



Newsletter

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A new year, a new world

The first issue of 2010 seems the ideal opportunity to focus on things **new**: new associations and new members of IFLA, new leaders, new office, new innovations, new frontiers, and a brave new world.

This issue includes articles on new member associations from Paraguay, Ecuador, and Central America and the Caribbean, who were welcomed to IFLA at the World Council meeting in Rio in late October 2009. We introduce our new Vice President Europe, Nigel Thorne and other European executive committee members Carlo Bruschi (VP Professional Practice) and Marina Cervera Alonso De Medina (Secretary). The IFLA elections are underway at present so in two months time the new President and other regional Vice Presidents will be introduced.

We have a new office: Executive Secretary Christine Bavassa has moved into new premises in a location that is closer to the action in Brussels. We are sharing an office with a local representative of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (IsoCaRP), so we will have immediately better opportunities to work with one of our partners.

continues...

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IFLA News No. 87: **Asia Pacific Region**

(April 2010)

IFLA News No. 88: **Heritage**

(July 2010)

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Deadline for articles (500-1000 words plus illustrations) last day of the preceding month



The New Year is a time for reflecting on the past year, setting new goals and developing new ideas. Looking back, 2009 was a busy year for the landscape architecture profession, despite the economic slow-down. We have a new Young Professionals advocate David Gibbs and we have new projects: a developing Landscape Architecture without Borders project, an economic recovery project and climate change evaluation tools, being undertaken in Australia. We also have a new partner: the World Federation of Engineering Organisations, and signed an agreement with them this year.

The main event in 2010 will be our World Congress in Suzhou, People's Republic of China, May 28-30. As a forerunner to the Congress our next issue of IFLA News focuses on the Asia Pacific Region of IFLA.

And the brave new world? Our world leaders failed to reach a substantive agreement in Copenhagen on the biggest threat to landscapes: climate change. Some have characterised the meeting as progress but much more is needed. We need to be part of that continuing work and must develop and put new ideas forward and commit to finding better ways to plan and design for sustainable landscapes. Investigating the carbon impacts of our work would be a helpful step for all of us.

Natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti conflict in other areas such as Somalia, and abject poverty continues to make people's lives miserable. Not only do we need to show compassion but look to ways that our international profession can provide assistance where it is appropriate in the future. We also need to remember those in areas where the recession hit hard and focus on collegial support so that those landscape architects are able to rebuild and further develop the profession.

Best wishes for a year of new ideas, new clients, and new activities.

As this issue of *IFLA News* was being finished at the end of February, news arrived of the destruction and devastation caused by the earthquake, tsunami and aftershocks in Chile. Tragically, many people have died, many more have been injured, and homes have been broken apart.

We need to learn and to teach from this disaster. If we collect such information, building on knowledge from other colleagues, and work together as a profession we will be able to provide better advice for city landscape planning in the future in earthquake prone areas.

Disaster and knowledge building in Chile

Paula Villagra <pvillagi@uc.cl> is the IFLA delegate from Chile. She had just finished a PhD in Australia and had returned to Chile about six weeks before the massive earthquake of 27 February and, of course, continuing aftershocks. Her family is from Concepción which was close to the epicentre of the earthquake. The following is part of her immediate correspondence with Diane Menzies

Paula to Diane: Thank you so much for all your emails. I can't explain what you feel when things like this happen, but every single email and message helped me to go through this during the worst part.

I made it to Concepción ok three days ago. The trip was an unwanted adventure that someday I will share with you. But here things are slowly getting better. Water and electricity are coming back in some areas ... people are finding one another ... and the solidarity of Chilean people is showing up again and getting bigger and stronger.

Unfortunately, many people have lost their lives and the destiny of many others is still unknown. Many areas of Concepción are destroyed; bridges are down, streets are uneven and open, over 10 buildings will be demolished soon and the structure of many others has not been evaluated yet. I've had a look in a few and things look pretty bad. It is surprising that while most of the new buildings are down, the old ones are working ok. It is also hard to believe that most of them were built by the same company. I'm sure that issue will be studied and evaluated in depth by appropriate organizations after basic needs get restored.

The worst part is that many coastal cities, fishing towns and villages, reached by the various waves, are completely devastated. This occurred along over 1000 km of our coast. I guess that the reconstruction of those areas will involve building new cities but also helping in recovering social and economic networks.

We keep having many little earthquakes everyday. It is shaking as I write. Sometimes we have over 10 and 20 a day (that I feel) and at least a couple over 6 degrees, but it is amazing how fast you get used to that.



The university where I will start working soon lost five of their main directors. ...classes have been postponed for a week or two. The university is now also the home of many people who lost everything and they need to be relocated before we start again. I'm in contact with the staff and we are working hard in re-organizing our programs to collaborate with the government in the re-construction of our city and region.

I can't wait.
Paula

Paula to Diane: I went through the city for a little while today (we are only allowed to be outside our houses between 12 pm and 6 pm and we use that time in trying to help in what we can). I was able to collect various images that suggest some of the problems of open spaces in cases like this.

People tend to sleep in tents outside their houses. We will live with daily quakes for at least a couple of months and people will remain in their tents so the need of relatively free open spaces within the city is big.

Trash is another issue. The waste is accumulated on the streets because there are not authorized areas for the trash which can be easily reached by people.

Being next to the river was also a problem in this case. In some areas the river burst its banks just because of the effect of the earthquake. This also happened in the case of private and public pools. Some lost half of the water and inundated buildings. Parks and green areas that can keep and guide the overflow away are extremely necessary.

All these issues are part of the design of the open space and we, as landscape architects, can make a big contribution in thinking how to provide a solution for that. I will look up the case in Japan [Kobe]. If you know of more places where these issues have been adequately addressed please let me know. I would like to get in touch with the people who have worked in those areas and learn from their experiences.

Feel free to use part of my email for the next issue of IFLA News. I'm also attaching photos that you can use. I took them from Concepción today.

Warm regards,
Paula





New Vice-President IFLA European Region

Nigel Thorne



The world of landscape architecture knows no boundaries, only those artificially imposed by people. Thus, to have the privilege of becoming part of the global and European organisations of IFLA and EFLA was, for me as a landscape architect, an opportunity not to be missed. My first real involvement with EFLA was as Vice-President of the Landscape Institute in 2002. From then on I began to realise the scale of the challenge faced by all landscape architects, not only across Europe but also in the wider world. It was a challenge that I had perhaps previously believed was solely a problem within the UK – and equally, I believe it is a challenge that so many other members of EFLA and IFLA maybe believed fell solely within their own country. I still find it a little mystifying that so few of our members take the opportunity to engage with the wider world of landscape architecture because together we are more likely to achieve our common aspirations and ambitions.

My father was a gardener and nurseryman and although he died when I was very young, I had obviously inherited something that would continue to spark an interest in me for the rest of my life. From the world of horticulture, my work and education eventually guided me into the profession of landscape architecture where I have experienced some of the most fantastic projects working in a variety of countries around the world. I have equally had the honour of meeting and working with so many different people from such a wide variety of cultures and communities that I believe this is proof positive that I could not have chosen a better career.

My specialism has always been in the sphere of landscape management, which I believe makes me a particularly “practical” individual. I have an inbred desire to see and make things happen – thus, I try to concentrate on a strategic approach to most things, and it is this particular skill that I shall endeavour to bring to my role as President of EFLA and a Vice-President of IFLA.

I believe our worldwide organisation has to encourage collaboration, cooperation and inclusivity in all areas. Of course, our initial aim must be to unite the members from all countries within our own profession but, because of the responsibilities that the world of landscape architecture carries with it, we also have a duty to collaborate and cooperate with those sister professions such as architecture, engineering, town planning, etc., without which our aspirations and ambitions are likely to fall short. The difficulty, of course, is that without volunteer engagement from members none of this can happen. To finish with an oft abused and misquoted line – “ask not what your organisation can do for you, ask more what you can do for it”...

New Vice-President Professional Practice

Carlo Bruschi



A long-term officer of the *Associazione Italiana di Architettura del Paesaggio* (AIAPP), Carlo Bruschi has served AIAPP almost since its foundation and has fulfilled many important roles within that organization over the years, including that of Treasurer and Vice-President, and culminating in the position of President for two consecutive terms. Carlo is extremely active in the struggle for the recognition of the profession in Italy and Europe, which is particularly relevant to the present goals of EFLA. He also continues to run his well-known practice in Rome, so he has never lost sight of the realities of the working life of a dedicated landscape architect.



New offices for IFLA and EFLA

Christine Bavassa, IFLA-EFLA's Executive Secretary, reports that in January 2010 the offices of IFLA and EFLA (the European region of IFLA) were transplanted. They moved from their original location in Brussels to new premises in the Brussels-Europe Liaison Building, near the European institutions in Brussels. The new offices are closer to those of numerous international organizations that are located nearby, which makes contacts and meetings easier. Furthermore, Christine Bavassa, has gained space and light for which she has expressed her gratitude to both IFLA and EFLA ExCos.



Around the table from the top: Diane Menzies (IFLA President), Nigel Thorne (ER Vice-President), James Hayter (IFLA Treasurer), Christine Bavassa (Executive Secretary), and Tong Mahn Ahn (APR Vice-President)

A new decade: two new challenges

Marina Cervera

Secretary General, EFLA

As a child, my parents - freelance architects - took me everywhere around the Ampurdan region [a region in northeast Spain with a long cultural history. Ed]. They visited not only their own works (weekly) but as authors of the book *Traditional Ampurdan Architecture*, they visited all the villages and construction sites everywhere and anytime.

From the car's window I got to know every inch of this territory brilliantly captured by Salvador Dalí and finally became so used to its shapes, colours and textures that I felt that this landscape – a perfect balance between the sweet structured agricultural plane and the inhospitable Costa Brava sea - was home.

Years later we moved to Barcelona, the "big city" and my education was structured around the arts, culture and nature, but my real experience encompassing all of these was encapsulated in my weekend excursions to the Ampurdan. Those landscapes connected with my interior soul, expressed my idea of beauty and harmony, and represented the ultimate essence of nature and human encounter.



From left to right with newborn Àuria Mercadé Cervera: Poul Pedersen (EFLA Treasurer), Carlo Bruschi (VP Professional Practice), Andreja Tutundzic (VP Education), Nigel Thorne (EFLA President and VP Europe IFLA), and Christine Bavassa.



My architectural studies helped me develop my scientific, construction knowledge and organisational skills but there was still a disconnect with the more emotive spatial element. I specialised in urbanism having always loved dealing with large-scale projects and got a loan to work in Paris with Jean Nouvel, the internationally renowned archetypical design architect. Rather surprisingly, it was whilst in his office that I discovered the traditions and profession of "landscape architecture" by association with professionals from the school of Versailles.

Spain had no such tradition and thus no recognition of our profession. At that time there was only one school in the whole country in which to study for a landscape architectural degree and equally a solitary masters course. Luckily, both were in Barcelona and both were recognised by EFLA. Thus, landscape had become my main personal interest, with all my reading and research focused in this arena – a whole new world to me. I felt this new intellectual direction in landscape architecture would provide a meeting point between my architectural skills and personal culture-nature sensitivity; the missing link between heart and brain.

From this point onwards I found my real vocation; a creative profession with environmental and social responsibilities aiming to intervene carefully and humbly in challenging projects, improving, regenerating and creating exterior spaces and landscapes – all jigsaw pieces of our fragile world.

I must confess that I feel grateful and lucky to be involved with all of the different aspects of our profession. From my everyday engagement within my practice, to coordinating the European Landscape Biennial and its Rosa Barba Prize and the collaborative degree course landscape educational workshops – I am thankful for all of it.

This professional has given me so much that my election as EFLA's Secretary General is an ideal opportunity to give back as much as possible and express some of my gratitude. I offer my time, knowledge, skills and experience to fight on behalf of our wonderful profession, and aim to raise the levels in terms of social conscience in relation to the task ahead.

This new decade offers me two new challenges: the very recent birth of my first child, Àuria Mercadé Cervera (pictured on the previous page), and the role of EFLA Secretary General. I shall aim to give equal priority to both, a challenge via which I hope not to disappoint anyone. As ever, I have a lot to learn but also believe I have much to share in terms of knowledge, experience and skills. I shall endeavour to channel my efforts in conjunction with my colleagues and friends to secure a much improved professional future for all of us.

Welcome the World Federation of Engineering Organisations

Barry Grear

Immediate Past President, WFEO

The World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) and IFLA have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to share information about their activities and to make links on their webpages. They will work together to develop a program that can be shared by their members, and to bring the two international professions closer together.



The Memorandum signed by Diane Menzies, IFLA, and Barry Grear, WFEO

Vision and mission

WFEO is the internationally recognized leader of the engineering profession. Its vision is to cooperate with national and other international professional institutions in being the lead profession, developing and applying engineering to constructively resolve international and national issues for the benefit of humanity. Its mission is:

- To represent the engineering profession internationally, providing the collective wisdom and leadership of the profession to assist national agencies choose appropriate policy options that address the most critical issues affecting countries.
- To serve society and to be recognised by national and international organisations and the public, as a respected and valuable source of advice and guidance on the policies, interests and concerns that relate engineering and technology to the human and natural environment.



- To make information on engineering available to the countries of the world and to facilitate communication between its member nations of worlds best practice in key engineering activities.
- To foster peace, socio-economic security and sustainable development among all countries of the world, through the proper application of technology.

These programs and activities will be pursued within Agenda 21 of the UNCED World Summit that are applicable to engineering.

Regional projects - Africa

African countries are seeking ways to revive economic growth and expand their role in the global economy, but their efforts are hampered by poor infrastructure. The growing interest in investing in Africa's infrastructure provides an opportunity for the continent to strengthen its engineering capabilities. Poor infrastructure and inadequate infrastructure services are among the major factors that hinder the continent's development.

Without adequate infrastructure, Africa will not be able to harness the power of science and innovation to meet development objectives and be competitive in international markets. Infrastructure promotes agricultural trade and helps integrate economies into world markets. It is also fundamental to human development, including the delivery of health and education services. Infrastructure investments further represent untapped potential for the creation of productive employment.

Regional projects such as the proposed modernisation of the Kenya-Uganda railway can serve as a critical foundation for building domestic engineering capabilities. But more concerted international efforts are needed to address Africa's engineering needs. A first step in moving ahead will involve challenging the worldwide engineering community to come up with solutions relevant to Africa. An example from Asia is provided by the Grainger Foundation through the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE), which is offering \$1 million for an economical way to treat arsenic-contaminated groundwater in Bangladesh and other countries. African countries could launch complementary challenges.

Mobility of engineers

WFEO will initiate programmes to improve the quality of engineering education and training. To that end, we seek to provide assistance for the establishment in all member nations of procedures for the accreditation of engineering courses that provide assurance of the quality of engineering education and training of engineering graduates to meet international standards.

Women in Engineering and Technology

WFEO is committed to providing equal opportunity for all to enter the engineering profession, and to pursue their engineering activities freely throughout the world. This activity is to promote and support gender equality, to increase professional skills and networking, and to empower women in decision-making which will enable them to overcome inequity and poverty in their communities. It will assist them in tearing down obstacles to their participation and advancement in engineering and technological careers, and aid them in achieving greater international collaboration.

Sustainable Development

WFEO aims to develop through appropriate engineering activities and education, a world-wide understanding and commitment to sustainable development. To achieve this it will solicit case studies of successful solutions for application of sustainable technologies that will provide an engineering dimension to established sustainability websites in the name of WFEO. It will also promote as pilot projects engineering partnerships to improve understanding, technology transfer and cooperative undertakings through organisations such as the Global Environment Facility.

Other WFO activities

- WFEO is endorsing a proposal for strengthening the engineering sciences and technology at UNESCO and participating in an international programme on engineering.
- The Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption is working with the World Bank and Transparency International.
- The Engineers Charter has been constituted with many countries and individual engineers agreeing to abide by the Charter.
- The Committee on Technology (ComTech) has continued to be represented on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), with workshops covering significant issues related to water in poorer countries.
- The Committee on Energy report of the Wind Power, Sustainable Energy and Nuclear Power task forces has been published and is available on the WFEO website. The Solar Energy and Biofuel task forces are currently in progress.
- The Committee on Engineering and the Environment (CEE) aims to develop a worldwide understanding and commitment to sustainable development through appropriate activities and education.

For further information I am happy to be contacted on bjgear@wfeo.org



New member organisation in Paraguay

Arq. Gloria Bóveda

President, SPAP

Greetings from Paraguay to all my colleagues from different member countries of IFLA. The Paraguayan Society of Landscape Architects / Sociedad Paraguaya de Arquitectura del Paisaje (SPAP) is a new member of the Federation. This is a major achievement for SPAP, which was constituted in July 2008 in Asunción, capital of the country and port on the Paraguay River.

In these few lines, I want to introduce our country rather than a list of our names. Paraguay, which is in the heart of South America, is crossed by the river of the same name and divided in two very different regions. To the east lie the red soil lands of lush green vegetation, streams and lakes, and hills; to the west, the dry, flat and arid *Chaco* clay lands.

Overall, the subtropical climate favours the development of a rich variety of plants and animals. Along with Spanish, Paraguayans speak *Guaraní*, the language of our ancestors, the Guarani, the indigenous people who inhabited this region before Spanish colonization. The use of *Guaraní* names for plants and places is very common. Medicinal plants are popular, and as a refreshing drink we take the popular *tereré*, a cold version of the typical *mate*.

Clearly we are enthusiastic to describe the nature of our land and people, but we cannot say the same for the landscape where the people have wrought change without clear criteria for the preservation of natural resources. There is a lot for landscape architects to do in our country. Public space needs organization based on design principles that strengthen the favourable elements available in nature. These are abundant yet subtle means are needed in many situations to protect them.

We possess a rich variety of flora. Beautiful trees grow in the streets, squares, parks, playgrounds and gardens, and year-round it is possible to find a tree in flower: lapachos [*Tabebuia*], jacarandás, chivatos [*Delonix*], acacias, palo borracho [baobabs], and rain of orchids [*Congea*]. The coconut flowers perfume the Paraguayan summer, and along with jasmine and heliconias infuse us with color. We have much more to do to respect and protect this bountiful Nature.

From the SPAP, we want to help develop the spirit of reconciliation of people and their natural environment through the rational intervention of landscape architects acting with sensitivity and responsibility.

To achieve our goals it will be fundamental to be part of IFLA, to learn from the experiences of our colleagues, and to grow with your support. Thank you.



Asunción City from the Paraguay River



New member organisation in Ecuador

Mg. Alexandra Moncayo Vega¹

Unit of Research Design and Architecture UTPL

Landscape Architecture in Ecuador

Ecuador, located in the heart of South America with a surface area of 256,370 km² and population of almost 13.5 million, has many natural and cultural resources that qualify it as a country of great diversity. The main source of wealth is in particular the Reservations of Natural Areas and the biodiversity that these contain. We have 35 natural reservations, including the Insular Reservation of Galápagos, and Loja city, which is located in the south of Ecuador, deeply embedded in the Amazon region with its Podocarpus National Park and a diversity of plant species that attracts naturalists from around the world.



Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

Unfortunately, as is the case in other countries, Ecuador has begun to experience a slow degradation of these natural resources. For this reason, it is important that the Ecuadorian people, and all who are involved in regional and city planning, be aware of the limits of these resources, and the need to protect the environment and its landscapes.

It is important to know how natural resources are affected by the rapid process of urbanization, and the uncontrollable degradation of cities, especially in outlying areas. These factors have generated segregated suburban areas that destroy important green open spaces and the natural borders characteristic of the Andean Mountain range.

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In relation to this, we are not strong in landscape education in architecture schools. There are 21 in Ecuador, but not all of them offer landscape architecture courses in their programs. However, in 2006, Guayaquil took the first step, when the School of Architecture of the UEES (Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo) developed a specialization in Landscape Architecture with a two year program. Following that, the School of Landscape Architecture of the UCSG (Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil) was soon created. Regrettably, its academic program has not commenced, although recognized by the CONESUP (National Council of Superior Education of Ecuador). Encouragingly, some universities at the national level have recently included subjects related to landscape and the environment in their academic programs.

It is important to recognize the effort of universities like Universidad Estatal de Cuenca, which in 2005 started the first Master's program in Landscape Architecture in Ecuador, supported by experienced teachers such as Fernando Chacel, Rosa Kliass, Gloria Aponte, Miguel Vidal, Graciela Schneider and other high caliber national and international landscape architects. In addition, in 2006 the UTPL, in cooperation with the UNAM of Mexico, began their master's program in architectural design with a thematic emphasis on Landscape Architecture, with teachers like Alejandro Cabeza, strengthening the knowledge of the landscape discipline even more in Ecuador.

Without doubt, these activities and initiatives strengthened knowledge of landscape and the environment, as well as research in the universities of Guayaquil, Cuenca and Loja. In addition, they facilitated the making of contacts, which motivated us to organize this group with the purpose of establishing national and international support networks.

The foundation of SAPE

On this basis, I initiated the birth of the Society of Landscape Architects of Ecuador (SAPE) after several conversations with members of IFLA, the IFLA Education Committee, and the Colombian Society of Landscape Architects, who shared the benefits that it would bring to the landscape architecture profession in this country.

Other valuable advice and encouragement was provided by Gloria Aponte, Chair of the IFLA Americas Region Education Committee, Alejandro Cabeza, and Virginia Laboranti, Secretary General of IFLA. They supported the initiative, since Ecuador along with Paraguay were the only countries in South America that still were not members of IFLA. Our membership would both strengthen IFLA and link us with networks of other landscape architects at the international level.



SAPE was founded in the city of Cuenca on August 12 2009, with the attendance of 14 representatives of the cities of Cuenca, Loja, Azogues, and Guayaquil, two of them graduate Landscape Architects. The occasion was witnessed and honored by the presence of Gloria Aponte, Member of the AR IFLA Membership and Education Committees. Office bearers of SAPE are Alexandra Moncayo V (President), Mónica Córdova (Delegate to IFLA), Lourdes Aburto (Vice President) and Nelson Juarez (Secretary).

SAPE is a society of multidisciplinary character whose main purpose is to advance landscape architecture, as well as to encourage others to enter the profession, and to support the care of the environment in coordination with state politicians. It is hoped that advances in appropriate management and protection of Ecuador's landscape can be achieved through SAPE. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage the Ecuadorian Government to propose legislation that will respect and protect the environment, as well as the natural and cultural landscapes of Ecuador.

The primary goal of SAPE is to strengthen the young members of our society and direct our efforts efficiently towards the improvement of the academic programs of landscape architecture, including masters and undergraduate degrees. Through academic support to our profession, we will take firm steps towards ensuring that SAPE will have a voice in governmental decisions that affect our future landscape and environment.



Founders of SAPE with Gloria Aponte

New member organisation in Central America and the Caribbean

Yariela Cedeño MLA

Architect & Landscape Architect

The Association of Landscape Architects of Central America and the Caribbean (APAC) was born on 27 June 2008 and established in Panama City, where it has its headquarters. It constitutes a multinational collective organization made up by all the Central American and the Caribbean nations willing to participate. One of the main interests was to combine the efforts of landscape architecture professionals to create an association in Central America and the Caribbean because of the small number of professionals in this field in each of the regional countries. That is why, with the support and guidance of Arch. Carlos Jankilevich from Costa Rica, a meeting was held in Panama City which brought together professionals from Cuba, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama to create the Association.

At that meeting, I was designated as the President of the Association and then assigned as a delegate to IFLA as a representative of APAC. Our association has 14 members from Panama, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Nicaragua, and most recently a member from Barbados.

In terms of academic training, a process of approving an academic program in landscape architecture will begin in 2010 in the Dominican Republic at the Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo (UCSD). We do not have registered undergraduate or graduate level programs in landscape architecture in Panama. With the absence of academic programs in this and other countries, we have many people dedicated to the advancement of the profession in practice, or who have studied landscape architecture in other countries.

Gradually we have gained recognition in our countries with projects and designs with urban and social impact, and contribute to the conservation of the environment and good practice of Landscape Architecture at both commercial and residential levels.



To strengthen the future of our profession in our countries, we need to work together and grow as professionals. We need to give support to each other to enhance the image and reputation of our esteemed profession. We also need to work to show society that we work in partnership to create consistent landscape projects that appreciate local architecture and its enhanced relationship with the environment of which it is a part.

From the moment that we were constituted as an Association, we have organized several meetings and lectures at the University of Panama by Arch. Carlos Jankilevich with the theme Cultural Landscapes, and at Isthmus University by Arch. Alberto Arosemena in a XIII Latin American Architecture seminar with the theme Landscape Evolution and Projection in Panama City. We also had the opportunity to meet with IFLA President, Dr Diane Menzies, in Guatemala and Panama on a reconnaissance visit to the new Association. In October 2009, APAC was represented by several members at the IFLA World Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We feel great satisfaction and gratitude to IFLA for their support in the creation and development of our new Association, and for helping us promote and improve the profession of landscape architecture in our countries.



Dr Diane Menzies (centre) in Panama with APAC members (left to right) Arch. Alberto Arosemena, Arch. Vanessa Brown, Arch. Yariela Cedeño, Magali Jurado, Arch. Tatiana Sousa, and Arch. Carlos Jankilevich

Landskab 90 years

Annemarie Lund

Translation: Pete Avondoglio

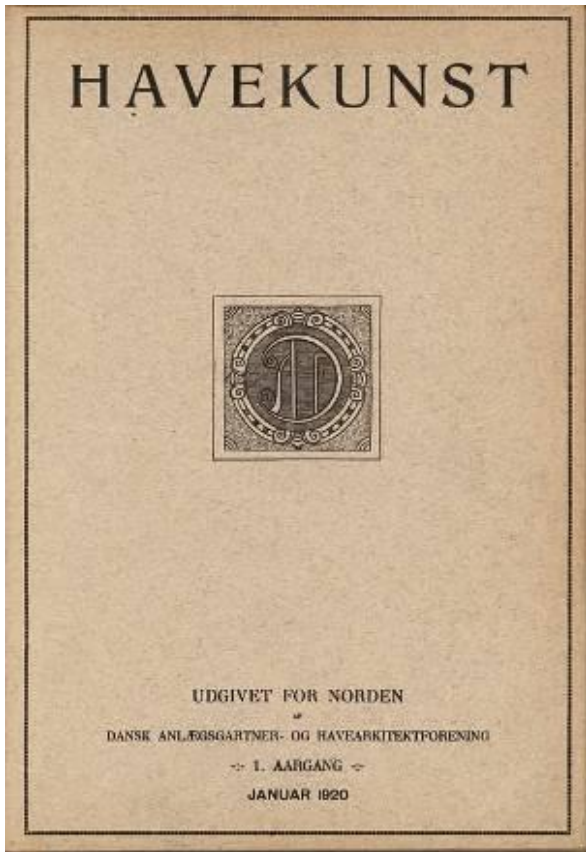
With the advent of the New Year, the magazine *LANDSKAB* marks its 90th year of publication, which is a considerable age for a magazine. A reception at the Danish Architectural Press with more than 130 participants celebrated the occasion in January this year.

...a New Year's resolution is to redefine the magazine, reflecting that once more we desire an intensive and broader Nordic collaboration.

"*HAVEKUNST* published for the Nordic countries" is the translation of the text on the cover of the first edition in January 1920. The first lines were "A small, almost blank page in the Book of Time describes the development of garden art in the Nordic countries; a garden art that flashed only dim rays of light as though from small comets".

The ambition was to publish a magazine for four of the Nordic countries (Iceland was not mentioned); a magazine, which with text and illustrations could bring the best examples of garden art and thus publicize and contribute to the fostering of a Nordic (regional) tone and character. Especially in the light of the increase in news from the so-called "large countries", there was a motivation to "gather and organize", and produce a kind of archive for the development of garden art. The magazine was also meant to be an "organ for debate for the professional practitioners" as at that time there was no fear of discussion, even if it dealt with nothing in particular.

During the magazine's first twelve years it was published by the Danish Landscape Gardener and Garden Architect Association, because an independent association for garden architects was not established until 1932. But as mentioned, the ambition was that it should deal with more than Denmark.



Over the years, the groups responsible for publication have been extensive and constantly changing. Starting with the Danish Landscape Gardener and Garden Architect Association, and then the Danish Landscape Gardener Association alone in 1932, and thereafter a collaboration for some years between this and the Danish Garden Architect Association and The Royal Danish Horticultural Society. In the late 1930s, the Danish Garden Architect Association, The Swedish Garden Architects, and the Society of Young Garden Architects were involved; in the 60s, the National and Municipal Gardener Association joined up and thereafter followed Finland's Garden Architects and the Norwegian Garden Architect Association. The editorial collaboration gave rise to Nordic editorial committees, and for many years there were Swedish associate editors and later Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish associate editorial staffs.

Up until 1963 the magazine was called *HAVEKUNST*, and then, understandably *HAVEKUNST* [Danish] *HAGEKUNST* [Norwegian] *TRÄDGÅRDSKONST* [Swedish]— until and including 1968. Then the time had come for a change of name for both the magazine as well as the associations. In 1969 it became *LANDSKAP* with the subtitle “Nordisk tidsskrift for planlægning af have og landskab / Scandinavian review for garden and landscape planning”, and the garden architect associations also changed their names to landscape architecture associations.

During the period from 1969 to 1980 it was known as *LANDSKAP*, and later *LANDSKAB* with a B instead of a P, reflecting the sad demise of the Nordic magazine collaboration in 1980. It should also be mentioned that during the last fifty years the magazine has been published by Arkitektens Forlag (The Danish Architectural Press).

The first volume in 1920 brought articles about villa gardens, historical gardens, cemeteries, competition projects, trees and hedges, book reviews and obituaries, but also articles with headlines that even today would arouse curiosity: Times of Transition, Work Satisfaction, Aesthetics and Garden Art, Low-cost Gardens. There were also difficult times in those days. Professor Georg Georgsen felt that it was the garden architect's task to design with an economic feasibility that would in the future appear artistically motivated.

The purpose of *LANDSKAB* as a historical archive and forum for the exchange of views is still current. And in terms of subject material, *LANDSKAB* 8 (2009) is not much different from issue number 1 from 1920. However, a New Year's resolution is to redefine the magazine, reflecting that once more we desire an intensive and broader Nordic collaboration.

*Editors of HAVEKUNST/HAVEKUNST
HAGEKUNST TRÄDGÅRDSKONST*

LANDSKAP

LANDSKAB

1920-21: I.P. Andersen

1922-24: E. Erstad-Jørgensen

1925-28: Georg Georgsen

1929-30: I.P. Andersen

1931-32: Anka Rasmussen

1933: Michael Gram

193-39: Michael Gram and Sven Hermelin

1940-41: Troels Erstad and Gösta Schuwert

1942-45: Troels Erstad and Inger Wedborn

1946: Sven Hansen and Inger Wedborn

1947-49: Sven Hansen and Walter Bauer

1950-51: C.Th. Sørensen and Walter Bauer

1952-54: Georg Boye and Walter Bauer

1955-57: Ursula Hansen and Walter Bauer

1958-61: Agnete Muusfeldt and Walter Bauer

1962-63: Arne Lindholdt and Gunnar Moos

1964-80: Karen Permin

1981-82: Preben Skaarup

1983-: Annemarie Lund



Landscape Architects Without Borders, Cameroon, Africa

Lyne Legault²
Architecte Paysagiste / Landscape Architect



Along with my western point of view, I am wondering how to describe African Landscape Architecture! Several questions are sprouting in my mind before being able to concentrate on the subject itself, questions relating to the life conditions that surround me: the heat, the pollution, the mounds of waste and plastic bags in the city and in the streams, at times the unbelievable smells, the infernal sound of taxi horns, the invading red dust, the flight of thousands of bats one morning in Bastos, that is making me dream for a while...

According to Mr. Arnauld Philippe Ndzana, Technical Services Director at the Yaounde Urban Council (YUC), a major concern in terms of landscape planning is the fight against poverty and the desire for economic growth. Also, from his point of view, it is imperative to help automobile circulation through the rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, which will help increase economic exchange. Urban public services (electricity, water, lighting and garbage collection) also have to be improved for all citizens of Yaounde. Some embellishment projects have been completed in the city since 1976, with street tree alignments, planting of flowering shrubs, and special attention to keeping the city and the gardens clean.

The State has started with sites such as *Les jardins de Sainte-Anastasia* in the heart of the city of Yaounde, making it possible to go walking under a comforting shade of mango, acacia, and palm trees, among others; where also the air seems cleaner under the comforting smell of plumerias, and where far away, we can admire the whole splendour of the gigantic *fromager* tree (*Ceiba pentandra*)! We can also admire cacao trees on *Mont Fébé* as well as other plants in the Botanical Garden of Limbe, or at the Yaounde Golf Club.

During the first years of city enhancement, other green spaces have been created like the Commissariat Central (at the place of the previous American Embassy), a small green urban space next to the *Boulangerie Calafatas*, the *Rond Point de la Poste Centrale* and the *Carrefour de la Préfecture*, also called the *Place Djoungolo*, that is still under construction. The State had to appropriate a good number of houses in order to realise these "greener" projects.



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Over a period of 24 months, this road reconstruction project will have a new circulation system with a tunnel and a gigantic landscaped *carrefour* or interchange. It is proposed to have a fluid movement without traffic lights to improve the speed of vehicle transport. The traffic should improve considerably in this sector of the city where traffic jams occur daily. The project is valued at about 12 million Cameroonian francs (30 millions \$) and includes, as well as the *carrefour* and tunnel, 72,000 m³ of general landscape, 28,200 m² of asphalt parking areas, 5,050 m of drainage system, 4,860 m³ of structural concrete, 6,500 m² of landscaped gardens, and several public road signs and lights (YUC, 2008).

The city of Yaounde is also proposing urban improvements like the *Place des Lions Indomptables* in the area Mfoundi, and a leisure park that should be part of another urban project near *Le Palais des Sports*! Also, the YUC has the idea of giving access to the water of *Quartier du lac* for the community to gain another “green lung”. The city of Yaounde has too little green space where people can go to change pace and change air, to walk or simply lift their spirits in an environment at times too heavy with reality. The lake, an old retention basin, is a junction to get to town and has great potential for relaxation and other passive activities, like “pedalo” or walking.

According to Mr. André Essaga Ohandja, Urbanist at the YUC, it seems that here in Yaounde, they have a real interest in sustainable design and development. But when I look left and right at *Rond-point Nlongkak*, I see only a huge task in educating the citizens in terms of the environment, starting with hygiene, cleanness and recycling!

Landscape Architecture in Yaounde is Joséphine. She is also a horticulturist, who has set up her own business after training in an NGO dedicated to ecology and sustainable development. Joséphine installed herself on the side of *Nouvelle route Bastos*, in Bastos, and is selling plants in little plastic bags. In fact, she squats adjacent to the site of a very busy street, like many of her colleague horticulturists! She can then be fully seen and find new clients: Bastos is the area where “white” or richer Cameroonians live, where the money is! She can grow her plants on the other side of the river which has to be crossed by a tiny little piece of wood connecting the two shores. She has to hold my hand because I am not that courageous! Joséphine sells her plants: heliconias, palm trees, oleanders, small plumerias, jasmine and others. She also does residential garden maintenance where all the construction is done by hand.

Landscape Architecture is also Jeanne, a landscape architect who, after studying Landscape Architecture at Lille in France, has started her business in Yaounde and has diversified her services. She is doing garden and urban design for private and public groups, producing and selling plants and other nursery products. Also she is recycling dried flowers to create dry flower arrangements.

Landscape Architecture is also all sorts of textures between the built and the natural environment, filling my head with all these images...

Reference

Yaounde Urban Council (2008). *Launching of construction works at carrefour prefecture (Djoungolo Square)*, 11 April 2008.





New images in Russian city rehabilitation

Olga Voronina & Anna Voronina

Translation by Maria Ignatieva

Revitalisation of three small cities

Fast growing large urban centres such as Moscow, St. Petersburg and Nizhniy Novgorod have caused a population decline in small cities which are suffering degradation as a result. The crisis of post-industrial development, and political and economical changes have led to social tensions and the disorientation of small cities. New local strategies are definitely required for their social rehabilitation and development.

Concepts for the complex revitalization programme of three cities in the Nizhniy Novgorod Region (Kstov, Dzershinsk and Semenov) were developed by the Architectural Landscape Centre "Archiland" from 2006 to 2008. The main goal was to obtain an understanding of the unique characteristics of small Russian cities using landscape architecture principles.

Kstov is very young (found in 1957 for the oil industry) with a population of 70,000. The main feature of the city today is an empty central square with Lenin's monument, a symbol of Soviet industrial activity. The scale of the city is not human at all, and the planning structure is simple and schematic. There are many open and empty public spaces and the main square does not have any functional use. Our research called for a search for new natural and spiritual symbols that could humanise the space and include it in active recreation.

Dzershinsk is the centre of the chemical industry in Russia and is named after Felix Dzerzhinsky, a very famous Soviet politician. Unfortunately, it is one of the ten most polluted cities in the world. After the closure of many industries in the time of Perestroika (1990's), the ecological situation has slowly improved. Nevertheless, the city development is far away from sustainable principles: the public tram system is dysfunctional, protected natural areas have been destroyed, and the river ecosystem is degraded. That is why in our project we first of all changed the priorities to create a human image of the city and rehabilitated the ecological environment, thus improving the quality of urban life.

Compared to Kstov and Dzershinsk, the city of Semenov (population 25,000) is one of the oldest cities in the Nizhniy Novgorod region (city status dating from 1779). Village Semenov (founded in 1664) is famous for its traditional wood craft, Khokhloma, and unique wooden architecture. Because of its location far away from big centers, Semenov has preserved its identity and is still the centre of old Orthodox believers. There is the famous Khokhloma factory in the city, which continues a folklore craft industry.

Planning goals

The goal of the planning was the complex rehabilitation and organisation of open spaces for each city. The modern environment of small cities demands new approaches based on working with small details and materials. Landscape architecture in this case can be an important tool for achieving this goal.

For Kstov the main criteria for our new scenario were to avoid the use of industrial symbols. As a foundation for new local landmarks we used bright red forms reminiscent of strawberries which would remind people of the origin of the city's name: Kstov, or in the old Russian language "ksta", means strawberry. The theme of "ksta" with its bright colour was adequate to create a very active and dynamic environment of the young city where the majority of the population is only 25-40 years old. The foundation of the project was to form multifunctional public spaces. Unused open urban spaces were united in one system aimed at enhancing the current poor network of green areas and improving the ecological situation in the city.



Kstov: ...bright red forms reminiscent of strawberries



For the very industrial Dzelzhinsk, the new identification system was based on its past cultural and natural potentials. Before the introduction of intensive industry this particular place used to be called “Nizhniy Novgorod” Yalta (Yalta is a very famous holiday place in the Crimea). This settlement is well-known for its archaeological discoveries of Finn-Ugorski towns of the 14th Century, monasteries of Chernorechie (17th Century) and shipyards of Peter the Great (17-18th Centuries). The strategy for the new development was based on the concept of replacing the negative image of a centre for the chemical industry to that of a high technology science centre. That is why the special symbols of Chemistry as a science were logically incorporated into the urban environment.

Uniqueness and preciseness of urban structure was used at several levels. Firstly, a continuous system of green boulevards was connected with main green nodes and waterfront boulevards to create an integrated urban ecosystem.



Dzelzhinsk: ...symbols of Chemistry as a science were logically incorporated into the urban environment

Secondly, the “ring” planning structure of the city was created in a way that allowed the identification of certain historical periods: the 1930-40s socialist city, the neoclassicism of the 1950-60s, the “standard” Soviet modernistic architecture of 1970-80s, the Perestroika period, and the modern era of the early 21st Century. To diversify the urban environment for each of these types of ring, we introduced appropriate small architectural forms. As a result of citizen questionnaires we discovered unique folklore craft, the “Rastyapinskaya Toy”, a local type of urban sculpture which were introduced to the city’s environment by residents and local creative clubs. Our project included this local sculpture typology in the urban space as a very important local accent.

Many aspects of the development of these two industrial centres were connected with the idea of sustainably and the rehabilitation of industrial zones and brownfields. For example:

- Replacing the negative character of the industrial city with comfortable living conditions for the city inhabitants.
- Creating an urban planning framework and systems of new parks.
- Designing sustainable environments using self-regulating natural systems.
- Reconversion of former industrial regions for different social functions.
- Recycling of materials.

For the most historically rich and remote city of Semenov, there were a number of advantages: the ecological unpolluted environment, the folk craft Khokhloma, and the ancient distinctive history. The main task for this city was using the folk symbols in urban spaces, and the preservation of the existing space and pastoral image. We introduced bright floral arrangements based on Khokhloma decorations. Native coniferous trees that are typical for the northern forest of Nizhniy Novgorod were also introduced into the city. Our project fostered the preservation of the existing vernacular way of life.



Semenov: ...bright floral arrangements based on Khokhloma decorations

For each city a “strategy for the development, for architectural and landscape organisation” was suggested as well as the action programmes. The development of local Russian centres and the rebirth of small cities with their traditions and an increasing the quality of life is the key to retaining native populations and creating sustainable urban environments.



New and enlarged Encyclopedic Dictionary

Klaus-Jürgen Evert

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The first edition was published by Springer-Geosciences in Heidelberg in 2001; in October 2004 the corrected third reprint was issued. After the great success and demand for the first edition, Springer decided to upgrade the dictionary to a major reference work. The new version has English as its guide language and will be published by Springer in Heidelberg in mid-2010.



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