Editorial Commentary

It is with a great deal of excitement—and a few pangs of anxiety—that we launch *Landscape Journal: Design, Planning and Management of the Land,* with this issue. The excitement stems from the fact that after years of discussion concerning the need for a refereed journal of landscape architectural research and scholarly investigation in North America, this issue now makes it a reality. The anxiety is in response to the knowledge that we are in uncharted waters, in a sense, with this venture. Fortunately, the excitement far outweighs any anxiety about what might lurk in those waters, and we are pleased and honored to serve in our roles as the first editors of *Landscape Journal.*

If the cooperation and support we have experienced to date are any indication of the future for the *Journal,* its prognosis is very bright. Many individuals and groups deserve credit for making *Landscape Journal* a reality. The CELA (Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture) Executive Committee under President Peter Olin's leadership took the first and very critical step when they voted favorably on the concept of the *Journal* at their August 1980 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, and backed this up with start-up funding. The University of Wisconsin Press—and especially Stephen Miller and John Delaine of the Journals Division—have been absolutely essential in bringing the *Journal* to its present state. The administrators of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the School of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin have been encouraging and steadfast in their support of the *Journal,* as have our colleagues in the Department of Landscape Architecture. Special thanks are due Ms. Signe Holtz who has provided editorial assistance in these beginning months.

We are grateful to the distinguished group of academicians and practitioners who graciously agreed to serve on our Editorial Board, as well as the sizeable number of technical reviewers who have reviewed papers or have agreed to do so in the future. There could not be a *Journal,* of course, if it were not for the authors who have submitted papers to the scrutiny of the review panel, and we appreciate very much their willingness to do so. Finally, we thank you, the adventuresome charter subscribers, as we embark on this trip into new territory.

It is appropriate in this first issue to state some of the *Journal*'s goals and objectives as they have been developed to date. Also, an explanation of the review process as we will practice it is presented in the following discussion.

Goals of Landscape Journal

First, regarding goals which we hope to accomplish, our first and foremost hope is that this publication will contribute to the sharing of new information and thought in the many subject areas which support landscape design, planning and management. While *Landscape Journal* has been initiated by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, it has never been intended that it should only contain papers written by academicians for other academicians. Instead, it is intended that the *Journal* should provide reliable information resulting from research and scholarly investigation—whatever the source—which will be useful in the varied areas of practice and teaching of landscape design, planning and management. Hence, we believe the *Journal* represents an important bridge between academia and the practicing profession.

It is not our intention to duplicate the coverage of other landscape periodicals. We will not, for example, purport to cover project designs, *per se,* which is ably done by *Landscape Architecture Magazine* under Grady Clay's guidance. We have discussed with Grady, also, the complementarity that can exist between that bimonthly publication and this semiannual one.

The three categories of papers that will make up the majority of the content of *Landscape Journal* during the foreseeable future are:

1. Specific research papers, wherein the context for the topic is addressed, the research process or methodology is documented, and results and conclusions are presented.
2. Reviews and/or critiques of areas of research related to landscape design, planning, and management, wherein a survey and discussion of literature and current research are presented. Within this category, new annotated bibliographies might periodically be published.

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3. Philosophical statements, theoretical discussions, and historic analyses based upon rigorous scholarly investigation and assessment of past and present activities, persons, and places related to landscape design, planning and management.

Review Process for Landscape Journal

Some readers and potential contributors to *Landscape Journal* may not be familiar with the "blind review" process as it is practiced in this and other scholarly publications; therefore we will outline the procedures very briefly in this editorial commentary. After receiving a manuscript from an author, we send it out for review to two persons who have been identified as specialists in the subject area that is addressed in the paper. The name and affiliation of the author are removed from the paper so the reviewers can give it an impartial review; likewise, the names of the reviewers are not revealed to the author. We ask the reviewers to assess the paper on its merits and determine whether it will serve as a meaningful contribution to landscape architectural research and scholarship. If the reviewers state that the submission is worthy of publication, we ask them to make suggestions that might be employed to improve the paper even further. The authors who have gone through this process to date have stated that the reviewers' comments have been most useful in revising and strengthening their papers.

If one reviewer believes that the manuscript is publishable and the other reviewer does not, it is sent out for a third review. Overall, we seek to provide authors with a decision regarding publication some two months after receiving the paper. Such timing, of course, is highly dependent upon the reviewers' schedules, and we urge all of you who will be asked to serve as reviewers to inform us immediately if you cannot complete your assessment within the time that is allotted.

Most of the articles in this issue were presented (along with about sixty papers) at the 1980 CELA Conference—"Research in Landscape Architecture"—held in Madison, Wisconsin. All were reviewed and revised using the procedures discussed above. The next issue of *Landscape Journal* will contain one or two papers from that meeting, and others undoubtedly will be derived from presentations made at the 1981 CELA Conference in Seattle, Washington. While the yearly CELA meetings likely will serve as a forum for generating further articles, we especially urge any and all of you who participate in landscape architectural research and scholarship to submit your manuscripts to the *Landscape Journal.*

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