

## UW//LA 2009-2011

### Department of Landscape Architecture

<http://larch.be.washington.edu/>

### College of Built Environments

### University of Washington

### Seattle

Landscape architecture is at the forefront of design and planning disciplines when it comes to shaping and protecting ecosystems and human habitats. At the University of Washington (UW), we strive to create a program that meets the complex social, environmental, political, and aesthetic challenges of our time. Our program emphasis on urban ecological design addresses the multiple dimensions of today’s urban challenges - sustainable infrastructure, culturally based placemaking, ecological literacy, and human and environmental health. With a focus on the intersection of urbanism, ecology, design, and civic activism, our program reflects the unique characters and assets of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. This report highlights our activities and achievements during the last two academic years—2009-2011.

## COLLABORATE

### Scan|Design Master Studio

This interdisciplinary studio recently completed planning and site design for Seattle’s new Central Waterfront. Student teams addressed a new salmon-friendly seawall configuration, an on-grade road replacement for the aging Alaskan Way Viaduct, nearshore and shoreline habitat, stormwater treatment and re-use for district energy, pedestrian, bicycle and boat connections to the city and bay, and over 9 acres of new park land. The studio focus on quality public space and waterfront design was supported by a study tour to Denmark and Sweden and master teaching from the Copenhagen firm of Gehl Architects, funded by the Scan|Design Foundation. Instructors: *Nancy Rottle, with Sharon Sutton (Architecture), Landscape Urbanism Studio, Autumn 2010*

### Taoping, China (BE Lab)

In this inaugural BE Lab, UW students and faculty collaborated with partners at Sichuan University, the design and planning firm Warkhart International, and the people and government of Taoping Village and Li County, Sichuan, to address challenges that include: resilient building reconstruction; ecologically sensitive site design and watershed management; cultural heritage preservation; and sustainable tourism development. Instructors: *Jeff Hou, with Dan Abramson (Urban Design and Planning), BE Lab: Summer/Autumn 2009*

### Vertical Farm (BE Lab)

BE Lab: Winter 2010

This interdisciplinary studio for advanced undergraduates and graduate students focused on collaborative interactions incorporating a systems thinking approach to design. The topic of the studio examined the role and form of urban agriculture. The students, with backgrounds in Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Urban Design and Planning, Community and Environmental Planning, and History, developed conceptual plans for the redevelopment of the Yesler Terrace Community using variable densities. Instructors: *Ken Yocom, with Branden Born (Urban Design and Planning) and Gundula Proksch (Architecture)*

### Constructed Frontiers (BE Lab)

Working directly with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition and community members, this interdisciplinary studio sought to strengthen recent civic and community-based initiatives for the Duwamish. The initial stage of the BE Lab focused on conceptual explorations, analysis and synthesis of the interwoven infrastructural, civic and natural systems that structure the Duwamish River Valley. Later, students focused on specific sites of significant importance to the community and the revitalization efforts underway. Instructors: *Ben Spencer, with Susan Jones (Architecture) and Brian Gerich (Architects Without Borders), BE Lab: Spring 2010*

### In Between Climate and Built Environments (BE Lab)

This interdisciplinary studio addresses the global challenge of climate change and the more localized challenge—the urgency of responsible and responsive design to engage both immediate and future needs of the Pacific Rim cities. It investigates the role of urban and architectural design in addressing the predictions of rising waters in the Pacific Rim cities including those in Alaska, Japan, and specifically Seattle. Instructors: *Thaisa Way, with Ken Oshima (Architecture), BE Lab Spring 2010*

### Post-Katrina Revitalization

This interdisciplinary design studio focused on the revitalization of a suburban New Orleans neighborhood in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The studio explored the linkages between a number of large developments in the study area and proposed alternatives for a warehouse district known as Elmwood West. Interdisciplinary teams to propose alternative approaches to revitalization for the study area with each alternative encompassing a range of integrated designs, programs, and policies. Instructors: *Daniel Winterbottom, with Sharon Sutton (Architecture) and Fritz Wagner (Urban Design and Planning), Community Design Studio, Autumn 2009*

### Adaptive Solutions for Human Health and the Environment

Nancy Rottle as a member of the Senior Advisory Team and Ben Spencer as Faculty Fellow have joined with university colleagues in this interdisciplinary initiative to focus on the interface of global health and the environment. The faculty assembly shall define and meld methodologies; identify key links where interventions are possible or where better understanding is necessary. The program seeks to create new programs in education, research and service that combine the strength of seemingly disparate disciplines to focus on multi-system level solutions.

### Design Studio Pedagogy

Iain Robertson and Julie Johnson teamed with Leslie Herenkohl, in the College of Education; Ph.D. students in the College of Education; Mallika Bose, 2009-2010 Visiting Professor to the Department of Landscape Architecture; and JuanJuan Liu, 2009-2010 Visiting Scholar to the Department of Landscape Architecture as research group addressing design studio pedagogy and its applications in other courses.

### Design for Urban Food

In response to City of Seattle’s “The Year of Urban Agriculture” initiative, MLA students Ginger Daniel and Pam Emerson along with Built Environment Ph.D. student Shannon Tyman organized a two-day event in Spring 2010 to promote community-based urban agriculture. The event included an evening panel discussion with Jason King (Terra Fluxus), Deb Guenther (Mithun), Keith McPeeters (GGN), and Jeff Hou (UWLA), followed by an all-day charrette the next day that considered 16 categories of design constraints/opportunities (e.g., alley space, rooftop space, abandoned lot, etc.), that provided a structure for charrette participants and a means of indexing and organizing design ideas for use by the public.

### United States Mission, Geneva

David Bramer, MLA 2011 was selected from more than 130 applications to participate in a two-week design collaborative in Geneva that developed a comprehensive sustainable landscape design for the grounds of the U.S. Mission in the United Nations, Geneva. This unique design project was jointly sponsored by the U.S. Mission and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The international design team included nine American landscape architecture students; three American landscape architecture faculty members; three Swiss students and an American landscape architect based in Switzerland.

## EXPLORE

### Asian-Cities Exploration Seminar

This traveling seminar uses the streetscapes and urban fabric of Asian Cities (Tokyo and Hong Kong in 2009; Tokyo and Kobe in 2010) as the medium for understanding the distinct forms and processes of urbanism in Asia. Students investigated how the urban landscapes in cities such as Tokyo support the everyday life of their millions of residents and workers; how they reflect their respective urban culture; and how they function as complex urban systems. Instructor: *Jeff Hou, Early Falls 2009, 2010*

### Scan|Design Travel Study

Eighteen landscape architecture, architecture and urban planning students traveled to Denmark and Sweden for the CBE’s third Scan|Design Travel-Study program. Touring mostly on bicycles, the group experienced exemplary design for the public realm, particularly waterfronts, in Copenhagen and Malmo. The 2-week itinerary featured lectures, tours and exercises given by the internationally renowned firm of Gehl Architects. Instructors: *Nancy Rottle, with Sharon Sutton (Architecture) and visiting professor Bianca Hermansen from Gehl Architects, Autumn 2010*

### Living Machines

This interdisciplinary seminar focused on the ethics, science and practical application of “living machine” technology (biological treatment of wastewater) in contemporary urban environments. Informed by lectures and open discussions, students developed personal learning agendas, facilitated discussion sessions, and researched/presented a particular application of the technology. Instructors: *Ken Yocom and Ben Spencer, with Dean Heerwagen (Architecture)*

### Next Eco-City Seminar

This graduate seminar reviews historical precedents in ‘green urbanism,’ examines contemporary issues of urban ecological concern that are inclusive of environment, equity, and economy, and explores the future potentials of urbanism following the unprecedented shift in the dynamic and structure of our global populations. Instructor: *Ken Yocom, Winter 2011*

### Reading the Elwha

Ken Yocom took a group of 16 students for a weeklong immersion course in the Elwha River watershed. Beginning in September of 2011 the Elwha will be the location of the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. Ken is planning on taking students to the watershed each summer to explore the Elwha and work on a project that evaluates the dynamics of landscape change within the watershed. Instructor: *Ken Yocom, Summer 2010*

## SERVE\_LEARN

### Van Asselt Elementary School

This service-learning studio focused on Van Asselt Elementary in Seattle’s Beacon Hill neighborhood to envision more enriching places for learning and play. Project research included a field trip to local precedents of school wetlands, gardens, and play areas, students undertook precedent studies of these and other learning environments. The studio engaged with teachers and staff through a survey, worked with four 3rd and 4th grade classes on analysis and design activities, and learned about school’s wetland. Instructor: *Julie Johnson, Project Design Studio, Winter 2010*

### Rainer Beach Neighborhood Design

The Rainer Beach Neighborhood Design Studio examined the influence of the new light rail station on the community. The students explored methods and opportunities for enhancing the pedestrian experience to and from the light rail station from the neighborhood’s commercial core. The results from studio led to the selection of the neighborhood by the City of Seattle for a pilot neighborhood planning project. Instructor: *Ken Yocom, Neighborhood Design Studio, Autumn 2009*

### Little Saigon Park

Students worked with community stakeholders in Seattle’s Little Saigon, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority to explore siting and design of a new neighborhood open space in the community. Students developed activities for community outreach as well as options that included alternative strategies such as green streets, community gardens, and co-location with other activities and services. The studio is supported in part by the Access to Artistic Excellence (Design) grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Instructor: *Nhon Truong, Neighborhood Design Studio, Autumn 2010.*

### Lomas de Zapallal, Northern Lima

Funded by the R. Hunter Simpson Foundation and Job Wyman Pilot project grant, this project worked with the UW Department of Global Health, the UW Department of Forest Resources and collaborators in Peru to design, construct and evaluate the health impacts of design interventions in the squatter community of Lomas de Zapallal in northern Lima. The project is the subject of the Landscape Architecture Department’s Community Design Studio. Student engaged community members through virtual workshops. They designed learning landscapes at the Pitagoras School and investigating and inventing alternative approaches to urban infrastructure. Investigators: *Ben Spencer, with Joe Zuni, Jose Vinales, Jorge Alarcon, Coco Alarcon, Susan Bolton, Jim LoGerfo, Silvia Montana*

## DESIGN BUILD

### VA Puget Sound Fisher House

In this design/build studio, students designed and constructed a therapeutic garden for the Fisher House at the VA Puget Sound Home on Beacon Hill in Seattle, WA, a residential facility that offers accommodations to veterans and their families who are receiving medical at the VA or in Seattle. The scope of work included an analysis of existing conditions, input from an advisory committee, residents and staff and the development of up to five schematic designs. Students developed construction documents, cost estimates, and material take offs and then moved into project construction. Instructors: *Daniel Winterbottom, with Nhon Truong, Design/Build Capstone Studio, Spring 2010*

### Croatia Design/Build

The fall international Design/Build Croatia 2010 Program provided students with a unique service learning opportunity to study in an exceptionally interesting and historic country, Croatia. Students worked with the client, Dormitory Podmurvice River, a residential high school in Rijeka, Croatia, and its staff, administrators, and children. They also worked with Croatian landscape architect Marina Butorac to design and build the therapeutic garden, and learn through the students and volunteers of Dormitory Podmurvice River about designing for at-risk high school youths. Instructor: *Daniel Winterbottom, LA Study Abroad, Autumn 2010*

## INVESTIGATE

### Now Urbanism

The University of Washington was awarded a John E. Sawyer Seminar by the Mellon Foundation for 2010-2011 academic year for a project titled “Now Urbanism: City Building in the 21st Century and Beyond.” Working with co-directors Thaisa Way and Margaret O’Mara (History), faculty from the landscape architecture department lead a number of the Sawyer colloquia as well as associated lectures and symposiums. This past fall Chris Reed (StoSS LU), Randy Hester (UC Berkeley), and Bill Morrish (Parsons) participated in the series as well as Howard Frumkin (Dean of Public Health, UW), Lisa Graumlich (Dean of the College of the Environment, UW), Todd Presner (UCLA) and Tad Hirsch (Intel). <http://www.nowurbanism.org/>

### Transcultural Cities

Jeff Hou leads an international and interdisciplinary research group for a project titled “Immigrants, Place and Cross-cultural Understanding,” with support from Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), the University of Washington Office of Global Affairs, Pennsylvania State University, University of Sheffield, University of Sydney, University of Wisconsin, Madison. The project culminated in a symposium titled “Transcultural Cities” in February 2011 that examined placemaking and cross-cultural understanding in the contemporary cities.

### HOPE VI Evaluation

A 4-year research project to examine the impacts of the redevelopment of a public housing site into a mixed income community has been commissioned by the Bremerton Housing Authority. Study will track original residents who were relocated to assess outcomes of relocation, using a comparison group of housing voucher holders. The study will also examine impacts on both the receiving and surrounding communities. Investigators: *Lynne Manzo, with Rachel Garshick Kleit (Evans School of Public Affairs)*

### Green Roof

Research on establishing green roof stormwater performance recommendations specific to the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Region, supported by Roof Consultants Institute Foundation. Over the next five years, the research team will evaluate a newly installed green roof at the Snyder Roofing Headquarters in Snohomish, WA. The 30’x100’ roof has been subdivided into five test plots each receiving a different vegetated roof treatment. Investigators: *Ken Yocom and Ben Spencer*

### Sustainable Roadside Design and Management

“Sustainable Roadside Design and Management for Urban Freeways in Western Washington” is a collaboration with the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the University of Washington to evaluate the design and maintenance practices currently implemented in Western Washington. Investigators: *Iain Robertson and Luanne Smith*

### Richard Haag Retrospective

This spring Thaisa Way curates an exhibit of the work of Richard Haag with funding from the Graham Foundation. Haag is recognized as a designer, however, the proposed exhibit will suggest that his most important legacy may be as a teacher and design activist. His approach fostered new ways of thinking about landscape architecture and ecological design. His investigations into the role of design in landscape remediation and reclamation opened new areas of inquiry into the adaptive reuse of post-industrial sites that continue to inform design practice across the globe. Investigator: *Thaisa Way*

### Parks Evaluation Toolkit

Lynne Manzo and graduate students from her Research Methods class have worked with the Seattle Parks Foundation in autumn 2010 to develop a Parks Evaluation Toolkit to assess Seattle’s public parks. This innovative project develops evaluation criteria and a set of methods that can be used to evaluate Seattle’s parks, adding critical inside into what makes urban open space successful. Instructor: *Lynne Manzo, Landscape Architecture Research Seminar, Spring 2010*

## ENGAGE

### International Children’s Park

Jeff Hou continues his involvement in renovating the International Children’s Park as the Chair of the Design Committee with the Friends of the International Children’s Park. The project received a second Small and Simple Project grant from the Department of Neighborhood to hire a landscape architect to develop the schematic design, building on the work of landscape architecture studio at UW. The project is listed in the Parks and Green Space Levy to received \$500,000 for implementation.

### International Urban Training Center

Working with colleagues and U.N. staff, Ken Yocom has developed a training program on urban ecological restoration theory and application for mid-level government officials and non-governmental organization employees from developing countries across South and Southeast Asia.

## GREEN FUTURES LAB

### Waterfront Stormwater Solutions

Puget Sound is suffering from pollutants carried by stormwater runoff, and to address this problem the Green Futures Lab has received three grants from local foundations to develop and test prototypes to treat stormwater on waterfronts before it is discharged to local water bodies. The interdisciplinary GFL team includes Nancy Rottle and Rich Horner, the local engineering firm of SvR, and graduate students working in the GFL. As a prime team member, Lab Manager Leslie Batten is developing waterfront stormwater solution prototypes as part of her master’s thesis, which she recently presented at the *On Sustainability* conference in Hamilton, New Zealand.

### Regional Open Space Strategy

The GFL and the Northwest Center for Livable Communities have completed scoping for a potential Regional Open Space Strategy process for Central Puget Sound. The project engaged over 100 people from government, planning professions and non-profit organizations to define the needs, opportunities, participants and processes to be used in developing strategies for preserving and enhancing the region’s connected ecological and recreational open spaces.

### Neighborhoods for People

Seattle Toolkit 2010

Last winter GFL published the guidebook *Neighborhoods for People*, developed by two UW Landscape Architecture students, Katherine Wimble and Eric Scharnhorst, while working as Scan|Design Interns for the GFL and Gehl Architects. The booklet demonstrates how the Gehl methodology for assessing and providing quality public space can be applied to the neighborhood scale, using Seattle as a case example. It can be downloaded from the GFL website: <http://greenfutures.washington.edu/>

### Activating Alley Handbook

Most recently, our Scan|Design Interns Jenny Hampton and Mary Fialko have developed an illustrated document *Activating Alleys for a Lively City*, also with advisement from Gehl Architects and Professor Rottle. The *Activating Alleys* booklet will be published this winter and will also be available for download from the GFL website.

## NEW

### Urban Green Infrastructure Certificate Program

The department has launched a new Urban Green Infrastructure Certificate Program offered through the UW Extension Professional and Continuing Education Office. Led by Brice Maryman and Nate Cormier of SvR, the program is offered as a series of online courses that target both the national and international audience of design and planning professionals. The program addresses the emerging discourse and practice of green infrastructure while building on current examples in the Seattle area. This certificate program is registered with the ASLA’s Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) and meets the requirements of professional development hours required for license renewal: <http://www.pce.uw.edu/prog.aspx?id=3807>

### Designing the Future

Iain Robertson and Julie Johnson developed in Spring 2010 a new undergraduate, large-lecture course that will be offered for the first time in Spring 2011. The purpose of this course addresses the need for an introductory survey of the physical and spatial design fields as well as contemporary practice in the context of an ever-changing world. The course will provide students with perspectives on the distinctive ways that spatial design professions study, engage, manipulate and relate to the physical, social, and ecological environment. The course offers great recruitment potential for undergraduate programs in the College of Built Environments.

## ON\_DISPLAY

### Parallel Cases@4th International Architectural Biennale Rotterdam

Work of the Winter 2009 Community Design Studio, led by Jeff Hou, was one of the 45 selected entries on display at the Parallel Cases Exhibition, a part of the 4th International Architectural Biennale Rotterdam, under the theme of Open City: Designing Co-existence, from September 2009 to January 2010. The studio developed tactics and strategies to revitalize King Street that connects Chinatown and Little Saigon in Seattle’s International District.

### Green Community Exhibition

“Gardens of Hope” Guatemala City, Guatemala a student-driven, design-build project directed by Daniel Winterbottom was featured as one of six projects in this exhibition held at the National Building Museum, Washington D.C., 2009

### European Biennale of Landscape Architecture

The 6th annual European Biennial of Landscape Architecture titled “Liquid Landscapes” featured projects from across the globe and culminated in the Rosa Barba Prize for Landscape Architecture. The University Projects Exhibit was a part of this larger and impressive Biennial. Five UW MLA thesis projects were submitted and selected for display as a part of the final exhibit. The students were: Sarah Ferreter, Erica Huang, Heide Martin, Katy Saunders, and Katherine Wimble.

## AWARDS

### 2009 ASLA Community Service Award

Awarded by the American Society of Landscape Architects to Daniel Winterbottom

### 2010 Great Places Design Award

Gardens of Hope Project, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Awarded by Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) to Daniel Winterbottom

### 2010 Great Places Book Award

*Greening Cities, Growing Communities: Learning from Seattle’s Urban Community Gardens (Landscape Architecture Foundation and University of Washington Press 2009)*. Awarded by Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) to Jeffrey Hou, Julie Johnson, and Laura Lawson

### John Brinckerhoff Jackson 2010 Book Prize

*Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century*. Awarded by the Foundation for Landscape Studies to Thaisa Way.

### Fulbright Senior Scholar Award

Council of International Education and Exchanges, to New Zealand, 2009. Awarded to Nancy Rottle. Research project: *Ecological Infrastructure for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation*

## 50 YEARS

### OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN SEATTLE

While Seattle in 1960 had only a handful of landscape architecture firms and no academic program, today our city has one of the most diverse and progressive design communities in the country. The Department and the professional community celebrated 50 years of professional education, practice, and groundbreaking design in Seattle with a Gala on Saturday, November 6, 2010. More than 400 alumni, friends, and professionals attended the event, featuring Laurie Olin as the guest speaker. For photographs from the event, go to: <http://be.washington.edu/Support/joinus.php#>

## PEOPLE

**Daniel Friedman**, Professor and Dean

**Rich Horner**, Research Associate Professor

**Jeffrey Hou**, Associate Professor and Chair

**Julie Johnson**, Associate Professor

**Lynne Manzo**, Associate Professor

**Anne Vernez Moudon**, Professor

**Nancy Rottle**, Associate Professor

**Iain Robertson**, Associate Professor

**Luanne Smith**, Senior Lecturer

**Ben Spencer**, Assistant Professor

**David Streatfield**, Professor Emeritus

**Thaisa Way**, Associate Professor

**Daniel Winterbottom**, Associate Professor

**Ken Yocom**, Assistant Professor

**Michelle Arab**, Lecturer

**Nate Cormier**, Lecturer

**Jamie Fleckenstein**, Lecturer

**Brice Maryman**, Lecturer

**Julie Parrett**, Lecturer

**Nhon Truong**, Lecturer

**Chad Wichers**, Lecturer

**Linda Chalker-Scott**, Affiliate faculty

**Jim Diers**, Affiliate faculty

**Ray Gastil**, Affiliate faculty

**Grant Jones**, Affiliate faculty

**Kelley Pagano**, Assistant to the Chair

**JoAnne Edwards**, Program Coordinator

### Professional Advisory Council

Nate Cormier, SvR Design

Carrie Culp, Urban Oasis

David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Laura Haddad, Haddad | Drugan

Collie Hough Beck, HBB Landscape Architecture

Peter Hummel, Anchor QEA

Karen Janosky (PAC Chair), Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

Kristine Kenney, University of Washington

Kathy Kirby, Mithun

Shannon Nichol, Gustafson Guthrie Nichol

Chris Overdorf, Jones and Jones

Julie Parrett, Seattle Design Commission

Steve Shea, The Berger Partnership

Kris Snider, Hewitt

Peg Staeheli, SvR Design

Barbara Swift, Swift Company

Juliet Yong, HBB Landscape Architecture

Design Credit: Tera Hatfield