Social Distancing Does Not Mean Anti-Social

Masks for Unity
A Special Silent Auction
MASQUES FOR UNITY

A GUIDE TO THE MASKS FOR UNITY SILENT AUCTION

tclf.org/special-silent-auction

June 15 - June 29, 2020
Statement from the Curator

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) hosted “Masks for Unity,” an online auction of masks designed by landscape architects, architects and other design professionals from June 15-29, 2020.

Blank unadorned white pleated cotton masks were hand-made by Alissa Ujie Diamond, a doctoral student in the Program in the Constructed Environment at the University of Virginia. More than 40 design professionals were invited to transform the blank white cotton masks into unique works of art. No restrictions or specifications were imposed. For each mask created for TCLF’s online auction, a mask was made and donated to MASK UP in Charlottesville, VA, and to essential workers. The online auction will benefit TCLF’s educational and advocacy initiatives.

“As landscape architect Ken Smith said, ‘Socially distant doesn’t mean anti-social,’” said Charles A. Birnbaum, TCLF’s President and CEO. “We hope that these masks – whether through humor or solemnity – provide a common, unifying bond during this challenging period of great turmoil.”

Many thanks to all of the participating designers for their time, talent, thoughtfulness and inspiration. By their example and through their work, they all help make the world a better place. Thank you also to Aileen Beringer, Justin Cleverger and Nord Wennerstrom at TCLF for helping to pull this effort together on very short notice.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR
President and CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation

Participating Professionals

Tiffany Beamer, OLIN
Kofi Boone, North Carolina State College of Design
Pamela Burton, Pamela Burton & Company, and Richard Hertz
Robert “Bob” Chipman, Robert Chipman Landscape Architect
Shane Coen, Coen+Partners
Stuart “Stu” Dawson, Sasaki
Michelle Jeffrey Delk, Snhetta
Angela Dye, A Dye Design
Gina Ford, Agency Landscape + Planning
Frederick Fisher, Frederick Fisher and Partners
M. Paul Friedberg, MPFPAP, and Dori Shahar
Adriaan Geuze, West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture, and the West 8 Design Studio
Lisa Gimmy Landscape Architecture
Deb “Deb” Guenther, Dakota Keene, Mithun
Ron Henderson, IIT College of Architecture
Gary Hilderbrand, Reed-Hilderbrand
Walter Hood, Hood Design Studio
William “Bill” Johnson, University of Michigan (ret.)
Mark Johnson, Civitas

Mia Lehrer, Studio-MLA, and Michael Lehrer and Edan Kadribegovic, LEHRERARCHITECTS LA
Phoebe Luckiar, FORGE Landscape Architecture
Joeb Moore, Joeb Moore & Partners
Oehme van Sweden
Laurie Olin, OLIN
Ken Raditkey, Blackbird Architects, Inc.
James Richards, Jim Richards’ Sketchbook
Mark Rios and Nate Corrimer, RIOS
Martha Schwartz, Martha Schwartz Partners
Ken Smith, Ken Smith Workshop
Lauren and Stephen Stimson, STIMSON
Christine Ten Eyck, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects
Victor F. “Trey” Trahan III, Trahan Architects
Susan Van Atta, VAIVan Atta Associates, Inc.
Michael Vergason, Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd.
Edwina von Gal, Edwina von Gal + Co
Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, WEISS/MANFREDI
Marcel Wilson, Bionic
Sara Zewde, Studio Zewde
Hope Blooms

Tiffany Beamer, OLIN
Los Angeles, CA

It is my honor to contribute something bright and cheerful to this collection during a season shaped by isolation, emotion, and self-reflection. This exercise reminded me that delicate, thoughtful work done with good intentions takes time and focus – and that there is much work ahead of us to do.

Here is a little sunshine when we need it the most, hand-made with love in Los Angeles California.
Not Yet Ancestors: Talking Mask

Kofi Boone, North Carolina State College of Design Raleigh, NC

This mask attempts to serve as a prompt for increased spiritual, emotional, and intellectual awareness of the current rebellion occurring in the urban landscapes of the country. Beads spell out the names of black people who were killed by police since 2014. The aesthetic comes from the traditions of Akan culture in Ghana where red and black signify that the departed died too young to become an ancestor (under 65 y/o). QR codes link to a protest song, “HELLOYOUALMBOOUT” by Janelle Monae, and an interview with BLM co-founder Alicia Garza. Hence, the talking mask.
On Sunday, May 31, our Santa Monica home and our Pamela Burton & Company office building were both threatened by looting and fire. We asked our grandson, John Hay de Roulet, age 8, to help us decorate the mask. He drew guns, machine guns, and rocket ships, which were very appropriate images. To enhance the narrative, and for aesthetic reasons, we added symbolic police tape to the bottom of the mask. The mask symbolizes the COVID-19 virus as well as violence and social unrest in the United States of America.
Mask of Son

Robert “Bob” Chipman, Robert Chipman Landscape Architect
Austin, TX

In thinking about how masks psychologically mess with our human interactions, some thoughts about René Magritte’s surrealism come to mind. His painting “Son of Man” generates an internal conflict by obscuring the face of the subject with an apple, making us want to know what’s behind the visible element. There is an interest in what is hidden, he tells us.

With faces concealed during the novel coronavirus pandemic, creating that strange conflicting emotion of not seeing each other directly, perhaps this mask underscores that “everything we see hides another thing” as we continue to navigate this continuing era of confused reality.
I Can’t Breathe
Shane Coen, Coen+Partners
Minneapolis, MN

I have been moved by the way that earth has been opening and breathing since the temporary shutdown of what was “normal” life for this time. Vistas have opened that have not been seen in our lifetimes, animals are celebrating in ways we have not seen, and the air, plants, and water have been taking much-needed deep breaths (and breaks from human interruption). The earth is breathing.

I conceived of a simple mask that would have the landscape architectural graphic symbol for “below the ground” where so much life begins and ends. In the middle of my graphic I originally wrote: “The earth is breathing.” However, after the recent events in Minneapolis where I live and practice, and after witnessing our city and country reel from yet another killing of an unarmed black man, I changed the words to: “I can’t breathe.”

As landscape architects, let’s each be a meaningful part of the change that our society wants and needs. Our work has always included the design of public space and we have a deep responsibility for inclusive design for all humans.
Moon Rise, Moon Set

Stuart “Stu” Dawson, Sasaki
Watertown, MA

This sketch, on a coronavirus face mask, is in honor of Professor Stanley B. White, University of Illinois, Department of Landscape Architecture. Stan, the elder brother of E. B. White (Charlotte’s Web), was the most memorable character of my academic career.

Professor White spent hours convincing our class of flatland Illinois students that there was such a thing as tides, and that ocean levels were almost entirely influenced by the moon: its apogee and its perigee, resulting in slack tides, flood tides, and ebb tides.

Thank you, Stan White, and your beloved moon!
I’ve been thinking a lot about trees lately. Reading, taking photos on my evening walks with my husband, and absentmindedly sketching alongside the hours of video calls that occupy much of my day. Trees are exquisite beings, holding not only their individual stories of prosperity and travails as evidence within their rings, but also capturing the events that impact us all and bind us together in this world. Drawing each line is a kind of meditation, letting the movement capture my mind and offering time to contemplate. This is a beautiful reminder that we, all living beings, are connected in often the most invisible ways.
Take the Long View

Angela Dye, A Dye Design
Telluride, CO

Inspired by her natural surroundings, Angela sought to provide an uplifting and humorous view to the mountains, and hopefully to a better future for us all.
Her-oglyphics

Gina Ford, Agency Landscape + Planning
Cambridge, MA

Like the pharaohs shrouded in their pyramids, the wearer of this mask will be wrapped in the magical powers of its her-oglyphics. Crafted by an admiring scribe, the mask’s textile is comprised of fifteen symbols, inspired by master works of landscape architecture and their female creators.

Can you decode its language? For translation help, go to bit.ly/AgencyMask.

Ancient Egyptians believed that capturing ideas, people, and objects in writing ensured longevity in the afterlife. Let the mask’s powers protect you in these troubled times and help ensure the long-term memory of these woman-made masterpieces.
Breathe and Vote
Fredrick Fisher, Frederick Fisher and Partners
Los Angeles, CA
Make change happen.
Join the Revolution

M. Paul Friedberg, MPF&P
New York, NY and East Hampton, NY

Dorit Shahar
East Hampton, NY and Tel Aviv, Israel

There are times when actions speak louder than words, Join the Revolution!
Nature Reclaimed
Adriaan Geuze, West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture, and the West 8 Design Studio
New York, NY and Rotterdam, The Netherlands

A green statement: what would the world look like if we each needed our own pocket of the forest to breathe through?

Inspired by the resistance and resilience of nature, we humanized the mask with vegetation as a proactive, healing force for public good.

From the clearing waters to roaming wildlife, we see how quickly nature acts in the time of crisis. A reminder and a warning: we all breathe from forest air.
Green is the Color of Hope

Lisa Gimmy, Lisa Gimmy Landscape Architecture
Los Angeles, CA

Spring arrived during the quarantine and the garden came to life.
Fresh leaves emerging, reaching, dancing and dappling the light.
So many greens, so much hope for our future.
Privilege
Debra “Deb” Guenther, Dakota Keene, Mithun
Los Angeles, CA and Seattle, WA

A just world is a world that includes whole histories. Imagine the strength and relationships we build when everyone knows the whole history of a place.
Hanafubuki

Ron Henderson, IIT College of Architecture
Chicago, IL

When a stiff spring breeze captures the petals of cherry blossoms and swirls them in the air, it is called hanafubuki, in English “flower snowstorm” (where hana means flower, and fubuki means snowstorm). Hanafubuki is among the most fleeting and joyous of cherry blossom experiences.

Attached is an image from one of my sketchbooks investigating the stages of cherry blossoms, including hanafubuki.
Your Lives Matter

Gary Hilderbrand, Reed-Hilderbrand
Cambridge, MA

The mask is a meditation on two intersecting crises disproportionately crippling our cities and our nation. The rate of COVID-19 spread is depicted in cities that voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. These same cities have also borne systemic impacts from institutionalized racism and are raging with fear today. Data is as of May 21, 2020, provided by the New York Times.
Deluge
Walter Hood, Hood Design Studio
Oakland, CA
We are currently inundated with the hope for change. Let the flood gates open and let the water be free.
Nature Overcomes Anxiety
William “Bill” Johnson, University of Michigan (ret.)
Holland, MI

Since the earliest days of my professional practice, I have especially admired the Dogwood blossom as a beautiful example of what the natural world can yield. Now, amidst a global pandemic, we wear face masks for protection from a frightening invisible disease, and yet are asked by TCLF to consider the mask as an art piece! What a lift!

What if the remarkable beauty of a dogwood blossom could be thematically imbedded on the face mask? It might well be a calming message, heralding the beauty and stability of the natural world and countering the feelings of anxiety and uncertainty of those having to live under the mask.
Let Your Light Shine
Mark Johnson, Civitas
Denver, CO

There are times when we feel dark, alone, isolated. If we see ourselves that way others will too. In these dark times, wear this mask to show that your light, your brightness and spirit can show the way.
Enveloping ourselves with plants is a human sublime. In these fraught times—with the ground beneath us shifting—this mask offers, at the very least, protection of others and ourselves; and, hopefully, a sense of verdant nurture and delight to the wearer and the watcher.
Seed Keeper
Phoebe Lickwar, FORGE Landscape Architecture
Austin, TX

This face mask records an imprint of Chasmanthium latifolium seeds, using the same nineteenth-century cyanotype process employed by botanist-photographer Anna Atkins in her extensive examination of the vegetal world. The work celebrates the uniqueness of each seed and the promise of life it contains. The mask is a daily reminder of our dependence on plants for the air we breathe, for food and medicine, for health and well-being. Wearing the mask is commitment to cultivate an ethic of care, for each other and for our companion species. The pandemic is a troubling time of great difficulty and devastation, but it also presents an opportunity for positive transformation. As we experience sweeping change across our daily lives and in our communities, what actions can we set in motion to sow the seeds for our future becoming?
Honey Dew

Joeb Moore, Joeb Moore & Partners
Greenwich, CT

Everything real is infinitely complex. I am fascinated by the interdependence and cooperative nature of nature. Design, like a snowflake forming or a flower blooming, is a living process that emerges, evolves, grows, and finally materially transcends into something greater than its parts...opening into a wondrous, luminous, and beautiful gift.

For this design, I found discarded fabric samples, dancing bees, and flowers on bright yellow and orange color fields that suggested the setting sun. My friend and seamstress, Lily elegantly stitched the fabrics together using yellow and orange strings to form the mask. The vision and hope here is to transform the “scraps and leftovers” into a fabric of life and that “bees and flowers” might drip honey into our breath.
Echinacea | Allium & Hakonechloa

Oehme van Sweden
Washington, DC

Native to the North American plains, Echinacea has long been used as an immune stimulant in herbal medicine. This illustration over a growing season provides moments of an often-unnoticed process. The New American Garden encourages visitors to notice seasonal transitions in the landscape by implementing botanical expressions of ephemerality. As we become more thoughtful observers, perhaps discovering the beauty in both bloom and decay, we may take solace in nature’s ability to keep moving forward….In its shared wisdom that this time, too, shall pass.

“Allium & Hakonechloa ”
Pin a rose on your nose, or maybe an Allium.
Spring Fever, not Hay Fever

Laurie Olin, OLIN
Philadelphia, PA

As many people have noticed this has been an unusually beautiful spring, made more poignant by the staggering human disaster of the world-wide pandemic of the coronavirus. In part it was a long mild but cool and well-watered spring, enabling flowering plants to have remarkably a prolonged period of bloom. Tulips, of course are a sign – a symbol, even – of spring and renewal, but of course cut flowers, no matter how beautiful, are dying as well.

So, such bouquets are a reminder of the perpetual cycles of life and death in a celebration of the moment of life and beauty. Contemplating a spring as complex and confusing as this one has been one can only conclude that nature is fine and boisterous, infinitely fecund and as creative as it is destructive in all its myriad creatures -- whether plants, animals, microbes, or viruses -- and that nature doesn’t need us at all, but we surely need it.
Breathe ... hope....words fail me

Ken Radtkey, Blackbird Architects, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA

In 1856, Frederick Law Olmsted wrote:

“The possession of arbitrary power has always, the world over, tended irresistibly to destroy humane sensibility, magnanimity, and truth.”

Inspire
from latin inspirare “breathe into..., excite, inflame,”

Expire
from latin expirare/esspirare “breathe out... expire, come to an end, cease,”
When I sketch or paint on location, I start with the people. I think a genuine love of people is at the heart of what we do, and some of the most unsettling images of the pandemic show the deserted streets and plazas of great cities. Here, the people are front and center—a diverse lot, but more alike than different, and all interconnected.
Ganna’s Garden

Mark Rios and Nate Cormier, RIOS
Los Angeles, CA

The healing power of plants grounds us in these challenging times. Our collage recalls a studio visit to Ganna Walska’s Lotusland, a spectacular botanic garden and dramatic pink villa in Montecito, California. In addition to the extraordinary collections and curiosities, Lotusland also maintains an assurance colony of plants, such as the ancient Wood’s cycad, that have become extinct in the wild. Madame Ganna Walska, a socialite and opera singer, lived a life of adventure before purchasing her estate and spending over 40 years creating a dazzling sequence of garden experiences. Her curiosity and generosity left us an important reminder of nature’s beauty and diversity.
I Need a Haircut

Martha Schwartz, Martha Schwartz Partners
New York, NY

This is a sign of our times during COVID-19. The exercise has given us all a needed break from zoom through working with our hands and connecting us through our emotions, in a small but very personal way.
Flower Mask
Ken Smith, Ken Smith Workshop
New York, NY

FLOWER MASK is designed for a social event -- a garden party, a promenade in the park, or just hanging out on the front porch. Wear it with a bathing suit or with your finest suit and hat. Be safe, but don’t be a shut-in. Remember, social distancing does not mean anti-social.
We live with our young children on a farm in central Massachusetts. Our farm is a bit of an experiment where we are trying to create healthy relationships between our working fields and the surrounding forest, meadows and wetlands. In this time of environmental and civic unrest, we want to convey to our children, more than ever, to be stewards of the land and to respect Mother Earth. This mask is made of scraps of cotton fabric from their clothes and linen thread. It documents the world from their simplified view: the fields and gardens in balance with the wild around them.
Purple Rain

Christine Ten Eyck, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects
Austin, TX

This mask is in honor of Prince Rogers Nelson, born on June 7, 1958 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His music became the pioneering “Minneapolis sound” in the 70s. I wonder what Prince would think of the loss of his fellow urban dweller George Floyd and how he would react. My guess is that he would turn the pain into epic music like Purple Rain which would encourage healing and change.

I dyed the mask in purple cabbage pigment from the half of a cabbage I had in the refrigerator.
EASY

Victor F. “Trey” Trahan, III, Founder & CEO, Trahan Architects
New Orleans, LA

The history of blues and jazz in New Orleans exists within a fluid spectrum between community and commerce, with neighbors performing for neighbors, in and out of bars, in the finest restaurants and in year-round parades. We share our stories and our culture with an extended community and visitors to the city – an important way we celebrate life. The rhythm of this unique city cannot and will not be quelled by this terrible virus. We, as a community, have and always will continue to not just endure, but to thrive.
We are a Nation of Immigrants

Susan Van Atta, VAI/Van Atta Associates, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA

“We are a Nation of Immigrants. Unless you are one of the first Americans, a Native American, we are all descended from folks who came from someplace else—whether they arrived on the Mayflower or on a slave ship, whether they came through Ellis Island or crossed the Rio Grande.”
- Barack Obama

“Wearing” the mask is Frieda, born to Swedish immigrants in 1894. She embroidered these Forget-Me-Nots on linen years before her passing in 1968.

Her family joined immigrants fleeing famine and other disasters to make a new life in the Midwest. She farmed in partnership with her husband and raised five children near Buffalo Prairie, Illinois.

Frieda, my Grandmother, excelled at everything she did, and spent much time in California, teaching me to garden, bake, sew, embroider and more. My memories of her, and gratitude, come alive every time I harvest from my garden and make cookies or protective masks. These skills comfort me and my family during this pandemic.
An homage to one of my favorite paintings by one of my favorite artists, Albrecht Dürer’s “Great Piece of Turf” from 1504. I am inspired by the fact that Dürer, a successful and celebrated artist, found time to study the commonplace circumstances of his surroundings. My daily routine, during these COVID-19 times, has been a long walk along gravel roads through quiet agricultural fields. On these walks, I see many of the same roadside plants seen in Dürer’s painting, some 500 years later. It renews my confidence in the resiliency of nature, and in the plants and soils that filter one of our most precious resources.
Breathing Leaves
Edwina von Gal, Edwina von Gal + Co
East Hampton, NY

What could feel more safe and clean than fresh green leaves?
The Horizon We Share

Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, WEISS/MANFREDI
New York, NY

While the tragic fog of this pandemic masks the common ground we share, cities are the symbols of the imagination and nature connects us to the air we all breathe. In the dream state induced by this purgatory, the horizon gives us a portrait of a city—paused ever so briefly—ready to emerge into a more promising reality.

Our shared horizon connects us to nature, connects us to each other—if for now at a greater physical distance—and is robust enough in scale to endure.
Lipsync

Marcel Wilson, Bionic
San Francisco, CA

Lipsync is a wearable technology that transforms a mobile phone into what we need most, greater connection with each other. Just download the app, insert your phone into the mask, and connect! The app translates your voice into an exact image of your mouth so that others can see you speak. Lip Sync has several modes. Use "talk mode" to just chat, sing, or make a funny face... All behind the safety of your mask. Use "smile mode" for when you are down. And "Truth mode" to help you say the right thing in these confusing times. Truth mode works for categories including: Jobs, Immigration, Foreign Policy, And Environment. Order now!
We Can Keep Going

Sara Zewde, Studio Zewde
New York, NY

The quote written on the mask is by the late author Zora Neale Hurston, from her book *Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo*. The full quote reads: “That though the heart is breaking, happiness can exist in a moment, also. And because the moment in which we live is all the time there really is, we can keep going.” I reflect on this quote through the turmoil of the global pandemic and the uprising following the killing of George Floyd.
About the Artists

Tiffany Beamer, OLIN

Los Angeles, CA

Tiffany Beamer leads OLIN’s Los Angeles studio. Her background in art and music inform much of her design ethos, and she believes landscape should be immersive and experienced with all the senses. Her humanistic approach is evident in her designs working across a wide range of typologies, including urban parks, cultural institutions, mixed-use citiescapes, universities, and federal campuses. Ms. Beamer’s notable works include Simon and Helen Director Park in Portland, Oregon; the Carnegie Hall Roof Garden in New York, New York; Plummer Park in West Hollywood, California; and the AIA award-winning Mose & Ezra Stiles College at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Her more recent work includes a renovation of the landscape at the Sportsmen’s Lodge in Studio City, California; three major projects in Silicon Valley; a major project at the Sportsmen’s Lodge in Studio City, California; and the development of Homeplace. Boone’s work has appeared in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, PUBLIC: A Journal of Imaging America, and PRISM: Journal of Regional Engagement. He serves as a reviewer for Elsevier academic journals. Currently, his article “Black Landscapes Matter” can be found in Ground Up, and he has authored numerous design articles featured in the new book Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity.

Robert “Bob” Chipman, Robert Chipman Landscape Architect

Austin, TX

Robert Chipman, ASLA, is a struggling bluegrass picker who also happens to dabble in landscape architecture, furniture design, lutherie, sketching, watercolor painting, climbing and Betsy Ross crafting. These days, you can usually find him at home.

Pamela Burton, Pamela Burton & Company, and Richard Hertz

Santa Monica, CA

Pamela Burton is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Her current work includes a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Kofi Boone, North Carolina State College of Design

Raleigh, NC

Kofi Boone, ASLA, is an associate professor of landscape architecture at North Carolina State University, College of Design. Boone is a Detroit native and a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.S.N.R. 1992, M.L.A. 1995). His research interests are the overlap between landscape architecture and environmental justice, with a focus on democratic design and cultural landscapes. His current research explores the use of immersive design techniques and mixed reality visualization to enhance research, teaching, and extension work. He is a member of the College’s Experience Design Lab. Boone is a resident of education and serves on the board of directors of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, and he is a founding member of the American Society of Landscape Architects Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network. He is active in multidisciplinary activities ranging from the National Endowment for the Arts’ Designing Equity forum to the Kenan Institute of Ethics’ Collaboratory, featuring partnerships with researchers at Duke University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has worked with the Hurricane Matthew Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative (HMDRI), focusing on a community workshop in Princive, North Carolina, and the development of Homeplace. Boone’s work has appeared in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, PUBLIC: A Journal of Imaging America, and PRISM: Journal of Regional Engagement. He serves as a reviewer for Elsevier academic journals. Currently, his article “Black Landscapes Matter” can be found in Ground Up, and he has authored case studies featured in the new book Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity.

Robert Dawson, Robert Dawson Landscape Architects

Watertown, MA

Dawson has played an active design role throughout his career at Sasaki. As design principal for numerous projects, he has directed interdisciplinary teams through all phases of planning and implementation, from initial master planning and conceptual design, to detailed design, documentation and construction administration.

Coen does not believe in separating work and life. He has always believed work and life are one and the same; balance is found in life, not in separating the pieces. He has a regular Kundalini practice and can often be found deep in the woods foraging for mushrooms and other edible plants and greens that grow all around us. Most of all, Coen finds meaning in strengthening his relationships with his partner, their respective children, families and friends. Coen is the recipient of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Award and is the Founder and CEO of Coen+Partners.

Stuart “Stu” Dawson, Sasaki

Waterton, MA

Stu is a landscape architect and urban designer, and a founding principal of Sasaki. His extensive experience encompasses major award-winning urban and waterfront developments, college and university campuses, museums, resorts, and corporate headquarters in the United States and abroad.

Shane Coen, Coen+Partners

Minneapolis, MN

Shane Coen loves the moment an idea is formed. It may come from research, past experience, visiting spaces or instinct. It may come while you are playing or working, while you are alone or collaborating. It may come from your client, anyone on a team, or even a friend. It is in that moment that Coen feels the magic of design. The rigorous and iterative process that follows after the idea is formed is what he describes as the science of design. This unique individual and collaborative process has inspired Coen for the past 27 years.

Coen is a teacher, mentor, and collaborator. He has taught at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and lectures extensively. He is recognized throughout the world for his and Coen’s commitment to a process that celebrates the social and environmental context of a project from start to completion.
Fascinated by the urban environment, Michelle Jeffrey Delk is a partner and landscape architect with Snøhetta. She works to cultivate trans-disciplinary collaboration for the creative advancement of our public environment. Clear thinking and collaborative principles characterize Delk’s leadership of a myriad of dynamic projects, while her unencumbered vision allows for concerted explorations that embrace experimentation and improvisation within complicated social environments.

Delk’s enthusiasm is reflected in her commitment to design and leadership within her firm and community. Currently she’s an active board member for the Urban Design Forum in New York City and is often invited as a speaker at influential conferences, universities, and communities throughout the world. Informed by these various involvements, she seeks to discover and expand the urban landscape vernacular, furthering positive dialogue between our current and future urban vision.

Ford’s work encompasses a wide range of scales and project types, from public parks and plazas to large-scale landscape planning and waterfront projects. She brings to each project a passion for the process of making vibrant landscape spaces—from the conceptual design to the details of implementation—with a particular focus on the life and use of urban, public environments. During her twenty-year tenure at Sasaki, she led the design of notable projects including Chicago Riverwalk, Boston’s Lawn on D, Council Bluff’s Tom Hanafan Rivers Edge Park and Raleigh’s Moore Square, under construction now.
Dorit Shahar
East Hampton, NY and Tel Aviv, Israel

Dorit Shahar is an Israeli-born landscape architect who earned her degree from the School of Architecture and Environmental Studies at the City College of New York. She maintains offices in East Hampton, New York, and Tel Aviv, and is an adjunct professor at Technion in Haifa, Israel. For Shahar, landscape architecture is a social art and an avenue for exploring creative placemaking that can have a positive effect on enhancing community identity. She has designed projects in the United States, Japan, Qatar, Egypt, and many throughout Israel. Her notable works include the landscape design for the main valley of the City of Modiin (designed by architect Moshe Safdie); the courtyard at BenHazachay in Tel Aviv; created for the soldiers; the master plan for the Salam Plaza Development, a mixed-use complex including retail, residential, office space, as well as a hotel, in Qatar; the redevelopment of the entire downtown campus of Fordham University at Lincoln Center in New York City; and numerous residential commissions in East Hampton and Bridgehampton, New York.

Shahar’s courses at Technion focus on urbanism and the design of public spaces, community placemaking, and ecotourism. She is a member of the Israeli Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects. She is married to landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg, with whom she has a daughter, Lila. Friedberg is a founding principal of the Friedberg and Friedberg Landscape Architecture Studio. Friedberg has devoted his career to landscapes that are designed to have a social impact on their communities. Friedberg’s work has been recognized with numerous awards for excellence in design and planning, and he is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects’ Stewardship Council.

In 1990, Geuze, with his office West 8, established a reputation on an international level with their unique approach to planning and design of the public environment.

Geuze has extensive experience in directing Dutch and international teams on projects all over the world. An internationally respected professor in landscape architecture and urban design he frequently lectures and teaches at universities worldwide. Over his extensive career he has won numerous awards including the Prix de Rome in 1990, the Rosa Barba First European Landscape Prize in 2002, the Veronica Rudge Green Prize for Urban Design from the Harvard Design School in 2002 and the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture™ in 2014.

In 2005 Geuze was recognized as a leader in his profession by being given the prestigious position of curator for the 2nd International Architecture Biennale in Rotterdam and in 2011 he was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mondriaan Fonds. With West 8, Geuze has been honored with the success of winning various international design competitions such as Governors Island in New York, Toronto’s New Central Waterfront in Canada, Madrid RIO in Spain and Yongsan Park in Seoul, Korea. Geuze is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Stewardship Council.

West 8 is an award-winning international office for urban design and landscape architecture, founded in 1987 with offices in Rotterdam, New York and Belgium. Over the last three decades, West 8 has established itself as a leading practice with an international team of 70 architects, urban designers, landscape architects and industrial engineers. West 8’s New York office was established after winning an international design competition in 2006 for the design of Governors Island Park, a 172-acre island in the New York Harbor.

Lisa Gimmy, Lisa Gimmy Landscape Architecture
Los Angeles, CA

Lisa Gimmy, ASLA, LEED AP, came into landscape architecture with an extensive background in art and art history, and her interest in art and architecture continue to be the basis for her landscape design. Since founding her firm in 1992 she has directed the design of landscapes for campuses, hotels, mixed-use commercial developments, and many private gardens. Her interest in architecture has led to commissions to create gardens for historic homes throughout Southern California.

Gimmy received her undergraduate degree in art history from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her M.L.A. from Harvard University. She was awarded the Charles Eliot Fellowship, the highest honor bestowed by the department. Her work has been recognized with awards of excellence and her projects have been published in numerous magazines. She has also taught landscape design at the university level. Gimmy is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Stewardship Council.

Debra “Deb” Guenther, Dakota Keene, Mithun
Seattle, WA

As a partner and landscape architect at Mithun, Deb Guenther has built a team that brings exceptional quality, critical thinking and award-winning design to projects. Guenther is a leader in connecting people with their surroundings and each other. She works on diverse projects - delivering conceptual design ideas firm-wide. Clients benefit from her ability to bring together emerging ideas in policy, practice and design.

Guenther is a regular contributor to conversations on equity, resilience and climate change at venues such as Greenbuild, Living Futures, and the Urban Land Institute. Nationally recognized for her leadership on green infrastructure and ecosystem service issues, she was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architect’s Presidents Medal in 2010.

Dakota Keene, Mithun
Seattle, WA

As a principal with MITHUN, Dakota Keene creates thoughtful and sustainable landscapes that benefit both community and clients. Her focus is on cultural and educational projects, helping communities create a forum for participation and public dialogue. The design intent of her projects evokes historical and natural influences— ranging from the ethnobotanical gardens at the Suspensum Museum near Seattle, abstract references to traditions and a relationship to the land at the Wanapum Heritage Center in eastern Washington State, and site planning and immersive visitor experience design for the Washington Park Arboretum Environmental Education Center. She has served on the executive board of the Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks, the Washington chapter of the ASLA, and on the Homeless Place of Remembrance Committee, in Seattle. Keene is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Stewardship Council.

Ron Henderson, IIT College of Architecture
Chicago, IL

Ron Henderson, FASLA, is founding principal of J+L Landscape Architecture and a professor of landscape architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), where he is also director of the Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program. He is a Senior Fellow of Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, a Japan-US Friendship Commission Creative Artist Fellow, and Artist-in-Residence at the National Park Service. He is author of The Gardens of Suzhou, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, and is currently co-Primary Investigator for the Driverless City Project, which is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. His recent award-winning projects include the Elizabethan Theater at Chateau d’Hardelot in France, the Gardens of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, City Walk and the Landfill Garden, both in Providence, Rhode Island, Anthracite Garden in Cambridge,
Gary Hilderbrand, Reed-Hilderbrand
Cambridge, MA

Gary Hilderbrand, the 2017 winner of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Design Medal, is a founding principal of Reed Hilderbrand, LLC., in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His firm has been recognized with more than 80 regional and national design awards. He is also Professor of Practice in Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where he has taught seminars and design studios since 1990. His firm’s monograph, Visible Invisible, was recognized with the Award of Excellence in Communications from the ASLA, and, in the same year, Reed Hilderbrand was recognized as ASLA’s Firm of the Year. In 2015 Hilderbrand and partner Douglas Reed were voted among the top five “most admired practitioners” by the members of ASLA’s Professional Practice Network. Design Intelligence recognized Hilderbrand as one of the 25 Most Influential Educators in Design in the United States for 2017. He is a fellow of the American Academy in Rome, where, during the fall of 2017, he was the Mercedes T. Bass Resident in Landscape Architecture.

Walter Hood, Hood Design Studio

Walter Hood is the creative director and founder of Hood Design Studio in Oakland, CA. He is also a professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where he has led projects across North America, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East. He is widely recognized for his focus on people and nature in cities. His work ranges from city plans to river studies, university campuses, streets, plazas, urban parks, and waterfronts. He has received many awards for planning, design, and service. Johnson has become a leading practitioner, teacher, and thought-leader on the role that nature and landscape play in activating, connecting, and enabling people. He received his B.L.A. from Utah State University and an M.L.A. in urban design from Harvard University.

Mark Johnson is the founder of Civitas in Denver, Colorado. He has led projects across North America, Asia, Australia, and the Middle East. He is widely recognized for his focus on people and nature in cities. His work ranges from city plans to river studies, university campuses, streets, plazas, urban parks, and waterfronts. He has received many awards for planning, design, and service. Johnson has become a leading practitioner, teacher, and thought-leader on the role that nature and landscape play in activating, connecting, and enabling people. He received his B.L.A. from Utah State University and an M.L.A. in urban design from Harvard University.

Mia Lehrer, Studio-MLA
Los Angeles, CA

Mia Lehrer, FASLA, founded Studio-MLA with a vision to improve the quality of life through landscape. She is internationally recognized for progressive landscape design, advocacy for sustainable and people-friendly public places, and catalyzing work for a climate-appropriate future. Lehrer has led the design and implementation of several ambitious public and private projects, including the Hollywood Park Racetrack redevelopment and its new NFL Stadium, the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum Gardens, the Los Angeles River, and many projects related to the Los Angeles River. She earned her M.L.A. from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, and she lectures and teaches around the world. In 2017 Lehrer received the Alfred B. LaGasse Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Lehrer is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Stewardship Council.

Michael Lehrer, LEHRERARCHITECTS LA
Los Angeles, CA

Michael B. Lehrer, FAIA founded LEHRERARCHITECTS LA in his native Silverlake District of Los Angeles. The work—from the intimate to the monumental—is grounded in the idea that beauty is a rudiment of human dignity. He designs for community with a reverence for light and space. Delight is a matter of extreme gravitas in the work. The work is to elevate the everyday and celebrate community. The studio is steeped in the nurturing of creativity culture in its own work—both process and product—and in finding that spark in all its clients’ endeavors.

Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize.

William “Bill” Johnson, University of Michigan (ret.)

Born in Lansing, Michigan, Johnson studied landscape architecture at Michigan State University, graduating in 1953. Following his military service, Johnson completed an M.L.A. at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design (GSD). While in Cambridge he worked for Hideo Sasaki and was an instructor at the GSD.

Returning to the Midwest to practice, Johnson formed Johnson, Johnson and Roy (JJR) in 1961, a partnership with his brother Carl and Clarence Roy. A master plan for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor established the firm’s approach of integrated planning and analysis. The search for fitness, harmony, and community involvement became William Johnson’s core design philosophy and a trademark of JJR’s work.

Throughout his career Johnson blended practice, at JJR (1961-1975) and as William J. Johnson Associates (1980-1992), with his commitment to education. A professor of landscape architecture from 1958, he became Dean of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan (1975-83) and Professor Emeritus in 1988. Johnson’s practice focused on campus, resort, and community planning and parks and recreation projects. He formed a partnership with Peter Walker in 1992 which led to many national and international commissions. He was named a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1973 and awarded the ASLA Medal in 1986. Mr. Johnson is the subject of a video oral history produced by The Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Mark Johnson, Civitas
Denver, CO

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Mia Lehrer, Studio-MLA
Los Angeles, CA

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ACCLAIM AND HONOR. LEHRERARCHITECTS LA has won over 150 major design awards, including over 50 design awards from the national, state, and local chapters of The American Institute of Architects. Lehrer Architects’ Studio, The Downtown Homeless Drop-In Center, and the LA County Elections Operations Center have all won the Institute Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, the top annual award for architecture in the United States, as well as numerous top awards from the International Interior Design Association, the AIA Archdiocesan Council, the Los Angeles Business Council, Graphis, Contract Magazine, Interior Design and Builder Magazine, among many others.

Michael’s work has been widely published nationally and internationally and he is regularly called upon to lecture and comment about design matters in national and local broadcast media, print, panels, universities and symposia to explain the public interest from the architect’s perspective.

LEADERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE. LOVING COMMUNITY. Michael is Chairman Emeritus of the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) Alumni Council where he created a leadership manifesto, The Engagement Park, which is now a centerpiece of GSD’s 14,000-member, multi-generational lifelong community. He has served as the GSD-appointed Director on the Harvard Alumni Association Board and is Past President of Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, a Board on which he stills serves. He was Vice Chairman of School Construction Bond Oversight Committee for over 5 years, overseeing a now $27 Billion repair and construction program for the LA Unified School District. He served on the Hollywood Planning and Design Review Board for over 25 years.

He is a past President of the American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles and founded its annual ongoing Legislative Day in 1999 which has fundamentally changed the nature of the profession in LA. He initiated the AIALA push to make GREAT STREETS a central initiative in our city.
Laurie Olin, OLIN
Philadelphia, PA

Laurie Olin is a distinguished teacher, author, and one of the most renowned landscape architects practicing today. From vision to realization, she has guided many of OLIN's signature projects, which span the history of the studio from the Washington Monument Greens in Washington, DC to Bryant Park in New York City. Her recent projects include the AIA-like-winning Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Simon and Helen Director Park in Portland, Oregon.

Olin studied civil engineering at the University of Alaska and pursued architecture at the University of Washington, where Richard Haag encouraged her to focus on landscape. He is currently Practice Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught for 40 years, and is former chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University. Laurie is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and recipient of the 1998 Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is the recipient of the 2012 National Medal of Arts, the highest lifetime achievement award for artists and designers bestowed by the National Endowment for the Arts and the President of the United States. He also holds the 2011 American Society of Landscape Architects Medal, the society's highest award for a landscape architect. Olin is the subject of a video oral history produced by The Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Ken Radtkey, Blackbird Architects, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA

KEN RADTKEY, founder and principal of Blackbird Architects, Inc., received his BSE, in Mechanical and Environmental Engineering from UCSB, and his Master’s in Architecture from MIT.
Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, and Esslingen University of Oregon, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the Frank Radtkey has lectured on architecture and been a guest Headquarters in Frankfurt and collaborated in the design buildings, including the German Bundesbank Germany. Radtkey was project architect for several worked at Behnisch & Partner Architects in Stuttgart, Before establishing Blackbird in Santa Barbara, Radtkey and educator. He is based in Siesta Key, Florida.

Mark Rios, RIOS Los Angeles, CA Formally trained in both architecture and landscape architecture, Mark Rios has long seen those two disciplines as inseparable. He founded Rios Associates in 1985 with a singular vision: to imagine, design, and build complete environments. Under his leadership, the firm quickly aspired. He founded Rios Associates in 1985 with a singular vision: to imagine, design, and build complete environments. Under his leadership, the firm quickly

Nate Cormier directs the landscape architecture studio at RIOS. His interest in landscape design as a form of storytelling drew him to Los Angeles after two decades of practice in Seattle and a master’s in landscape architecture from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Cormier’s projects, including urban parks in Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles, Austin, Denver, and Palm Springs, unearth stories of place as catalysts for authentic urban life. He lectures on landscape design at universities and conferences around the country, and has been active on the boards of the Landscape Architecture Foundation and numerous urban environmental and civic groups. Cormier’s current research interest centers around the “culture of comfort” in places that experience extreme heat. As the climate changes and more urban areas face extreme heat, what can we learn from global cultures past and present about how to survive? From urban forests and ventilation corridors to porch swings and siasitas, how do people beat the heat? The contemporary application of this collective wisdom is inventive ways to reduce dependence on air conditioning and attract people to reconnect with each other outside. Cormier is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Stewardship Council.

Ken Smith, Ken Smith Workshop New York, NY Ken Smith is one of the best-known of a generation of landscape architects equally at home in the worlds of art, architecture, and urbanism. Trained in both design and the fine arts, he explores the relationship between art, contemporary culture, and landscape. His practice, Ken Smith Workshop, was established in 1992 and is based in New York City. He is committed to creating landscapes, especially parks and other public spaces, as a way of improving the quality of urban life. Much of his work pushes beyond traditional landscape typologies—plaza, street, and garden—to landscapes that draw on diverse cultural traditions and influences of the contemporary urban landscape. Smith’s approach is directed at projects of varying scales and types: temporary installations, private residential gardens, public spaces, parks, and commercial projects. With a particular emphasis on projects that explore the symbolic content and expressive power of landscape as an art form, the Workshop specializes in the investigation of new expressions in landscape design.

Smith is a graduate of Iowa State University and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He has taught and lectured at Harvard, the City College of New York, and other universities and institutions around the world. Smith’s work has been published widely in the popular and trade press.

Smith is licensed as a landscape architect in New York, California, New Mexico, Kentucky, Virginia and Iowa. He is a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects.
Lauren Stimson is a principal at STIMSON, a landscape architecture studio with urban and rural locations in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Princeton, Massachusetts. Her recent projects include the Ledges at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts; the new Design Building at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts; and Pulaski Park in Northampton, Massachusetts, and the ongoing completion of Handberger Park in San Antonio, Texas. She has a deep love for New England, where she was raised, and an interest in the overlap between the built environment and the rural landscape, especially as it relates to historic villages and farms. She is an avid oil painter and uses the medium to document the familiar character of regional landscapes and agrarian patterns. Painting helps inform her design thinking as a landscape architect and conceptual approach to graphic representation.

Alongside her husband, she oversees the STIMSON studio in Princeton, Massachusetts, and Charbrook Farm and Nursery at the base of Mt. Wachusett in Massachusetts. The Farm is a modern homestead that integrates ecological restoration with productive pastures and gardens. They raise Hendrick Sheep and American Milking Shorthorn Devon Cattle as part of their mission to preserve heritage gardens. They raise Herdwick Sheep and American Milking cattle. The Nursery focuses on the growth of native collected species, planted form and soil specifications. He received his education from the University of Massachusetts and the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and has been practicing landscape architecture for over thirty years. He founded the firm in 1992 and is licensed in thirteen states. His work has been widely recognized with numerous awards from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He has taught at Harvard Graduate School of Design and the University of Massachusetts, and has lectured and served on award and design juries throughout the country. Stimson was elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2004 for his outstanding achievements in the field of landscape architecture.

For over a decade now, he has been cultivating Charbrook Nursery on his family’s historic dairy farm, for project use and field research related to native plant propagation, collected species, planted form and soil specifications. He remains passionately involved in design and projects at all levels throughout the studio and loves to draw by hand. When he is not in the studio or at a site visit, he can usually be found on a tractor somewhere on the farm, with his daughter on his lap.

Christine Ten Eyck, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects Austin, TX

Landscape architect Christine Ten Eyck, FASLA, is the founding principal of Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, based in Austin, Texas. During her career of more than 35 years, Ten Eyck has drawn upon her intuition and knowledge to build a body of work that celebrates the inherent beauty of Texas, the culture of its people, and the sacred path of water, pioneering contemporary regionalism in the American Southwest. Her work illustrates the capacity for place-based landscape architecture to address pressing global issues such as climate, habitat, and water-quality protection, while also creating restorative outdoor environments that are infused with natural beauty, encourage social interaction, and foster human healing. This ethos is exemplified in the “Paisajismo en zonas aridas” conference “Paisajismo en zonas aridas” in Santiago, Chile.

Victor F. “Trey” Trahan III, Trahan Architects New Orleans, LA

Victor F. “Trey” Trahan, III, FASLA is President and Principal-in-Charge of Trahan Architects. Trahan has been recognized and published both nationally and internationally for innovative design and creative use of materials. An accomplished designer, he is a 2010 recipient of the P/A Award, one of the most respected awards in architecture, presented by Architect Magazine to recognize progressive architectural design for unbuilt works. He also received the 2005 Architecture Review Emerging Architecture Award in London, one of three firms and the only U.S. firm honored that year. In 2007, he lectured at The Architectural League of New York’s Emerging Voices Series and was named by Wallpaper Magazine as one of the top 101 emerging practices in the world. During the spring of 2013 he conducted a graduate level design studio at MIT School of Architecture and Planning in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The studio focused on sustainability for coastal landscapes. In the spring of 2014, thirteen architects selected internationally to design a house for the New Orleans Lower Ninth Ward as part of Brad Pitt’s Make It Right Foundation project. He is the recipient of three National AIA Honor Awards, and has won three international design competitions in Beijing, China. He was elected to the AIA College of Fellows at the age of 45 for design. The firm’s work is widely personal, and historically grounded. The work is rooted in place, with each project informed by the local geography, culture, history and the client’s needs. Trahan is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Susan Van Atta, VAI/Van Atta Associates, Inc. Santa Barbara, CA

Long before sustainability became a focus in the design professions, Susan Van Atta’s work reflected a commitment to environmentally appropriate landscape design. Susan approaches design with a deep understanding of environmental processes gained from a degree in environmental studies from University of California Santa Barbara and an early career in California coastal planning and environmental impact assessment. Her experience includes over twenty-five years as a practicing landscape architect since obtaining a degree in landscape architecture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Van Atta’s award-winning designs pay careful attention to site, the natural environment and human needs, promoting health for both people and the environment.

In 2009 Van Atta was elected to the ASLA 2009 Council of Fellows for the impressive body of work she has created with a two-decade-long commitment to landscape design, habitat restoration, and the study and use of native plants. She is often called upon to give lectures on topics of design and sustainability at seminars, colleges, and other community events.
forums. Van Alten is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s (TCLF) Stewardship Council and a former member of TCLF’s Board of Directors.

Michael Vergason, Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., Alexandria, VA

Michael Vergason has 30 years of experience in creating memorable places in public and private sectors. He founded Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd. in 1987, and as the lead design principal is deeply involved in all projects. His sketch work is an essential component of his design process, defining and enlivening the MVLA studio.

He is responsible for numerous projects that show a particular sensitivity to site and context, careful consideration of historic significance, and a distinctly contemporary vision. His ability to balance the natural characteristics of the site with the demands of its architectural program is an outgrowth of his background in both architecture and landscape architecture. He also stresses the importance of a collaborative design process involving all components of the design team, architects and clients, resulting in seamless compositions without distinction between design disciplines.

Marlon Weiss and Michael Manfredi, WEISS/MANFREDI

Marlon Weiss and Michael Manfredi are founders of WEISS/MANFREDI, a multidisciplinary design firm in New York City known for its dynamic integration of architecture, art, infrastructure, and landscape design. Named one of New York’s “Emerging Voices” by New York’s Architectural League, WEISS/MANFREDI won the 2018 Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Institution’s National Design Award, as well as the New York AIA Gold Medal and the Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Their noted projects include the Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle, Hunter’s Point South Waterfront Park, the Women’s Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the University of Pennsylvania’s Nanotechnology Center, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center, and Barnard College’s Diana Center. They are currently designing the United States Embassy campus in New Delhi, India, and most recently WEISS/MANFREDI was selected through an international competition to re-envision the world-renowned La Brea Tar Pits and Museum in Los Angeles. Marion Weiss is the Graham Chair Professor of Practice at University of Pennsylvania and Michael Manfredi is senior design critic at Harvard University.

Marcel Wilson, Bionic

Marcel Wilson founded Bionic on the belief that every project offers the possibility of invention. He is a recognized leader and voice in the transformation of cities and landscapes. And he has demonstrated the potential of landscapes as an innovative medium in a broad spectrum of project types including workplaces, public space, high rises, infrastructure. As design director, Wilson leads the design of the firm’s projects with an inventive spirit and personal investment. He is an agile and inventive designer.

A skilled and inspiring communicator. And a talented collaborator and strategist on projects at all scales and levels of complexity. He brings repeat experience in guiding challenging projects through design processes in large organizations and the public. In these realms he has demonstrated the ability to communicate complex issues and concepts, and channel input and aspirations into the design process. This unique ability keeps large projects moving, benefiting our clients and compounding value.

Under his leadership Bionic has risen to the cutting edge of the profession through significant commissions for LinkedIn, Google, Genentech, and Zeiss. At the city scale he is leading the design of the public realm for the City of Sunnyvale and India Basin in San Francisco. And the firm has won multiple international design competitions including Fort Mason Center Public Realm, The Adobe Creek Bridge in Palo Alto, and The Resilient By Design Bay Area Challenge. Under Wilson’s leadership Bionic has been distinguished by numerous publications including Fast Company, Landscape Architecture, DWELL, SF Chronicle, and the Harvard Design Magazine. In 2012 Bionic was nominated for the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Award.

Sara Zewde, Studio Zewde

Sara Zewde is a founding principal of Studio Zewde, a design firm practicing at the intersection of landscape architecture, urbanism, and public art. The studio is devoted to designing enduring places where people belong.
Zewde holds a master’s of landscape architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, a master’s of city planning from MIT, and a BA in sociology and statistics from Boston University. In parallel with practice, she regularly writes, lectures, and exhibits her work and is the recipient of a number of awards, including the Silberberg Memorial Award for Urban Design and the Hebbert Award for Contribution to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. Sara was named the 2014 National Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation, a 2016 Artist-in-Residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and in 2018, was named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s inaugural “40 Under 40: People Saving Places” list. Her work has been exhibited at the 2016 and 2018 Venice Biennale, in the Brazilian and U.S national pavilions.