
Editors' Introduction

For this special issue, editorship of *Landscape Journal* returns to colleagues at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This volume stands alone; it also serves as a catalogue and record of an exhibition on *Eco-Revelatory Design: Nature Constructed/Nature Revealed*. These articles and projects serve to explicate that concept, for the conjunction of “ecology” and “revelation” is an idea pregnant with possibility. Design is always a revelatory activity in its multiple meanings. One meaning is literal, the revealing or exposure of that which was previously hidden or unseen. Design has the capacity to make the invisible visible. In our work, we are often guided by the unseen; it is our task to comprehend patterns, divine meaning, and communicate understanding. The actions of drawing, mapping, modeling, marking, and making are methods and modes of visualizing and externalizing those understandings. At times and special moments, those activities have the potential for true revelation—moments of extreme

clarity and insight with the potential to transform our consciousness and guide future action.

The guest editors of this issue and the curators of the exhibit have coined a term that in itself reveals and helps us reconceive actions that might have previously been seen as disparate. They have cast their eco-revelatory net into a fertile sea and hauled in a remarkable catch. We are impressed by the range and extent of the projects and ideas represented by these selections. These works span the nation's geography and habitats. They traverse the range between the purely symbolic to the pragmatic, from the speculative to the constructed. They are modest and massive. They are collaborations of landscape architects with individuals from a wide array of disciplines in the sciences, the arts, and the humanities.

The guest editors' ambition brings color to *Landscape Journal* for the first time. It is a most welcomed addition. The communication of the places and projects in this issue is enriched, for the spectrum of color

begins to bridge the gap that separates us as readers from the full sensory richness of these eco-revelatory sites.

These forward-looking projects also suggest a reflection, a reevaluation of landscape architecture's history and ideology from an eco-revelatory perspective. While the nomenclature is contemporary, the idea has a long lineage. The desire to actualize Alexander Pope's dictum “to consult the genius of the place in all” is but an explicit methodological suggestion. The means and methods of consultation, as well as our “consultants,” have expanded, but the imperative is present and part of landscape architecture's legacy and ethos. Within the work of the acknowledged masters of garden design and landscape architecture lies the kernel of the ideas represented in this issue. *Landscape Journal* is honored to present these works and provide a forum for a discussion of their significance.

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