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# Editor's Introduction

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Every issue of *Landscape Journal* represents a collection of material assembled from diverse sources. In a field as expansive as landscape architecture the journal should be the voice of varied modes of exploration, exposition, and production. It should aspire to display the breadth of topics that are of significance to landscape architects, as well as how our concerns and methods mesh with those of others in the profession. There is the perpetual dilemma of how, in words and images, to display the full depth and richness of the complex, ephemeral, and enigmatic phenomena of landscape.

In this issue the pair of articles by David Hulse, et al. and Lance Neckar are an interesting and informative complement, one directed towards the future, the other towards an understanding of the past. Each represents a rigorous struggle to comprehend the complexities of a place, one a great garden and the other a river valley. A variety of mapping techniques and imagery are employed to fully explore, analyze, and explain the evolution of each landscape. There is much more, but the cartography is essential to the authors' objectives. Its artistry engages us and evocatively contributes to our landscape understanding. (Color first appeared in *Landscape Journal* in the *Eco-Revelatory Design* Special Issue 1998. In that issue and in this issue, color imagery is essential to fully communicate the authors' research. In both instances grant funds from the authors or editors made this publication possible. *Landscape Journal* welcomes the opportunity to similarly cooperate with authors on future issues. Please contact the journal for information.)

The special section on bioregionalism addresses an idea of great concern to landscape architects. Regions, defined in various ways—biologically, culturally, politically, or in their vernacular formations—inform our history, practice, and sensibility. What are the various “schools” of our history if not a form of regionalization? This short collection is drawn largely from a symposium sponsored by the Dumbarton Oaks Studies in Landscape Architecture in Washington, D.C. Dumbarton Oaks holds an annual thematic colloquium whose papers are published in book form, but they also offer smaller scale symposia that only rarely receive the audience they deserve. This collection seeks to remedy that situation. Hopefully more such examples of these and similar meetings will appear in the pages of *Landscape Journal*. We thank Terence Young who organized the Dumbarton Oaks Symposium and contributed an introduction to the collection of essays in this issue.

The portfolio by Carl Steinitz, Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard, reminds us of the essentials of travel and the value of recording our experiences as a component of continuing professional education; a practice whose “credits” accrue in our experience. In our travels we record the landscapes we encounter in many ways, most often in photography, and increasingly in digital formats which promise to make it seamless with design and planning practice. Most of us, at one point in our experience, drew directly in the field. Too often we now forego the time, energy, and attention it takes to continue that most essential practice. Carl Steinitz's rapid in-the-field black and white ink and wash sketches demonstrate his keen eye, dramatic sense of composition, the sheer exuberance of drawing and his encounter with places. This selective portfolio is a global survey, but the techniques and sensibility are useful anywhere. Once again *Landscape Journal* welcomes similar contributions. This too, is design research of the most fundamental kind.

The final section of this issue, the *1998 CELA Proceedings* had a long gestation period. Since 1980, CELA Conferences have been a forum for the presentation of refereed research. In fact, the founding of *Landscape Journal* at the University of Wisconsin is coterminous with that event. In subsequent years host institutions were responsible for the publication of conference proceedings. This substantial labor was born by each institution. The character of each document varied and the selection and procedure for the inclusion of articles was not standardized. Unfortunately, these significant collections of landscape architecture scholarship were often only available to those who attended the conference and a few others. Too often they joined the vast gray literature in our field. These are valuable compendia. *Landscape Journal*, the CELA Board, and the University of Wisconsin Press decided that, in the future, the CELA Proceedings would be guest-edited by the host institution in cooperation with the Journal and would form an annual double issue of *Landscape Journal*. This is the first such issue and includes Volume 19, Numbers 1 and 2 under one cover. This is a special circumstance. With Volume 20 we will return to two issues per year.

Based on submitted abstracts these papers were first selected for presentation at the CELA conference. All presenters were then encouraged to submit their completed and revised papers for a subsequent review following the standard *Landscape Journal* review process. For our miniscule staff and guest editors this was a long process which we hope to expedite in the future. Once again the range of issues, themes, and places that landscape architects are engaged in is what is most impressive, from skateboard parks to GIS, Central Park to Las Vegas.

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