

Editors' Introduction

As the newest editors of *Landscape Journal*, we are both pleased and relieved to launch our first issue, somewhat later than we had hoped but less late than we feared. When we were first named as co-editors in late summer 2002, we felt alternately honored by the recognition, mystified by the process, and overwhelmed by our responsibility. We feel tremendous loyalty to the readership of the *Journal*, as well as those distinguished editors, board members, and authors who built the legacy of this publication. These are large shoes we now step into, and we expect we may stumble occasionally. Certainly, bringing this issue to press has been an interesting odyssey—of discoveries, trials, and occasional joys. We want to acknowledge the generous help and advice we received from the previous team, Kenny Helphand and Rene Kane at the University of Oregon. Thankfully, they provided us with several accepted articles to get us started. To those authors who have successfully made this transition along with us, we are most grateful for your patience.

Despite its new editorial leadership, the look of the *Journal* may outwardly remain the same. Yet, inside its covers, the *Journal* has been changing for some time. That fact has less to do with the editors than with the evolving outlook of research and scholarship in landscape architecture. Certainly, since its inception at the University of Wisconsin in 1980, the *Journal* has been the pre-eminent venue for scholarly work in landscape architecture. The mission at the heart of the *Landscape Journal* has been, and remains, to serve CELA, its members and friends. Annual meetings of CELA members and friends often catapult preliminary thoughts and investigations into a broader discourse, and test the merits of the work for eventual publication in these pages. We hope the *Journal* will continue to be the top choice for these CELA scholars.

Meanwhile, preparations for the CELA 2002 conference at SUNY ESF served to catalyze our own thinking. The host committee wrangled over many questions that now, still, face the new editors. What factors, fundamentals, or even new directions might characterize significant research and scholarship in our field[s]? Which problems should such work now address? Who—and by what authority—gets to evaluate, or select, the 'best' of it? How can landscape architects facilitate the most effective production and consumption of their work? Such questions were openly debated at CELA 2002; there was much profitable exchange, though little resolution.

We will surely continue to examine the role and responsibilities of the *Journal*, and improve its performance, as we carry out our stewardship. Right now, there are two things we are sure of. Traditionally, *Landscape Journal* has published work submitted by a wide range of contributors outside of landscape architecture, including urban planners, ecologists, geographers, artists, poets, architects, and historians, among others. As a close corollary, since research in so many fields has helped to support, inform, and shape the mission of landscape architects and environmental designers, the *Journal* enjoys a broad readership. However, it is clear that—important as this work is—it should be reaching a much larger audience. Second, there are more choices than ever before for prospective authors to publish—whether in the landscape architecture press or in related venues. We watch the proliferation of specialized journals with great interest and hope. This presents both an opportunity and a necessity for us to rearticulate the mission of the *Journal*

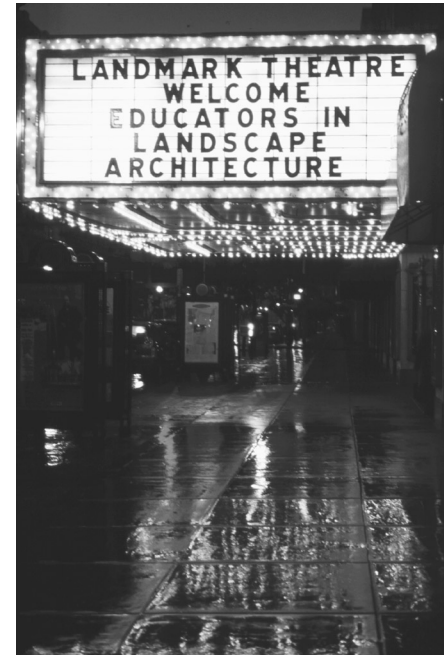


Figure 1: Marquee of the Landmark Theatre, Syracuse NY., during the CELA Conference, September 2002. (Photograph by Wendy Andringa).

in light of the evolving relationships between the professions, the disciplines, the academy, and society.

Pursuant to these goals, then, of expanding the readership and clarifying the mission of the *Landscape Journal*, we welcome your insights and hope you will share them with us in the months and years to come. In the meantime, here are some of our immediate initiatives:

Same format. New content and themes. In addition to substantive papers and reviews of books, conferences, and exhibitions, the *Journal* has, at other times, featured editorial remarks and author correspondence. While email has largely supplanted the old "letters" feature, we would like to abridge and reprint some of the salient points of discussion from Larch-L, the landscape architecture list-serve (currently managed by Jim Palmer at ESF). We are interested in

expanded or ongoing features such as informal reader surveys on focused questions, as well as bi-annual software reviews. In future we also plan to issue calls for papers and/or shorter discussion essays on specific themes in order to improve overall coherence from issue to issue.

New editorial standards and procedures. We are currently updating our editorial management tools, and initiating an all-digital submittal and review process. This should facilitate improved clarity of the guidelines for peer-reviews, and set tighter editorial instructions for authors and technical editors. We hope we will soon see improved technical consistency and timeliness of future issues, as well as better-quality graphics, page design, and readability.

New indexes and database development. The editors, with the help of CELA and the University of Wisconsin Press, are planning to embark on an indexing project to allow researchers in all fields to retrieve *Journal* features with index search engines. We are also creating databases to open, expedite and manage the peer-review process, and to elicit special contributions on current events.

New readers. New authors. As we take steps to expand our readership

base, we actively welcome contributions from thoughtful practitioners and academics in allied design and planning disciplines. There is much to be gained from capturing the energy of allied researchers and professionals who put our ideas into practice. Whether they are alumni or partners in funded projects, they are helping to build a body of knowledge that is central to landscape architecture.

This Issue. While you may not notice remarkable changes in this issue, you will find some remarkable articles. Judith Wasserman's critique of cultural narrative strategies in Salem, Massachusetts—the "Witch City"—cautions that local identity and history are sometimes distorted into a commercial form of entertainment. Carla Corbin has crafted a map of the meanings of the term 'vacancy.' Her work should resonate particularly for those seeking to understand, or determine, the fate of disused and re-used urban and industrial sites. The Danish Millennium

Gardens project was intended as a communiqué, in the shape of landscape, between generations of the second and the third millennia. A case study is presented here by Jette Hansen-Møller, insightfully detailing both the process and the results. Katherine Crewe and Ann Forsyth propose a synthetic typology for contemporary landscape design strategies—called "LandSCAPES"—that serves to summarize current trends in practice and, perhaps by extension, in studio education. The scheme also suggests an interesting reflection upon Corbin's and Hansen-Møller's work. Finally, Lee-Ann Milburn and Robert Brown make a crisp report on the results of a survey on research productivity among faculty in landscape architecture programs in North America. Enjoy.

MED & JFP