

Critical Reading and Discussion Facilitation

INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this course is to promote the on-going dialogue on values pertinent to the practice of landscape architecture. As a creative profession weighted heavily toward the visual aspects of design, the practice of landscape architecture often focuses on the appearance of output-related elements (i.e. tangible things like graphics, documentation, built landscapes, etc.). An unfortunate byproduct of this visual prejudice is the resulting exclusion of another elemental skill – critical reading.

Critical reading requires two differing skill sets – summary and analysis:

- **Summary:** What is the question being asked in the article? What is the author's main argument or thesis? What claims does the author present to support his/her argument? What are the resulting conclusions?
- **Analysis:** What assumptions does the author use to build his/her argument? What evidence does the author use to support the argument? What evidence is omitted? Do you agree with the author's assumptions? Why or why not? What criticisms can be made of the author's argument? What implications, if any, are there to our profession?

Topic 1: Garden as Refuge, Nature as Healer

Aug. 21

Facilitators:

Giono, Jean. 1953. *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Translated by Peter Doyle. Downloaded from http://home.infomaniak.ch/arboretum/Man_Tree.htm.

Helphand, Kenneth L. 2006. *Defiant Gardens*. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, pp. 21-59. (Chapter 2: "Trench Gardens")

Louv, Richard. 2005. *Last Child in the Woods*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, pp. 85-111.

Maloof, Joan. 2005. *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, pp. xiii-xiv, 1-6.

Sullivan, W.C. and F.E. Kuo. 1996. *Do Trees Strengthen Urban Communities, Reduce Domestic Violence?* USDA Forest Service Forestry Report R8-FR 56 - January 1996

Various authors (Rachel Kaplan, Steven Kaplan, Charles A. Lewis, Catherine Howett.) 1990. *The Meaning of Gardens: Idea, Place, and Action*. London: The MIT Press, pp. 238-259.

Topic 2: The Human Relationship with Nature

Aug. 28

Facilitators:

Jackson, J.B. 1979. "The Order of a Landscape: Reason and Religion in Newtonian America." *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*. D.W. Meinig, Ed. NY: Oxford University Press, pp. 153-163.

Jackson, Wes. 1980. *New Roots for Agriculture*. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, pp. 66-74

Knight, John. 1998. "The Second Life of Trees: Family Forestry in Upland Japan." *The Social Life of Trees: Anthropological Perspectives on Tree Symbolism*. Laura Rival. Ed. Oxford: Berg, pp. 197-216.

Lippard, Lucy R. 1997. *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society*. NY: The New Press, pp. 124-130. (Chapter 1: "Traces")

Lowenthal, David. 1962-63. "Not Every Prospect Pleases." *Changing Rural Landscapes*, Ervin Zube and Margaret Zube, Eds. University of Massachusetts Press, 1977, pp. 27-38.

McDonald, Mary N. 2003. "Introduction: Place and the Study of Religions." *Experiences of Place*. Mary N. McDonald, Ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-20.

Naranjo-Morse, Nora. 2008. "Always Becoming." *The Land has Memory*. Duane Blue Spruce and Tanya Thrasher, Eds. Chapel Hill: University of NC Press, pp. 60-70.

Topic 3: Ideas and Values of the Aesthetic

Sep. 4

Facilitators:

Howett, Catherine. "Systems, Signs, and Sensibilities." From *Theory in Landscape Architecture: a reader*, Ed. by Simon Swaffield, pp. 108-116.

Hunt, John Dixon. "Reading and Writing the Site." From *Theory in Landscape Architecture: a reader*, Ed. by Simon Swaffield, pp. 131-136.

Meyer, Elizabeth K. "Sustaining Beauty: the Performance of Appearance." *Landscape Architecture* Oct. 2008, pp. 92-131.

Treib, Marc. "Must landscapes Mean?" From *Theory in Landscape Architecture: a reader*, Ed. by Simon Swaffield, pp.89-101.

Walker, Peter. "Minimalist landscape." From *Theory in Landscape Architecture: a reader*, Ed. by Simon Swaffield, pp. 87-88.

Topic 4: Experiential Values: Narrative, Memory, Phenomenology

Sep. 11

Facilitators:

Anderson, Edgar. 1955. "Horse and Buggy Countryside." *Changing Rural Landscapes*, Ervin Zube and Margaret Zube, Eds. University of Massachusetts Press, 1977, pp. 125-128.

Cannady, Shelley L. 2009. "Leningrad in the Gloaming of the Soviet Era: Edifice, Silence, Survivors, and the Narrative of Public Space." *Historical Landscapes in the Modern Era Proceedings*, Maria Ignatieva and Glenn Stewart, Eds. " St. Petersburg: Publishing House of Polytechnic University, pp. 82-85.

Holtorf, Cornelius J. 2000-2007. "The Past in the Landscape." *Monumental Past: The Life-histories of Megalithic Monuments in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany)*. Electronic monograph. University of Toronto: Centre for Instructional Technology Development. <http://hdl.handle.net/1807/245>.

Marcus, Clare Cooper. 1995. *House as a Mirror of Self: exploring the deeper meaning of home*. Berkeley: Conari Press, pp. 19-43.

Marques, Bruno. 2009. "Revitalizing Landscapes Through our Senses: a Phenomenological Approach." *Historical Landscapes in the Modern Era Proceedings*, Maria Ignatieva and Glenn Stewart, Eds. " St. Petersburg: Publishing House of Polytechnic University, pp. 111-114.

Spirn, Anne Whiston. 1998. *The Language of Landscape*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 32-54.

Wasserman, Judith. "Memory Embedded." *Landscape Journal* 21:1-02, pp. 190-200.

Topic 5: The Memorial Landscape

Sep. 18

Facilitators:

Lippard, Lucy R. 1997. *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society*. NY: The New Press, pp. 106-114. (Chapter 2: "Marking the Spot")

Milton, Sybil. 2001. "Perilous Landscape: Concentration Camp Memorials between Commemoration and Amnesia." *Places of Commemoration: Search for Identity and Landscape Design*. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, pp. 257-268.

Treib, Marc. 2001. "The Landscape of Loved Ones." *Places of Commemoration: Search for Identity and Landscape Design*. Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, pp. 81-105.

Wasserman, Judith. "Retail or Re-Tell?: The case of the Salem Tercentenary Memorial." *Landscape Journal* 21:1-03, pp. 1-11.

Worpole, Ken. 2003. *Last Landscapes: the Architecture of the Cemetery in the West*. London: Reaktion Books Ltd., pp. 177-199.

Topic 6: Social Responsibility and Ideas of Public Space

Sep. 25

Facilitators:

Depillis, Lydia. "Your Tent has no First Amendment Rights." *Landscape Architecture Magazine* 102:5, pp. 128-136.

Erin Research, Inc. "Landscape Architecture and Public Welfare". Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

Harris, Diane. "Race, Space, and the Destabilization of Practice". *Landscape Journal* 26:1-07, pp. 1-9.

Lipsitz, George. "The Racialization of Space and the Spatialization of Race." *Landscape Journal* 26:1-07, pp. 10-23.

Mitchell, Don. "The End of Public Space? People's Park, Definitions of the Public, and Democracy." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, pp. 108-133.

Topic 7: ASLA Public Policies

Oct. 2

Facilitators:

The following are from <http://www.asla.org/Leadershiphandbook.aspx> ASLA Environmental Ethics policy (Retrieved July 27, 2011).

ASLA Environmental Ethics policy

ASLA Professional Affairs policies

ASLA Public Affairs policies

ASLA Statement on Climate Change

ASLA Natural Resources policies

ASLA Properties of National Significance policy

Topic 8: The Productive Landscape: Food and Urban Agriculture

(note to facilitators: consider showing "Edible City" (available online))

Oct. 9

Facilitators:

CFSCNAUAC. Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the U.S.: Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe. Retrieved from <http://www.foodsecurity.org/PrimerCFSCUAC.pdf>, Aug. 7, 2011.

Haag, Richard. 1980. "Edible Landscape." *Landscape Architecture*, November 1980, pp. 634-637.

Kloppenborg, Jack; Hendrickson, John, and Stevenson, G.W. "Coming in to the Foodshed." *Agriculture and Human values* 13:3, pp. 113-123.

Lydon, Betsy, 2002. "Eco-labels: promoting alternatives in the marketplace." From *The Fatal Harvest Reader: the tragedy of industrial agriculture*, Andrew Kimbrell, Ed. Washington: Island Press, pp. 303-307.

Waters, Alice, 2002. "The Ethics of Eating: why environmentalism starts at the breakfast table." From *The Fatal Harvest Reader: the tragedy of industrial agriculture*, Andrew Kimbrell, Ed. Washington: Island Press, pp. 283-287.

Topic 9: The Productive Landscape: the Rural Aesthetic

Oct. 16

Facilitators:

Jackson, J.B. 1966. "The New American Countryside: an Engineered Environment." *Changing Rural Landscapes*, Ervin Zube and Margaret Zube, Eds. University of Massachusetts Press, 1977, pp. 27-38.

Nassauer, Joan Iverson. "Agricultural Policy and Aesthetic Objectives." *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, Vol. 44, No. 5, pp. 384-387.

Nassauer, Joan Iverson. 1986. *Caring for the Countryside: A Guide to Seeing and Maintaining Rural Landscape Quality*. Station bulletin AD-SB-3017, University of Minnesota Ag Experiment Station.

Sauer, Carl O. 1962. "Homestead and Community on the Middle Border." *Changing Rural Landscapes*, Ervin Zube and Margaret Zube, Eds. University of Massachusetts Press, 1977, pp. 5-15.