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# Editors' Commentary

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Ever since *Landscape Journal* first appeared in early 1982, there have been calls to publish any number of "theme" issues. Indeed, one such issue of the *Journal* (Volume 3, Fall 1984) was devoted to the general topic of visual assessment and the perception of beauty in the landscape. That issue, however, resulted after several manuscripts on visual assessment already had been submitted, reviewed, and accepted for publication. It was only because of this fortuitous circumstance that we were thereby able to have an issue which featured a single, albeit broadly defined topic.

A facet of landscape architecture that undoubtedly has not yet been addressed adequately on the pages of *Landscape Journal* is the one of design. While some articles on landscape design have appeared since 1982, it always has been our wish that more authors involved with such matters would contribute manuscripts for review and consideration.

This concern about the shortage of articles on design theory was addressed directly at the 1985 CELA conference. As is pointed out in the guest editor's introduction that follows, that conference provided the forum which ultimately led to the publication of this issue of *Landscape Journal*. (It perhaps is worth noting that another CELA conference, the 1980 meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, served to launch *Landscape Journal* as the first refereed publication for landscape architecture in North America.) Once it had been agreed that a special theme issue on design should be pursued, the question of securing additional financial assistance was considered. The National Endowment for the Arts emerged as the logical agency to contact for what was envisioned as a

larger-than-usual issue of the *Journal*. Anne Whiston Spirn was asked to serve as guest editor and to assume major responsibility for writing the NEA grant proposal. By adopting the theme, "Nature, Form, and Meaning," Anne also selected a topic that would allow potential authors to address one of the more important issues that is of concern in contemporary landscape design theory.

The masthead of *Landscape Journal* reads: "Design, Planning and Management of the Land." With this issue of *Landscape Journal*, design has finally received the special attention it so clearly deserves. We encourage future authors to continue writing in a similar vein.

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Co-editors