MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM

IIT ARCHITECTURE CHICAGO
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The M.L.A.+U Program at Illinois Institute of Technology offers the Master of Landscape Architecture professional degree, a dual M.ARCH + M.L.A., 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.

Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program
Illinois Institute of Technology
College of Architecture

Production by Ron Henderson, Nilay Mistry, Tammy Tao Xu, and the Landscape Architecture students who provided images of their work.

Published by the Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program
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Front and back cover image:
Margaret Schroeder
LA 567
1000 Tree Project

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DIRECTOR’S LETTER

The Master of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program 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, strong transdisciplinary collaboration, and the advancement of urban landscape theory in research and in practice. M.L.A.+U 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, climate change, social equity, rapid urbanization, and vital public spaces, among others.

Our Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited and STEM-certified 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
Illinois Institute of Technology’s campus, designed by renowned architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, is located just south of Chicago’s vibrant and architecturally rich downtown. Our relationship with the nation’s third-largest city provides both inspiration and a fertile testing ground for research and practice, as students learn from and work in a global metropolis. As such, many of IIT Architecture’s students and faculty have left their mark on Chicago, including, among many others, Alfred Caldwell’s Promontory Point Park, Bruce Graham and Fazlur Khan’s Willis Tower and John Hancock Building, and Krueck + Sexton’s Spertus Institute.
As a direct descendant of the Bauhaus, IIT Architecture builds on a legacy of experimentation in design and technology that has inspired generations of landscape architects. With the unparalleled resource of Chicago as a point of departure, our research and design topics engage students directly with the contemporary challenges of architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism. Courses spring from our renowned history of disciplined research, analysis, and synthesis. These skills allow our graduates to seize professional opportunities and explore new territories of investigation. In our extensive fabrication workshop and design labs, students engage cutting-edge software and equipment to investigate structural systems and refine building details, while translating their ideas into physical and digital form in our comprehensive studio courses. Thanks to our strong ties to world-renowned practices both locally and abroad, students are able to directly interact with professionals and firms, addressing real-world landscape architectural challenges through immersive coursework, study-abroad programs, and exclusive internship opportunities.
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. Our master’s degree in landscape architecture is based on three 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 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 prepare technically skilled and intellectually versatile design professionals who share those ambitions.”
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.

GREAT LAKES RESEARCH
The program places a focus on studying the megaregion 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.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
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.
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE CURRICULUM
FACULTY

Ron Henderson
Director, Professor

Martin Felsen
Associate Professor

Frank Balestri
Adjunct Professor

Nilay Mistry
Visiting Assistant Professor

Alia Vronskaya
Assistant Professor

Aldo G. Burcheri
Adjunct Professor

Trevor Lee
Visiting Assistant Professor

Janet Echelman
Practice Adjunct Professor

Sarah Hanson
Adjunct Professor

Jonathan Miller
Studio Associate Professor

Scott Mehaffey
Adjunct Professor

Kelly Murphy
Adjunct Professor

Jameson Skaife
Adjunct Professor

Meg Studer
Adjunct Professor

Michael Skowlund
Adjunct Professor

Jay Womack
Adjunct Professor

Aldo G. Burcheri
Adjunct Professor

Frank Balestri
Adjunct Professor
RON HENDERSON
DIRECTOR, PROFESSOR

Professor Ron Henderson, FASLA is continuing a three-year, $750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation in collaboration with Professor Matthew Spenko (Robotics Lab) and Professor Boris Pervan (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 Henderson has recently delivered lectures and workshops at Oslo School of Architecture, Escola Tècnica Superior d’Arquitectura de Barcelona, Tsinghua University, and Tongji University. He also gave lectures and led panels at the American Society of Landscape Architects, Boston University, Harvard University, and served on the jury of the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize and the competition for the Shenzhen mangrove museum.

In spring 2019, an exhibition of Professor Henderson’s sketchbooks, Sakura Orihon: Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey, was installed at the United States National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. during the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Henderson was re-appointed senior fellow of garden and landscape studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection and was selected as a National Park Service artist-in-residence. He is currently writing a book chapter on Alfred Caldwell and the Illinois Institute of Technology campus landscape for the upcoming book on modernity at Illinois Institute of Technology and South Side Chicago. Henderson’s research, “Alfred Caldwell and the Performance of Democracy” was supported by a grant from the Graham Foundation, where he was also invited to lecture and lead a workshop, “Architecture and Liquidity” with Torkwase Dyson.

His professional practice, L+A Landscape Architecture, is active on projects in China, Japan, France, Italy, Norway, and the United States. Recently, they were named finalist for Parkveien, Oslo and won the competition for Balder’s Gate in Oslo—both in collaboration with Einar Jarmund.

NILAY MISTRY
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Professor Nilay Mistry, PLA ASLA directed the annual Illinois Institute of Technology Experience in Landscape Architecture Summer Program which seeks Chicago area high school students to the discipline of landscape architecture within an urban university environment. Career opportunities in design were explored through a series of visits to offices of practicing landscape architects, discussions with professionals of allied fields, and design exercises engaging Chicago’s public landscapes.

Mistry presented ongoing research work from The Driverless City project at the Social Justice and Equity in the Engineering of Smart and Connected Cities workshop at the University of Washington. This event was made possible by Henderson funding, and examined strategies around engineering and smart-city technologies that contribute to strengthening resilience of underserved and at-risk communities in cities. His contributions to The Driverless City project were also presented in lectures at chapter meetings of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects and an education session at the Annual Meeting and EXPO of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Design studio and seminar courses held at Illinois Institute of Technology have explored scenarios for public space in Chicago informed by recent developments in autonomous vehicle navigation.

Mistry has served as a landscape architect and steering committee member for the Northwest Portage Walking Museum, in collaboration with the Chicago Public Art Group, American Indian Center of Chicago, and Portage Park Neighborhood Association. This team is developing incremental changes along Irving Park Road, forming a learning experience that binds the watersheds of the Des Plaines and Chicago Rivers. Working with artist Santiago X, the team is implementing multiple hybrid earthwork mounds and public programs to educate visitors about the rich cultural history of placemaking, with the intention to activate the human connection to the river and its importance to the narrative of Chicago’s cultivation as a city.

Professor Mistry collaborated with Conor O’Shea and Chris Bennett to earn an honorable mention for their submission to the 2018 LA+ Journal’s ICONOCLAST design ideas competition, reconceiving New York’s Central Park as a guarded repository of cultural and horticultural assets.
TREVOR LEE
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Trevor Lee, ASLA, 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 landscape architecture faculty at the University of Pennsylvania for the past decade. Trevor holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Massachusetts College of Art and Design 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.

Alla Vronskaya is working on an intellectual history of Soviet architecture from 1917–1941, that situates Soviet interwar architectural theory in its transdisciplinary and transnational context, unpacking it as a discourse about society and the human. It identifies this discourse as monism, an intellectual framework centering on “life,” a synthetic notion developed at the intersection of architecture, psychology, and social engineering. She is a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study for one year.

Professor Jonathan Miller contributed to texts and exhibitions this year including: participation as a panel member for “Architecture as X” at an iitAIAS event, his essay “Get to the Melting Point” in Flat Out magazine, acting as a visiting critic for the University of Illinois at Chicago’s third year studio final review, and serving as a jury member for Chicago Children’s International Film Festival.

Sarah Hanson is in her third year of teaching as an adjunct professor. Hanson previously worked for Jacobs/Ryan Associates as a landscape designer. Now, Hanson runs the video production studio, Furnace Fps, with her husband, and is incorporating video into the landscape architecture curriculum. Sarah participated as a faculty research fellow in the Landscape Architecture Foundation 2019 Case Study Investigation with M.L.A.+U. graduate student, Matt Callone, to research and produce case studies for three high-performing Chicago landscapes—the Chicago Riverwalk, the Argyle Shared Street, and the Chicago Botanic Garden’s Regenstein Learning Campus.

Jameson Skaife is an associate at Lamar Johnson Collaborative, a full-service design firm that harnesses the power of integrated design, including architecture, workplace strategy, interior design, landscape architecture, and urban planning while

SARAH HANSON: WORKING CBG REGENSTEIN LEARNING CAMPUS

JAMESON SKAIFE: INDIANAPOLIS CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
FACULTY RECOGNITION CONTINUED

providing integrated project delivery by leveraging the knowledge and capabilities of in-house development and construction partners. Skaife helps deliver residential and commercial amenity decks, corporate campuses, and higher education projects. He also spoke at the American Planning Association Illinois Chapter’s conference on moving historic streetscapes into the future.

Michael Skowlund serves as the director of landscape architecture at Omni Ecosystems and founded the Omni Workshop, Omni’s landscape architecture studio, in 2016. Michael’s office integrates diverse teams focused on solving living infrastructure challenges with landscapes backed by science and systems thinking. The practice employs working landscapes and implements impactful projects to improve public spaces in the urban environment. While Omni’s work is measurably changing the Chicago landscape, they are also collaborating and pushing boundaries on projects across the country and internationally.

Over the past year adjunct professor Meg Studer, as principal at Siteations Studio, collaborated on the development of a K-12 makerspace platform for constructivist education and professional teacher development spearheaded by Bit Space LLC. In addition to digital development, Meg’s illustrative work led to a number of collaborations developing outreach materials for Garfield Park Conservatory, Green New Deal discussions at Penn State, and a series of picture books, in manuscript, which explore the history, organizational dynamics, and spatial potentials of renewables.

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 unity. At Huff & Huff, his professional office, Jay creates relationships between land, water, people, and the built environment we all live in. He has been recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects on the national and state levels. He was part of an article in The Guardian, “What would an entirely flood-proof city look like?” He is currently working on bringing an initiative called TreeHab USA from Japan to the United States, a program dedicated to helping kids with disabilities climb trees.

MICHAEL SKOWLUND: MCDONALD’S

MEG STUDER: GREEN NEW DEAL

JAY WOMACK: LYTLE PARK

JONATHAN MILLER
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:
Aldo Burcheri
Kaihao Xu, below
Matthew Callo, opposite above
Yakun Wang, opposite below
LA 525
DESIGN MEDIA I:
DRAWING AND MODELING THE LANDSCAPE

Students employ drawings (manual and digital) and models (physical and digital) 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:
Kelly Murphy
Jameson Skaife
Jing Yao, below
Yakun Wang, opposite
Inquiry into the texts and projects of contemporary landscape architecture situated within a framework of historical and canonical texts and projects.

Let us consider only this question: how does the site, once it has been determined, influence the individual and the collective?

This question interests me here in the ecological sense of Maximilien Sorre: That is, how does the environment influence the individual and the collective?

For Sorre, this question was far more interesting than the opposite one of how man influences his environment. (Aldo Rossi, in The Idea of the City)
Continued development of the core tools of the discipline of landscape architecture focusing on the twenty-first century city. Rigorous site analysis includes 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:
Ron Henderson
Meg Studer
Jing Yao, below
Matthew Callo, opposite
Students learn to use digital tools to clarify, conceptualize, represent, and communicate designed and engineered environments. A fluidity between critical, visual, and quantifiable digital techniques is cultivated and will ground the management of information across software platforms.

Instructors:
Trevor Lee
Licol Mengli Ke, below
Kaihao Xu, opposite and bottom
LA 502
HISTORY/THEORY/CRI TICISM II: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
A study of 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:
Alia Vronskaya
Lurie Garden, below

LA 566
ECOLOGY AND MATERIALS WORKSHOP II: EARTHWORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURES
This workshop focuses on the qualities and characteristics of landscape materials with emphasis on a quantitative and interrelated understanding of the design of landform (grading) and water. It 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 Burcheri
Margaret Schroeder, below
LA 545
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO V:
METROPOLIS

Addressing the complexities of the modern metropolis and advancing 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 which 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
Janet Echelman
Yichen Qian, below
Valerie Clarke, opposite
This workshop is designed to provide an 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
Alexis Arias, below
Valerie Clarke, opposite
History, Theory, and Criticism III is a three-credit seminar course focusing on the advanced study of landscape architecture topics, with emphasis on research methods, description, analysis, and criticism. Scholarly expression of analysis and research through writing and graphic production will be required as participants develop forms of data collection and synthesis.

Students investigate the 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, the course focuses specifically on representing the landscape through video/motion techniques. Students use several means of representation from basic time-lapse photography to motion graphics, and clever video in between. During the semester, students will investigate a particular Chicago landscape throughout the semester, and tailor additional projects to studio representation needs.
LA 514
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE I:
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PRACTICE

Lectures, research assignments, and case studies 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 will be investigated.

Instructor:
John Syvertsen
Catherine Baker
Howard Shenghao Zhang, below

LA 516
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE II:
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND TIME

A course centered around investigations of gardens, landscapes, infrastructure, and cities as they are conceived, mature, and change over time. It includes the study of landscapes designed for successional processes, weathering, biological growth and decay, seasonality, preservation and conservation of historic landscapes, and other topics.

Instructor:
Meg Studer
Dhara Oza, below
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 which 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:
Nilay Mistry
Yuyang Deng, below
Valerie Clarke, opposite
Twentieth century and contemporary landscape architecture is investigated through case studies including site visits to projects in the Chicago region.
ECOLOGY AND MATERIALS WORKSHOP IV: CONSTRUCTING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

This workshop teaches techniques and technologies to analyze, construct, remediate and restore urban sites including those that have been subjected to complex human disturbances such as landfills and brownfields. It includes special needs construction practices such as structured soils, phytoremediation, green roofs, and rooftop gardens.

Instructor:
Jay Womack

Field trip photo, below

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE: PRAIRIE SCHOOL

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, circa 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 1960s organic architecture and ecologically-informed design, and will touch upon current architecture and landscape architecture influenced by Prairie School tenets.

Instructor:
Scott Mehaffey

Field trip photo, below
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVE:
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 considers 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. Rather, 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

Valerie Clarke, below
Elaine Zmuda, opposite
The most optimal mesh netting is made from stainless steel filaments the size of three to four human hairs and with holes that are twice as big as the filament. The mesh is coated in a chemical that decreases water droplet’s contact angle hysteresis, which allows for more small droplets to form. This type of netting can capture 2-10 percent of the moisture in the air.

Water droplets that collect on the mesh run downwards by gravity and drip into a gutter at the bottom of the net. From there, the water is channeled via pipes to an underground cistern. Seventy-eight panels line the entire length of the site. Each panel has 2,386 square feet in area and generates on average 1105L per day. The entire site can generate more than 85,000L a day. With the new vegetation proposed, the water capture can increase an additional 2-5%.


The atmospheric moisture machine creating an opportunity to collect water from thin air

Water in the United Arab Emirates is in very short supply. The UAE is one of the top 10 most water-scarce countries in the world and has one of the highest per capita water usages globally. The atmospheric moisture machine gives Masdar City the opportunity to collect water from thin air and increase water supply in an area with desert-like conditions.

Harvesting humidity is a passive process. The renewable energy generated is supplied by the wind. The proposed mesh panels capture the humidity converting it to fresh water. In addition, the water moves by gravity through these mesh panels to the underground cistern, so no pumps or electricity are required to either generate or to move the water. The collected water is further used to increase the vegetation on the site while creating a new cooler and wetter microclimate. The water is then dispersed through an irrigation system throughout the site. The environmental impact of installing and maintaining the technology is minimal. Once the component parts and technical supervision have been secured, construction of humidity harvesting technology is relatively straightforward and can be undertaken on site.

This result is a new form of public space, one that is more scenic and comfortable for cohabitation in Masdar City.

The Land Art Generator Initiative was founded in 2008 to engage the world in an exploration of how art in public space can actively contribute to a sustainable future, and how renewable energy infrastructure can become a beautiful extension of human culture. A submittal by Illinois Institute of Technology students Dhara Oza and Valerie Clarke to the competition consisted of a three-dimensional sculptural form that has the ability to stimulate and challenge the minds of visitors to the site. The work aimed to inspire the world about the beauty of renewable energy infrastructures and bring a positive message about life in a post-carbon future.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE MACHINE

The Land Art Generator Initiative was founded in 2008 to engage the world in an exploration of how art in public space can actively contribute to a sustainable future, and how renewable energy infrastructure can become a beautiful extension of human culture. A submittal by Illinois Institute of Technology students Dhara Oza and Valerie Clarke to the competition consisted of a three-dimensional sculptural form that has the ability to stimulate and challenge the minds of visitors to the site. The work aimed to inspire the world about the beauty of renewable energy infrastructures and bring a positive message about life in a post-carbon future.
ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Peter Schaudt Annual Lecture

The 2018-19 Peter Schaudt Lecture was delivered by Toru Mitani, landscape architect from Tokyo. Mitani is professor of landscape architecture at Chiba University and a founder of Studio On Site, also in Tokyo.

The Peter Schaudt Lecture invites a landscape architect who has served as an influential mentor of subsequent generations of designers through their professional and academic practices, and has an outstanding reputation working in collaboration with other disciplines. These are characteristics for which Peter Schaudt was widely admired, and it is the mission of the lecture series to celebrate and perpetuate these qualities in the field of landscape architecture.

The lecture series is named in honor of former Illinois Institute of Technology campus landscape architect, Peter Schaudt, FASLA (1959-2015). With the exception of Mies van der Rohe, no other person has contributed as much to the design of the Illinois Institute of Technology campus. Schaudt's work also extended beyond Illinois Institute of Technology, designing works of national and international significance at Peter Lindsay Schaudt Landscape Architecture, and, subsequently, Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects. He was a tireless advocate for landscape architects in the city of Chicago and throughout the country.

Toru Mitani, 2018
Michael Blier, 2017
Laurie Olin, 2016

Alfred Caldwell Annual Lecture

The 2018-19 Alfred Caldwell Lecture was delivered by Emanuele Coccia, author of The Life of Plants: A Metaphysics of the Mix, and professor at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris. In addition to The Life of Plants, he is author of The Sensitive Life and a public intellectual who has amplified the discourse on plants as a life force.

In The Life of Plants, Emanuele Coccia argues that, as the very creator of atmosphere, plants occupy the fundamental position from which we should analyze all elements of life. From this standpoint, we can no longer perceive the world as a simple collection of objects or as a universal space containing all things, but as the site of a veritable metaphysical mixture. Since our atmosphere is rendered possible through plants alone, life only perpetuates itself through the very circle of consumption undertaken by plants. In other words, life exists only insofar as it consumes other life, removing any moral or ethical considerations from the equation. In contrast to trends of thought that discuss nature and the cosmos in general terms, Coccia's account brings the infinitely small together with the infinitely big, offering a radical redefinition of the place of humanity within the realm of life.

This annual lecture is named in honor of Alfred Caldwell (1903-1998), influential landscape architect, Illinois Institute of Technology alumnus, Illinois Institute of Technology Hall of Fame awardee, and the first full-time faculty member in Illinois Institute of Technology's Department of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design. Caldwell's many contributions to Chicago include the Lincoln Park Lily Pond, Promontory Point, Skyline Park at Lake Point Tower, and the initial landscape architecture expression of Illinois Institute of Technology defined by Mies van der Rohe as a "campus in a park." The Alfred Caldwell Lecture invites speakers whose scholarship or creative work frames critical positions on the relationship of humankind and our environment in order to influence the national and international discourse on Landscape Architecture.

Emanuele Coccia, Spring 2019
Thomas Dyja, Spring 2018

STUDENT AWARDS

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

Richard H. Driehaus Scholarship:
Matthew Callo
Yichen Qian
Tammy Tao Xu

Faculty Award:
Matthew Callo

The Landscape Architecture Foundation's 2019 University Olmsted Scholarship:
Valerie Clarke

Illinois Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects (ILASLA) Honor Award: Valerie Clarke
Merit Award: Dhara Oza

Landscape Architecture History/Theory Book Award:
Yuyang Deng

L+A Landscape Architecture Summer Travel Award:
Alexis Arias