<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOREWORD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE STUDIOS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio I (Mathur/da Cunha)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio II (M’Closkey/Sen)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio III (Sanders/Pevzner/Marcinkoski)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPTION STUDIOS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio IV (Gouvrneur/Grauer)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio IV (Lee/Miller/Venonsky)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio IV (van Eyck)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio V (M’Closkey)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio V (Neises)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio V (Morabito)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio V (Gouvrneur/Maestres)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio VI (Olin/Atkin)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio VI (Pevzner)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio VI (Fabiani Giannetto)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio VI (Weller)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKSHOP COURSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop I (Willig/Falck)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop II (Olgyay/Willig)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop III (Olgyay)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop IV (Falck/Burrell)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA COURSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media I (Mathur/da Cunha)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media II (Montgomery)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media III (VanDerSys)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEORY COURSES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory I (Fabiani Giannetto)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory II (Fabiani Giannetto)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Institute</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Series, Events</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Publications, New Books</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Awards</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty and Lecturers</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREWORD

The work collated in these pages offers a glimpse into the Master of Landscape Architecture program at PENN. This is the eighteenth volume in a series of end-of-year reviews, outlining the coursework and events of the past academic year. While it is an extremely edited and partial form of summary, it communicates not only the richness of the MLA curriculum at PENN but also the department’s commitment to advancing the field through inquiry and design-based research.

In addition to coursework in history and theory, media and visualization, ecology, plants, earthworks, water management and construction technology, studio work captures the full ambitions of a program committed to design. Last year, studio sites included several in Philadelphia: Bartram’s Garden; a section of the Delaware riverfront in the Bridesburg neighborhood; another using the city’s linear networks as conduits for systemic urban interventions; and one in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to design civic landscapes to help re-brand Philadelphia. Other studio projects included coffee growing landscapes in Circasia and self-constructed housing areas in Medellin, Colombia; the Las Vegas Strip; Miami’s Biscayne Bay; coastal New York and New Jersey; Changxing Island of Shanghai, China; Navajo Nation, New Mexico; energy landscapes in Knoxville, Tennessee; a former clay manufactory in Helena, Montana; as well as a group of five independent design research projects.

The geographic reach, variety of scale and complexity of issues with which students and faculty have engaged in these studios is testament to our ambitions for landscape architecture in the 21st century. Most importantly, the work that has resulted from these studios extends the program’s reputation for conceptual experimentation and formal resolution.

Richard Weller
Professor and chair
STUDIO I  TRAVERSING LANDSCAPE: BARTRAM’S GARDEN, PHILADELPHIA

Critics  Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha
Teaching assistants  Jacqueline Martinez and Yu-Han Chiu

This foundation studio engaged the terrain within and in the vicinity of Bartram’s Garden, the first botanical enterprise in America. Located on the Schuylkill River, this eighteenth century garden of John Bartram was established during the colonial era alongside William Penn’s design initiative for the city of Philadelphia to the garden’s northeast. It was not long, however, before the garden was colonized by the city even as plants from the garden colonized the city in their own less noticeable ways. Today, the surrounding city is losing its dominating grip, willing to transform and to accommodate the environment for which the garden stands. The garden is in a position to exert its potential in a world that is looking for ways to go beyond the hard divides that have largely been taken for granted such as urban-rural, land-water, city-country, horticulture-agriculture, garden-field. The studio traversed the terrain of Bartram’s Garden afresh and in so doing initiated a process of transformation that gathered, extended, revealed, and catalyzed new relationships. As pioneers in the vein of John Bartram, students developed site-based investigations that formed the foundations upon which new ways of seeing, experiencing, and transforming landscape could be envisioned.
Parks are powerful ideological statements: they play an emblematic role in definitions of public space, and they are cultural representations of social and environmental ideals at a particular moment in time. As a type of administrative entity (along with state and national parks) that contributed to the founding of the profession of landscape architecture in the United States, public parks have ideals about democracy embedded within them. They are invariably contested grounds in their making and management as well as their appropriation by the public. Thus, parks are microcosms of the political, social, and economic terrain that forms the basis for any discussion about landscape. This studio concentrated on developing skills and creative sensibilities for site analysis and project design for a section of the Delaware riverfront in the Bridesburg neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Through the design of a park, students studied the roles of concept, organization and physical form in the formation of new assemblages of public space and the natural world; and in the creation of new relationships among the site, its immediate edges and the larger region. The studio had two primary objectives. The first was to develop an informed awareness about how to best operate within a given set of specific circumstances. The second was to develop the fundamental conventions of landscape architectural design, including fieldwork, site analysis, mapping, drawing, model making, conceptualization, programming and project development across scales. The intention was to unite pragmatic analysis, imagination, creative speculation, and technical competency toward full engagement of the broad range of considerations that come into play when making a landscape project.
The primary objective of this studio was to introduce students to the fundamentals of urban, territorial, and site-specific design while providing them with the tools to address a variety of scales and a diversity of design considerations. Using the city of Philadelphia as a laboratory, this studio explored the potential for landscape to catalyze transformation in a post-industrial context in a city with a low rate of absorption. The studio operated on the understanding that successful urban public space is the result of the close interplay between the built architectural component, the engineering and design of infrastructure systems, and the treatment of public space, and that urban design and place-making are typically collective, multi-disciplinary and long-term endeavors. Students considered a number of agendas (ecology/performance, economy/program, community/grass roots, municipal/utility) to produce different transformative outcomes. Proposals required an understanding of the phasing of the project, including a determination of interim and more permanent uses, the establishment of structural moves to insure viability, and the provision of flexibility in the design strategy in light of uncertain or unpredictable future conditions. This studio began with group investigations and analyses which transitioned into individually developed design programs and proposals.
Coffee was for centuries and still is a pillar of Colombia’s economy, a driver of rural and economic development, and an important component of the country’s identity. In 2011, the Zona Cafetera – the Coffee Production Zone – was incorporated as a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site as an example of particular land use in a traditional habitat. Encompassed in this zone are approximately 24,000 small coffee farms, a population of 300,000 with close to 80,000 people directly involved in coffee production, and over 47 municipalities including the site of this studio, Circasia, Quindío. The studio addressed the interplay of competing forces common to World Heritage Sites – tackling conservation, permanencies and transformations, sustainability and resiliency. Students considered how to address the transition zones between the areas in the UNESCO declaration and rural and urban areas adjacent to it, how the traditional agricultural practices and the urban and architectural heritage could be adapted to meet contemporary demands without compromising their identity and values, and how urban growth could be managed within the areas of influence in the protected zones in ways that recognize the unique qualities of the landscape. Students also considered whether contemporary interventions could enhance its appreciation, promote diversification of uses and strengthen the local economy, leading to regeneration and protection of the natural and cultural heritage. This studio worked in cooperation with the Mayor’s Office of Circasia and in collaboration with local universities.
Cities are increasingly looking toward civic space for identity, and as they re-brand themselves, investment in the public realm has become a critical component in the agenda for future growth. Philadelphia, despite housing the country’s largest and oldest public park system, has failed to register as a premier “Garden City.” In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), this studio probed the role of “civic” landscape in re-branding Philadelphia. The goal of the studio was to produce work that was at once iconic, functional and buildable. Students considered how initial planting proposals might go beyond beautification to set the stage physically, operationally, and politically for a longer term investment, and how this would in turn impact the surrounding neighborhood and city as a whole. Through a series of workshops with OLIN, PHS staff, and other professionals, students were introduced to the ways and means of developing project budgets and estimations. The use of new technologies and techniques were also researched to provide the best methods of construction for each project. Maintenance was considered and discussed as an integral component of all proposals. Studio sites were previously selected by PHS and Penn Praxis for their potential to impact the social fabric and public image of Philadelphia. There were seven sites total, each with unique identities, constraints, opportunities and urban actors; they were approached individually but with consideration of the overall character of the full collection. The final student work was presented to the City.
Las Vegas attracts over 40 million visitors a year, and hotel business continues to boom. As a result, there are no longer any empty lots of desert along Las Vegas Boulevard. This new density has diminished the need for the car, so visitors walk up and down the Strip to take in the sights and look for entertainment. Unfortunately, the Strip – officially still a highway – is a pedestrian hostile environment, lacking quality amenities or proper sheltering from the elements. Very recently, the hotel operators have discovered that there lies commercial potential in targeting this “new” pedestrian audience, and already there are a number of initiatives that are transforming the once car-dominated, thematic, and kitschy hotel frontages into more inviting and pedestrian-friendly public spaces, inclusive of commercial program that for the first time faces outward from the hotel properties towards the street. This studio focused on locations along the Strip for which actual public space/urban landscape architectural projects will be implemented. Students suggested and tested out program ideas and unlocked opportunities for the design of pedestrian spaces that together could form a cohesive public domain to help catalyze the transformation of the Strip into an actual boulevard, with promenades, plazas, parks, and efficient pedestrian crossings and connections. Students were also challenged to consider limited material, energy and water resources, while also revealing the economic potential in reconfiguring the public space.
Much of Florida is an environment whose image has been recast, and its ground transformed, from “uninhabitable” swamp into a tourist/retirement mecca. The entire Sunshine State is a region of attractions, theme parks and water-based recreation. A principal motivation of the studio was to challenge conventional approaches to waterfront design by developing projects that could perform under multiple scenarios and conditions in response to environmental or economic fluctuations. Given the context of Miami, a primary challenge for the studio was to take seriously the notion of “attraction” without confining the landscape to a nature reserve or theme park model. The studio also explored the potential of “liminal machines” as a means to consider the function of technology in the making and control of landscapes. The studio addressed these questions by focusing on Biscayne Bay in southern Florida, an estuary that was continuous with the Everglades and Atlantic Ocean until rapid development in the early to mid-twentieth century radically altered the relationship of this freshwater/saltwater exchange. The city of Miami sits on a limestone ridge at the threshold of these zones. Proposals focused in and around Watson Island - one of many constructed islands within Biscayne Bay - between downtown Miami and Miami Beach, which offered the ideal location and conditions for considering the relationship between touristic and ecological understandings of place.
STUDIO V: REBUILDING WATER CULTURE: COASTAL NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Critic: Ellen Neises

Rebuild by Design was a competition to develop contextual, scalable solutions to rebuild, protect and improve cities and towns hit by Hurricane Sandy. The multi-stage regional design competition was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Rockefeller Foundation, with substantial funding from Federal Disaster Recovery for implementation. The aim of the competition and the resulting projects was to demonstrate the power of design to respond to the mammoth challenge of climate resilience transformation in the northeast and the United States. A team led by PennDesign and OLIN was among ten selected, out of 148 applicant teams, to develop a site-specific design proposal. Students in this studio were important contributors to the research and design work of the PennDesign/OLIN Rebuild by Design team. The studio acted as a “think tank” for the competition team. Students pursued their own projects and interests, but the ideas generated by the collective through drawing, modeling and critique informed the PennDesign/OLIN team’s definition of promising design directions and improved the quality of the team schematic design. For eight days following the midterm review of individual student projects, students worked together with faculty as a charrette team and interacted directly with the PennDesign/OLIN team submission. During the rest of the semester, students directed their own research agendas with input from the critic.

Ashley Braquet
Julia Carlton
Diana Gruberg
Claire Hoch
Janet Lee
Stefanie Loomis

Ian Sinclair
Autumn Viscovi
Shuo Yan
Qinglan Zhang
Yuchen Zhu
Yelena Zolotorevskaya

Diana Gruberg and Ian Sinclair, sections (this page) and plan (opposite page)
STUDIO V: WATER LANDSCAPE FOR CHANGXING ISLAND SHANGHAI, CHINA

Critic: Valerio Morabito

Changxing Island, situated within and formed by the Yangtze River delta, is one of several islands of Shanghai. Due to the unique natural resources and geographical conditions of the island, it is a key strategic location for the sustainable development of Shanghai in the twenty-first century. In May 2008, the Shanghai Planning and Land Bureau adopted a master plan for a new rural park system for Changxing Island, the goals of which were to develop a world-leading shipyard, utilize the island’s Qingcaosha Reservoir to provide drinking water for Shanghai, and to create an impressive ecological landscape to attract tourism from the city. The 5.5 square kilometer studio site is the first phase of the ecological park planned for the north area of the island in the new rural park system. The primary focus of the studio was the idea of water – how to use it to reshape the site, how to manage it ecologically, and how to utilize it aesthetically. The second focus was the development of tourist facilities linked with the park such as hotels, conference centers, shopping malls, residencies, etc. organized in consideration of ecology and sustainability. In the weeks prior to the studio visit to Shanghai, students analyzed the abstract conditions of the site and created representations that visualized its culture and traditions. Students produced sketches, drawings, treasure maps and physical models that were shared with students and faculty at Tongji University in Shanghai in a workshop during the studio trip.
The majority of the planet’s population lives in cities, many of which are growing at unprecedented rates. In the developing world, a high percentage of the urban population is poor. Without the ability to participate in the formal real estate market, these low-income communities are forced to settle on land that the official planning instruments would deem “unfit for occupation,” mainly on steep slopes, floodplains, ravines and rivers. While the dynamic nature of these settlements offers some advantages, they tend to be located on geologically unstable land prone to landslides and flooding. They also suffer from difficult accessibility and thus lack essential services and amenities, which in turn make them vulnerable to violence and crime. This studio took a preemptive approach; using Medellin, Colombia as a laboratory, it explored the notion of “informal armatures” as a means to effectively cope with rampant informal urbanization. The approach posits that preemptive planning and design can create conditions that will make informal cities sustainable, providing the settlements with spatial and performative conditions that they cannot achieve on their own. Delving into the subtleties of the informal city allowed this studio to address compelling urban issues including the notions of resilience and adaptability, creative modes of connectivity and flow management, complex fractal geometries, alternative economic growth, response to context and cultural social inclusion, etc. Furthermore, the thinking and design proposals considered how to effectively foster sustainable practices strengthen community participation, improve quality of life and enhance cultural identity, all with limited resources.
STUDIO VI  COLLABORATIVE STUDIO: ANCIENT, HISTORIC & CONTEMPORARY USE OF DINE LANDS, NAVAJO NATION, NEW MEXICO

Critics  Laurie Olin (Landscape Architecture) and Tony Atkin (Architecture)
Assistant Critics  Abdallah Tabet and Gavin Rigall

This collaborative studio brought together students and instructors from architecture and landscape architecture. The program involved the design of a new settlement, with much needed housing for 300 to 400 families, and regional services near Crownpoint on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. Located in the San Juan River drainage, Crownpoint is one of the most rural areas of New Mexico but home to many resources – gas, oil, coal, uranium, and water (with a large underground aquifer) – that have been exploited and exported to support the urbanized areas of the southwest and the rest of the country. Students researched prehistoric sites, Spanish influences from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, historic and contemporary Pueblo development, and Anglo development after 1846 – and then promoted the design of a new settlement that could respond to and inform contemporary issues of preservation, cultural identity, sustainable development, energy, materials, and technology in the region. Studio work included the study of climate, terrain, orientation, land use, water harvesting and hydrology, flora and fauna, as important factors in the development of proposals and design of the settlement. As members of a collaborative studio, students experienced the productive potential of work across disciplines, interacting over issues such as site design, site and building ecology and their relationships, cultural form and practice, historic and cultural landscapes, conservation and sustainable development.
We rely on energy to power the technology in our lives, but are disconnected from the sites of natural resource extraction that must be exploited in order to yield that energy. This studio considered both historic typologies of extraction and their effect on the land, as well as future landscapes of extraction as they respond to anticipated changes in policy, climate, water, and population shifts in the decades ahead. The studio also developed a deeper understanding of the metrics of a variety of energy systems. By comparing how different technologies of extraction affect their sites’ natural and socioeconomic landscapes, students were better able to understand the tradeoffs made in producing energy, as well as new potentials that might yield new possibilities for settlement. While the design and deployment of energy systems operates at the megaregional scale, the act of extraction alters the landscape at both local and regional scales. Students focused on the effects of these large, abstract systems on specific territories with grounded, detailed design interventions. The studio visited the extensive territory of the Tennessee Valley Authority near Knoxville, including multiple energy installations, public forests and man-made lakes, which offered a case study of a completely integrated infrastructure design, conceived of and carried out on a megaregional scale.
STUDIO VI  THE MACHINE IN THE GARDEN: LANDSCAPE REVITALIZATION & REUSE, HELENA, MONTANA

Critic  Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto

This studio focused on the site of the former Western Clay Manufacturing Company – approximately 26 acres of land located northwest of Helena, Montana. The site includes the historic Western Clay brickyard as well as the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, the first artist residency program in the United States devoted solely to ceramics, which has been a leading workplace for artists and educators since its inception in 1905. This studio explored how the site with its historic brickyard and structures could be brought back to life. The formations of garden, landscape, and civic space were the catalytic ingredients to realize the potentiality of this site, which is at a critical juncture both physically and historically. The studio began with in-depth research on the physical characteristics of the place (its topology, soils, ecology and habitat) followed by a sequence of site reconnaissance exercises performed during a site visit to Helena. These led to the formulation of a conceptual framework that constituted the first step toward a design proposal. The final step was to establish a program compatible with the current use of the site that would facilitate in bringing out its potential.
STUDIO VI MODUS OPERANDI INDEPENDENT RESEARCH STUDIO

Critic: Richard Weller

The Modus Operandi studio enabled students to pursue their own design trajectory in their final studio at Penn. The intention of the MO studio was to develop design work that had a strong basis in research, and as such was preceded by a research seminar conducted during the fall 2013 semester.

Projects undertaken were:
The future of fracking in northeastern Pennsylvania (Anneliza Kaufer)
A tree planting program for Denver (Jason Fristensky)
A 60-mile linear park along the Delaware River canal (Ashley Braquet)
A biodiversity corridor in southern China (Shuo Yan)
A manual for public space in Chinese residential superblocks (Yichen Zhu)

Anneliza Kaufer, diagram and photos (this page);
Jason Fristensky, diagram (opposite page)
The purpose of this module of Workshop I was to introduce students to the varied physiographic provinces and associated plant communities of the greater Philadelphia region; characterize and analyze plant communities considering the connections between climate, geology, topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and disturbance, both natural and anthropogenic; develop a strong familiarity with the local flora including plant species identification and recognition, an understanding of preferred growing conditions, and potential for use; and develop drawing skills. In this course, students continued their investigation of the varied landscapes of the region which was begun during the last week of the Summer Institute. During this seven-week field class students visited natural areas representative of the physiographic provinces crossing the region with sites ultimately extending from the barrier islands of New Jersey to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, the first prominent ridge of the Appalachian Mountains.

Fieldtrips included: moving upstream on Darby Creek (Coastal Plain to Piedmont) Lazaretto, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, and Bartram Park (in Darby, PA); kayaking the Batsto River in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey (Outer Coastal Plain); Willistbrook Preserve (formerly Sugartown Serpentine Barrens), Pennsylvania (Piedmont Uplands); tracing the Wissahickon Creek from its headwaters to the Schuylkill River, Pennsylvania (Piedmont); Ringing Rocks County Park, Pennsylvania (Piedmont Newark-Gettysburg Lowland Section) and Manton Sanctuary (New England Province); Hawk Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Pennsylvania (Appalachian Mountain Section of Ridge and Valley Province); and Island Beach State Park in New Jersey (Outer Coastal Plain).

This module of the workshop, the Materiality of Landscape, introduced students to the nature of materials, in their naturally occurring state, the ways in which they can be extracted, processed or transformed into fabrication elements and the ways in which these raw or processed elements can be assembled to make interventions in the landscape. This course built directly on the experiences gained in the field ecology module of the course with Sally Willig where broad-scaled patterns of landscape ecology were explored. The focus shifted to the transformations possible in these landscapes by the use of various materials, modified by human intervention. The course was also intended to contribute to concepts being explored in the 500-level design studios where interventions into the natural landscape were part of student studies. Stone, brick, concrete, wood and ferrous and non-ferrous metals were the specific materials of focus in the course. Because materials weather and patina over time and respond to human use in the landscape, the campus was used as an laboratory for the detailed study and recording of these changes over time. Field trips took students to a lumber yard and sawmill to see timber products processed from wood logs; ferrous and non-ferrous materials were studied in the Meyerson Hall Fabrication Laboratory.
WORKSHOP II  LANDFORM AND GRADING

Instructor   Cora Olgyay
Teaching assistants   Anneliza Kaufer and Aylssa Olson

The reading and shaping of landform is an elemental tool in the practice of landscape architecture. The act of grading design – the shaping and sculpting of landform – is both art and science. This workshop aimed to provide an appreciation of landform as an evocative component in the design vocabulary as well as a critical tool in solving design problems. Over the course of the workshop, the basic techniques and strategies of grading design were introduced and reinforced, so that grading design would become an integral part of the students’ design approach. Students also investigated the integral relationship between landscape components: geology, topography, soils, climate, hydrologic processes, vegetation, disturbance, and finally human inhabitation and intervention. This framework of natural systems provided the setting for the primary focus of the course – the intentional manipulation of topography through grading design. Course topics included: reading the surface of the earth: contours and landforms; grading basics: calculation of slope, interpolation, slope analysis; leveling terrain: creating terraces on slopes; the flow of water; circulation; grade change devices: stairs, ramps, and retaining walls; and the process of grading design.

WORKSHOP II  PLANTING DESIGN

Instructor   Cora Olgyay
Teaching assistants   Anneliza Kaufer and Aylssa Olson

The planting design module of this workshop is designed to provide students with a working overview of the principles and practices of planting design. Plants were considered both as individual elements and as part of larger dynamic systems. The natural distribution of plants, concepts of plant community and successional patterns, and the relationship of planting and topography were used as the initial framework for planting design. Planting design typologies were examined as an outgrowth of these “natural” patterns. The role of plants as a key element in the structural design of the landscape were explored through a combination of modeling, plan and section drawing, temporal studies, writing, and case studies. Emphasis was placed on process and evolution: the temporality of planting (daily, seasonal and annual changes), establishment and maintenance of plantings, and the process of planting design.

WORKSHOP II  SPRING FIELD ECOLOGY: POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Instructor   Sarah Willig
Teaching assistants   Erin McCabe and Yifang Zhang

The purpose of this five-day field course in early May was to build on the Summer Institute and the Workshop I field classes in which students considered natural and human factors shaping a variety of landscapes. This week focused on management of landscapes to effect positive environmental change. Students began and ended the week in Philadelphia looking at revitalized areas centered around art, urban farming, and innovative stormwater management. The sites included: Mill Creek Watershed, PA (Piedmont to Inner Coastal Plain); Burcham Farm, Moores Beach, PSEG Maurice River Township Site, Living Shoreline on the Maurice River, NJ (Outer Coastal Plain); Palmerton Zinc Smelter Land Reclamation, PA (Ridge and Valley); Rushton Woods Preserve and Pickering Creek, PA (Piedmont); the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia; Race Street Pier and Greensgrow, an urban farm operating on a former Superfund site, in Philadelphia.
The practice of landscape architecture is a complex and integrative undertaking, encompassing natural systems and cultural issues, art and science, the resolution of technical challenges balanced with insight and intuition. Technical proficiency with basic grading principles and site engineering systems – ranging from general site grading to more complex systems such as stormwater management and roadway alignment – is a critical component of landscape architecture. Workshop III had three major foci: grading basics, water and movement. The initial segment of the course fostered proficiency in grading basics and the use of grading as a design tool. The second module focused on the direction and expression of water flow and principles of stormwater management, examining both traditional techniques as well as emerging technologies. The final segment concentrated on movement through the landscape, including concepts of hierarchy, pedestrian and vehicular systems, and roadway/pathway alignment. While the major emphasis of the course was placed on the mechanics of site engineering, it was important to stress that site engineering and design decisions are integral aspects of the practice of landscape architecture – good engineering is good design. Studio work and subsequent practice are potentially enriched through the understanding and integration of site engineering issues.
WORKSHOP IV ADvanced Construction

Instructors Lindsay Falck and Andrew Schlatter
Teaching assistant Katie Tan

This module of Workshop IV introduced students to the design and the construction of a range of elements as used by landscape architects in the creation of the man-made environment. The course focused on the various materials available for these designs, their physical characteristics, their modes of production, sequences of assembly, their life-in-use, maintenance needs and ultimate recyclability when appropriate. The assignments of this workshop built upon those of Workshop I: Materiality – which introduced the observation and documentation of existing structures – but with emphasis placed on the students’ own designs and their potential means of construction. The course was comprised of five lectures and a visit to New York to see the studios of designers working in specialized areas. To observe construction and materials in detail, there were also visits to local examples of constructed landscapes on the campus, the Drexel University campus and in the city of Philadelphia.

WORKSHOP IV Construction Documentation

Instructor Greg Burrell
Teaching assistant Katie Tan

This module of Workshop IV introduced students to construction documentation for landscape architecture. The course covered the major elements of construction documents as well as how documents change per project typology and phase of work. Major topics included material and layout documentation, grading plans, planting and soil plans, details, specifications and consultants. Over the course of the workshop, students developed a set of working drawings that explored how documentation is executed at different scales. The class studied built examples during in-class campus walks and on a field trip to notable projects and sites in Philadelphia.
MEDIA I  DRAWING AND VISUALIZATION

Instructors  Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha
Teaching assistants  Katherine Rodgers and Chunlan Zeng

This course worked to develop free-hand drawing skills, introduced students to the graphic grammar of measured drawing (orthographic, oblique, and perspective projection) and explored the potential of these modes to record, envision and construct space. The ability to represent three-dimensional terrains in two dimensions and the potential of two-dimensional drawings to project and imagine three-dimensional space are crucial to the process of design and building. The act of projection itself (besides defining static entities) can be part of the articulation of space and uncovering of dynamic territories. Course content ran parallel to Studio I to build a level of skill and “seeing” that could feed into design work.

MEDIA II  DIGITAL DRAWING

Instructor  Todd Montgomery
Teaching assistant  Taylor Burgess

Continuing the sequence of media courses, this course developed the student’s aptitude for working with digital media in creative and effective ways. While the course devoted time to learning the necessary techniques and skills to work with a variety of visualization software, the focus throughout was threefold: the creative and generative potential of digital media, its capacity to clearly organize and distill structure, themes, and concepts from complex sets of layered information, and the development of a critical eye. The course began by introducing measured drawings and two-dimensional digital representation techniques, primarily through Rhino and Adobe Illustrator. Students ran Rhino and Grasshopper side-by-side in order to develop traditional drafting/modeling skills while beginning to think about building and design through parametric relationships. Significant time was spent introducing three-dimensional modeling with Rhino as well as advanced imaging techniques the Adobe Creative Suite. The final weeks of the course concentrated on working fluently and in an integrated way amongst all four programs, as well as packaging a final portfolio of work with Adobe InDesign.
This course, the third and final in the media sequence, continued the curricular emphasis on visual communication and design. The course provided an intensive hands-on inquiry into the exploration, enhancement, and extrapolation of digital media and the subsequent modes of conceptual, organizational, and formal expression. Through a series of working labs, students learned various software applications and numerically driven techniques as a means of introducing basic concepts of rigorous construction and extraction through form processing. Instead of understanding computer modeling simply as an end, this course considered digital media as a compulsory armature in design processes. This course addressed appropriate strategies for managing and converting data and methods for streamlining workflow through various computer applications. Rhino was the primary modeling platform, but associated plug-ins of Rhino Terrain, V-ray and T-Splines extended the toolset; GIS facilitated the collection of extent data. Adobe Creative Suite 6 was also used for documenting and expressing modeling processes through static and time-based visualizations.
This course unfolded several contemporary issues that shape the profession, such as giving form to environmental values, balancing science and art, ecology and design, reconsidering the need for the beautiful vis-à-vis the many sites challenged by pollution and abuse. Among the topics of discussion, this course also took into account recent phenomena such as the late twentieth-century increase in world population, sprawl, and environmental pollution, and how these have changed the reality described by the very word “nature” and have contributed to expand the domain of landscape architecture. The discussion of contemporary topics centered on the analysis of case studies and alternated with lectures that addressed the roots of contemporary ideas in earlier theoretical formulations. Within this structure the past was presented as a way to illuminate, receive, and critique the present.

Organized around a series of guest lectures, this course constituted a forum for the presentation and discussion of recent work, design methodologies and intellectual pursuits of faculty within the School of Design and beyond. Each speaker presented an aspect of his/her own current research, articulating how it sustains new design work in landscape architecture and/or how it contributes to the discipline’s discourse. The spectrum of approaches and inquiries presented in the course raised questions about the discipline’s identity and agency, its relationship to other design and planning disciplines, and its future in relation to changing cultural, social, economic and technological conditions. Students engaged in weekly seminars to discuss assigned readings and topics presented in lectures.

Guest Speakers:
- Richard Weller
- Nicholas Plewman
- Anuradha Mathur
- Dilip da Cunha
- David Gouverneur
- Karen M’Closkey
- Christopher Marcinkoski
- Ellen Nemes
- Laurie Olin
- David Leatherbarrow (Architecture)
- Randall Mason (Historic Preservation)
- Dana Tomlin

"View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm," Thomas Cole, 1836
credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908 (www.metmuseum.org)
Topics in Representation (fall)
LANDSCAPE DRAWING
Instructor Valerio Morabito
The objective of this course was to provide students with the representation tools needed to capture the essence of a site. In order to develop this capacity, students studied sites in different parts of the world – Morocco, Cuba, Argentina, Chile, Italy – through photographs and Google Earth. Students engaged in exercises to improve their ability to understand and capture the quality of landscape without direct physical experience.

Topics in Representation (spring)
LANDSCAPE DRAWING
Instructor Laurie Olin
The course was intended to develop and improve fundamental skills in freehand drawing with an emphasis upon landscapes, their elements and issues. A fundamental aspect of the class was to practice looking and seeing the world and its visual phenomena more carefully. Students drew in class time and had weekly out-of-class drawing assignments. There were in-class lectures and demonstrations followed by student practice and application. In cold and inclement weather the class met indoors; as the weather improved in the spring they moved outdoors, drawing on campus and in the city of Philadelphia. Student work was presented and discussed together as a group.

Topics in Professional Practice (spring)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
Instructor Lucinda Sanders
In order to effectively transform the globe by enriching sustainable human habitation at a multiplicity of scales, today’s emerging landscape architects are well served by developing an awareness of the potential paths to effect change. Finding one’s voice to stand behind change is as critical as the formulation of a path. Leadership, therefore, becomes an important component to the future of each landscape architect and the future of landscape architecture. The emphasis of the course was on leadership, self-awareness and self-description, career trajectories, rules and intricacies of practice, relational awareness, business constructs, and organizational culture. Class time was comprised of lectures, seminar discussions, student presentations, and site visits. Class preparation included presentation preparation, readings, a reflective paper, and a half semester project. Time outside of the regularly scheduled class was devoted to in-depth career counseling in small-group format.

Topics in Digital Media (fall)
NON-STATIC REPRESENTATION
Instructor Todd Montgomery
Landscapes are dynamic systems, but still imagery remains the dominant mode of representing ideas. Growth, sound, procession, phasing, programming, seasonal shifts, and ecological succession are all issues that arise when designing in the landscape. It was the underlying philosophy of this course that these complex ideas could often be more clearly represented using appropriately dynamic media. Through the introduction of motion and interactive design software, coupled with a critical look at cinema, theater, and web design through the lens of landscape, this course aimed to arm students with compelling and novel ways of telling stories and representing ideas.

Topics in Digital Media (fall)
INTEROPERABLE TERRAINS
Instructor Keith Kaseman
This course developed experimental design workflows that relied upon interoperable potentials between parametric, manual, digital and physical operations. Students first developed then utilized a precise set of tools and procedures in order to establish and control digital models with a high degree of precision and behavioral flexibility. Digital explorations were manipulated to generate physical “feedback” constructs, which in turn operated upon and were analyzed to further inflect digital and parametric progressions. Explorations performed by teams of two culminated in a final “parascape” project. Final deliverables included physical constructs, composite renderings, and descriptive diagrams of the iterations and operations performed using Grasshopper, Rhino and Illustrator.
Topics in Digital Media (spring)
DIGITAL FABRICATION: SIMULATED NATURES
Instructor Keith VanDerSys
Assistant instructor Joshua Freese
This seminar explored the value and potential of computer-aided analysis, design, and manufacturing’s (CAD/CAM) role in contemporary landscape architecture. Computation has greatly expanded the means by which designers can engage the temporal and relational qualities inherent to the dynamic medium of landscape. Students engaged in geospatial analysis, computational flow dynamics, and parametric software to investigate new modes of defining, articulating, and reorganizing a small vacant site on the banks of the Delaware River. Class time included demonstration of relevant techniques, topical presentations, reading discussions, and hands-on working sessions. The course also utilized PennDesign’s Fabrication Lab for expert demonstrations and tutorials from the lab staff.

Topics in Digital Media (spring)
MODELING GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE
Instructor Dana Tomlin
The major objective of this course was to explore the nature and use of raster-oriented geographic information systems (GIS) for the analysis and synthesis of spatial patterns and processes. It was oriented toward the qualities of geographical space itself (e.g. proximity, density, or interspersion) rather than the discrete objects that may occupy such space (e.g. water bodies, land parcels, or structures). The course focused on the use of GIS for “cartographic modeling,” a general but well-defined methodology that can be used to address a wide variety of analytical mapping applications in a clear and consistent manner. This is done by decomposing data, data-processing capabilities, and data-processing control techniques into elemental components that can then be recomposed with relative ease and with great flexibility. The result is what amounts to a “map algebra” in which cartographic layers for individual characteristics such as soil type, land value, or population are treated as variables that can be transformed or combined into new variables by way of specified operations.

Topics in Digital Media (spring)
ADVANCED TOPICS IN GIS
Instructor Dana Tomlin
This course offered students an opportunity to work closely with faculty, staff, local practitioners, and each other on independent projects that involved the development and/or application of geographic information system (GIS) technology. These projects often took advantage of resources made available through Penn’s Cartographic Modeling Lab. The course was organized as a seminar - a series of weekly meetings and intervening assignments that ultimately lead to the implementation and presentation of student-initiated projects. Topics for these projects ranged from the basic development of geospatial tools and techniques to practical applications in a variety of fields.

Topics in Digital Media (fall)
CARTOGRAPHIC MODELING
Instructor Dana Tomlin
The purpose of this course was to equip students with a selected set of advanced tools and techniques for the development and customization of geospatial data-processing capabilities. Students were introduced to the use of the JavaScript and Python computer programming language in conjunction with Google’s Earth Engine, ESRI’s ArcGIS, and the open-source Quantum geographic information systems (GIS). The course was conducted in a seminar format with weekly sessions devoted to lectures, demonstrations, and discussions. The course also utilized PennDesign’s Fabrication Lab for expert demonstrations and tutorials from the lab staff.

Yifang Zhang, cartographic modeling
Dan Ke, simulated natures

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Topics in Ecological Design (spring)
GREEN ROOF SYSTEMS
Instructor Susan Weller
Assistant Instructor Steven Benz
This course addressed the fundamental knowledge required to envision, make the case for, design and build living green roofs and landscapes over structure. While the course provided the foundation for understanding the appropriate application of different green roof systems, the focus was on the integration of architecture and landscape to help replenish our diminishing resources—particularly the preservation of land and the capture and reuse of rainwater. Students were introduced to basic considerations of the planning and design process including site, architectural and structural considerations, materials and their applications, detailing of systems and the construction process. Presentations were given by landscape architects, architects, structural engineers and contractors who have collaborated to build significant projects. Site visits were also made to locally complete or in-construction projects. Knowledge was practically applied through a series of sketch problems requiring various aspects of planning, design, detailing and construction administration.

Topics in Ecological Design (spring)
RECLAMATION OF LARGE-SCALE SITES
Instructor William Young
Assistant Instructor Amy Pia
This course presented case studies and practical techniques for the restoration of large tracts of disturbed lands. The course began by introducing a background in scientific disciplines including chemistry and geology, with particular emphasis on the fundamentals of ecology. This hands-on course used examples of actual projects to practice the techniques for reclamation and development. There was a strong focus on site assessment and natural resource planning, leading to informed and holistic site development and design. Guest lecturers contributed additional perspective and expertise on topics such as geology, soils, stormwater management and environmental permitting.

Topics in Construction, Horticulture and Planting Design (fall)
URBAN HORTICULTURE AND PLANTING DESIGN
Instructor David Ostrich
This course began with a brief overview of woody plant physiology focusing on the relationship of the individual plant structures to their environment. Basic concepts in soil science were discussed in relationship to their effect on plant growth. The course also covered horticulture techniques, such as pruning, grafting and others common to the urban environment. Sources and types of woody plant material suitable for the urban environment were explored through plant identification and an examination of horticultural characteristics. The course culminated with discussions of typical urban planting conditions and corresponding details. These conditions included at grade plantings, raised decks and vertical surfaces. Emphasis was placed upon details that promote sustainable plant growth in human environments.

Topics in Construction, Horticulture and Planting Design (fall and spring)
ISSUES IN ARBORETUM MANAGEMENT I AND II
Coordinator Jan McFarlan
The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania provided a case study in public garden management. Aspects of horticulture, landscape design, education, conservation, history, preservation, and management were considered. Work often included seminars followed by outdoor practical sessions. Field trips, some all day, provided comparisons with the operations of other managed public landscapes and natural areas. As part of the requirements for Issues in Arboretum Management II, the students were also required to research, design, complete and present a project as part of their work. This course (offered annually in the fall and spring) is an internship that meets at the Morris Arboretum in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia.
Topics in History and Theory (spring)
THERAPEUTIC LANDSCAPE IN AMERICA
Instructor  Aaron Wunsch
Teaching Assistant  Jennifer Carr
This seminar grappled with a significant and sometimes elusive topic: the "therapeutic" landscape in American history. The course began by examining the theoretical literature on what constitutes a therapeutic landscape, whether the concept can be applied beyond a specific era, and what it does and does not explain. Attending to differences as well as connections, students studied the rise of penitentiaries, asylums, hospitals and cemeteries as physical environments, keeping in mind the productive tension between their idealistic origins and sometimes dystopic realizations. "Landscape" in its broadest sense was the focus – not simply buildings, siting, circulation, and planting, but the cultural significance of these elements.

Topics in Theory and Design (fall)
DESIGNED ECÓLOGIES
Instructor  Ellen Neises
This course explored the conceptual, artistic and scientific dimensions of the natural world as a source for invention in design. Rather than understanding ecology as a mandate for conservation of what’s left, or restoration of what was, this course thought of it as a source of insight into creative actions that might produce richer future iterations, aiming to open up possibilities for unusual collaborations of art and nature. The course looked at ecology from many standpoints, mining philosophy and technique. Critical analysis of texts and case study projects built a repertoire of ideas and operations that students could pursue in their design work. Guest lectures by an artist, photographer, landscape historian, botanist, agricultural engineer and hydrologist contributed varied perspectives on course topics. Students responded to course texts and lectures in two projects: a written essay and a visual essay or design study realized in model, drawing, collage, video or animation.

Topics in Theory and Design (fall)
LANDSCAPE THINKING RESEARCH SEMINAR
This seminar gave students the opportunity to start to specialize in their own area of interest by allowing them to choose a subject and then develop a bespoke research methodology for exploring that subject area. The "Landscape Thinking" seminar was based primarily on conversations through which individual research topics were developed and refined. The primary outcome for each student was a written research report including a critical literature review, precedent/site survey and an articulation of a proposed design methodology (modus operandi), along with a visual presentation and oral defense. This course served as a pre-requisite for the LARP 702 Modus Operandi Independent Research Studio offered the spring of 2014.

Topics in History and Theory (spring)
CASE STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY URBANISM, LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN
Instructor  David Gouverneur
Assistant Instructor  Aron Cohen
This course introduced students to a wide array of contemporary case studies in planning, urban design, landscape architecture and architecture. The course explored theories and practices of sustainable development, the use of transportation and infrastructure as tools to shape urban form, the rehabilitation of historic districts and commercial corridors, and the improvement of squatter settlements. The course also discussed the production of new urban form including city expansions and new towns, housing and mixed-use developments and areas of new centrality. Compelling recreational landscapes, parks, botanical gardens and the transformation of post-industrial waterfronts were also addressed. Through case studies and class discussions participants gained a better understanding of how different criteria, methods and design tools allow for the creation and improvement of the public realm: the interplay between open space and the built environment. Students heard presentations by Oscar Grauer, David Graham Shane, Lena Soffer and Daniel Vasini, who shared cutting-edge knowledge derived from their professional practices and research.

Topics in History and Theory (spring)
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND DESIGN
Instructor  Ellen Neises
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INDEPENDENT STUDY

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR IN SEOUL, KOREA (fall)
Student  Miseon Kim
Faculty  David Gouverneur
Seoul has developed with numerous core areas, resulting in unbalanced growth. This multi-centric growth has led to high concentrations of population in certain areas, causing congestion and disconnection, and to further isolation of the urban poor. In order to achieve balanced city growth, a new strategy is required to integrate all the different patches and urban components. This independent study began with research of the city's development history and the analysis of current conditions with GIS. Ultimately, a strategy was proposed using existing streams to connect centers through a new multi-functional ecological corridor.

PREEMPTIVE [IN]FORMALITY (fall)
Student  Leonardo Robleto
Faculty supervisor  David Gouverneur
Conducted in conjunction with the Historic Preservation course, The Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites, this independent study involved the development of a design proposal to raise the visibility of ancestral Puebloan hydrology and agricultural features at Far View, an archaeological site in Mesa Verde National Park. The lack of signage or any other means of description or interpretation, combined with poor landscape management and the lack of adequate pedestrian access, has rendered the landscape ineffective in communicating how the ancestral Puebloans engaged the landscape and harvested water, arguably the most valuable commodity in the arid climate of the Four Corners region. In addition, the project was the desire to create an intervention in the landscape which would provide a teaching and educational platform which would assist local Native American tribes with the revival of traditional dry farming techniques. The last major objective was the implementation of an interactive way-finding system which would allow for dynamic interaction with the archaeological remains, the existing native vegetation, and the re-introduced agricultural vegetation.

DEEPENING RESILIENCY DESIGN:
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF COASTAL DEFENSE INVESTMENTS (spring)
Student  Yelena Zolotorevskaia
Faculty supervisor  Richard Weller
This independent study, resulting in a research paper, focused on positioning "locality" and place attachment within the resiliency discourse. The goal was to explore how the massive infrastructural investment in coastal communities impacts residents’ attachment to place, and whether design can strengthen that attachment rather than use it as a force of displacement. Also explored were the tensions and struggle over physical space in the city, and how resiliency efforts have added or detracted from creating democratic and open urban spaces.

AN INVESTIGATION OF PUEBLOAN HYDROLOGY & FLORA: THE RE-ACTIVATION OF PUEBLOAN WATER COLLECTION DEVICES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF HISTORIC PLANTINGS AT FAR VIEW, MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK (fall)
Student  Naima Sweeting
Faculty supervisor  Anuradha Mathur
Conducted in conjunction with the Historic Preservation course, The Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites, this independent study comprised both a written research component and a graphical mapping of certain hot-spots where a pre-emptive approach should occur.
SUMMER INSTITUTE JULY 29 – AUGUST 23, 2013

Week 1 DRAWING
Instructors Nicholas Pevzner and Rebecca Popowsky
This five-day course for three-year MLA students explored drawing not only as a means of graphic representation and communication, but as a tool for seeing, measuring, and understanding the urban landscape — its objects, systems, spaces, relationships, and conditions. Students focused on precision, measure, legibility, and clarity of mark, exploring working methods to bring these qualities to drawn iterations of the urban landscape. This "crash course" aimed to familiarize students with the effects of an array of drawing tools and techniques, and to begin to develop a visual vocabulary that could be expanded into the fall semester.

Week 2 COMPUTING
Instructor Keith VanDerSys
Assistant instructor Marie Hart
This five-day session introduced the three-year MLA students to the facilities of digital media as the primary mode of design visual communication. The course provided a short, yet intensive, hands-on inquiry into the production and expression of digital media that is essential for all designers. Through a series of working labs, students learned various software applications and associated techniques to execute precise two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional concepts. Students also learned the PennDesign systems, network basics and computer lab procedures.

Week 3 STUDIO METHODS
Instructors Nicholas Pevzner and Rebecca Popowsky
This week-long course for three-year MLA students delved into the representation, construction, and manipulation of topography and landform. The course introduced tools, techniques, and processes for designing with landform, and thoroughly explored the concepts of scale and contour. Using drawings and models, it developed a studio working method that emphasized the precise and the iterative testing of design proposals.

Week 3 LANDFORM AND GRADING
Instructor Cora Olgyay
Teaching assistant Anneliza Kaufer
This three-day session for two-year MLA students aimed to provide an appreciation of landform as both an evocative component in the design vocabulary and as a critical tool in resolving difficult design problems. Basic techniques and strategies of grading design were introduced and reinforced, so that grading design becomes an integral part of the students’ design approach. This session is intended to provide a concise overview of the principles and process of landform and grading design, and is designed to prepare the entering two-year students for Workshop III.

Fieldtrips for Three-Year Students:
- Wissahickon Creek Valley, Pennsylvania
- John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
- Bartram’s Garden
- Valley Forge National Historical Park
- Eastern Bank of the Schuylkill River
- The Highline
- Anacostia River, Washington DC
- West Side Parks
- The Highline
- Fairmount Waterworks ruin, Manayunk Canal, Venice Island, Fairmount Waterworks and the Schuykill River Trail park
- University of Pennsylvania Campus
- The High Line in New York City
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Fieldtrips for Two-Year Students:
- Wissahickon Creek & Schuykill River, Pennsylvania
- Gettysburg Academy
- Penn Park
- John Heinz National Wild Life Refuge
- Hudson River, New York City
- Valley Forge National Historical Park
- The Highline
- Anacostia River, Washington DC
- Diamond Teague Park
- Georgetown Park
- East River, New York City
- Brooklyn Bridge Park

Week 4 NATURAL SYSTEMS
Instructors Sarah Willig and David Ostrich
Teaching assistants Stefanie Loomis, Eduardo Santamaria, Joshua Seyfried
The purpose of this five-day session for both two-year and three-year MLA students was to: introduce students to the varied physiographic provinces and associated plant communities of the greater Philadelphia region; characterize and analyze plant communities and consider the connections between climate, geology, topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and disturbances, both natural and anthropogenic; and develop a strong familiarity with the local flora (native and non-native) including plant species identification and recognition, an understanding of preferred growing conditions, and potential for use. Three-year students visited natural areas representative of the physiographic provinces of the Philadelphia region extending from the barrier islands of New Jersey to the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania. Two-year MLA students visited constructed landscapes that incorporate and foster ecological infrastructure at differing scales.

Week 4 COMPUTING
Instructor Keith VanDerSys
Assistant instructor Joseph Marvel
This three-day session introduced the two-year MLA students to the facilities of digital media as the primary mode of design visual communication. The course provided a short, yet intensive, hands-on inquiry into the production and expression of digital media that is essential for all designers. Through a series of working labs, students learned various software applications and associated techniques to execute precise two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional concepts. Students also learned the PennDesign systems, network basics and computer lab procedures.
LECTURES
Michael Van Valkenburgh
Principal, Van Valkenburgh Associates
September 18, 2013
Rania Ghosn
Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning
“When are the Missing Spaces”? October 21, 2013
Teresa Gali-Ibard
Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture
School of Architecture, University of Virginia
“The Top” November 7, 2013
Kate Orff
Principal, Scape/Landscape Architecture, NY
December 5, 2013
Mary Margaret Jones
Senior Principal, Hargreaves Associates
January 30, 2014
Sarah Weidner Astoner
Senior Associate, James Corner Field Operations
February 24, 2014
Geoff Manaugh
February 21, 2014
Erland, “7 Steps to Sculpture + Digital Fabrication” February 24, 2014

EVENTS
Penn Career Services Events
Internship Panel & Networking Session October 26, 2013
CAREERS in Architecture & Landscape Architecture Panel Discussion, February 26, 2014
Career Connection Day, Career Fair, March 28, 2014

STUDENT ORGANIZED EVENTS
Informal Talks
Beyond the Box lunch with artists Kate Kaman & Joel Erland, “7 Steps to Sculpture + Digital Fabrication” October 9, 2013
Pizza lunch with lecture series speaker: Rania Ghosn October 21, 2013
Beyond the Box lunch with Andy Dawson, “Polemical Positions” November 6, 2013
Morning After Lecture with Teresa Gali-Ibard November 8, 2013

SCALE/SCOPE Symposium Organized by Josh Jordan and Nick McCintock, Anooshey Rahim, and Graham Prentice Participants included: Brent Buckman, Hypheae Design Lab; Luis Callejas, LCLA Office, Harvard GSD; John Peterson, Public Architecture; Chris Scewol, MASS Design Group; Anne Trumble, Emerging Terrain October 23-21, 2014
PennDesign Dean’s Office, GAPSA, March 20-21, 2014

EVENTS
PennDesign Alumni Reception at the ASLA Annual Meeting in Boston Celebration of 100 years of Landscape Architecture at Penn with current chair Richard Weller and former chairs Anne Whiston Spin, John Dixon Hunt and James Corner Book Launch *Transects: 100 Years of Landscape Architecture at the School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania* Authors: Richard Weller and Meghan Talarowski “Landscapes of [Substance]” Creative Directors/Editors: Ashley Braquet, Leonardo Robelito and Eduardo Santamaria November 15, 2013 Hosted by the PennDesign Development Office
PennDesign Ideas Day Festival September 19-21, 2013 Festival of interdisciplinary design engagement activities to encourage PennDesign students and faculty to collaborate with partners from across the University and Philadelphia. Landscape Architecture sponsored projects included: Cardboard Settlement: Construction Informatory LARP student project leaders: Kate Rodgers, Emily Silber, Angelina Jones, Anooshey Rahim; FNAR student project leaders: Theo Mullen, Daniel O’Neill Floating Islands: Insurgent Ecologies LARP faculty project leader: Mark Thomann Informal Armatures at Penn and Pop-Up Meditation Garden LARP faculty project leaders: David Gouverneur, Thabo Laimanye; ARCH project leader: Sarah Rottenberg PARKing Day Installation LARP student project leaders: Cricket Day, Alyssa Olston; ARCH project student leaders: Josh Berliner, Nick McCintock
PennDesign Year End Show May 16, 2014
PennDesign ASLA Awards Jury May 12, 2014
Students
Annelza Kaufer, MLA 2014 was selected as Penn’s 2014 Olmsted Scholar and was selected by the Landscape Architecture Foundation as one of the three graduate-level 2014 National Olmsted Scholar Finalists. MLA students Cricket Day (“Barrier Staten Island”) and Kate Rodgers (“Peripheral Multiplicity”) each received a Second Prize in the ONE PRIZE 2013 Stormproof Urban Design International Design Competition for Building Resilient Cities for their projects from the spring 2013 LARP 502 Studio 4 “Variable Energy Systems: Infrastructure for Open Waters.” Joanna Karaman and Yadan Luo were finalists. The studio was led by Ellen Neises and Nicholas Pezner. ONE PRIZE is an Annual Design and Science Award to promote Green Design in Cities.

MLA students Chieh Huang, Yadan Luo and Ying Liu along with team mates Max Hsu (MArch) and Hao Sun (MCP) received an Honorable Mention for their submission “Nesting Music” in the 2014 ULI Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition. The Hines Competition challenges multidisciplinary graduate student teams to devise a comprehensive development program for a real, large-scale site. Teams of five students representing at least three disciplines have two weeks to develop solutions that include drawings, site plans, tables, and market-feasible financial data. Their faculty advisor was Lucinda Sanders.

We missed including this in last year’s publication: MLA student Stefanie Loomis with MArch students Alex Holstein and Anna Ishii, and MCP students Thomson Kao and Katrina Flora received an Honorable Mention for their submission “Influx” in the 2013 ULI Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition. Their faculty advisor was Nicholas Pezner.

MLA students Diana Gruberg, Claire Hoch, Annelza Kaufer, Alyssa Olson, and Anoshey Rahim, were selected to represent PennDesign at an international workshop “Landscape Accessibility” in Milazzo, Sicily from May 24 – June 8, 2014. Adjunct professor Valerio Morabito organized the workshop through the Universita’ Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria. The workshop looked at the multi-ethnic cultural changes occurring in many European cities and sought to establish relationships between the central cities and their less-developed surrounding areas by creating strategic landscape interventions to promote accessibility for all.

In July 2014, six students from Penn traveled to Singapore to participate in the Vertical Cities Asia International Design Competition, organized by the National University of Singapore, and sponsored by the World Future Cities Foundation. In its fourth year, the competition is predicated on the belief that a new paradigm of high-density urban living for the next generation, which is capable of the most advanced level of technology integration, can be achieved by building up and not out. PennDesign students included, Nick McClintock (MLA/MArch), Juan Tejedor (MArch), John Lewallen (MArch), Brian McVeigh (MLA/MArch), Chi-Ye Lee (MLA/MArch) and Josh Seyfried (MLA). Assistant professor Christopher Marcinkowski and lecturer Joshua Freese served as faculty advisors.

MLA student Yadan Luo was selected to represent PennDesign at the College of Architecture and Urban Design International Design Summer School program held August 1-8, 2014 at Tongji University in Shanghai, China. The theme of this year’s program was “The Scenic Way to Countryside Landscape.” Participants were challenged to explore sustainable and innovative solutions for a rural site in Chongming, Shanghai.

The 2014 ASLA Student Awards were announced in late September. Dual MLA/MArch student Jacqueline Martinez received an Honor Award in the Analysis and Planning Category for her project, “The Plexus Spine of North Philly.”

Faculty
James Corner’s new book, co-edited with Alison Bock Hirschi, MLA ’11, “The Landscape Imagination: Collected Essays of James Corner 1990-2010” was published by Princeton Architectural Press and launched at PennDesign on April 24, 2014 at an event to honor James Corner’s twelve years (2000-2012) as chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn.

Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto has been awarded a Dumbarton Oaks fellowship in Garden and Landscape Studies in Washington, DC for the 2014-2015 academic year. Fabiani Giannetto’s project will focus on the gardens of American plantations and their foreign sources, which are traceable to England and Italy. While at Dumbarton Oaks she expects to complete the research for her new book, tentatively titled “From Palladian Villa to American Plantation: Gardens and the Idealization of Country Living.”

David Gouverneur was appointed Associate Professor of Practice at PennDesign on July 1, 2013. His new book “Planning and Design for Future Informal Settlements: Shaping the Self-Constructed City,” was published in August 2014 by Routledge. This is the first book to address future informal settlements at the global scale and calls for responsible action to address the urban challenges of the developing world.

Christopher Marcinkowski’s practice, PORT A+U, was awarded the 2014 Emerging Visions Prize from the Chicago Architectural Club and the Graham Foundation. His essay “A Brief History of Speculative Urbanization” was published in MONU 19 – Greater Urbanisms. Christopher is currently completing the manuscript for his forthcoming book, “The City That Never Was,” which will be released in fall 2015.

Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha, co-editors, assisted by Rebekah Meeks, MLA ’12 and current MLA student Matthew Wiener, published their new book “Design in the Terrain of Water” in early 2014 (Applied Research + Design Publishing, ORG Group Ltd). The book grew out of two international symposia that Mathur and da Cunha conceptualized and directed at PennDesign in 2011 and 2012 (www.hinterland.nyu.edu/). As a collection of visual and textual essays the book presents a way to imagine, image, build and advocate design in the terrain of water. Mathur and da Cunha are leading a PennDesign team on a yearlong project titled “Structures of Coastal Resilience (SCR)” with a focus on Norfork/Hampton Roads area, VA. They are one of four teams (others being

ANNOUNCEMENTS
from Harvard, City College, NY, and Princeton) working in parallel on strategies and projects for coastal resilience for urban areas along the North Atlantic Coast of America. The project is coordinated by Princeton University and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Karen M'Closkey was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure on July 1, 2014. M'Closkey's recent book “Unearthed: The Landscapes of Hargreaves Associates,” published in 2013, is the recipient of the 2014 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize awarded by the Foundation for Landscape Studies for recently published books that have made significant contributions to the study and understanding of garden history and landscape studies. “Hunts Point Lifelines” a project developed by the cross-disciplinary PennDesign / OLIN team led by Ellen Neises and OLIN partner Richard Roark, and advised by Dean Marilyn Taylor and Lucinda Sanders, was selected in June 2014 as one of six winners for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Rebuild by Design Competition (see image to the right). Hunts Point Lifelines was awarded $20 million of HUD’s Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding for planning, design and a demonstration project intended to stimulate additional public investment. The PennDesign / OLIN team included leading design, engineering and analytic practices and PennDesign students and graduates working as design and research assistants – Cricket Day, Joanna Karaman, Stefanie Loomis, Jackie Martinez, Kate Rodgers, Ian Sinclair, and Yelena Zolotorevskaya, who made significant contributions to the quality of the Hunts Point proposal. Twelve students – Ashley Brouet, Julia Carlson, Diana Gruberg, Claire Hoch, Janet Lee, Stefanie Loomis, Ian Sinclair, Autumn Visconti, Shuo Yan, Qinglan Zheng, Yichen Zhu, and Yelena Zolotorevskaya – and a number of faculty participated in a think tank studio that helped the PennDesign / OLIN team study the Sandy-affected region and identify design opportunities with the greatest potential for advancing regional resilience. Laurie Olin was named an Athenaeum Fellow by the Athenaeum of Philadelphia’s Board of Directors on April 24, 2014. The lifetime fellowship honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of history, art and architecture. Olin and Tony Akin are the recipients of a 2014 ArtPlace America grant for their work with the Santo Domingo Tribe Heritage Trail Arts Project in New Mexico. Dana Tomlin continues his work on two grants from Google Inc.; one to develop an online course on Map Algebra and the other to develop a course on Geospatial Programming. Richard Weller’s current research and publishing project titled “Atlas for the End of the World” involves mapping the difference between United Nations (CBD) biodiversity policy and what is actually on the ground in the world’s 34 biodiversity hotspots. Students and visiting scholars who have variously participated in this research are Claire Hoch, Chieh Huang, Guangsi Lin, Matthew Wiener, Shuo Yan, Yang Zhang. Weller’s last book “Made in Australia: The Future of Australian Cities” co-authored with Dr. Julian Bolleter received the West Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture’s highest award – the AILA WA Medal.
Chairman Richard Weller and Meghan Talarowski, MLA ’2013 published “Transects: 100 Years of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania” in early 2014 (Applied Research + Design Publishing, ORO Group Ltd). The book is a “transect” of time, through the observations of the people, events and designs that have defined the century, and was launched in Boston at the PennDesign alumni reception held in conjunction with the ASLA Annual Meeting on November 15, 2013.

“Landscapes of [Sub]stance” was published in early 2014 (ORO Editions) by the MLA students who were asked to address what landscape architects can do today in the face of the big issues that this world of our own making now presents, such as food, energy and waste. The creative directors were Ashley Braquet, Leonardo Robleto and Eduardo Santamaria. Student authors included Anneliza Carmalt Kaufer, Diana Gruberg, Claire Hoch, Joanna Karaman, Youngsoo Kim, Janet Lee, Kuhn Lee, Suzanne Mahoney, Alyssa Olson, Anooshey Rahim, Michael Shafir, Ian Sinclair, Autumn Visconti, Matthew Wiener, and photographer Barrett Doherty. Faculty advisors were Richard Weller and Tatum Hands. The book was launched at PennDesign on April 24, 2014.

PennDesign and the digital publication “Scenario Journal” announced their affiliation in the fall of 2013. Lecturers Stephanie Carlisle and Nicholas Pevzner are the editors-in-chief. The journal investigates complex urban landscape and infrastructural issues, focusing on interdisciplinary conversations between design, environmental science, engineering, and art. Anooshey Rahim and Autumn Visconti were the research assistants during the 2013-2014 academic year. The journal released its latest issue, “Scenario 4: Building the Urban Forest” in March 2014.

The Department has launched a new journal “LA+ Interdisciplinary Journal of Landscape Architecture,” which will be published twice a year by ORO Editions. Tatum Hands is the editor-in-chief and Richard Weller is the faculty advisor. The student editors of the first issue “LA+ WILD” are Adela Park, Kate Rodgers and Michael Shafir. The student editors of second issue “LA+ PLEASURE” are Cricket Day, Richard Fisher, Miriam Grunfeld and Chieh Huang. The journal explores issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, provoking new modes of creative inquiry and practice. Its mission is to reveal connections and build collaborations between landscape architecture and other disciplines. LA+ is generously supported by its patrons and donors – Andropogon, dLandStudio, James Corner Field Operations, Ken Smith, Mathews Neilsen, !melk, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, OLIN, Scape, Snøhetta, Stoss, and Terrain Studio.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

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STUDENT AWARDS

Ian L. McHarg Prize
Established in 2001. Awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in design and best exemplifies ecological ideals in contemporary and culturally pertinent ways. This prize is awarded in memory of Ian L. McHarg, 1900-2001, distinguished professor of landscape architecture, pioneer of ecological design and planning, and one of the most influential landscape architects of the twentieth century. Awarded to Anooshey Rahim

Laurie D. Olin Prize in Landscape Architecture
Awarded to a graduating student who has achieved a high academic record and demonstrated design excellence in the making of urban places. Laurie D. Olin is one of the world’s foremost leaders in contemporary landscape architecture and founder of the internationally acclaimed OLIN studio in Philadelphia, designing some of the world’s most significant urban public spaces. Established in 2010 by the OLIN studio in honor of practice professor Olin who has served on Penn’s faculty of landscape architecture since 1974. Awarded to Leonardo Robleto Costante

Faculty Medal in Landscape Architecture
Awarded to a graduating student with an excellent academic record and outstanding contribution to the school in leadership. Awarded to Alyssa Olson

John Dixon Hunt Prize in Theory and Criticism
Awarded to a graduating student who has shown particular distinction in the theoretical and critical understanding of landscape architecture. The prize was established in 2004 and renamed in 2010 to honor the distinguished career of professor emeritus John Dixon Hunt. Awarded to Claire Hoch

Eleanor T. Widemeyer Prize in Landscape and Urbanism
Established in 2004 through a bequest by Eleanor T. Widemeyer in memory of her parents, Arthur E. Widemeyer, Sr. and Lerna E. Widemeyer, is awarded to a graduating student who has achieved a high level of design synthesis between landscape and urbanism. Awarded to Yelena Zolotorevskaya

Narendra Juneja Medal
Awarded in memory of associate professor Narendra Juneja, who served the department with distinction from 1965-1981, to a graduating student who has demonstrated deep exceptional commitment to ecological and social ideals in landscape architecture. Awarded to Yelena Zolotorevskaya

Narendra Juneja Scholarship
Awarded in memory of associate professor Narendra Juneja, who served the department with distinction from 1965-1981, to a continuing student in landscape architecture for academic excellence and demonstrated need. Awarded to Katherine Rodgers

George Madden Boughton Prize
Established in 1986 by Jestena C. Boughton in memory of her father, George Madden Boughton. Awarded to a graduating student in landscape architecture for design excellence with environmental and social consciousness and evidence of potential for future effective action in the field of landscape architecture. Awarded to Anooshey Rahim

Robert M. Hanna Prize in Design
Awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated great care for the craft, making and construction of landscape architecture. Established in 2010 by the OLIN studio in memory of Robert M. Hanna (1905-2003), who served on Penn’s faculty of landscape architecture from 1969 to 1998. Awarded to Eduardo Santamaria Ruvalcaba

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Van Alen Traveling Fellowship
Awarded to one landscape architecture student and one architecture student, in the second year of their programs, for summer travel to Europe. Awarded to Joanna Karaman

ASLA Awards
Certificates of Honor and Merit awarded to graduating landscape architecture students who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contributions to the profession. Certificates of Honor awarded to Anneliza Kaufer, Chunlan Zeng, Yelena Zolotorevskaya

Faculty Medal in Landscape Architecture
Awarded to a graduating student with an excellent academic record and outstanding contribution to the school in leadership. Awarded to Alyssa Olson

ABLA Awards
Certificates of Honor and Merit awarded to graduating landscape architecture students who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contributions to the profession. Certificates of Honor awarded to Anneliza Kaufer, Chunlan Zeng, Yelena Zolotorevskaya

Wallace Roberts and Todd Fellowship
Established in 1991. Awarded to an outstanding landscape architecture student who has finished the second year of the three-year program. Awarded to Yu-Han “Selina” Chu

OLIN Partnership Work Fellowship
Established in 1996. A prize and a twelve-week internship awarded to an outstanding Master of Landscape Architecture student entering the final year of his or her study. Awarded to Ashley Braquet

Chair’s Acknowledgement Award for Service
Inaugurated in 2013. Awarded to a single student or small group of students who have made an exceptional extracurricular contribution to the program. Awarded to Ashley Braquet

Chair’s Acknowledgement Award for Design Progress
Inaugurated in 2013. Awarded to a first year student in the three-year Master of Landscape Architecture program who has demonstrably advanced the furthest in their design capability across the course of their first year of study. Awarded to Lok Wai Wong

Susan Cromwell Coslett Traveling Fellowship
Established in memorandum of former Assistant Dean, Susan Coslett. It is awarded to a School of Design student for summer travel to visit gardens and landscapes. Awarded to Adela Park, Emily Van Gelder and Helen Yu
GRADUATES
Master of Landscape Architecture

December 2013
Roydrick Ty Austin
Victor Crujak
Youngsoo Kim
Kyung Kuhn Lee
Jillian Namehi
Leonardo Robles Costante
Eduardo Santamaria Ruvalcaba
Ian Sinclair
Autumn Visconti
Wenno Zhang

May 2014
Ashley Braquet
Laura Carey
Wess Diptee
Jason Frilentsky
Diana Gruberg
Claire Hoch
Lin Hua
Hyunbum Jung
Michaela Kaiser
Annelyssa Kaufer
Mark Kieser
Miseon Kim
Chi-Yin Lee
Janet Lee
Linyu Liu
Stefanie Loomis
Wei Ma
Erin McCabe
Shushmita Mianz
Alyssa Olson
Yini Pan
Sohyun Park
Anoop Patel
Anooshey Rahim
Daniel Saenz Cabezas
Joshua Seyfried
Michael Smith
Naia Sweeting
Chun Yan Katie Tan
Haoyang Wang
Rachel Watson
Shuo Yan
Tianyu Yang
Xiaohuan Yuan
Donald Zefirw
Chunlan Zeng
Liyuan Zhang
Yifang Zheng
Yichen Zhu
Yelena Zolotorevskaya

FACULTY

Richard Weller, Department Chair
James Corner
Dilip da Cunha
Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto
David Gouverneur
Christopher Marcinkowski
Anuradha Mathur
Karen M'Closkey
Valero Morabito
Cora Olgay
Laure Olen
Lucinda Sanders
Dana Tomlin
Jerry van Eyck
Aaron Wunsch
John Dixon Hunt, Professor Emeritus

LECTURERS

Steve Benz
Greg Burrell
Marie Hart
Lindsey Falck
Joshua Freese
Oscar Grauer
Keith Kaseman
David Maestres
Katherine Martin
Jan McFarlan
Todd Montgomery
Ellen Neises
David Ostrich
Nicholas Pevzner
Amy Pa
Yadel Rivera-Diaz
David Robertson
Andrew Schlatter
Sanjukta Sen
Meg Studer
Abdallah Tabet
Keith VanDerSys
Susan Weiler
Sarah Willig
William Young

ASLA Awards Jury (this page);
2014 graduates (opposite page);
photos: You Wu