

Editor's Introduction

As this issue goes to press, we approach the end of another academic year, frenetic with rounds of meetings, teaching, and travels. Despite all that, *Journal* editors and staff have been buoyed recently by a special recognition: in mid-April the American Society of Landscape Architects announced that the 25th anniversary volume of *Landscape Journal* had received their 2008 Honor Award in Communication. On behalf of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, the publishing staff and designers at University of Wisconsin Press, and of course the legions of past editors, guest editors, staff and student assistants, we are gratified. Founding co-editor Arne Alanen deserves particular credit for motivating and collaborating in the preparation of the award-winning submission.

Below is an excerpt from our statement to the jury describing our editorial mission and philosophy:

Landscape Journal builds the profession by generating, testing, applying, and critiquing practical and theoretical ideas. Such work helps construct and legitimize the claims of landscape architecture as a specialized body of knowledge, a profession, and an art. . . . With contributions from practitioners and academics from both inside and outside landscape architecture, the Spring issue of the anniversary volume (26:1) highlights "Race, Space & the Destabilization of Practice" in landscape architecture, a topic of vital importance . . . The Fall issue (26:2) features a smaller theme group on "Modern Manifestos" in landscape architecture, along with an eclectic set of [other] articles . . . This characteristic mixture of themes and topics is crucial to maintaining the liberal value of *Landscape Journal* to the field of landscape architecture. Over the course of its twenty-five year history, prized special issues on Nature, Form and Meaning (1988), Landscape and the Avant-Garde (1991), Women, Land and Design (1994), and Eco-Revelatory Landscapes (1998), have recently been joined by special issues on Cross-Cultural Education (2005) and Metropolitan Ecology (Spring 2008), to mirror an evolving sense of mission in the field.

The awards jury commented, "[as a] very elegant communications piece for the profession, *Landscape Journal* has great value for expanding the body of knowledge for landscape architecture. In its 25th anniversary, it really rises to the level of landmark status." We thank the jury for their generosity, and hope we will see some of you at the awards ceremony at the ASLA conference in Philadelphia this fall. We also encourage you to take a moment to read the full text of the awards submittal, especially the list of contributors, on the ASLA website: <http://www.asla.org/awards/2008/08winners/139.html>.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Among the range of topics presented in this issue, many begin to extend and transform themes from the previous issue (Metropolitan Ecology, Spring 2008). We neither assume that readers will read all the articles in a given volume, nor that they read articles in the precise order they appear. Today, easy access to online content makes it even more likely that readers may select only what they wish, when they wish it. Nevertheless, we still imagine that the chain in which articles are encountered may suggest a subliminal narrative, responding to the chance valences between subjects much like the playlist does in, say, an I-Pod Shuffle.

In trying out a variety of sequences for arranging the current articles, the tricky part was choosing where to begin and end. We decided "The Politics of Landscape Reproduction: Haifa Between Colonialism and Nation-Building," by Ziva Kolodney and Rachel Kallus (Technion University, Haifa, Israel), was a good place to start. This article contains many of the themes that transect the entire issue: social history and identity politics, official (and unofficial) strategies of urban design, new scales of geographic analysis, and green urbanism, to mention a few. It is also chronologically extensive, calling our attention to a shift during the mid-20th century in Haifa, Israel. Here, an ideological shift from colonial attitudes to nationalist agendas resulted in a form of urban renewal ('Hausmannization'

a century after the fact), effecting the wholesale erasure of a large sector of pre-colonial Haifa, along with its local population.

In contrast to such historical strategies, or perhaps as a corrective for them, Jeffrey Juarez and Kyle Brown (California State Polytechnic University at Pomona) offer “Extracting or Empowering: A Critique of Participatory Methods for Marginalized Populations.” The authors reiterate the perils of ignoring the voices of disenfranchised communities, and reconsider the promise of integrating local knowledge and concerns in design and planning processes. However, because participatory processes may vary in both inclusiveness and effectiveness, the authors evaluate specific participatory activities in order to help professionals match appropriate processes and expectations with desired outcomes.

Continuing the focus on community identity, local voices, and participatory planning processes, Lynda Schneekloth and Robert Shibley (State University of New York at Buffalo) have written “The Public Realm: Weaving a Regional Civic Life.” This account of the exploratory Niagara Project (facilitated by the Urban Design Project at the University at Buffalo), describes a decidedly *unofficial* comprehension of the Niagara River region of western New York and southern Ontario. Arguing that “designers are public practitioners” who may work between scales, clients, and agencies, these authors envision the intersection of material and imaginal public space where a new regional civic life may be fostered.

It also happens that the Niagara region is filled with extraordinary examples of the types of infrastructural sites that Charles Waldheim (University of Toronto) and Alan Berger (MIT) call *logistics landscapes*. Presenting spatial and proportional analyses of new forms of urban landscape—in this case, forms based on global supply chains with spatial functions for the storage, staging, and redistribution of goods—the authors call attention to both the opportunity and the demand that new systems of production present to landscape architects. Interestingly, their argument reinforces a

point suggested also by Schneekloth and Shibley—that “critical cultural appraisal” begins by acknowledging *all* forms of spatial practices as place-making practices.

What then of the suburbs—that ubiquitous set of spatial practices that many landscape architects acknowledge only reluctantly? Richard Weller (University of Western Australia, Perth) frames “Landscape (Sub) Urbanism in Theory and Practice,” as a two-part study. The first part is an insightful, if selective, review of the recent history of planning and design theories for suburban settlements. Then, having distinguished landscape urbanism from other, rival theories, the second part of the article demonstrates how techniques of landscape urbanism might be applied to shape and direct growth in a planned suburban settlement for 40,000 people in Perth, Western Australia. The results are particularly evocative.

At a much smaller scale, Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker (Pennsylvania State University) explore the landscapes of ordinary processes—of rain, stormwater collection, and storage—in both urban and suburban areas. “From Stormwater Management to Artful Rainwater Design” will be of interest to practitioners and students alike, offering an illustrated typology of rainwater strategies that may add amenity value to developed sites. Twenty exemplars serve as comparative case studies from which five goals are identified and described. This article is a complement to an ongoing research agenda on the expressive use of materials and natural processes undertaken at Penn State by these authors.

Finally, Paul Gobster (USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Chicago, IL) completes the cycle of themes in this issue. Referring to those icons of the American landscape, Yellowstone Park and Old Faithful geyser, Gobster’s “hotspot” is a metaphor for the strange appeal of specific scenic landscapes that are protected and enjoyed by millions, and contribute to a nationalist landscape narrative. “Yellowstone Hotspot: Reflections on Scenic Beauty, Ecology, and the Aesthetic Experience of Landscape” is an honest, personal reflection on how and why even the most logical framework for scenic

quality does not always measure up to the visceral appeal of bodily experience in a powerful landscape.

The connections between any pair of articles in this issue may extend and define their topics more clearly. We hope our readers will read and enjoy *all* these articles, but we also encourage you to try reading them in the precise order they are presented.

MED

*Send correspondence to M. Elen Deming at
landscapejournal@esf.edu*