

Issue No. 5

ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

EMBARK

2019



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our members who continue to support the chapter and whose amazing work is included in this issue.

We would like to extend a gracious thanks to our sponsors, many of whom have advertised in this magazine.

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# THE MARYLAND CHAPTER

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Founded in 1972, the Maryland Chapter of the ASLA is the professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 330 members in 2019. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation, and rehabilitation. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**BENJAMIN BOYD, PLA, ASLA**  
2019-2021 PRESIDENT



The profile of our profession has never been brighter. Advanced by a greater public awareness of climate change, stormwater management, and the environment, the demand for landscape architects to lead and contribute to the built environment is steadily on the rise. In many ways, things have never been better for the work or our reputation as practitioners. With all this good news, you might expect to hear that more people are entering the profession than ever. You, my friends, would unfortunately be mistaken.

According to the May 2019 issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, “the number of people working in the field of landscape architecture peaked at around 45,000 in 2006, then nose-dived to about 30,000 in 2013.” Everyone remembers the Great Recession right? I remember fondly trying to find a job in 2011 when college career fairs were canceled and many of those without work left the profession entirely. Fast forward to 2018 and the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported we were down to 23,500 with minimal growth predicted for our future.

How could this be? Some, as in the aforementioned issue of LAM, point to the increasing cost of education with the average student leaving school with roughly \$40k in student loan debt. Others may point to

increased “scope creep” from architects, civil engineers, and self-styled “place-makers” who seek to bring many specialist designers under one roof. Lastly, some have speculated that even the title “Landscape Architect” is too narrow, limiting, and misleading to the layman.

So what are we to do? I believe to avoid being left behind, we need to get better at promoting the brand of landscape architecture. Less of the talking about how we are misunderstood to each other and more proselytizing to others.

In that vein (and as announced in early 2019) our chapter has developed a strategic partnership with AIA Baltimore to get more of you and your work in front of one of our biggest employers, architects. More of their events will be accredited for LA CES PDHs to provide more value to your membership. We have also begun collaborative discussions with ULI, APA, USGBC, and Baltimore: Blue+Green+Just to name but a few. We have sought to join forces with our sister chapters in DC and Virginia on an exciting conference in 2021. We should be combining our efforts, not working in silos, and leveraging our unique perspective to gain recognition and opportunities from others. One of the best ways to do this is to support these efforts locally and nationally by becoming a member of the ASLA. Our members are our strength and we need more from the ranks of the profession.

In my last bit of doom and gloom, membership in our dear society is also waning. I believe the benefits of membership in ASLA greatly outweigh the costs. The amount of work our advocacy, student outreach, and other committees accomplishes is truly inspiring. But for those that don't see that benefit, I take that as a personal failure on our part to communicate what we see so clearly. If we can't express value to each other, how are we then to share it with everyone else?

There are many opportunities to contribute to this collective effort. Committees need volunteers. Panels need speakers. Issues need advocates. Students need mentors. Speakers need listeners. Whether we are members or not, each day we are challenged with the Society's mission - “to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.” There are opportunities for you to be part of that as well. I sincerely urge you to join us!

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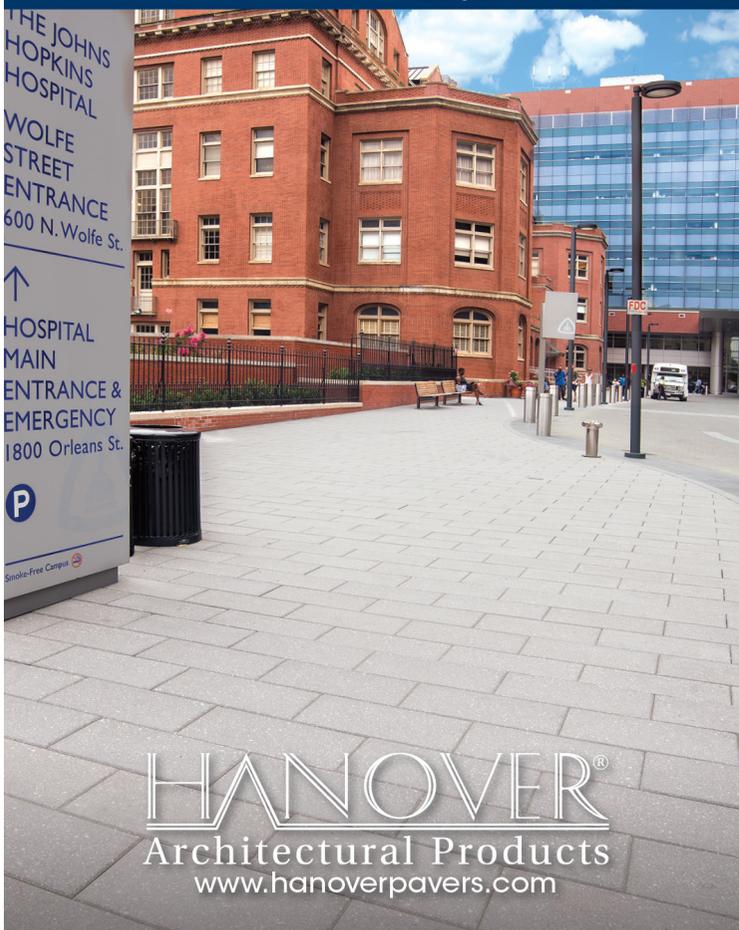
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# PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LARISSA TORRES, PLA, ASLA



## Landscape + Architecture = Landscape Architecture?

While at the National Conference on Landscape Architecture in San Diego last year, I began a list. It was out of my own curiosity and for my own reflection. But I share it here for your perusal.

- |                    |                       |                |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Engineering        | Environmental science | Construction   |
| Surveying          | Turf science          | Planning       |
| Architecture       | Climate science       | Public health  |
| Garden design      | Ecology               | Urban planning |
| Golf course design | Forestry              | Zoning         |
| All forms of art   | Horticulture          | Public policy  |
| Graphic design     | Botany                |                |
| Marketing/sales    | Cartography           |                |
| Communications     | Meteorology           |                |
| Historian          | Landscape contractors |                |
| Archaeology        | Community engagement  |                |
| Soil science       | Nursery               |                |

By now I'm sure you can tell, it is a list of professions that can intersect with landscape architecture. What have I missed? I'm sure you could add another dozen of your own.

For my last contribution to EMBARK as Past President, I am inspired to focus on THE question. What is Landscape Architecture? The presentation and discussion that prompted my brainstorm above also focused on this very loaded and challenging question. It was called Frameworks, about how we define ourselves and how we are perceived by others. It really got me thinking about how others view the profession and how we answer that question.

A comparison to other more recognizable professions could be a starting point. Calling yourself a landscape architect could be compared to saying you are a lawyer or a doctor. People generally recognize those profession titles and have an overarching set of basic ideas, responsibilities, or services associated with them. "What kind?" is often a follow on question, since people might also recognize that there are different types of doctors

and lawyers, focusing on different areas within that profession. The same SHOULD be true for landscape architecture, but it is not.

People know what we do when we specifically explain our work or share an example, they simply do not know that it is called "landscape architecture." So then, perhaps it is awareness of the term "landscape architecture" that is lacking. Using the same comparison, the general idea of what a lawyer or doctor is falls far short of describing the detailed intricacies of different types of law or medical practice, but nonetheless it is adequate for an average person to recognize and

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the built and natural environments. Landscape architects have a significant impact on communities and quality of life. They design parks, campuses, streetscapes, trails, plazas, and other projects that help define a community.

~ASLA.org "About"

distinguish those professions. So perhaps that could be a goal for landscape architecture? Not a fully encompassing definition, but a generally recognized term differentiating a profession which has many areas of specialization. Maybe the ASLA definition works?



So then, if the goal for public awareness is a general idea of landscape architecture as a profession, does the combination of the two words get us close enough? As pointed

out in the Frameworks presentation, people are not familiar with the term, so they try to use the two words which they can define separately and then put them together. This gets a little closer to that goal of people having a “general idea” of the profession. Does “landscape” plus “architecture” equal Landscape Architecture? Many of us would say no, because we are aware of the nuances of the profession, our education, and the many areas of practice.

But doctors and lawyers face the same challenge of the general public not really knowing what they do, they just have a vague/general idea. Know any doctors or lawyers who are happy to answer questions about health or legal advice outside their expertise? So for landscape architects, “landscape” plus “architecture” does actually get pretty close for people to have a “general idea” of what the profession is. It also falls short.

Where it falls short is in what is behind that general idea. People have reference points for doctors and lawyers. People are aware that there are many kinds of doctors, and to a lesser extent aware of different types of lawyers. People are not aware of the finer grain of landscape architecture, that there are different “kinds” of landscape architects. They don’t have anything more than what they know about

“landscape” and what they know about “architecture” to frame or further inform that “general idea” level of recognition. This is where the challenge comes. Overcoming that level of unfamiliarity with the term and our profession is daunting. Where to start?

Start here: So, what do you do? A typical conversation and an opportunity to fill in some of those awareness gaps mentioned earlier. But, no wonder we have such a hard time answering that question – just look at that list above! How does one explain a profession that can encompass such a breadth of information? We all have our own ways of answering the “what do you do?” question. An elevator pitch. An explanation of a job title or place of work. A description of some projects. A combination of other professional terms, maybe from that list above. Perhaps we even use something similar to the ASLA definition.



But what are the words we chose? Do you always say “landscape architect”? Or do you sometimes skirt around it, avoiding the confused look or the additional questions? Whatever else your answer entails, always say landscape architect and landscape architecture. Especially outside professional settings. This drives directly at increasing awareness of the profession. The more people hear it, learn about it, know it, become familiar with it, the more they will begin to understand. They will begin to develop that “general idea” of landscape architecture as a profession. Little by little, their understanding will expand to include those “different kinds” of landscape architects; a better awareness of the breadth of the profession. It may well seem like a drop in the bucket, but no one else is spreading the word about our profession. So we must. As the saying goes, “if not you, who?”

# TRUSTEE'S MESSAGE

OM KHURJEKAR, ASLA  
MDASLA TRUSTEE



First and foremost, thank you for the opportunity to serve as the new Trustee of the Maryland Chapter of ASLA. I appreciate your support and trust in me. It is a big task and big shoes to fill, as I will be following the foot steps of Dennis Nola, ASLA who moved on to be the Vice President of Membership of ASLA and Eric Gilbey, ASLA who moved on to fulfill other important commitments. I assure you that in the next three years of my term I will try my level best to serve the Chapter in this capacity. I am counting on my experience of serving the Maryland Chapter and National ASLA since 2002.

Our Chapter has been blessed by contributions of many smart, enthusiastic and dedicated board members in the past, including the current Executive Committee. I look forward to collaborating with the members of the Executive Committee and serving under the leadership of our enthusiastic incoming President Benjamin Boyd, ASLA and Immediate Past President, Larissa Torres, ASLA. I have strong faith that together we all will take on new initiatives in the coming year and continue to progress the current agenda.

Members, this edition of EMBARK is very special to me. EMBARK was a dream that a few of us saw back in 2010 during my term as President of the Chapter. The first EMBARK was published that year as a digital version when the dream became a reality due to the vision and tireless efforts of the 2010 Chapter President, Dennis Nola, ASLA and executive board. Following a few years later, the first print version of the new enhanced EMBARK was released. This publication was so wonderful that it was worthy of being a coffee table piece. This was only possible because of the sincere contributions of many members and the support from our incredible and dedicated Sponsors. I am very happy to see that this publication only gets better every year and serves as a premier publication that portrays the excellent and award-winning work of our members that is admired by many. My best wishes to the EMBARK team for continued success in the coming years.

I often say that I have made some of my best friends through my work with ASLA and I make it a point to share that with all the new enthusiastic people I meet. We always welcome new members and new volunteers and want to share that everyone is welcome and that every contribution counts. In closing, I would like to urge all of you to serve or contribute to the chapter in your own ways. If you are already involved, I thank you for your service. This is our strength and I strongly believe that the bigger our team, the better our work will be to make a significant and positive impact in this world! So join us and encourage others including your staff to get involved AND give back to the profession.

My best wishes to you all and I hope to interact with each and every one of you in the next year.

# MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

MATTHEW WEIR, ASLA  
MDASLA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Following the 2019 Conference on Landscape Architecture, now is a wonderful time to reflect and ask oneself: “What does my ASLA membership mean to me? What does it mean to others?”

For some, an ASLA membership means unrivaled access to a wide array of landscape architecture news, trends and developments, delivered in stimulating mediums. These resources include the striking Landscape Architecture Magazine, the Landscape Report news clippings, the LAND Newsletter, and THE DIRT and THE FIELD blogs. Such resources keep us abreast of the latest developments in our dynamic industry.

Others see their membership as an avenue to a wide breadth of training and learning opportunities. Only an ASLA membership can unlock discounts to events, ASLA’s LACES-approved webinars, and LATIS reports/exams. Of course, with all this continuing education, you will benefit from a PDH record-keeping clearinghouse, which ASLA complementarily provides.

For those with an enduring interest in a unique corner of our profession, the Professional Practice Networks (PPNs) delve into areas of specialty practice with similarly-interested colleagues. Approximately twenty PPNs

cover all aspects of our expansive profession, from parks and recreation to digital technology, from planting design to women in landscape architecture, and from environmental justice to historic preservation.

The benefits of an ASLA membership continue. ASLA also represents landscape architects everywhere by advocating for the values we all hold dear - the water we drink, the transit networks we depend on, the parks and open spaces we seek refuge in, and the importance of resilient landscapes in the growing threat of climate change. ASLA protects our profession (and the public’s health, safety and welfare) when they advocate in state legislatures to protect licensure. This ensures that landscape architects continue to serve as innovative leaders in the design, conservation, construction and environmental sectors.

As I reflect on the last couple years of my tenure on the MDASLA Executive Committee, I again ask, “What does my ASLA membership mean to me?” Beyond the benefits described above, I am struck by enriching collegial and interpersonal components of an ASLA membership. Together, we are a network of 15,000 members that regularly prove landscape architects’ strength in numbers. Being a member enables you to be a part of something bigger than yourself, give back to the profession, and shape our collective future. With a membership, you unlock opportunities to celebrate successes, exchange ideas, build relationships, and support our profession.

In 2020, our MDASLA Executive Committee will continue our Chapter’s four-pronged mission of fellowship, advocacy, communications and education. An exciting slate of awards, celebrations, lectures, field trips, chapter conference, and other networking opportunities lie ahead. Behind the scenes, our chapter will expand upon our outreach strategies to our approximately 330 members, as well as lapsed members, prospective members, and student members at the University of Maryland and Morgan State University. Additionally, we will work to maintain our chapter dues at a low-cost relative to other chapters of similar size and geography. As always, we welcome your insights, recommendations, and thoughts as to how we can best serve you. Thank you to all our members for your continued support!

[RENEW](#) or [JOIN](#)

# STUDENT CHAPTER REPORTS

## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Our student ASLA group is an important dimension of the Landscape Architecture department at the University of Maryland. It is a community of design students who support each other with ideas, connections to resources, and opportunities to grow in the field. A major part of the SASLA mission is to facilitate events that engage with our faculty and alumni, while also spreading awareness of the profession across our university and beyond.



Whether it's connecting with past members currently working in practice or among fellow students, we always seek more ways to improve our design processes and networking opportunities with local professionals

The nature of Landscape Architecture as a profession is very sociable, and is a consideration we plan for. The mentorship programs between the senior and sophomore students, and between alumni and students has cultured an inclusive learning environment. We believe the connections formed in the present will become even more significant as we progress through to our careers.

During the year, SASLA raises funds for students to attend the annual student conference called LaBash. Last year we were able to bring 30 students down to the University of Georgia to hear from some of the most notable professionals in the field and meet like-minded students from around the country. After this valuable experience, many of us are already counting down the days until this coming year's LaBash, which will take place at Cornell University.

To reflect ASLA's mission to raise awareness of landscape architecture, the student chapter joined in on the annual Park(ing) Day this year. This international initiative has now become a tradition at UMD and puts to the test our ability to work as a team and coordinate bringing our design to life.

Being a part of SASLA's events has encouraged students to better know each other in a fun and relaxed environment. We enjoy hosting smaller events, such as pumpkin carving and Thanksgiving dinners to celebrate the holidays and to bond over our love of design.

This is a taste of what we are up to, and displays our efforts to become active in a profession that we are all passionate about. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [umdlarc@gmail.com](mailto:umdlarc@gmail.com) for the activities happening through our newsletter and of other ways to become involved with our chapter.

## MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Our student ASLA chapter at Morgan State University has been busy – and growing, since last fall. Thanks largely to the efforts of our past chapter President, and recent alumnus, Chris Schoenster, our student group has developed into a true organization with goals and aspirations for our program’s increased exposure to the profession at large.

In the fall of 2018, Graduate Landscape Architecture students visited Hart-Miller Island and witnessed firsthand how the Port of Baltimore is putting dredge material to use. Increasing trends of global warming and heavy commercial traffic have combined to make dredging the channels around Baltimore’s port a more frequent occurrence, thus requiring a creative use for the resulting dredge material. One product of this dredge material has been the creation, or re-creation, of Hart-Miller Island at the mouths of the Back and Middle Rivers east of Baltimore City. This direct observation of a creative solution to the loss of island mass over time became even more relevant in the Spring semester when our first-year studio traveled to the Netherlands. Through an in-depth analysis of the ports and waterfronts of both Rotterdam and Amsterdam, our students were further exposed to strategies designed to combat sea-level rise. This exposure was instrumental in our designs for a waterfront park located in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

Chris drew on the group’s attraction to the Chesapeake watershed and initiated a spring field trip to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center located in Edgewater, Maryland. We toured the 2,650- acre campus, which spans forests, wetlands, marshes and more than 15 miles of protected shoreline, and were introduced to the long-term and cutting-edge research being performed in its natural laboratory. Of particular interest were the current methods of measuring the carbon sequestration of coastal ecosystems, as well as developing effective strategies for coastal shoreline stabilization.



In the wake of Chris’s spring graduation, we have had a changing of the guard in our student chapter executive committee. Second year students Mia Quinto and Brittney Baltimore are our new President and Vice President. Under their leadership, we have already been quite productive this fall, with a successful installation for Park(ing) Day 2019. Coordinating with the timing of Baltimore’s 18th Annual Pigtown Festival, our installation: “Building Blocks,” provided an engaging and interactive space for children and passersby as they entered and exited the festival. In Brittney’s words, “it was a series of white boxes stenciled with action words inviting the community to interact with the project by moving, drawing, painting, stacking, etc.” The 2’ x 2’ wood blocks began as a simple grid of plain white cubes that transformed over the course of the day into a colorful jumble as people painted them and moved them around to create spaces and precarious piles.

Looking forward, our student chapter plans to continue its traditional ecological approach to field trips with a spring visit to Hunters Point South Park in Long Island. After hearing Barbara Wilkes’ presentation as part of the AIA lecture series last semester, we would also like to visit some of Studio W’s projects that focus on coastal resiliency and edge conditions in New York. Further afield, we hope to organize a trip to Montreal over the winter break and are planning a design competition for the redesign of the roof garden of our building, which is located outside studio windows. We appreciate having this platform and opportunity to share the interests and adventures of the Morgan student ASLA chapter with our colleagues across the state, and reporting on the success of future events and initiatives as they unfold.

# 2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



## MANTS HAPPY HOUR

JANUARY 2019

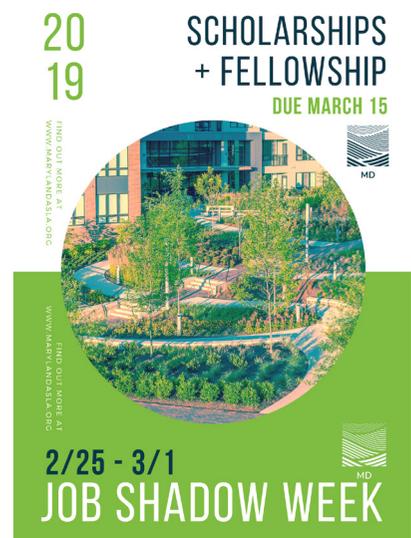
In January, following the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) the Maryland and Potomac chapters partnered once again to host a happy hour with drinks and networking.



## SHAWN KELLY LECTURE

FEBRUARY 2019

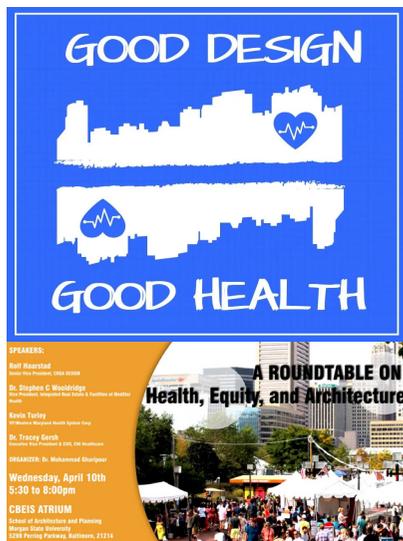
In February, the Maryland chapter was pleased to host a lecture and reception with ASLA President Shawn Kelly at Morgan State University School of Architecture & Planning.



## JOB SHADOW WEEK

FEBRUARY 2019

Also in February, MDASLA's annual Job Shadow Week was held in which 15 firms across public, private and nonprofit practices hosted landscape architecture students from Morgan State University and the University of Maryland, with a week of mentorship and networking events.



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS DESIGN SHOWCASE/ SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 2019

MDASLA partnered with AIA Baltimore and Morgan State School of Architecture and Planning on a Health and Wellness Design project showcase, and a symposium on public health and the built environment.



## ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

APRIL 2019

The chapter Awards Gala recognized design achievements across the state of Maryland, and brought together members, students, and sponsors for a celebration at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. The awards included student scholarships and fellowship and offered recognition to Maryland State Assembly representatives for support of the landscape architecture profession in state legislation and policy.

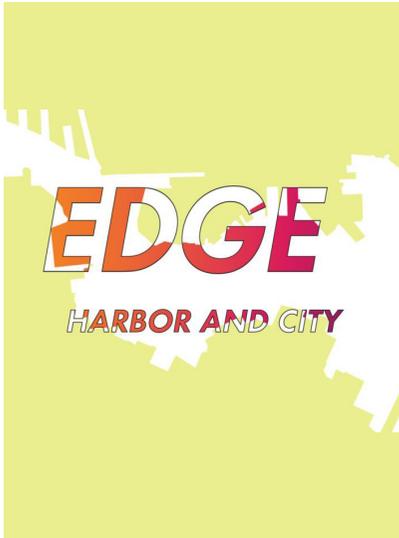


## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 2019

The Annual Conference focused on 'Specialties Across Landscape' with a diverse array of speakers for an immersive day of continuing education and interaction. The event also featured student portfolio reviews, and an exhibitor expo.

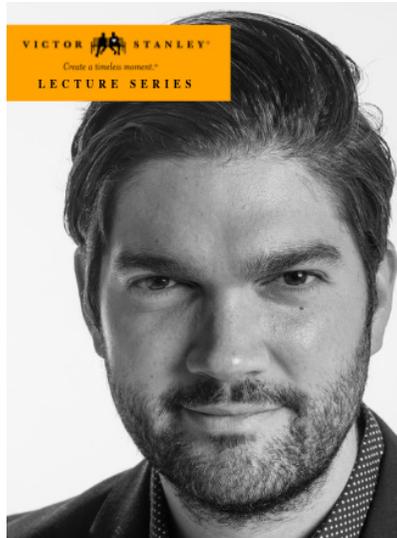
## 2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW (CONT.)



### AIA SPRING LECTURES

MARCH-MAY 2019

Throughout the spring, MDASLA served as a major sponsor of lecture series and design competition, 'Edge: Harbor and City'. With AIA Baltimore and other allied organizations, the programs addressed timely issues at urban and waterfront edges, including health and ecology, resiliency in the face of climate change, and social equity. An interdisciplinary design competition focused on design ideas for Baltimore's harbor through public exhibitions and in the design journal, T3XTURE.



### VICTOR STANLEY LECTURE

SEPTEMBER 2019

The annual Victor Stanley Lecture featured Daniel Vasini of West 8 with a talk on 'Smart Cities as Second Nature' to an audience of practitioners, students and faculty at the University of Maryland.



### [PARK]ING DAY

SEPTEMBER 2019

Firms across the state participated in ASLA's [Park]ing Day festivities to showcase creative ideas for reclaiming parking spaces as pocket parks for the day and to engage the public about the role of landscape architects. The image above is from Flaura Teeter's annual [Park]ing Day event in Mt. Vernon in Baltimore.



## ASLA ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 2019

At the ASLA Annual Meeting in San Diego, MDASLA partnered with Potomac ASLA on a happy hour to encourage our members to make valuable connections while attending the conference and expo.



## LARE PREP COURSE

NOVEMBER 2019

Our annual LARE prep course, held in November, brought instructor Cheryl Corson for a review of all four exam sessions, and to gain worthwhile knowledge, study tips, and study materials in a group setting.



## CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

In 2019, MDASLA contracted with AIA Baltimore to provide management services for the chapter, with a goal to solidify resources for chapter management and programming, and to develop more capacity for the board and member leaders to focus on strategic issues, advance member service, and create new opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement for the landscape architecture community as part of the AIA Baltimore Center for Architecture and Design to open in summer 2020.

# MEMBER EDITORIALS

In 2018, two chapter firms won National ASLA awards, both in the Research category. As part of this year's member editorials, we asked both firms to share their award-winning work with us.

## MAHAN RYKIEL ASSOCIATES DESIGN WITH DREDGE: RESILIENT LANDSCAPE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

### PROJECT STATEMENT

Every year in the Baltimore Harbor natural and anthropogenic siltation processes infill waterways and navigation channels, necessitating the removal of 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment to keep the port operating. The Design with Dredge research program brings together practitioners, community members, academics, regulatory and policy officials, and industry representatives to advance shared conceptual frameworks, planning priorities, and applied landscape strategies for resilient dredged material management in the Baltimore region. Through cross-disciplinary collaboration, compound research methods, and direct stakeholder engagement the program provides a lens through which to explore emerging and future landscape infrastructure issues facing port cities and coastal communities. It also serves as a medium for material investigation and a cooperative paradigm for engaged civic action. In recasting the clays, silts, sands, and gravels of the Baltimore Harbor as a substrate of resiliency, Design with Dredge is catalyzing the institutional and operational energy and knowledge of diverse stakeholders to reimagine what it means to live in a dynamic urban estuary where legacies of labor, innovation, and ecological justice overlap.

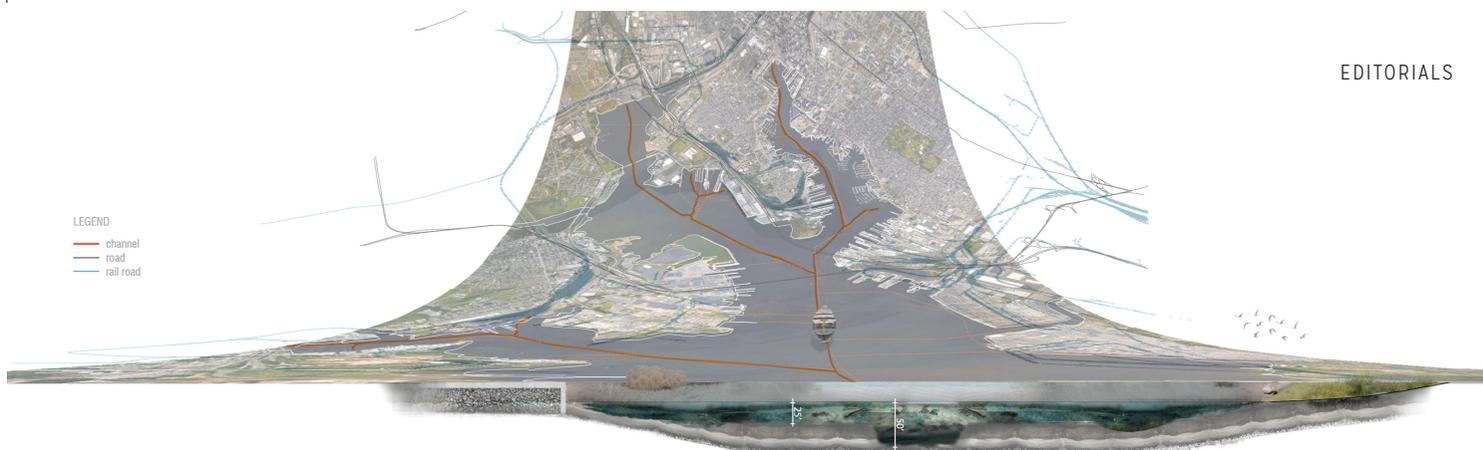
### PROJECT NARRATIVE (abridged)

Baltimore and its Port are part of a complex estuarine environment where legacies of labor, innovation, and ecological justice overlap. Every year in this dynamic environment, natural and anthropogenic siltation processes infill waterways and navigation channels, necessitating the removal of 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment from the Baltimore Harbor. Perceived predominantly as a waste product by the public and regulated by layers of state and federal legislation, these clays, silts, sands, and gravels are



the substrate of coastal cities. Yet, they remain literally and figuratively liminal; trapped between land and water, and largely untapped for their potential in constructing resilient landscape infrastructure. However, with rising seas, surging storms, and subsiding coasts there is an urgent national need and an acute call for action in Maryland for innovative dredged material management practices that support multi-dimensional resiliency that align with the interests of the state's diverse group of stakeholders.

The Design with Dredge research program is a direct response to this call, providing a platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration that is being led by landscape architects and includes community members, academics, regulatory and policy officials, and industry representatives proactively recasting and reimagining Baltimore Harbor sediment as a primary building block and essential resource for constructing



resilient urban landscapes in the region. The program utilizes design as a synthesis method to integrate the most up-to-date sediment science, regulatory frameworks, economic development agendas, and community programs to develop shared conceptual frameworks, planning priorities, and applied landscape strategies for resilient dredged material management. Within this context the Design with Dredge team has worked across space and time to deploy research methods that include cartographic projection, systems mapping, historical investigation, case studies, typology studies, suitability modeling, material testing, participatory action, and design projection to engage stakeholders, probe regulatory boundaries, and enhance the technical capacity of program partners in Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay.

This compound research strategy can be understood as individual research investigations with discrete findings, a toolkit of techniques for applied research, and an organizing strategy to catalyze civic action. They are held together by the complex and negotiated terrain of the Baltimore Harbor landscape where histories, values, and possible futures of dredged material exist in tension, and where industrial, residential, and environmental land-uses compete for the water's edge. In the context of this collaboration, the expertise and agency of individual partners is augmented

through the exchange of knowledge and engagement with an array of inductive, abductive, and deductive research methods. Greater than the sum of its parts, Design with Dredge is simultaneously a platform for pragmatic policy research, a vehicle for design innovation, and a mechanism to expand the field of action and actors in advocating for resilient landscapes.

The Design with Dredge research program represents an ongoing effort to recast and restore urban sediment as an essential component of resilient urban infrastructures. As a collaborative and interdisciplinary undertaking, the project attempts to describe the complexity and interconnectedness of anthropogenic and natural siltation processes, as well as to catalyze specific action in the Baltimore-Chesapeake region. This approach embraces the methods and knowledge of descriptive science and the normative agency of design research. In contextualizing dredged material beyond the logistical, industrial, and mechanistic, the program aims to literally and figuratively create new ground for estuarine cities upon which to grow socially, culturally, ecologically, and economically vibrant communities. By doing so, we maintain the hope expressed by the philosopher John Dewey that 'The designs of living are widened and enriched. Fulfilment is more massive and subtly shaded.'





# MEMBER EDITORIALS

## AYERS SAINT GROSS

### URBAN AQUATIC HEALTH: INTEGRATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND RESILIENCY INTO FLOATING WETLANDS

#### WATERFRONT CAMPUS PLAN

The National Aquarium’s mission is to inspire conservation of the world’s aquatic treasures. Perched on historic shipping piers on Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, the Aquarium is in a unique position to extend its mission into the waterfront just outside its doors. In collaboration with the National Aquarium, Ayers Saint Gross completed the Waterfront Campus Plan, which provides a roadmap to unify the campus as a welcoming civic space where visitors will have immersive and memorable encounters with the natural systems and the habitats of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The campus models how urban waterfronts can promote healthy water and habitats to benefit wildlife and people, and foster a sense of community by creating welcoming, green gathering spaces.

The Waterfront Campus Plan looks comprehensively at the National Aquarium campus while developing complementary, discrete interventions for unique areas of campus. The range of interventions aim to enrich the biodiversity of the harbor and demonstrate the importance of stewardship throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



#### FLOATING WETLAND

One of the interventions for the Waterfront Campus Plan is designing a more sustainable and high-performing floating wetland that promotes healthy water in an urban environment, increases the availability of nutrients, decreases harmful industrial chemicals, re-introduces native species, and increases biodiversity. The Aquarium teamed with Ayers Saint Gross and Biohabitats (and our partners McLaren Engineers and Kovacs, Whitney & Associates, continuing Studio Gang’s EcoSlip concept) to produce a wetland prototype. The prototype research evaluates habitat creation, buoyancy, and aeration.

### HABITAT CREATION

The wetlands consist of media set at different elevations, relative to the water surface to mimic the microhabitats observed in tidal marshes of the Chesapeake Bay estuary. The wetlands are designed to rest at a predetermined elevation in the water column to support a variety of habitat conditions, both above and below the water surface. A channel between wetland areas mimics a small tidal canal. This design encourages land- and water-based vegetation and provides food sources for fish, waterfowl, and crustaceans.

### BUOYANCY

In a traditional floating wetland, static levels of buoyancy keep everything at the surface for a while, but as biomass accumulates over time, researchers either have to build in more buoyancy or let everything sink. This structured floating wetland is custom fabricated with not only buoyancy foam integrated into the media, but submerged pontoons outfitted with pneumatic hoses allowing buoyancy levels to be adjusted dynamically. This entire assembly is tethered to piles that keep the wetlands in place, building in long-term resiliency. This ability to adjust buoyancy of the pontoons counteracts the added weight from biomass accumulation over time and increases the long-term life of the wetland.

### WATER QUALITY (AERATION)

The prototype aeration system allows for testing of different materials and aeration technologies to increase dissolved oxygen levels within the water body to ensure the survival of fish, oysters, and other aquatic organisms during low-

oxygen events such as algal blooms and turn-over periods. The infrastructure beneath the water line contributes to the wetland's resiliency and its ability to promote healthy water. Aeration is integrated through a network of air diffusers and airlifts to create continuous water movement around the wetland and within its shallow canal – and add valuable dissolved oxygen to surrounding water. Aeration creates a refuge for aquatic life during low dissolved oxygen events that can otherwise cause major fish kills.

### END RESULTS

The floating wetland prototype combines the research of new technologies to test its sustainability, performance, and resiliency. Every square inch of this ecological powerhouse provides a diverse range of organisms to grow, colonize, molt, spawn or eat. Quickly after the floating wetland prototype was installed, a scientist at the National Aquarium found a diversity of biofilms attracted to the floating wetland sub-structure. Their presence is the first step in broad reaching biodiversity of larger species and a more complete localized species web. The increased presence of biofilms was the first indicator of larger species inhabiting the wetland. The research team has identified species utilizing all the nooks of the floating wetland as their homes and has literally brought forgotten species of the Inner Harbor to the surface. With the success of this project, the Aquarium continues to research the impact of the wetland on water quality and biodiversity, and is currently fundraising to implement a larger intervention within Baltimore's Inner Harbor.



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# 2019 MDASLA AWARDS

The intent of the Annual Maryland ASLA Awards Program is to encourage professional excellence in Maryland and the Washington Metropolitan Area by recognizing significant completed as well as un-built Landscape Architectural projects. The objective is to bring public attention to the outstanding services of landscape architects by honoring them with professional awards for projects that demonstrate a superior quality of design and execution.

# AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**JAMES URBAN, FASLA**  
THE OFFICE OF JAMES URBAN

For outstanding contributions to the field of landscape architecture through design, advocacy, and mentorship over the length of his career.

Since joining the Maryland Chapter in 1971, James has tirelessly brought “knowledge of arboriculture and soil science to our profession and interpreting the science of trees and soil into language that has become part of the conversation of landscape architects.”



## SPENCER ELLIS AWARD

**DELEGATE STEPHEN LAFFERTY**  
**DELEGATE DANA STEIN**

The Chapter established the Spencer Ellis Award to honor the service of Spencer P. Ellis to the environment. The award is given annually to a program or organization that has made a significant contribution to the preservation and conservation of the local environment in Maryland.

Steve and Dan have demonstrated exemplary leadership advocating for issues enhancing the quality of life for all Marylanders.



Their vision for legislative policies has bettered our urban and rural environments, promoted sustainable communities and local economies, and taken on the challenges of climate change.

# STUDENT AWARDS

## MDASLA AWARDS

EMMA PODIETZ  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
MDASLA FELLOWSHIP

MIA MANNING  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
MDASLA SCHOLARSHIP

BRITTNEY BALTIMORE  
MORGAN STATE UNVIERSITY  
MDASLA SCHOLARSHIP



## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AWARDS

HONOR AWARDS: KEVIN BAKER, KATHERING FERGUSON, JASON KOHLER  
MERIT AWARDS: MICHAEL PULLANO, ERIK ROSENBAUM, KEREN ZHANG



## MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AWARDS

HONOR AWARD: WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER SCHOENSTER  
MERIT AWARD: MELANIE MARNSHOTAM

# GENERAL DESIGN

Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Professional entries in this category must be built. Typical entries include public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential design; see page 30), including but not limited to: historic preservation, reclamation, conservation, green roofs, stormwater management, sustainability, large-scale residential, mixed-use and community design.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
GENERAL DESIGN

## CENTER FOR NATURAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS AND NURSING

BOWIE, MARYLAND

PERKINS+WILL, INC.

The landscape architecture team designed a series of active and passive spaces which are integral to the program of both the CNSMN and the adjacent campus spaces. This site encompasses approximately three acres at the heart of Bowie State's campus. The landscape design solution adopted the geometry of the Fibonacci sequence found in nature as an educational tool and inspiration for patterning within the design while connecting back to mathematics/natural sciences curriculum. The spaces include a series of learning opportunities, including both outdoor classrooms and elements that celebrate the capture of stormwater. The site features two primary program areas:

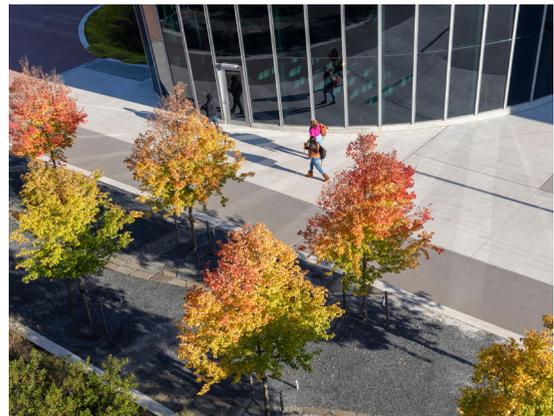
### I. Southern Arrival Terrace

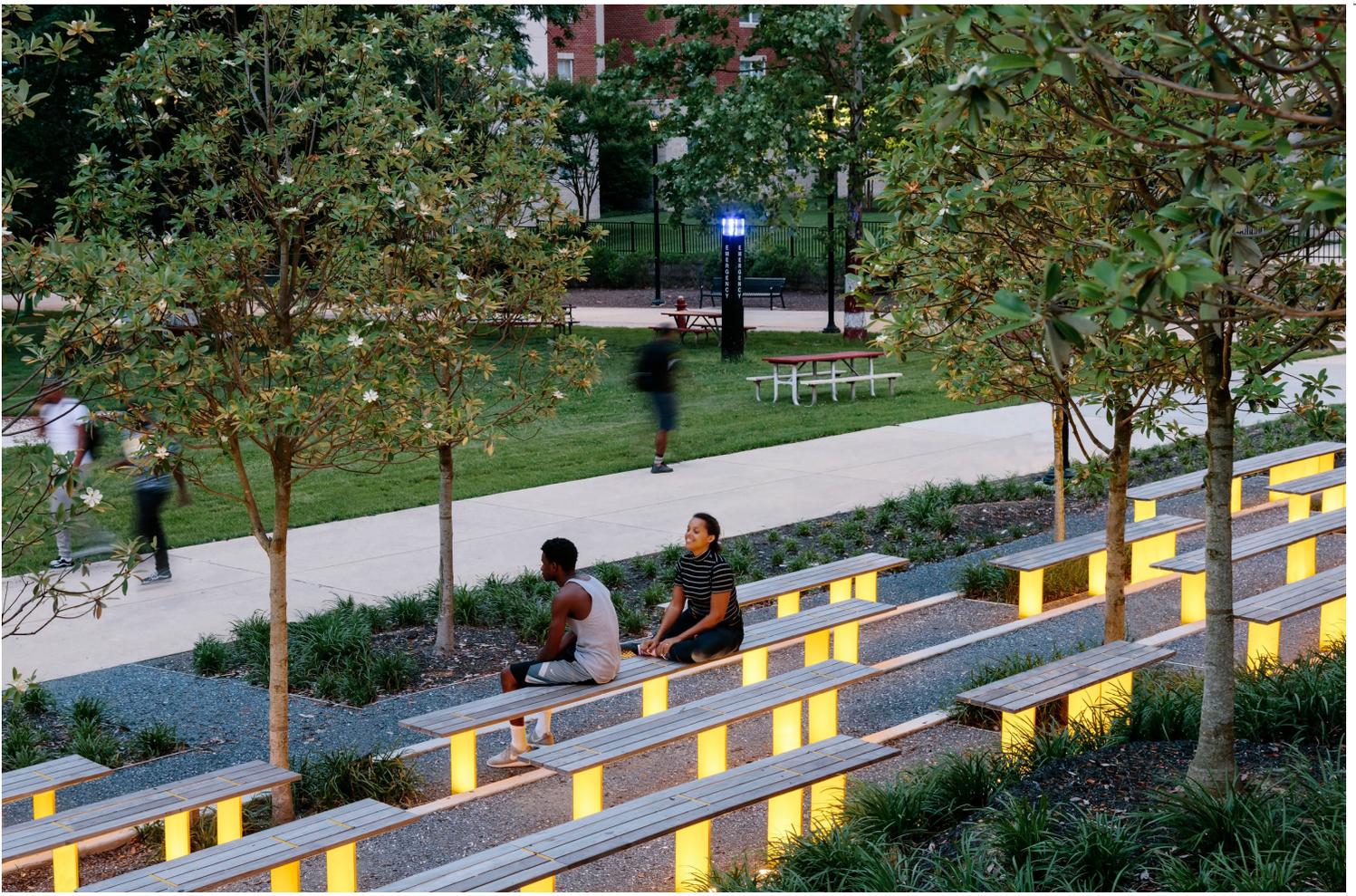
Bounded by the library to the south, the promenade to the east, and the campus mall to the west, the Southern Arrival Terrace is a collection of spaces that reinforce gathering and circulation while providing performance landscapes for stormwater treatment. The plaza features a bosque of trees in

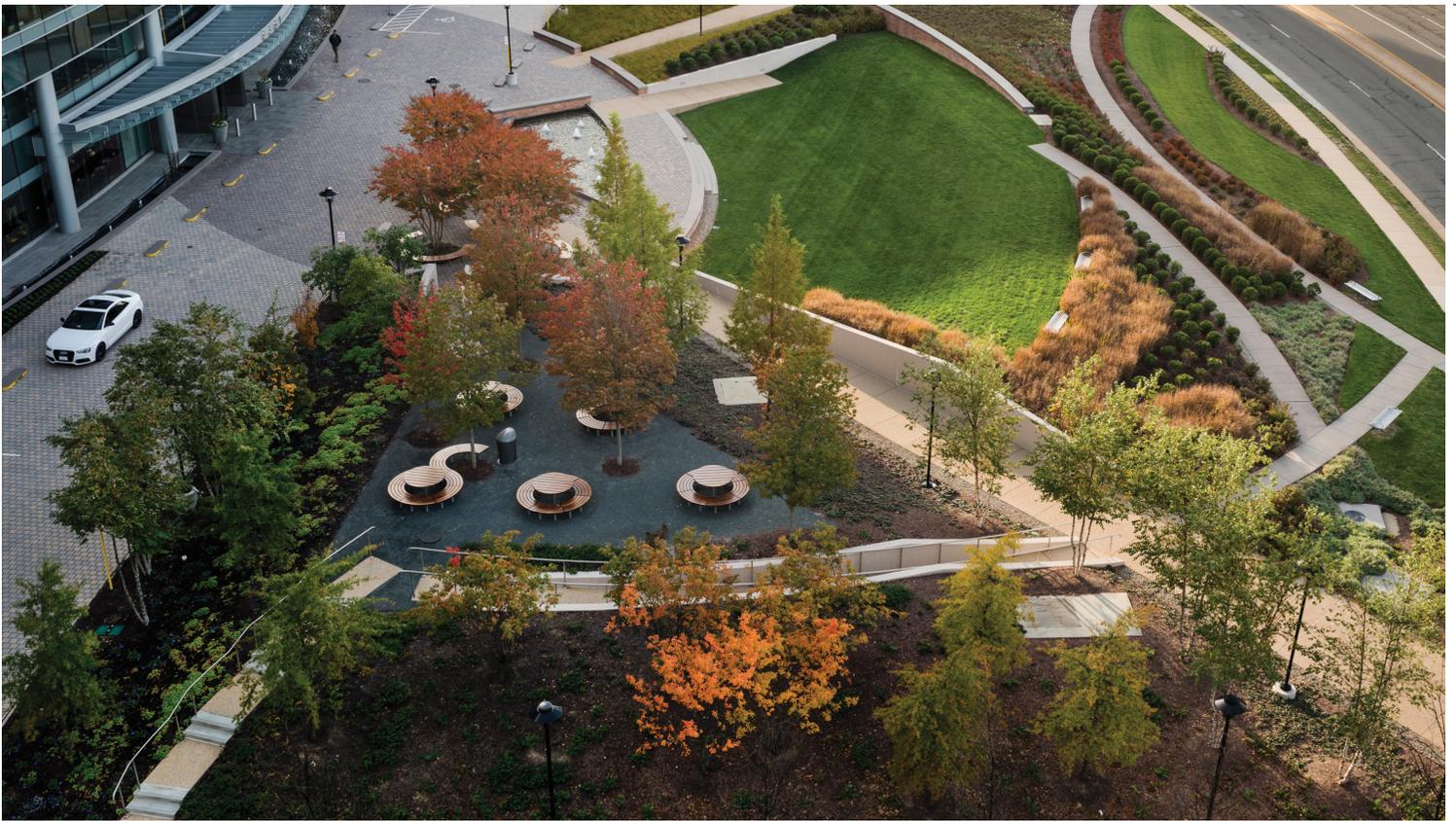
permeable stone mulch to be used for informal gatherings, a large paved open space around the oval 'icon' portion of the building, and a rain garden at the base of the 'icon'. Additional stormwater is directed into a scupper wall that daylight runoff as it spills into a cascading series of berms defined by stone banding and planting ripples.

### II. North Terrace

The North Terrace allows for more intimate, student-focused spaces including an outdoor classroom with custom-designed benches, connecting the Academic Core of campus and the residential zone. This positioning allows this space to serve both as an informal classroom space during the day and as a vibrant hang-out space frequented by students in the evenings. Additionally, a stormwater dissipater in this area utilizes forms based upon regional river deltas.







MERIT AWARD - GENERAL DESIGN

## METRO PARK VI

ALEXANDRIA, VA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BUREAU

The Metro Park VI project is comprised of a series of landscaped areas surrounding a 20-story office building located in Alexandria, Virginia. Landscape scope for the project includes a shared driveway and drop-off area, a large multi-functional outdoor space, and several ancillary spaces. The project is organized around a conceptual approach that treats the landscape, visible from several nearby office towers, as an abstract composition. The space fulfills a number of important programmatic needs including providing a shaded outdoor dining area, improving pedestrian site circulation, and a sloped lawn area for informal use. The drop-off area at the front of the building, paved in permeable pavers, culminates at a curbless entry plaza demarcated by several distinctive fountains. The compositional approach extends to the rear of the building where a fire lane is incorporated into the overall site composition.

# RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Recognizes site specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Professional entries in this category must be built. Typical entries include single or multi-family residential projects including but not limited to: activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; historic preservation; affordable landscape concepts and innovations.

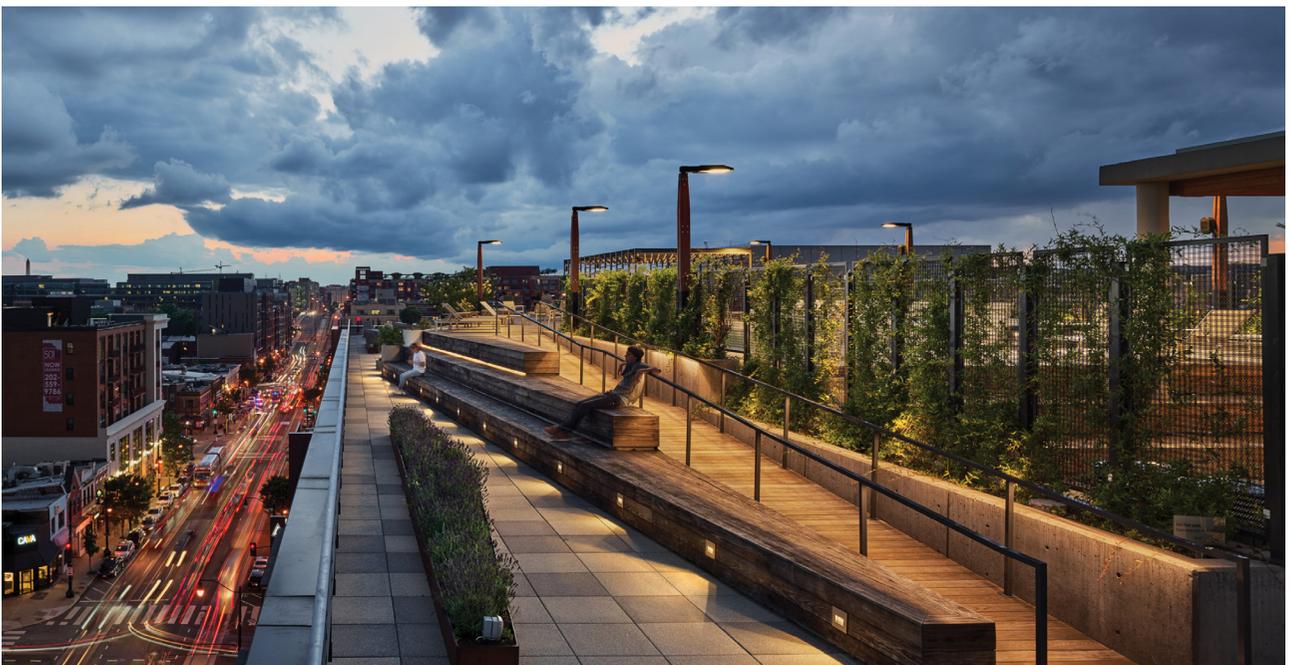
## HONOR AWARD - RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

### THE APOLLO TERRACES

WASHINGTON, DC

#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BUREAU

The Apollo is a new 8-story, 435-unit apartment and retail building whose scope includes a total of seven outdoor terraces, a retail streetscape, and two residential streetscapes. Located in Washington DC's H Street corridor, a bustling retail and nightlife district, the project takes an innovative stance toward the interrelationship of public and private spaces.



TRAVELLING AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE  
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

# SPLINTER CREEK

TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI

## LOCH COLLECTIVE

The clients envisioned their 800-acre plot of pine forest transformed into a small community (26 homes) set amongst this idyllic landscape and strung across a series of three lakes formed along Splinter Creek. We sought to connect the modern model home with the land, manipulate the landscape minimally, work with a native palette of planting, and draw people out into nature.

We visited the site numerous times to draw out the native species found throughout Splinter Creek, understand the landscape, search out the native materials, and site the home carefully on the land. A sample of grass and perennial species, naturally occurring, were collected, from which we developed a custom seed mix for upland and lowland areas.



The house was sited to float over the natural topography. A series of stone gabion walls draw ones' eyes towards the lake upon arrival. Narrow stone paths take one from each terrace out into the 10-acre site--drawing one's eyes out into nature.

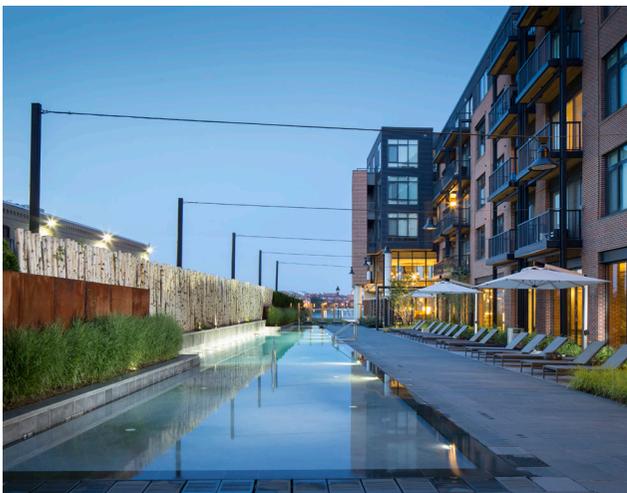
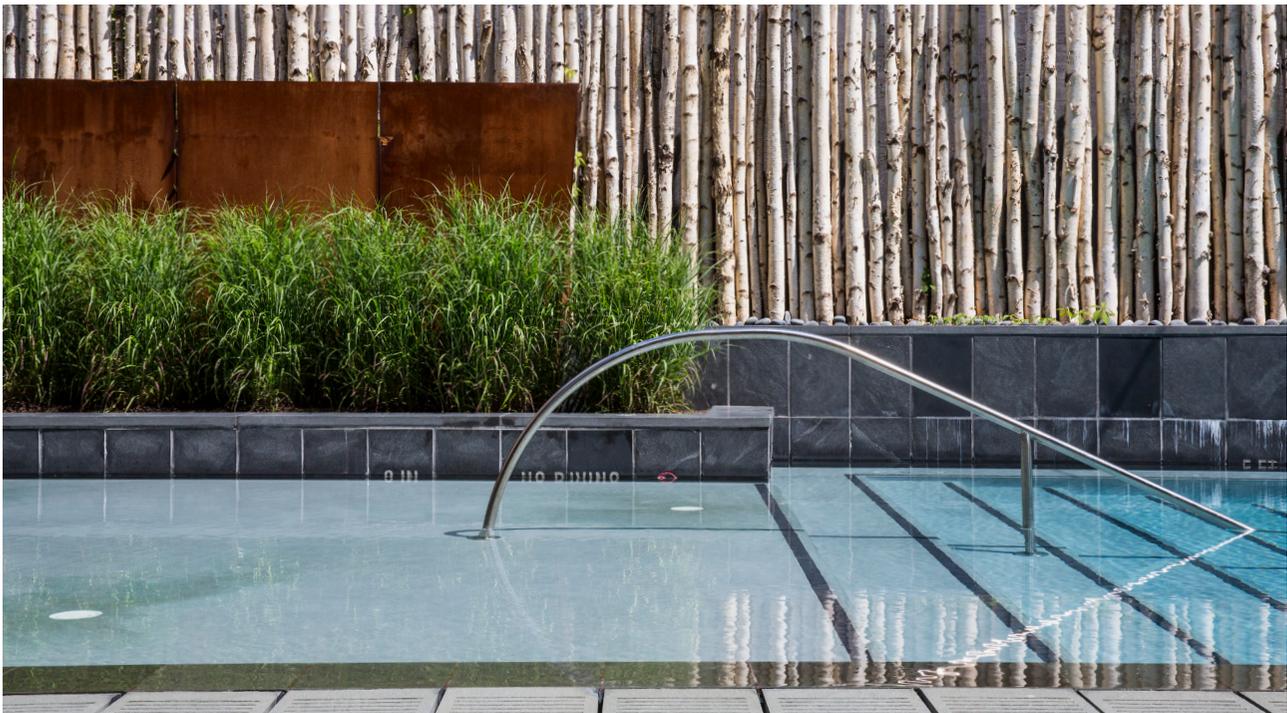
A row of seven stone boulders punctuates the lawn terrace on the private side of the home. The large stones offer beauty, an edge to the space, and a play opportunity for children. The paving stone, boulders, gravel, and wood were all carefully sourced as locally as possible to the site.



HONOR AWARD - RESIDENTIAL DESIGN  
**UNION WHARF**  
BALTIMORE, MD

MAHAN RYKIEL ASSOCIATES, INC.

Union Wharf is a mixed-use waterfront community that builds on the authenticity and character of Baltimore's historic Fells Point neighborhood. Built on a former freight rail terminal and adjacent to active shipping and boat traffic, Union Wharf connects the past with the present, through careful compositions of form, material, and texture. The project's rich palette including steel, stone, wood, and water creates an eclectic, industrial aesthetic which complements the architecture of the surrounding community.





MERIT AWARD - RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

## LAKESIDE AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

ALEXANDRIA, VA

HOEHN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LLC

Comprehensive landscape architectural design services for a \$90M 750-bed LEED Gold graduate student housing community featuring 15 new on-campus buildings and site-wide amenity improvements. The landscape architect was charged with developing an enduring natural landscape solution that would reduce long-term maintenance costs, reduce storm water runoff, and increase ground water infiltration. A sustainable landscape solution was designed featuring yard areas of predominantly non-turf native plant materials, open space meadows, five rain gardens, and a significant woodland preservation and tree replacement program.

# UN-BUILT DESIGN

Recognizes innovative vision within landscape architecture or urban design for projects that have not been built. Typical entries include unbuilt general design and residential design projects.



MERIT AWARD - UN-BUILT DESIGN  
**LANCASTER SQUARE**  
 LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 MAHAN RYKIEL ASSOCIATES

Lancaster Square is a .78 acre public space and building complex resulting from the 1960's demolition and redevelopment of historic urban fabric in response to competition from suburban malls. Due to the redevelopment's failure, the space declined into an expanse of asphalt surrounded by blank facades. Not surprising, it was little used and became a liability. Reuse of the buildings associated with Lancaster Square has been slow in arriving; however, they are now being repurposed into mixed use and are part of Lancaster's staggering revitalization.



# ANALYSIS & PLANNING

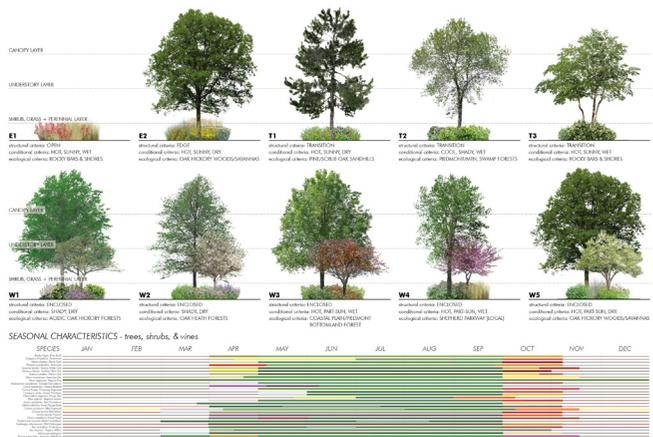
Recognizes the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architecture design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented. Entries include urban, suburban, rural or regional planning or development guidelines; transportation, town, or campus planning; plans for reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning for legislative policy initiatives or regulatory controls; cultural resource reports; natural resource protection; historic preservation planning; and more.

## HONOR AWARD - ANALYSIS & PLANNING ACCESS ROAD ECOTONES WASHINGTON, DC

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BUREAU

The Access Road Ecotones Project, a one-and-a-half mile-long fragment of new transportation and stormwater infrastructure, located in Washington, D.C., seeks to comprehensively enhance local communities and ecosystems associated with the project site. Multiple teams of experts collaborated on the design with the aim of achieving mutually beneficial outcomes for both human users and local wildlife.

### PHASE IV - PLANT SELECTION SHARED USE PATH PLANTING ZONES

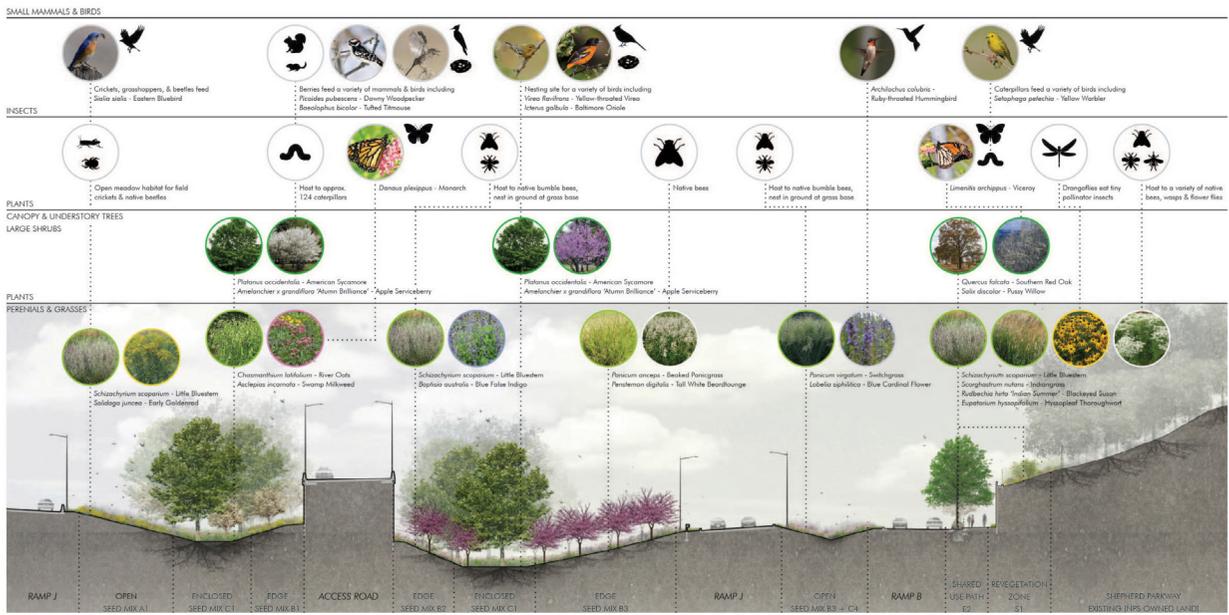


Together, the shared-use planting zones include a wide selection of native plants, organized into nineteen groups appropriate for use in urban and semi-urban conditions. These plant lists have been published for use by landscape architects in the Mid-Atlantic region.

### ACCESS ROAD ECOTONES

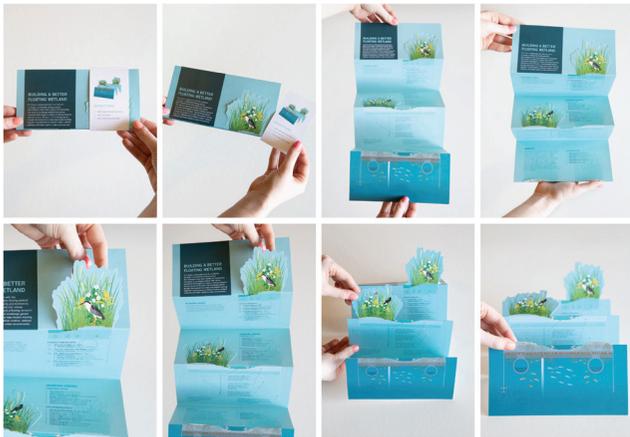
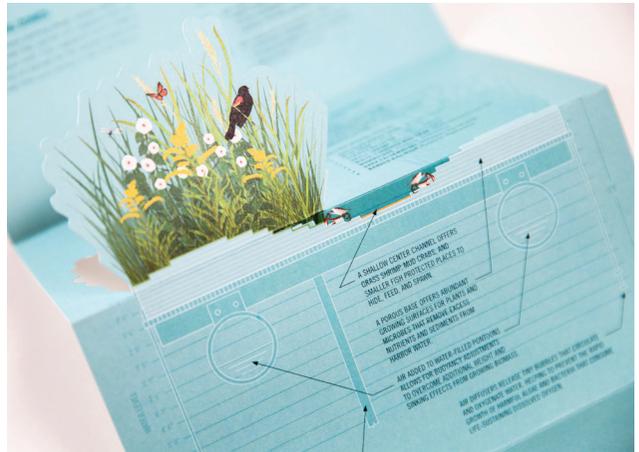
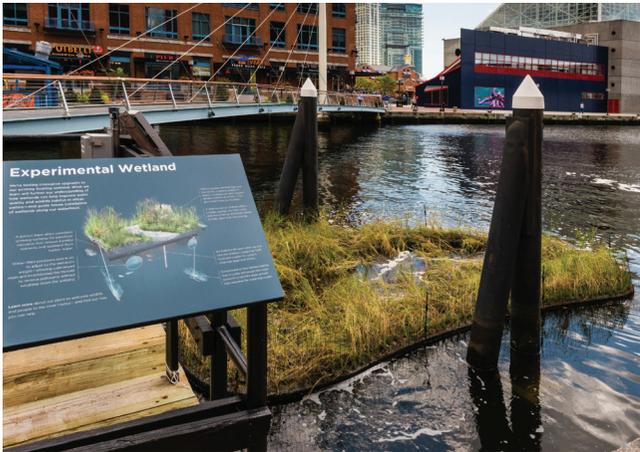
## ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

## ACCESS ROAD ECOTONES



# COMMUNICATIONS

Recognizes achievements in communicating landscape architecture works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and the lesson value to an intended audience. Typical entrants include print media, film, video, or audio communications; interpretive design; exhibition design; and more.



HONOR AWARD - COMMUNICATIONS

## FLOATING WETLAND POP-UP POSTER BALTIMORE, MD

AYERS SAINT GROSS

In 2015, the client worked with a team of designers and engineers to launch a prototype for a new floating wetland. This new, more resilient model supports stronger wildlife habitats than a traditional floating wetland. The team researched, designed and implemented a prototype in the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. The resulting science experiment has proven to be a successful model for urban aquatic health. Following the initiative, the team shared this new technology with clients, potential clients, ecologists, and the general public through an engaging campaign.



# BECOME A SPONSOR

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We are a non-profit and we depend on you and your support to deliver on our mission of promoting the landscape architecture profession in Maryland through fellowship, advocacy, communication, and education.

We have made a few updates to last year's "a la carte" style selection of sponsorship opportunities in order to offer maximum flexibility and choice to our sponsors. The package includes descriptions of this year's events and advertising options. You can pick individual opportunities or there are pre-built packages that help attain a sponsorship tier with added benefits.

If there is something you are interested in supporting that is not outlined in the form, please let us know and we can build a plan to fulfill your particular goals. Thank you for your continued support of the chapter over the years.

The 2020 sponsorship package can be found at:  
[www.marylandasla.org/sponsorship](http://www.marylandasla.org/sponsorship)

Contact us with any questions:  
[director@marylandasla.org](mailto:director@marylandasla.org)



## INTRODUCING THE "CIRCLE OF SUPPORT"

This new sponsorship option is geared toward firms. The funds from this level of sponsorship will support the chapter as a whole, going towards chapter expenses and operations outside our regularly sponsored activities and programs.

Firms in the Circle of Support will receive special recognition on our website, newsletters, and in our annual publication EMBARK. They will also be recognized at our two largest annual events — the Sponsor Appreciation event and the Awards Gala.

The MDASLA board members at the 2018 MDASLA Awards Gala



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