



SASLA NEWSLETTER

October Issue 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art Sale Workshop

Help SASLA create art for our November Art Sale!

Plant Sciences Building,
PLSC 2148

October 17th 1PM – 4PM

Stop by when you're free!

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2gcl1Xf>

Pumpkin Carving Party

Plant Science Building,
PLSC Lounge

October 25th 6PM-8PM

\$5 for a pumpkin & pizza!

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2yWFF5j>

SASLA Mentorship

2nd Year BLA's Email

sasla.umd@gmail.com to

be paired with a 4th Year

Mentor.



UMD landscape architecture students pose for a picture with Thomas Woltz.

“Architecture designs sculptures and after installation their slow decay begins. Landscape architecture designs systems that continues to grow after installation. The landscape cannot operate as a sculpture but rather as a system.” –

Thomas Woltz

THOMAS WOLTZ

Thomas Woltz of Nelson Byrd Woltz traveled to the University of Maryland last Wednesday, September 27th to give his lecture on Cultivation, Conservation, and Culture. Many UMD students knew of Woltz from his TedxCharlottesville talk, “From landscape architecture to conservation agriculture,” where he discussed his experiences working with indigenous tribes, new wildlife restoration technology, and much more. Before the anticipated lecture, Thomas Woltz spent the entire day giving our faculty and students a preview of what was to come through studio visits and a luncheon.

At half after four o'clock students piled into one of the Plant Science's lecture halls eagerly waiting to learn about the various projects. Thomas discussed a range of projects he worked on including Garden Park Community Farm, Flight 93, and Hudson Yards. The site that stood out the most however, was the Aga Khan Garden, Alberta. Thomas described the Aga Khan Garden as unique for its 4 vital characteristics: water and sound, sacred geometry, experience and sounds, and production and horticulture.

This site was a gift from the Ismaili Muslim's to Canada whom 40 years ago took in Ismaili refugees due to mass murder by extremist within their countries. The Ismaili's wanted to gift Canada a traditional Islamic garden as thanks, and Thomas Woltz was tasked with designing it. After one year molding their concept Woltz and his team developed a site that beautifully encompassed the unique characterizations of Islamic gardens.

Months of research contributed in deciding the sounds water features make to offer a calm and spiritual experience. The geometry of the floor tiles was created after the team's patternmaker took an extensive course on Islamic patterns to ensure that they were representative of the culture. The experience of lighting was represented by lanterns placed behind a fountain, a feature found in many Islamic gardens. Culturally significant plants were incorporated in the design as well.

Thomas Woltz topped off his presentation with a breathtaking video of the site in 3D model to really allow the audience to experience the site to its full extent. At the end of an engaging presentation we were left with the takeaway— “Beauty is important, aesthetics are very important, engaging with the land and portraying feelings in your site are all important, but only when you, through your knowledge engage their mind, that's when you have the real power.” Brilliant, relatable, and exceedingly humble—Thomas Woltz was truly a pleasure to meet and learn from.

Thank you to our contributors: UMD Arboretum, The Community Forklift, Brightview Landscape Services, DOTS UMD, BikeUMD, The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, University of Maryland Dining Services, Department of Landscape Architecture, Plant Science Program, and School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation



Mobile park by Simone Vitale and Sean Quinn of Jack Sullivan's Urban Design Studio.



Dog park by the Senior Studio Team featuring Jasper.



Meditation garden by the Junior Studio Team.

PARK(ING) DAY

Initiated by Rebar Group Inc., Park(ING) Day is a day where people are invited to transform a parking space into a park for the day to advocate for green spaces and see what the built world could be. This year we had four parks: Jack Sullivan's Urban Design Studio, Senior Studio Team, Junior Studio Team, and a park collaboration by BikeUMD and DOTS UMD.

Starting off with Jack Sullivan's Urban Design Studio, Simone Vitale had a vision to reconstruct and fill an abandoned car with plants growing from every compartment, including the tires. Sean Quinn helped her find materials including a broken down yellow truck which he towed to the site and decorated with an umbrella, abstract seating, and lovely houseplants.

The Senior Studio Team designed a dog obstacle course because they felt that since pets leave such a large impact on humans, it is important to design spaces that accommodate both people and their pets. The materials for the course were made up of repurposed materials. The space was decorated with a toilet mosaic water fountain powered by a portable solar panel, a terraced garden with dog friendly herbs, and a dog house entrance.

The Junior Studio Team designed a meditation garden and filled the parking spaces with lush plants. They reused wood pallets to create walls and provided seating on both sides of their space. In the middle sat their lovely abstract water feature that connected the whole site together.

LARC professors Dr. Christopher Ellis, Dr. Byoung-Suk Kweon, Professor Dennis Nola, and Professor Jack Sullivan were invited to score each park and after the points were tallied, we proudly present our winners...Junior Studio Team! Congratulations to them and a big thank you to all our volunteers.

NIGHT OWLS

The junior studio completed their first project on Marlboro Ridge Townhouses development, and you know what that means? Sleepless nights!

The junior landscape architecture studio was the first to complete a project this semester! In order to combat sleepless nights, Edith Martinelli explained she normally makes a habit of waking up at 6AM to commute to the University of Maryland by 8AM! This gives her about four hours to get work done before her studio begins and she plans to continue using this method throughout the semester. However, for this project, she and about eight other students found themselves spending the night in studio to finish the project.

Andrew Cho says the highlight of the night was when Jason Kohler and Michael Pullano reenacted Star Wars using their trace paper rolls as light sabers. The following morning was presentation day. Edith reflected on critiques on her board layout, but says her design scheme of townhouses was well received. Andrew's favorite part of this project was laying out all the lots for townhouses into the design because it reminded him of puzzles. Good job juniors, go get some sleep!

Contact Us

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Join our mailing list! Be the first to know about SASLA news and events the first Wednesday of every month! (<http://bit.ly/2iJO1Jx>)

Check out the job and internship board for more job opportunity information!

Opportunities

Internship: Design Workshop (10/16/17, spring internship)

The National Park Service Olmsted Center

(christopher_beagan@nps.gov, 10/30/17)

EDSA (10/15/17, spring/summer internship)

Job: Site Resources Inc. (joinus@siteresourcesinc.com, entry level LA)

Homeowner – Patio (mchau1@comcast.net, (240)505-3830)

Maryland Sea Grant positions (www.mdsg.umd.edu/employment)

The Community Design Assistance Center (<http://bit.ly/2xSTwcZ>)

New York DOT Region 11 (<http://on.ny.gov/2yH8Poe>, junior LA)

Landscape Projects Inc. (t.martin@landscapeprojects.com, designer)

Scholarship: The Boren Scholarship (nsepboren@umd.edu, 1/24/18)