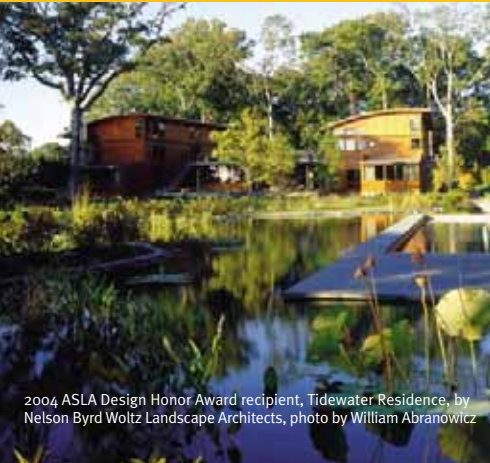
ASLA 2004 Design Honor Award recipient, Nasher Sculpture Center, by Peter Walker & Partners, photo by Tim Hurley's Studio - Tim Hurley.



2004 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient, Peirce's Woods at Longwood Gardens, by W. Gary Smith, ASLA.



2003 ASLA Design Merit Award recipient Arthur Ross Terrace of the Rose and Priest Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History by Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture, photo by: D. Finnin/AMNH.



2004 ASLA Design Honor Award recipient, Tidewater Residence, by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, photo by William Abranowicz