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MASLA Newsletter

an electronic newsletter

October 2007

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Dear Members and Subscribers,

I am just coming back from getting a giant shot in the arm. I was in San Francisco for the National ASLA Meeting which was akin to a vaccination defending me against apathy and mediocrity toward landscape architecture and our practice.

I feel rejuvenated and revived. I feel well armed and capable of taking on the challenges that we face as a profession, now and in the future. Today, landscape architects have the opportunity to take the lead in assuring that future development is done right - not just sustainably, but in a way even more involved than that.

To me, the word "sustainable" has connotations of staticness or sameness but lacks initiative or action. The term "biodynamic", which essentially is the term in vogue for sustainable agriculture, offers another dimension. "Biodynamic" applies context and implies active participation in the concept of sustainability. It gives sustainability a wholeness by the including our decisions with regard to, as well as our involvement in, design, policy making, mentorship and education both of ourselves and of the general public. The creation of great places leads to an awareness of landscape architecture and visibility which will bring recognition to the profession and awareness to those who may become landscape architects.

Landscape architects need to be excited and passionate about what we do, what we know, and who we are. We should be proud, visible and vocal. I have a need to make what I do count in order to feel fulfilled. For me, this requires a periodic reassessment of my choice to be a landscape architect, as well as a comparison of my work and my actions with my values. Landscape Architects play an incredibly important role in the development of a

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healthy system and we should be recognized for our accomplishments. Which means that we need to demonstrate competence and excellence in everything we do. If we don't promote ourselves as credible, capable and knowledgeable, who will?

One general session at the meeting involved a panel consisting of Ken Smith, Martha Schwartz, Walter Hood and Laurie Olin moderated by the architecture critic from the San Francisco Chronicle. These four Landscape "Starchitects" (a term borrowed by the notorious Charles Birnbaum) began with each presenting recent projects. I was concerned that this would turn into a series of monologues during which each designer puffed their chest out further than the previous. A battle of the egos. Instead, I was quite surprised to witness the discussion move quickly from a brief presentation of a project or two, to a discussion of the role that we have in the future and our responsibility to take the lead and ensure that the infrastructure which we are establishing is laying the course for a better future. It was great to hear that although they may differ in opinion on aesthetics or design, they agree on the importance of our involvement. They are using their work as a platform to promote landscape architecture and their values. Each of us needs to do the same.

ASLA provides the only professional organization dedicated solely to landscape architecture. The purpose of the society is "the advancement of knowledge, education and skill in the art and science of landscape architecture as an instrument of service in the public welfare." I could list and expand on each of the staff and services that national ASLA provides, and list the accomplishments of MASLA's board of volunteers. But my point is that we do have great resources. We have a foundation and framework, from which we can take action and make progress towards fulfilling the purpose of the society. We cannot expect that these accomplishments can be made effectively without our continued active participation.

I have truly enjoyed serving for the past year as President of the Minnesota Chapter. I hope you feel that the work the chapter has done this year has increased the value of your membership. We worked hard to foster an understanding of the role of MASLA and our link with national ASLA, as well as to increase the visibility of landscape architecture. This is something that we aim to continue working toward. I will continue to participate in ASLA on both a local level as Past President, and at a national level, serving on the Public Relations Committee in '07-'08, and as Chapter Presidents Council Chair in '08-'09. I will also continue to be available to talk about

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MASLA and what we can do together to continually improve the services provided to membership.

Sincerely,
Ellen C. Stewart, ASLA
Past President, Minnesota Chapter

MASLA Related News and Events

Several Items for Review

Landscape Architect Appointed to Deputy Director of NPS

Daniel Wenk, a landscape architect, was recently appointed as the Deputy Director of the National Park Service. He encourages landscape architects to get involved in the policy and programming discussions going on at the national level. See article on the ASLA national website.

<http://www.asla.org/land/2007/0925/federal.html>



Fall Picnic and WordForum Communication Workshop

The WordForum Workshop received good reviews from both students and professionals. MASLA would like to thank Adam Arvidson and John Capecci for their time as instructors and for the special offer to MASLA members. We will consider combining more social and educational events in the future. Thank you, also, to the BKV Group for hosting the class at their office.

The fall picnic was well attended, and we appreciate all who helped make it a successful event. In particular, we'd like to thank Bachmans for their sponsorship. Doug Danielsen from Bachmans was there to introduce their new LiveRoof product, a pre-vegetated modular green roof system. For those looking for more information, Doug can be contacted at ddanielsen@bachmans.com, and Bachmans always welcomes MASLA members to tour their nursery.

Architecture for Humanity Design Charette

MASLA members are invited by the Minnesota Chapter of AFH to participate in a design charette for the Hindu Temple in Maple Grove. Landscape architects are always needed, and this is a good opportunity to become involved with the community and with designers from a variety of backgrounds. See www.afh-mn.com, or contact Jeffrey Swainhart at jeffrey@swainhart.com for more details.

The College of Design Mentor Program

The College of Design (CDes) facilitates an annual program that helps bright students grow professionally by matching them with a mentor in their field of study. Together, mentoring pairs create individualized action plans which help students with career exploration, experiential learning, networking, and skill building.

The time commitment is approximately two hours per month and is determined by the mentor and student during initial meetings. We have a record number of student applicants from the BED and MLA programs. To date we do not have enough mentors to match to every student.

The College of Design Mentor Program officially begins with the Kick-off Orientation Event on October 29, 2007 from 6:30-8:00 pm (check-in at 6:00 pm) at the McNamara Alumni Center. We ask both mentors and students to commit to the program from the end of October through April.

Benefits of being a mentor:

- Grow your ability to nurture success in others.
- Contribute to higher education in a meaningful way.
- Foster the development of future professionals in your field.

Role as a mentor:

- Work with student to help them establish realistic and obtainable goals and identify ways to achieve them.
- Offer constructive suggestions and feedback.
- Help student meet with other professionals in his/her desired field.
- Ask good questions that help student explore his/her own values and needs, or make informed decisions.
- Help student increase awareness and gain access to professional resources and organizations.
- Encourage student to explore new areas.
- Be willing to adjust your goals as student changes interests during or as a result of this opportunity for career exploration.

Below is the link to the application:

http://data.cdes.umn.edu/mentor/MentorHome.as_px

SPACE FOR LEASE

Owner of small design firm in downtown Chaska is seeking a design professional interested in sharing studio/office space.

Space includes 130 sf. private office with shared reception area, Cadd station(s), conference room and bathrooms.

May consider sharing of plotter, printer, copier, etc.
 AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1ST.
 CALL KEVIN NORBY AT (612)865-3418.

Information from our Affiliated Organizations

See MASLA.org for News, Calendar of Events, and Other Resources

Redefining the Development Process: Choosing Collaboration Over Contention to Protect Natural Resources and Maximize the Public Value of Private Development - October 17 and November 8, 2007



This workshop will be held twice during the fall of 2007. Building on the successful Growing Green workshops, the workshop provides a primer on leveraging local governmental unit's (LGU's) regulatory capacity to entice landowners/developers into a collaborative process that results in desired public values within the context of economically-viable and marketable development.

The workshops are intended for local government staff, elected officials, developers, and regulatory agencies in the region. The first workshop will be offered on Wednesday, October 17 at the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center and the second will be offered on Thursday, November 8 at the Anoka County Activity Center at Bunker Hills Regional Park. The workshops are scheduled from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Workshop costs are covered under the Bush Foundation grant. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration is limited to 125 total participants for both sessions. Contact Kathy Schoenbauer at keschoenbauer@comcast.net or 612-578-1980 to register or for additional information.

Registration Form

<http://www.mnapa.com/Bulletin%20Board/events.html#Top>

The Minnesota Design Team Announces the Upcoming Visit to Lake City on October 25- 27

Located at the junction of Highways 61 and 63, Lake City welcomes its visitors to an attractive waterfront community built on the largest small boat marina on the Upper Mississippi River. Their livable and walkable downtown features historic homes and civic structures as well as a traditional open courthouse square in harmony with sound urban design principles.

Not unlike other MDT visits, this one will focus on a better and more fundamentally sustainable usage of the marina

and downtown. The town also is dealing with issues related to the intersection of two highways in the CBD and underutilized parks, beaches and economic catalysts. Many members of the town fear being swept by the current away from what makes Lake City unique and "small town." They are also hesitant to follow the MDT lead if it only results in another shelf study that makes little or no impact on their community. A non-political design strategy for community development is of paramount importance to everyone and it will be our jobs to enforce the attitude that they can accomplish and implement the suggestions that we can come up with.

So come be part of this great opportunity to shape and revitalize and wonderful community that is eager to improve on already outstanding assets to create a shared vision of their future. Help Lake City "Chart the Course!" Please contact Adam Ferrari: aferrari@holabird.com or Melissa Ekman: mekman@millerdunwiddie.com if you are interested in being involved as a member of the team.

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

A public/private partnership funded by the Minnesota Legislature is developing a statewide plan to guide natural resource conservation and preservation efforts for the next 50 years. The public is invited to contribute to the plan by sharing ideas about how to protect and conserve our natural resources and by giving feedback on the project's findings and suggestions as it progresses. For more information go to:

www.mnconservationplan.net

Stormwater Management Seminar: A Workshop to Improve the Water Quality of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul, Oct. 26

Made possible by The McKnight Foundation
New approaches to managing and treating stormwater run-off are improving the water quality of the Mississippi River. Learn about the latest stormwater management practices from local and national experts at this half-day seminar.

Friday, October 26, 2007 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Central Corridor Resource Center
1080 University Avenue, Saint Paul

Read a PDF about this via the MASLA Calendar:

[MASLA Calendar](#)

Making a Great Lake Superior 2007

Next Step announces a program in Duluth titled "Making a Great Lake Superior 2007" October 29- 31. See the

website www.seagrant.umn.edu/Superior2007 for more information.

Minnesota GreenStar: Green Homes & Development Standards, October 31

Sponsored by Sensible Land Use Coalition, this unique program, adapted for Minnesota, provides a practical solution for all public and private stakeholders in the new housing and remodeling communities.

Read more about this at SLUC: [sensible land.org](http://sensibleland.org)

Draft 10-year Transportation Plan & its Streetcar Feasibility Study (Mpls)

The Transit for Livable Communities group is hosting meetings throughout the month of October (10-25) in the City of Minneapolis to discuss the City's Draft 10-year Transportation Plan & its Streetcar Feasibility Study.

<http://www.tlcmnnesota.org/calendar.html>

MASLA.org Your Resource

Plant InfoLine Now Free to Public

The Plant Information Online (www.plantinfo.umn.edu), one of the world's largest resources for botanical and horticultural information, is now available free to the public. Managed by the University of Minnesota Libraries, Plant Information Online is a collection of databases of interest to plant and gardening enthusiasts as well as professional botanists, horticulturists, and plant scholars. The service began in 1970 and moved to a web-based subscriber format in 1997. It is now free and available to anyone with access to the Internet. Plant Information Online offers a range of resources, including:



1. Information on where to purchase plants and seeds (the largest listing of currently cultivated plants in North America);
2. Contact information for over 2,000 North American retail and wholesale seed and nursery firms;
3. Bibliographic details for more than 300,000 images of wild and cultivated plants from around the world in botanical and horticultural books and magazines; and
4. Links to expert-selected sites on growing plants in all regions of North America.

www.plantinfo.umn.edu

Read the article in the Mpls StarTrib:
Link to [StarTribune on-line article](#)

Global Warming 101, Nov. 1

Wil Steger - *Eyewitness to Global Warming* and J. Drake Hamilton - *Global Warming Solutions* will speak at an ULI sponsored event on NOV. 1, 4:00 - 5:30pm
Graves 601 Hotel
601 1st Avenue North, Mpls
View a PDF announcement via:
[MASLA Calendar](#)

Native Plant Seed Exchange

The MN Native Plant Society is hosting a seed exchange at their November 1 program.
http://www.mnnps.org/monthly_programs.htm

Scarecrows on Parade

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum continues to display the annual Scarecrows on Parade contestants through November 1. Other autumn programs continue throughout the month of October.

Ford Plant Site Planning, Nov. 1

The Mn APA announced a gathering to update the public about the Ford Plant Site Planning progress on Thursday, November 1 from 1:00-2:30.
It will be held at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul.

Ecological Design: Investing in the Future, Nov 1

Hosted by Minneapolis College of Art and Design.
Featured film: In *Ecological Design: Inventing the Future* (1995, 65 min.), Buckminster Fuller, Paul MacCready, Paolo Soleri, Amory and Hunter Lovins, Ian McHarg and more provide perspective on topics such as solar architecture, bioshelters, city farming, domed cities and electric cars.
November 1 at 6:30 p.m.
MCAD link: [Film series](#)

AIA MN Convention

AIA MN is having its 75th Annual Convention Nov. 13- 16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
See AIA for more information: aia-mn.org

[MASLA.org Your Resource](#)

MASLA is the local Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a professional organization that represents landscape architects nationwide. MASLA has over 300 members working in the private, public, and educational sectors. We are growing in numbers and in programs, and are currently planning and offering a variety of service projects, social events, networking opportunities, and continuing education sessions.

MASLA

Email: loons_ochs@comcast.net

Web: <http://www.masla.org>

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