MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM

IIT ARCHITECTURE
CHICAGO
# First Year

### Fall
- **LA 541 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio I: Processes
- **LA 565 (3 credits)** Ecology & Materials Workshop I: Plants & Planting
- **LA 501 (3 credits)** History/Theory/Criticism I: Landscape Architecture Theory
- **LA 525 (3 credits)** Design Media I: Drawing & Modeling the Landscape

### Spring
- **LA 542 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio II: Site & City
- **LA 566 (3 credits)** Ecology & Materials Workshop II: Earthworks & Infrastructures
- **LA 502 (3 credits)** History/Theory/Criticism II: Landscape Architectural History
- **LA 526 (3 credits)** Design Media II: Digital Media

# Second Year

### Fall
- **LA 543 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio III: Comprehensive Landscape Architecture
- **LA 567 (3 credits)** Ecology & Materials Workshop III: Planting Design and Construction
- **LA 504 (3 credits)** History/Theory/Criticism III: Landscape Architecture Research Seminar
- **LA 527 (3 credits)** Design Media III: Advanced Modeling and Fabrication - Dynamic Processes

### Spring
- **LA 544 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio IV: Site, City, & Region
- **LA 514 (3 credits)** Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture I: Entrepreneurship and Practice
- **LA 568 (3 credits)** Landscape Architecture Elective/Special Projects

# Third Year

### Fall
- **LA 545 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio V: Metropolis
- **LA 516 (3 credits)** Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture II: Landscape Architecture and Time
- **LA 507 (3 credits)** Landscape Architecture Elective/Special Projects

### Spring
- **LA 546 (6 credits)** Landscape Architecture Studio VI: Metropolis
- **LA 547 (3 credits)** Landscape Architecture Elective/Special Projects

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## Degree Programs

- [MLA+U](https://arch.iit.edu/study/mla)"
DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at Illinois Institute of Technology is where the world comes to learn the skills to build the metropolis of tomorrow. Our program is a fundamentally progressive urban enterprise based on three defining principles: the equitable global growth of our urban centers, robust transdisciplinary collaboration, and the advancement of urban landscape theory in research and in practice. Illinois Institute of Technology students investigate complex socio-environmental challenges through creative inquiry and innovative technological ideation. As the only accredited landscape architecture program in Chicago—and among only the few in large North American cities—we are uniquely positioned to confront these challenges.

Our curriculum amplifies this urban context with courses that investigate critical landscape architecture challenges of the twenty-first century city: the urban design implications of technological innovations, new mobility systems, post-industrial sites, water quality, sea-level rise, climate change, social equity, rapid urbanization, and vital public spaces, among others. Our Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board-certified, or LAAB-accredited, program prepares technically skilled and intellectually versatile design professionals who share these ambitions across the globe.

Please join us for this work.

Ron Henderson, FASLA
Professor and Director
Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program
Illinois Institute of Technology
CHICAGO

Chicago is a metropolis whose cultural wealth admits few rivals anywhere in the world. The vibrancy and variety of this global city, embodied by its people, history, and architecture, encompass the greatest heights of accomplishment and the bleakest depths of perdition. In the vast space between the glittering skyscrapers of prosperity and the hardscrabble streets of poverty, there is no room for quitters in Chicago. The city by the lake is and always has been a “city on the make.” Ever since its humble beginnings as a nineteenth-century trading post situated on swampland where the Chicago River fed into Lake Michigan, Chicago has been a perennial destination for the most ambitious, cunning, and visionary individuals—all seeking to make their mark not only on the city but also on the nation and the world.
The College of Architecture's programs of study emphasize investigations in architectural and landscape architectural design and technology, while expanding the significance of these investigations through a rigorous application of critical thought and intellectual inquiry.

The college draws strength from its unique traditions and circumstances such as its Miesian legacy as a preeminent school of modernism; its location in Chicago, with its profuse architectural heritage and devotion to enhanced landscapes; and the city's present-day connections to progressively minded, global practitioners.

Architectural and landscape architectural education at Illinois Institute of Technology combine top tier educators and enhanced educational resources with a setting in an unparalleled urban laboratory and associations with the best practices in the world. Our commitment encompasses the needs of our South Side Chicago neighborhood, our city, and the inhabitants of each. An immediately immersive program of studies intertwines analytical skills, design, technology, and practical knowledge.

Our perspective invites collaborations with the programs' allied disciplines and is committed to the highest standards of professional preparation. Our mission incorporates the values of design excellence and technical expertise, and the advancement of professional practice and educational significance.

Our goal is to graduate highly qualified professionals who are ethical, thoughtful, and informed creators of buildings, landscapes, and related visual and physical environments.

“The college draws strength from its ... Miesian legacy as a preeminent school of modernism; its location in Chicago, with its profuse architectural heritage and devotion to enhanced landscapes; and the city's present-day connections to progressively minded, global practitioners.”
MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM

Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at Illinois Institute of Technology is where the world comes to learn the skills to build the metropolis of tomorrow. The university's master's degree in landscape architecture is based on the following imperatives. First, the continuing expansion of metropolitan areas worldwide has created a critical role for landscape in the structuring and transformation of urban environments. Second, the increasing complexity of the modern metropolis demands new forms of transdisciplinary thought and design. And third, the combination of landscape and urbanism over the past decade has proven potent, enabling an expansion of the field in both theory and practice. Thus, we understand that landscape architecture should be a fundamentally forward-looking, urban enterprise that engages and promotes the evolution of metropolitan conditions. We shall prepare technically skilled and intellectually versatile design professionals who share those ambitions.

STUDENT WORK
Drawing on landscape architecture’s range of work—from urban gardens to regional planning—our students explore the design of landscape networks for food production, hydrological systems, forest systems, mobility infrastructures, and public recreation. These landscape reconfigurations will define how we reoccupy territories as productive landscapes for social, cultural, and economic outcomes. Within this broader ecological context, the program places great attention on the experiential aspects of the public realm by focusing on the quality of the urban pedestrian environment. Materiality, scale, human comfort, visual beauty, and cultural relevance are critical factors in the improvement of urban life. The development and integration of ecological beauty at a range of scales—from site to city to region and beyond—is of paramount importance.

“...landscape architecture should be a fundamentally forward-looking, urban enterprise that engages and promotes the evolution of metropolitan conditions. We shall prepare technically skilled and intellectually versatile design professionals who share those ambitions.”
More than ever, the world needs more informed, more innovative, and more critically involved landscape architects. Population growth, a changing climate, and continued depletion of natural resources call into question existing planning and design methods. Landscape architects have emerged among design professionals to lead the understanding, organization, reclamation, and reimagining of our cities to meet the challenges of our future.

Our position is to empower our students with the confidence and skills to define their work through landscape architecture and to actively deploy this agency to change the world through investigations of the landscape metropolis.

The Great Lakes Basins program places a focus on studying the mega-region of the Great Lakes, including its natural systems; water resources and networks; economic, social, and political histories and conditions; production landscapes; and infrastructural systems. The shifts in urbanization and relationships across this region, combined with the potential to revive established networks through new configurations, make the area a critical test laboratory for ecological landscape urbanism on a broad scale.

CHICAGO LANDSCAPE LABORATORY

Crossing ecological boundaries at a range of scales, Chicago serves as a microcosm of the global ecological situation. Understanding Chicago’s future relies on understanding the fundamental landscape relationships across the city. The Landscape Architecture+Urbanism Program extends its research and design inquiries beyond historic gardens and parks to abandoned infrastructure landscapes, the Chicago River, vacant neighborhood lots, and industrial lands as opportunities for intervention and regeneration.
HOW TO APPLY TO MLA+U
The MLA+U Program at Illinois Institute of Technology offers the Master of Landscape Architecture professional degree, a dual MLA/MARCH, and advanced standing. For detailed information about graduate admission requirements, deadlines, and scholarships, please visit arch.iit.edu/admissions/graduate, call +1 312.567.3260, or email arch@iit.edu.
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<td>Ron Henderson</td>
<td>Director, Professor</td>
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<td>Maria Counts</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Trevor Lee</td>
<td>Visiting Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Martin Felsen</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
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<td>Alla Vronskaya</td>
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<td>Jonathan Miller</td>
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<td>Frank Balestri</td>
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<td>Janet Echelman</td>
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<td>Meg Studer</td>
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<td>Michael Skowlund</td>
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<td>Jay Womack</td>
<td>Part-Time Professor</td>
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MARIA COUNTS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Maria Counts was appointed assistant professor (tenure track) at Illinois Institute of Technology. She has previously taught at City College of New York, New York University (NYU), and Pennsylvania State University. Her professional office, Counts Studio, which she leads with Christopher Counts, received a national ASLA Honor Award for Moore Square in Raleigh, North Carolina; was a finalist for the national World War I Memorial in Washington D.C.; selected to design a garden at the Beijing International Garden Expo; was invited to design and construct an exhibition garden at Reford Gardens at Métis; and other planning and design projects.

He has also worked at the New York Department of Parks and Recreation. Counts’s work and the work of her students has been published in a series of books on landscape representation by Nadia Amoroso and been recognized with two national ASLA student honor awards. She has a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design.

Counts was recently elected as CELA Region 5 director, and her project “Sonic City: Visualizing Sounds in Urban Spaces” received a grant from the Van Alen Institute grant funded by the New York State Council on the Arts in 2018.

RON HENDERSON
DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR

Professor Ron Henderson, FASLA, received a three-year, $750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in collaboration with Professor Matthew Spenko (Illinois Institute of Technology Robotics Lab) and Professor Boris Pervan (Illinois Institute of Technology Navigation Lab) for The Urban Design and Policy Implications of Ubiquitous Robots and Navigation Safety. This research extends the ongoing investigation of The Driverless City Project for which Professor Henderson has recently delivered lectures and workshops in North America, Europe, and Asia.

He was landscape architect for the new Elizabethan theater at Chateau d’Hardelot, which received global recognition as World Architecture News’ Wood Building of the Year. Henderson’s preliminary design for the Historic Newport Town Spring, which returns the site of the founding water source of Newport, Rhode Island, back into public space for the first time in 350 years, is advancing toward final design and construction.

In the spring of 2018, an exhibition of Professor Henderson’s sketchbooks from Japan was installed at the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., during the annual D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival. The exhibition included a series of public lectures and workshops on cherry blossom culture and cherry tree horticultural practices at the arboretum.

Henderson was also supported by a grant from the Graham Foundation for Alfred Caldwell and the Performance of Democracy. He was also invited to lecture and lead a workshop, Architecture and Liquidity, with Torkwase Dyson at the Graham Foundation.

"... Wood Building of the Year (top left) "...final design and construction (top right)" and "...Cherry Blossom Festival (bottom)"

National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C. (top) Beijing International Garden Expo (bottom)
TREVOR LEE  
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Trevor Lee, ASLA, received a two-year appointment as visiting assistant professor. Lee has a distinguished career leading the designs of significant urban landscapes—including Chicago’s Navy Pier, High Line Phase 3, and Manhattan’s Pier 26—for OLIN and James Corner Field Operations. He is also founder of Suprafutures, a project-based research initiative investigating public energy generation in public landscapes, and has been a member of the Department of Landscape Architecture faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for the past decade. Lee holds a BFA in illustration from Massachusetts College of Art and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Rhode Island School of Design.

FACULTY RECOGNITION

The faculty has had a productive year of teaching and scholarship, and we welcomed Janet Echelman as a new adjunct faculty member this academic year.

Echelman sculpts at the scale of buildings and city blocks. Her work defies categorical intersecting sculpture, architecture, urban design, material science, structural and aeronautical engineering, and computer science. Using unlikely materials from aramid fiber to atomized water particles, Echelman combines ancient craft with computational design software to create artworks that have become focal points for urban life on five continents—from Singapore, Sydney, Shanghai, and Santiago, to Beijing, Boston, New York, and London. Her TED talk, “Taking Imagination Seriously,” has been translated into 35 languages with more than 2 million views. Recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Harvard Loeb Fellowship, Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellowship, and Fulbright Senior Lectureship, Echelman received the Smithsonian Magazine’s American Ingenuity Award in Visual Arts, honoring “the greatest innovators in America today.”

Our current Illinois Institute of Technology MLA faculty were active as well. Over the past year Adjunct Professor Meg Studer, as principal at Situations Studio, has developed and launched several applications for the Newberry Library’s exhibit, Religious Change, 1450-1700, including explorations of the Religious Geography of Venice and sixteenth century Polyglot Bibles. The studio’s information graphics, for an exhibit on the history of disability, appeared in the Boston Globe. In addition, as manager for the Landscape Studies Initiative at the University of Virginia, Studer has coordinated the design, prototyping, and development of a digital platform for the teaching of landscape history, a project supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and profiled in the November 2017 edition of Landscape Architecture Magazine. Along with the initiative’s external collaborations, with the New York Botanical Garden and Dumbarton Oaks, it is the first project at Virginia to bring together data science and design students, for creating language processing algorithms to recognize historical networks in survey and period texts.

Visiting Assistant Professor Nilay Mistry, PLA ASLA, directed the annual Illinois Institute of Technology MLA Experience in Landscape Architecture Summer Program that introduced Chicago-area high-school students to the profession. Ongoing work on The Driverless City project by Mistry and other Illinois Institute of Technology faculty was the subject of multiple lectures in India at university landscape architecture programs and chapters of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA).

Sarah Hanson (MLA’15) completed her first year as an adjunct professor at Illinois Institute of Technology while being the first university MLA alumus to join the faculty. Sarah is a landscape designer at Jacobs/Ryan Associates, Landscape Architects.

Frank Baleschi teaches the plant botany and horticulture course at Illinois Institute of Technology. This year, he accepted a position as instructor at the College of DuPage. He received his master’s of Horticulture from Iowa State University.

Kelly Murphy, a senior associate at Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects, works to advance the art of landscape architecture in Chicago and nationally. Murphy recently spoke on a panel, Living with Water: Designing for Wetter Weather and Cleaner Rivers, joint-sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Center and the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). She continues to serve on the Friends of the Chicago River Planning Committee, and has contributed to the Great Rivers Chicago visioning and design efforts with the MPC.
Adjunct Professor Aldo Burcheri now teaches the foundation studio after previously teaching courses in theory, urbanism, representation, and earthworks/infrastructure. Burcheri is also working to build a landscape architecture practice that can unlock the potential of public space and natural systems in the city for private and public clients. His career path in the industry is as diverse as it is deep, and he has held integral positions in firms responsible for both the design and construction of landscapes at a variety of scales, merging construction and design as a template for his own practice, Division 32 Landscape Architecture.

Associate Professor Martin Felsen was elevated to the American Institute of Architects’ College of Fellows. UrbanLab, his professional office, also received a 2016 AIA Chicago Design Excellence Award in Regional and Urban Design for the Changde City Master Plan. UrbanLab was also selected for the second Chicago Architecture Biennial. A monograph of Felsen’s professional office was just published by Applied Research + Design (AR+D) Publishing. The book “Bowling: Water, Architecture, Urbanism” seeks to reposition the contemporary debate of what a city should be by exploring how city-scaled mega-forms can become an updated architecture-based urbanism—a conjecture of what a comprehensible city could be to combat (predicted) crises—through analysis and experimentation.”

Adjunct faculty Michael Skowlund is Omni Ecosystem’s first Director of Landscape Architecture. He leads Omni’s new design studio and teams across disciplines to explore, analyze, and realize new ways to employ living infrastructure in urban environments to improve people’s everyday lives.

Adjunct Professor Jay Womack’s innovative and award-winning design solutions are based on an understanding that every site is a unique and ever-changing part of the global system, which calls for a blending of environmental and economic growth. In his approach, enhancing the relationships between land, water, and the built environment are paramount. He has been recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects on the national and state levels. He was featured in an article—“What would an entirely flood-proof city look like?”—in The Guardian. He is currently working on bringing an initiative called TreeLab USA from Japan to U.S. This is a program dedicated to helping kids with disabilities climb trees.

Studio Associate Professor Jonathan Miller contributed to texts and exhibitions recently including: the essay, “Get to the Melting Point,” Flatout Magazine, a group exhibition, Flat File One, at Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Chicago, June/July 2018; and (v)Hol(e), an exhibition essay for Shane Huffman, at 65 Grand Gallery, Chicago, February/March 2018.

Opposite page: Nihal Mistry with Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA), top left Janet Echelman: BOS and photo by Melissa Henry, top right Jonathan Miller: Cantcanstop - inkjet, print, paint, and embossed, bottom left Meg Studer: Venice App, bottom right
LA 541
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO I:
PROCESSES

Understanding the fundamental relationships of dynamic processes with an emphasis on representing time, movement, space, light, rhythms, shifting boundaries and enclosures, and physical materials of landscape.

Instructor:
Maria Counts

Howard Zhang, below
Class model, opposite above
Yichen Qian, opposite middle and below
LA 565  
ECOLOGY & MATERIALS WORKSHOP I:  
PLANTS & PLANTING

Instructor:  
Frank Balestri

The plants of the Western Great Lakes Basin, emphasizing both prominent native and commercially available species. Understand and identifying species as found within typical plant communities. Familiarization with plant physiology as determined by climate, geology, topography, hydrology, soils, wildlife, and disturbances.

Class field work photo, below

LA 501  
HISTORY/THEORY/CRICISM I:
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE THEORY

Instructor:  
Jennifer Current

Elaine Zmuda, below

Inquiry into the texts and projects of contemporary landscape architecture situated within a framework of historical and canonical texts and projects.
LA 525
DESIGN MEDIA I:
DRAWING & MODELING THE LANDSCAPE

Drawings (manual and digital) and models (physical and digital) will be employed to explore and interrogate landscape processes and envision ideas particular to landscape architecture such as mapping, time, movement, line, contour, texture, and materials, among others, while also developing a mastery of drawing conventions and media.

Instructors:
Aldo G. Burcheri
Kelly Murphy
Part Time Professor
Yichen Qian, below
Tammy Xu, opposite above
Dhara Oza, opposite below
Continued development of the core tools of the discipline of landscape architecture, focusing on the twenty-first century city. Rigorous site analysis will include emphasis on material, cultural, and ecological expression of city-scale networks and flows at the site scale. Design investigations will explore the site itself, its adjacent conditions, and the larger neighborhood or civic milieu.

Instructor:
Nilay Mistry
Tammy Xu, below
Alexis Arias, opposite
ECOLOGY & MATERIALS WORKSHOP II: EARTHWORKS & INFRASTRUCTURES

The qualities and characteristics of landscape materials with emphasis on a quantitative and interrelated understanding of the design of landform (grading) and water. Covers the influence of climate, geology, soils, hydrology, and disturbances on the design of a site's constituent elements including paths and streets, infrastructure, plants, and water.

Instructor:
Aldo G. Burcheri
Yuyang Deng, below

BOUNDARY NOTE:
BOUNDARY LINES FROM PLAT BY CRAPNELL LAND SURVEYING DATED 06/02/04 RECORDED AS DOC. #2004-21317 BEARINGS ADJUSTED TO IOWA STATE PLANE NAD 83 (2011) ADJUSTMENT.

HISTORY / THEORY / CRITICISM II: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The chronological history of designed landscapes with an emphasis on the emergence of the profession of landscape architecture in North America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Instructor:
Kris Lucius
Faculty photo, below
DESIGN MEDIA II: DIGITAL MEDIA

Using digital tools to clarify, conceptualize, represent, and communicate designed and engineered environments. A fluidity between critical, visual, and quantifiable digital techniques will be cultivated and will ground the management of information across software platforms.

Instructors:
Trevor Lee
Valerie Clarke, below
Howard Zhang, opposite above
Dhara Oza, opposite below

A TRAIL SPACE
Open space with a variety of uses
BIKE
ROLLER BLADE
READ
RELAX
PRESENT
VEND
PRACTICE
WALK
RUN

B AMPHITHEATER
Performance space situated in the garden
BIKE
ROLLER BLADE
PERFORM
EDUCATE
WATCH
READ
CONGREGATE
WALK
RUN

C RAIN HARVEST
Activities near filtered storm-water

PEOPLE, PROGRAM, AND TEMPORAL EXPERIENCES
SITE STUDY
The site study is comprised of three main zones: trail space, an amphitheater, and a rain garden providing a variety of activities within each. Along the site edge is a pedestrian pathway that allows users to walk, run, bike, and Rollerblade through the entire space.

DURATION OF ACTIVITY
> THAN 20 MINUTES
10 TO 20 MINUTES
< 10 MINUTES

SPECIMEN TREES
STORMWATER GARDEN
NATIVE TREES
EXISTING TREES
GROUND COVER
ALL VEGETATION
The integration of local ecologies, projected use, and the performance of ephemeral, semi-permanent, and permanent site interventions into cohesive and resilient design proposals for varied urban sites. Introduction to a wide range of site-specific professional design standards including the Americans with Disabilities Act and barrier-free regulations.

Instructor:
Maria Counts

Jiong Wang, below and opposite
LA 567
ECOLOGY & MATERIALS WORKSHOP III:
PLANTING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Advanced understanding of planting typologies, the history of plants in design, and the preparation of planting construction documentation augmented by frequent investigations and analysis of built landscapes in the Chicago region.

Instructor:
Ron Henderson
Chao Liu, below
Jingnan Ma, opposite
Instructor: 
Meg Studer

Course exercise, below

LA 504
HISTORY/THEORY/CRITICISM III: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH SEMINAR

Advanced study of landscape architecture topics with emphasis on research methods, description, analysis, and criticism.

Instructor: 
Zhimin Yang, below

LA 527
DESIGN MEDIA III: ADVANCED MODELING & FABRICATION - DYNAMIC PROCESSES

Investigate advanced digital fabrication and modeling techniques necessary to understand complex three-dimensional surfaces, objects, and space, as well as dynamic landscape and urban processes. Modeling, rendering, scripting, and animation skills are used to conduct, generate, and communicate research. Beyond the general course description, we will focus specifically on representing the landscape through video/motion techniques. We will use several means of representation from basic time-lapse photography to motion graphics—and clever video in between! We will investigate a particular Chicago landscape throughout the semester as well as tailor additional projects to studio representation needs.
Development of landscape architecture as a multi-scalar framework for designing dynamic urban processes and sites. Emphasis on research and design strategies that focus on the region as an analytical lens for site-specific design.

The Driverless City Studio investigates the potential opportunity for safer, greener, smarter, and more efficient cities. Currently, they consist of advanced sensing, computation, and communication capabilities that promise coordinated driving, car-following, car-sharing, adaptive traffic controls, other routing maneuvers, and reconfiguring the way in which we will work. There is a significant need to carefully consider the socio-technical context and social implications around driverless cars well in advance of these emerging technologies.
ECOLOGY & MATERIALS WORKSHOP IV: CONSTRUCTING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Techniques and technologies to analyze, construct, remediate, and/or restore urban sites including those that have been subjected to complex human disturbances such as landfills and brownfields. Includes special-needs construction practices such as structured soils, phytoremediation, green roofs, and rooftop gardens.

Instructor: Jay Womack

Field trip photo, below

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE I: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PRACTICE

Develop expertise in professional practice. Lectures, research assignments, and case studies will investigate practice models, proposals and contracts, schedules and budgets, project phases, project and client types, project team structure, the role of competitions, professional development, and licensure. In addition, the role of landscape architects, urban planners, real estate trusts, government agencies, developers, and others in directing the economic, professional, political, and socio-cultural concerns and responsibilities to initiate and manage landscapes will be investigated.

Instructor: Ron Henderson

Howard Zhang, below
Twentieth century and contemporary landscape architecture is investigated through case studies including site visits to projects in the Chicago region.
Addressing the complexities of the modern metropolis and advance disciplinary knowledge at large, the studio production is oriented toward the development of projects in a variety of scales from large-scale master plans, urban designs, and landscape designs to new urban typologies and singular buildings, all of which can address a variety of the issues pertinent to the modern metropolis. The studios are formed in few thematic clusters that complement each other or serve as dialectical opposites. Each studio explores a variety of techniques from parametric design, digital fabrication, model making, and advanced geospatial software to cultural and theoretical discourses.

Instructor:
Trevor Lee
Ron Henderson
Yi Gao, opposite below
Jingnan Ma, opposite above and below left
Jamie Sun, opposite below right
Investigations of gardens, landscapes, infrastructure, and cities as they are conceived, mature, and change over time. Study of landscapes designed for successional processes, weathering, biological growth and decay, seasonality, preservation and conservation of historic landscapes, and other topics.

Instructor: Meg Studor

Yitong Du, below

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE
PRAIRIE SCHOOL AND NATURALISTIC LANDSCAPE DESIGN

No region other than the Midwestern United States has had an indigenous style of landscape and architectural design as significant and enduring as the Prairie School. Although relatively short-lived, c. 1900-1915, the Prairie movement continues to influence designers—more than a century later. Beginning with its roots in Asia and Europe, this course provides an overview of the movement’s evolution and major designers—including landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted, O. C. Simonds, Jens Jensen, and architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Marion Mahoney Griffin, Walter Burley Griffin, and others. We also study Illinois Institute of Technology’s Alfred Caldwell, who continued this design tradition for several decades, adopting modernist influences. We explore how the Prairie style evolved and segued into 1960’s organic architecture and ecologically-informed design, and will touch upon current architecture and landscape architecture influenced by Prairie School tenets.

Instructor: Scott Mehaffey

Class field trip, below
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE
THE NATURAL HISTORY OF CITIES

Investigation of the morphological orders of global cities in order to discover and demonstrate the persistence of natural factors (soil formations, geological features, hydrological patterns, catastrophic events, etc.) in the settlement and development of cities. The work of the seminar will include an inventory of dominant natural features in selected global cities and the influence of these factors in urban design and site-specific projects. A thorough investigation of these factors in Chicago during the seminar will provide students a deep understanding of “Urbs in Horto.”

Instructor:
Ron Henderson

Studio photos, below
Yang Yang, opposite
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE
LONG AND NARROW

A new paradigm of urban landscapes that is taking shape, long urban corridors of robust, strategic investment—often narrow in dimension but broad in their positive social, ecological, and economic impacts—are stretching across global cities. The High Line, Prags Boulevard, the 606, and others are driven by a desire to take advantage of peculiarly elongated urban spaces that strike a transect across neighborhoods with diverse demographic and physio-spatial organizations. Students in the seminar will inventory, analyze, and develop critical commentary on these new landscapes in the form of texts, drawings, and diagrams that will comprise a public exhibition.

Instructor:
Ron Henderson

Jing Hai, Zongli Yao, Aishvi Desai,
Ines Alejandra Gonzalez Juste, Isidoro Lopez Puget Ponce, below
Ines Alejandra Gonzalez Juste, opposite above
Ndeye Fatou Diakhate-Njie, opposite below
SPECIAL PROJECTS: JAZZ FENCE
2018 ASLA STUDENT HONOR AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Jazz Fence that encloses the Bronzeville neighborhood’s new Great Migration Sculpture Garden was designed and built by two landscape architecture students in collaboration with community leaders, construction trades, neighborhood youth, and professional advisers. Jazz Fence was a design investigation of shadows, geometry, and color to augment the sculptural program of the garden that was constructed on a surplus site donated by the City of Chicago to the city’s South-Side Bronzeville neighborhood.

Since there’s been escalating number of youth falling into the justice system in south Chicago, the positive influence of art projects and teamwork on teenagers is certain to carry considerable weight. The community-engaged project benefits the residents environmentally, socially, and economically by transforming an abandoned historic site to a beautiful scenic spot.

Instructor:
Ron Henderson

Yu ‘Fish’ Si and Jamie Sun below and opposite

ASLA 2018 Award Winners
SPECIAL PROJECTS: SITESCAPES

This seminar employs comparative studies of other arts, in particular cinema, to illuminate landscape architectural aesthetics and the creative process. It has a dual focus: it undertakes an introduction to film studies through the analysis of films and readings in film theory and aesthetics; at the same time, it will consider architectural concepts and artifacts. The aim is not primarily to study cinema nor to make a definitive conclusion about the congruence or divergence of architecture and cinema. The course intends to cultivate a way of seeing: to illuminate the relations between media, technology, geography, architecture, landscape architecture, and ideology.

Instructor:
Jonathan Miller
Bryan Bietisch, below
Yechi Zhang, opposite
generation of students.
We inaugurated the Alfred Caldwell Lecture at Illinois Institute of Technology in the spring of 2018 with a lecture by author Thomas Dyja, who was participating in a joint initiative between the Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program and the Graham Resource Center titled "Alfred Caldwell and the Performance of Democracy," which received funding from the Graham Foundation.

In September 2017, the MLA+U Program co-hosted a series of events with The Cultural Landscape Foundation. Garden Dialogues: Caldwell Farm was held on September 9 at the Caldwell Farm in Bristol, Wisconsin, with Charles Birnbaum of The Cultural Landscape Foundation; Dennis Domer, author of Alfred Caldwell: The Life and Work of a Prairie School Landscape Architect; Richard Polansky of the Caldwell Farm; and Ron Henderson of the Illinois Institute of Technology MLA Program.

James Wines, whose influential work with SITE projects over the past 50 years "cracked open" buildings to vegetated wildness and mundane landscapes to environmental commentary, delivered a lecture September 13, 2017, in Crown Hall. The lecture was hosted by the Illinois Institute of Technology MLA+U Program and Rhona Hoffman Gallery.

Look for updates on these Illinois Institute of Technology MLA+U events and other college news at arch.iit.edu.

STUDENT AWARDS
It is an honor to acknowledge the accomplishments of our students who received notable recognition last year:

Jamiing 'Jamie' Sun and Yu 'Fish' Si received a national Student Honor Award for Community Service for Jazz Fence, a design-build project for the Great Migration Sculpture Garden in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.

Jamiing 'Jamie' Sun received the 2018 Student Honor Award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Zhimin 'Emily' Yang was nominated and recognized as Illinois Institute of Technology's 2018 University Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

Valerie Clarke and Alexis Arias received the 2018 Richard H. Driehaus Scholarships.

Jiong Wang and Zhimin 'Emily' Yang were selected to join the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for Advocacy Day at the United States Congress in Washington, D.C., to advocate for issues of importance to the profession.

Jiong Wang received the end-of-year Open House Best of Show Award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Dhara Oza building solar technology in Lessac, France.