The CSLA Speakers’ Bureau provides a pool of professional landscape architects who are interested in speaking on a wide range of topics related to the profession of landscape architecture. The CSLA does not provide a referral service.

Users must search the online database of potential speakers for their event and are required to contact potential speakers directly to discuss and agree upon the details of the speaking engagement.

Speakers are full members of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and one of its component organizations.

*Objectives of the Speakers’ Bureau*

**PROMOTION**
- to increase awareness of the profession and the skills of landscape architecture
- to demonstrate the value-added services of landscape architects

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**
To provide education about landscape architecture to:
- CSLA and component’s conferences and seminars
- conferences and seminars of allied professional organizations
- political organizations
- developer or related organizations
- universities and colleges
- high schools
- recognized community or service organizations

**ADVOCACY**
- to respond to inquiries by the media
- to inform and influence decision makers
List of Topics

• Brownfield Development
• Garden Design
• Landscape Architecture - General
• Landscape Management & Restoration
• Resort & Recreational Areas
• Storm Water Management
• Low Impact Development
• Trails & Transportation
• Waterfront Development
• Institutional Sites
• Cultural & Heritage Landscapes
• International Practice
• Landscape Assessment/Visual Analysis
• Parks Planning & Design
• Sports Fields & Athletic Facilities
• Streetscapes
• Sustainability & Innovation
• Urban Design
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- Healing Gardens, Labyrinths, Children’s Gardens, Therapeutic Landscapes, Sacred Spaces, Residential Gardens, Philosophy, Sacred Geometry
- Value Added through Media, Museology, Literature and landscape
- Urban Regeneration / Design Management / Planning
- Sacred Landscape Architecture
- Landscape Planning
- Bio-Design and Accountability in Sustainability
- Accessible Site Design
- Active Transportation
- Coastal tourism and sea level rise, Environment and Sustainability, Coastal development management, Climate Change Adaptation
- Universal Design, Human Factors, Healthcare Planning and Design, Restorative (Healing) Gardens and Courtyards
- Climate Change
- Conceptual design and visualization, Design-Build community based initiative
- Destination Development, Downtown Revitalization, Main street Programs, Branding and Place Making
- Real Estate Development and Design Value
- Social / Community Engagement / Participatory Design Process
VINCENT ASSELIN

As past president of the AAPQ and the CSLA, as well as a practitioner on many large scale projects over the past 30 years, I’m often invited in International conferences as well as local ones in Québec to talk about our projects as well as Landscape Architecture in general. The subjects of my presentations are often directly related to past projects we realized at WAA or about my special interests such as History of Landscape Architecture, Park rehabilitation, Sustainability in Landscape Design and International Practice. Recent presentations include School of HEPIA in Geneva (2013), University of Kuala Lumpur (2011), Beijing School of Forestry, International Green cities Symposium in Wuhan (China), Susted Conferences in Kuala Lumpur (2011), Association of Green Space Director (Québec, 2012), Resort Planning Alpe d’Huez (France), Université de Montréal (2013-Landscape Architecture in Modern China), Underground Cities conferences, Lecture on International Practice in China (Université de Montréal, Études Supérieures, Cours de planification de projects internationaux)...

Biography

Mr. Asselin is a graduate of the University of Montreal (Bachelor of Landscape Architecture; 1978; Master in Applied Sciences - Landscape Architecture, 1995). He is a principal and founding member of Williams, Asselin, Ackaoui et associés inc (WAA Inc.), as well as WAA International Ltd (Shanghai) He was made FELLOW of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in 1993.

On the 7th of June 2012, Mr. Vincent Asselin was paid tribute by the Honorable Jean Charest, Premier of Québec, by receiving the prestigious title of “Knight of the National Order of Québec”.

Mr. Asselin has designed and lead many large scale projects including urban parks and public spaces, residential and commercial sites; he also undertook research and studies in heritage preservation, urban and environmental planning. Many projects that he has lead have been awarded national prizes from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, such as Montreal Bidome and Beach Park in Montreal Nun’s Island as well as St- Rock Garden (in Quebec), as well as projects in China such as Yanan Zhong Lu park, Xujiakui park, as well as the rehabilitation of historical Fuxing Park in Shanghai (1909) and Jiefang Park in (1950) Wuhan, China.

In China, Mr. Asselin has made great contribution to Yanan Zhong Lu Park, a 28 hectare park designed and built in downtown Shanghai, for which WAA has been awarded National Honor from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), and National Honor from the Chinese Society of landscape Architects, in addition he has been awarded the prestigious Magnolia prize from the City of Shanghai for exceptional service to that city. He has also designed Xujiakui Park, a 10 hectare park in downtown Shanghai, integrating the rich historical aspects of this unique site making the park a destination for the local citizens as well as tourists.

Mr. Asselin has been involved for many years in the Quebec and the Canadian professional associations. He also serves as Vice-President of the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation (LACF). In addition to his active practice and volunteer efforts, Mr. Asselin serves as guest speaker at the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Montreal.
Steve Burns

Steve is an expert in golf course design and residential master planning, with several award-winning golf courses. His expertise also includes playgrounds and artificial turf athletic fields. He is very experienced in creative methods of stormwater management, including the use of permeable materials, underground storage, and natural treatment. He has worked in climates ranging from semi-tropical Florida and Mexico to very cold Alberta.

His master planning work has included many elements including parks, pools, community centers, hotels, tennis and golf facilities, shopping areas, race tracks, and single and multi-family housing. He has a great deal of construction observation experience, with work ranging from small residential projects through public parks, playgrounds and monuments, to large golf course/residential developments. He can speak to the role of the landscape architect in many different areas of design and construction.

Biography

Steve Burns, AALA, CSLA, LEED AP is a landscape architect in Edmonton, Alberta with a BSLA degree from Ohio State University. Steve initially pursued his passion for golf, and started his career in Florida. His work, which took him throughout the U.S. and Mexico, included golf course design, master planning of residential developments, and a little bit of residential landscape design.

When U.S. golf course construction declined dramatically, Steve joined an urban design firm in Chicago, where he worked on the land planning for a 950 acre mixed use development in Michigan and a large day camp, along with several dozen parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields. He handled most of the firm’s projects, from permitting through construction, including the renovation of the landmark Buckingham Fountain. The work on this $8 million plus project included the replacement of underground utilities, and the installation of 5.4 acres of permeable pavers, new stairs and access ramps, and new site furnishings and plant materials.

With the recession and construction collapse, his search for stability led him to Edmonton, Alberta where he is the landscape architect at a large design/build firm. The firm’s residential and commercial construction work is booming, and the design studio is rapidly expanding.
VIRGINIA BURT

Virginia is committed to create landscapes and gardens of meaning including public, health care and private projects. Her international award winning work varies in scale from hundreds of acres to the smallest courtyards. She is an engaging speaker, an advocate for stakeholders and clients and loves to speak about healing gardens, sacred spaces and labyrinths.

Virginia is dedicated to the craft of landscape architecture and design. Virginia is published, has lectured at universities and over 200 conferences.

Biography

Virginia Burt, ASLA, OALA, Principal, Visionscapes Landscape Architects, Inc. designs gardens of meaning for residential and healthcare facilities. Well known for healing gardens, labyrinths and sacred spaces since the inception of her ASLA award winning firm in 1996, Virginia has over 28 years of experience across North America. Clients, including University Hospitals and The Gathering Place in Ohio appreciate her focus on gardens that have heart and meaning.

Virginia has been passionately in pursuit of landscape architectural excellence for her entire 28 year career. Her love of the land has been a lifetime journey. Having grown up on an apple farm, she developed a passion for being outside and understanding the rhythms of nature. Sustainability was a way of life and her family designed and built a passive solar home in 1980. Virginia had always enjoyed sketching hence landscape architecture was a natural extension. Virginia’s design work reflects her roots, creating gardens and landscapes that reveal their context and reflect the people who use them. She is committed to creating built works with attention to detail and craftsmanship that exceeds expectations. In 1996, Virginia opened Visionscapes with a commitment to help create meaningful gardens for people to enjoy, find peace and sanctuary.
ALESSADRO CASSA

Alessandro Cassa is an accessible communicator, hosting several conferences on various topics throughout the year. Through his professional experiences, he has gained a strong expertise in the following fields:

• Showcasing the landscape through cinema and museology.
• Marketing and communication.
• Restructuring of organizations and creation of brand icons.

Many awards have strewn his path:

• Recognized in Quebec and appointed by the Minister of Culture as a member of the Comité d’experts québécois pour l’avenir du réseau muséal québécois. National Assembly (May 2013).
• Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award (January 2013).
• Recognized by the Canada’s History site in 2012, an initiative of the Office of the Governor General of Canada, to underline his career. Canada-wide broadcasting.
• Mention from the Ministère de l’Éducation du Québec in 2001 for his involvement in the creation of a telematic course on environment (which he has been teaching for 12 years).
• Canada’s representation at the Cannes Film Festival.

Biography

Energetic, original, entrepreneur and high-energy leader, Alessandro Cassa holds a bachelor degree in landscape architecture and specializes in the enhancement of culture and heritage. Originally from Quebec, this young professional is a fully-fledged member of the Association des architectes du Québec and of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

In addition to his career in management, he has authored two novels that were disseminated throughout Canada, and directed two short films that were shown at the Cannes Festival. His career path is therefore eclectic and filled with a wealth of diverse experiences. Backed-up by a 15-year expertise in the museum, cultural, literary and film communities and the management of organizations, he successfully held different positions for the following organizations: regional cell of expertise in museology/Montérégie Museum networks and Quebec Archaeology Museum. He was also Director of development for the Archéo-Québec network, coordinator of cultural action for the McCord Museum and various RCM in Quebec and, beforehand, manager of the Film Office of the RCM of Beauharnois-Salaberry. For the past 12 years, he has been a tutor in Urban Development for TÉLUQ (Université du Québec).

Several recognitions have dotted his career. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award and, in 2010 (Société des Musées québécois) the grand Prix de la Relève for his entire body of work. Today, he wishes to convey his achievements, knowledge and experiences to the highest number of people.
George Dark, FCSLA, FASLA, partner at Urban Strategies, is an urban designer, landscape architect and Fellow with the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Landscape Architects. George has over 30 years of professional experience and, since joining the firm in 1987, has led a variety of projects including new community plans, urban regeneration strategies, campus master plans, open space master plans, streetscape designs, design guidelines and public policy documents. George’s work focuses on the quality of urban environments and he regularly coordinates large groups of diverse professionals and excels at guiding projects through complex approval and consultation processes.

Biography

George has served on the steering committees and the design juries for some of the most important public projects in Ottawa and Toronto, including the 1812 Fort York National Historic Site and the HtO park in Toronto and Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. George is a Past Chair of the Toronto Parks Foundation; Chairman of the Board of the Evergreen Foundation, on the Honour Roll of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and a Member of the City of Ottawa Design Review Panel.
STEFAN FEDIUK

Stefan has provided lectures and seminars for landscape/gardening/horticultural audiences in both Canada and the United States. His expertise is to inspire the public on good design practices as well as speaking to fellow professionals. Some of his topics include: Color Theory for the Landscape, Mysticism and Sacred landscape Spaces, Therapeutic Landscapes, Landscapes for All Seasons, Landscape Best & Emerging Practices for Climate Change, and other general landscape and garden design areas, which he has presented to various, horticultural clubs, organizations, conferences and communities.

Biography

Stefan has been actively involved in the landscape and garden industry as a Professional Landscape Architect and Horticulturalist for over 25 years. He holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Manitoba and is the resident horticultural and landscape expert at Northscaping.com as well as a principle contributor to the NetPS database. His experience spans both the public and private sectors, with such notable positions as Landscape Architect for the City of Windsor and previously, Urban Designer/Landscape Architect for the City of Winnipeg. Stefan has headed up a team of gardeners and volunteers for Assiniboine Park including sculpture, horticultural and natural display gardens. A member of the CSLA, he has numerous urban and residential landscape designs and studies to his credit across North America. Stefan is an accomplished horticultural and landscape writer and presenter who has published numerous papers and articles, including guest editor of The 2006 Prairie Garden annual, and had a regular column in Northern Gardener magazine. He has appeared on television in the United States and Canada and is an accomplished speaker, frequently invited to speak at gardening and landscaping events across the continent offering presentations and workshops on a wide variety of topics.

Component Organization
OALA

Language
English

Subject Areas of Expertise
- Garden Design
- Landscape Architecture - General
- Low Impact Development
- Waterfront Development
- Cultural & Heritage Landscapes
- Parks Planning & Design
- Streetscapes
- Sustainability & Innovation
- Urban Design
- Other: Sacred Landscape Architecture
DAVID FLANDERS

David is a systems thinker with an understanding of how natural and human systems are organized and influence each other. He can speak about: Climate Change:
• The science behind our changing climate, forecasts and projected impacts over the next century in various parts of North and Latin America.
• Community design and planning options to respond to these risks
• Climate adaptation design strategies including adaptation in coastal, low-lying areas to deal with flood risks; forested communities to deal with wildfire risks and the far north to deal with changing permafrost and ice.
• Planning processes that use visualizations and other immersive, engaging media to integrate complex science with current planning needs

Northern Resource Management:
• Environmental assessment and planning processes for northern natural resources development
• Potential environmental and wildlife impacts as a result of development-related infrastructure (roads, mines, etc.)

Rural and Arctic Community and Landscape Planning:
• The complex issues facing communities in the north such as changing climate, population growth, isolation, extreme weather, economic development, cultural change and governance
• Land use and energy solutions for more sustainable remote communities
• Northern climate impacts such as melting permafrost, shifting forest populations
• Biomass energy systems, their design and planning, and sustainable forest management for harvesting biomass fuels
• Low-carbon urban and rural design Latin America:
  • Community engagement processes for participatory planning
  • Ecotourism and low-impact economic development
  • Landscape conservation schemes such as ecosystem services, and how these may be implemented
  • Public perceptions of protected areas, and related land use, conservation and development in Mexico

Technology:
• GIS and spatial analysis for landscape architects, Gaming, 3D modeling and visualization for informed design and decision-making
• The science and ethics of visualization

Biography

David Flanders is a landscape architect and planner currently working as a research scientist with the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning at the University of British Columbia and teaches in UBC’s School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He is the founding member of an independent design and planning consultancy: DPI Territorial, and has also recently helped launch Arctix Planning with a team of engineers in sustainable infrastructure for northern communities.

He works with local practitioners and managers on urban design and land use planning to improve community resilience, addressing impacts of environmental change, and strategic community responses including both adaptation and mitigation. Achieving local resiliency often benefits from broad stakeholder engagement and use of science-driven, graphic 3D visualization, both of which are fundamental to all of David’s professional initiatives. His current work is building future scenarios of communities that clearly demonstrate implementable strategies for improving efficiency in energy use, diversifying energy generation, alternative transportation systems, urban development and resources management while retaining community character and quality of life. His work has taken him throughout Western and Northern Canada, the Arctic and parts of Latin America.
BRUNO GADRAT

A diverse career path and an easiness to devise viable solutions in complex and seemingly contradictory systems. See the breadth of his knowledge and experience at http://www.designvegetal.com/cv.html. Bruno Gadrat is currently preparing the accounting for a sustainable development that will create benefits in terms of environment and put an end the first stage, the conduct of impact studies that covered only the reduction of losses.

Biography

Assistant Professor, he is the expert in planting design at the School of Landscape Architecture of the Université de Montréal’s Faculty of Planning. Landscaper DPLG (Landscape Architect) and a graduate of Versailles, he holds a DEA in ‘Jardins paysages territoires’ from Paris - La Villette. His proven expertise in planting design shone through the many projects that he was associated with: public gardens in the Paris suburbs, development of urban nodes, city parks, wilderness reclamation projects, establishment of a computer-assisted landscape management system for the Vercors park, development of the landscape master plan for the TGV Méditerranée railway line in the south of France. His professional background also includes several years in research and teaching on landscape vegetation, using a sensitive and multi-factor approach. His current research focuses on computer-based tools for vegetation-dominant landscape design.

Component Association
AAPQ

Language
French

Subject Areas of Expertise
- Landscape Architecture - General
- Garden Design
- Landscape Management and Restoration
- Low Impact Development
- Landscape Assessment / Visual Analysis
- Parks Planning and Design
- Sustainability and Innovation
- Other: Bio Design and Accountability in Sustainability
WALTER H. KEHM

Over 35 years of practice, Walter has participated in the development of landscape projects in over 25 countries. The planning and design projects have included universities, new cities, waterfronts, parks and recreation areas, tourism facilities, urban design studies and ecological restoration/storm water management projects. His professional work has also included teaching at Harvard, LSU, RISD, Virginia, Penn State, Utah, UBC, Toronto, and the University of Guelph where he was the Director of the School of Landscape Architecture. Speaking engagements have included public and private groups including the NCC in Ottawa, The River Run Centre in Guelph, numerous universities and civic groups. Of particular interest in his current work is the integration of ecological and cultural values through design using Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto as his base reference model over a twenty year time span and current work on landscape planning for Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Biography

Academic preparation includes five years at Syracuse University (BSc.), two years at the GSD, Harvard University (MLA), and one year studying at the American Academy in Rome on the Weidenman Fellowship. Major Canadian projects include planning and design studies for Parliament Hill, a master plan for the Wascana Legislative grounds in Regina, master planning and implementation for Bronte Creek Provincial Park and Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto, waterfront development master plans for Monaco and Abu Dhabi, Central Park in Kuwait, the Oukaimeden ski resort complex in Morocco and the planning and design of the Dodoma, Tanzania capital city plan and the site planning and landscape architecture for the Canadian Embassy in Beijing and master plans and implementation for the University of Guelph and King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Current work includes the development of a master plan for Zenata, Morocco’s first “green city” with a projected population of 300,000 people.
GLEN MANNING

Glen Manning has delivered lectures and presentations on a range of topics in his capacity as principal of Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram, and as volunteer for the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association and the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies. He is regularly invited to speak to the graduating class of the University of Manitoba Civil Engineering department on ‘Complete Streets’, and has lectured on professional practice, construction specifications, and symbolism in design at the U of M Faculty of Architecture. Other formal presentations include a talk on trail planning for the Recreation Conference for Community Volunteers in Brandon, Manitoba, the pros and cons of green roofs for the Local Construction Association, heritage interpretation of bridges for the Canadian Heritage Rivers conference, and visitable housing at the Independent Living Resource Centre conference and the CCDS’s International Round Table on Visitability.

Biography

Glen is a landscape architect and principal at Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram (HTFC) with over 23 years of experience across a broad range of practice including naturalization, accessibility, urban arboriculture, winter cities, green roofs, and active transportation planning.

In the mid-nineties he spent two years co-managing a design firm in Botswana, where he was in charge of designing and implementing the country’s largest institutional rainwater harvesting system. With HTFC, Glen was project landscape architect for the multi-award winning Manitoba Hydro Place, a LEED Platinum project considered to be one of the ‘greenest’ office buildings in North America, and provided the conceptual design for the Red River Floodway Greenway, which received an National Honour Award from CSLA in 2010. His current work explores new directions in universal design, heritage interpretation, and public consultation.

Glen graduated from University of Manitoba in 1990 with a Masters of Landscape Architecture, following a Bachelors of Environmental Studies from the same institution in 1984. He obtained numerous awards including the MALA Gold Medal. Glen remains a frequent guest lecturer with the Department of Landscape Architecture, as is active in the community as a spokesperson and volunteer promoting sustainable and inclusive design.
JOHN MCMULLEN

John’s speaking interests focus on planning and designing healthy liveable communities and making them great places to live, work, and play. He emphasizes the need for cooperation among the various professions involved in planning and building the spaces we live in. John believes that to effect positive change, diligence and strong vision, along with empowered community groups and local promoters willing to sell those visions, are the necessary keys to sustainability and community rejuvenation. John enjoys engaging community groups and challenging them to think differently. He frequently works in small to mid-sized towns and cities across Canada, as well as rural areas and resort communities.

His position is unapologetically anti-sprawl, and pro-livability; believing that there are still common planning practices that raise serious environmental and economic problems. John uses case studies, stories, anecdotes, and humour to explore these issues. His presentations are full of colourful and descriptive slides and clear content. Sharing his own insight and reflections from over 20 years of practice in both Canada and the United States, he delivers customized presentations tailored to a group’s interests. Persons and communities interested in exploring themes related to ‘planning and designing healthy livable communities’ and effecting positive local change will find his knowledge and presentations thought-provoking and educational. He has delivered presentations on topics as diverse as scenic resource assessment, downtown revitalization, way finding, and community branding.

John has been an invited speaker at the Ontario Parks Association, and Parks and Recreation Ontario events. And has spoken on the specific challenges facing small towns and rural areas and his work in designing for pedestrians and bicycles has been published in both Planning and Landscape Architecture professional journals.

Biography

John McMullen is a landscape architect, a professional planner, and a member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) and the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).

In professional practice for over 20 years, John focuses on planning and designing safe, comfortable and attractive streets and public spaces, and preserving and enhancing healthy natural environments. He is a Principal at the consulting firm PLANbyDESIGN and believes that collaboration leads to better informed planning and design decisions. He frequently uses the public design charrette process in his work to maximize the advantages of community collaboration. John is an active member of the landscape architecture and community planning professions and his thoughts on community design, landscape architecture, and designing for pedestrians have been published in numerous professional journals. He presently sits on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Parks Association, the Ontario Professional Planning Institute’s (OPPI) Transportation Working Group, and the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) Ontario Chapter Organizing Committee.

He resides on the shores of Lake Simcoe near the City of Orillia, is an avid gardener, backyard chicken raiser, carpenter, and ski instructor. John enjoys meeting a diversity of people and sharing ideas about improving our towns and cities.
COLLEEN MERCER CLARKE

During her career Colleen has made a large number of presentations to professional, academic, and general audiences. She is a popular speaker, whose presentations are passionate, informative, entertaining, and (in keeping with her Newfoundland heritage) often humorous. Currently Colleen is a member of the ICURA Canada-Caribbean Change project, a collaboration among six universities and eight partner municipalities, assisting coastal communities in their planning and adaptation to sea level rise and severe weather associated with climate change. She also serves on the National Advisory Committee for the Assessment of Risks of Coastal Climate Change, an initiative of Natural Resources Canada.

Colleen’s interests and experience include the need for adaptation to impending impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise and severe weather), the state of Canada’s coastal landscapes, and the broadening role of landscape architects in protecting and shaping the future. Her portfolio includes invited presentations (keynotes, guest lectures) as well as panel and paper presentations. Most recently Colleen has spoken nationally and internationally (e.g. Washington DC, Grand Cayman, Trinidad, Aberdeen) at events including:

- MERCER CLARKE, C., J.D. CLARKE, AND D. E. LANE. 2013 Holding back the tide: Coastal development and climate change in Canada and the Caribbean. An accepted presentation at the 38th Annual CSA Conference, Grenada Grand Beach Resort, Grand Anse, Grenada, 3-7 June 2013.

Biography

Dr. Mercer Clarke has over 30 years’ experience in the private sector as a coastal ecologist (MSc, Memorial U, 1976) and landscape architect (MLA, U Guelph, 1987) working on a wide array of initiatives throughout Eastern and Atlantic Canada and internationally. Colleen recently completed an interdisciplinary doctorate (Dalhousie U, 2010) on coastal health and management, and a Post Doctoral Fellowship with the Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (Memorial U, 2011), where she devised a framework for assessing and reporting on the status and trends in oceans and coastal health in Canada. Born and raised in Newfoundland, Colleen has always been passionate about Canada’s coasts, recently completing an interdisciplinary doctorate (Dalhousie U, 2010) on sustaining coastal landscapes, and a Post Doctoral Fellowship (Memorial U, 2011) on assessing and reporting on the status and trends in oceans and coastal health in Canada.

Her widely ranging portfolio includes international and national coastal management, watershed, regional and municipal planning, industrial and commercial development, environmental audit and ecological restoration of impacted sites. In addition to being a past-president of the CSLA, Colleen has served on many Boards and Executives and has been active regionally, nationally and internationally in conservation and protection policy development. In 2009, in recognition of her service to the profession and to the environment, she was elected to the College of Fellows of the CSLA.
DONNA M. RODMAN

Donna Rodman is passionate about Universal Design, Environmental Design and Life Sciences and Life Systems. Donna began specializing in Universal Design and Human Factors in 1988. She believes good design responds to the human condition and will transform or restore both person and habitat. Always respectful of human rights, Donna puts into action specialized knowledge, and applies professional ethics whenever she speaks, researches or designs and approaches her work from multi-dimensions and multi-disciplines. She uses her education, skills, and creativity to improve living conditions and improve the environment so that all life can continue to be vibrant, peaceful, pleasing and nurturing. She has discovered that spirituality can inspire designs and gives a place meaning and value, bringing patterns to lives at the human scale that are constant, yet changing, temporary yet enduring, peaceful yet vital. She speaks about incorporating natural environments and garden spaces that have healing qualities for the institutionalized person, forming part of the medical milieu in healthcare planning and design. These same measures can be applied in campus design, and within communities where socio-environmental and socio-economic stressors exist. Qualitative and quantitative measures are possible and Donna likes to assimilate design theory with nursing theory with landscape architecture theory. Donna brings nursing and landscape architecture together and feels this is very valuable for the profession of landscape architecture. She believes strongly that public wellbeing and safety, the quality of the environment, healing of the environment, are critical to supporting the human condition. She believes that life systems for habitat restoration and meeting the needs of human beings are critical for the health of this planet and to support future generations.

Biography

Donna has spoken at national and international conferences since 1995, and has been before councils to present the Universal Design principles and designs. Focusing on the human centered design scale, Donna’s interests include: environmental design of riparian habitats, constructed wetlands, streams; landscape architecture of intergenerational, multi-family residences; institutional facilities and campuses; healthcare planning/design for group homes, psychiatric facilities, palliative care centers, and community clinics.

Donna enjoys the design of healing gardens and courtyards. Donna is a cyclist, a vocalist on a music worship team, and loves her faithful border collie, Tralee.

GORDON SMITH

Gordon is an engaging speaker with a strong interest in urban design, planning, economic development and climate change. He has taught classes and workshops at the University of Botswana, Dalhousie University, and the Caribbean Development Bank on land use planning in developing countries, illustration techniques, and networking. Gordon has been at repeat speaker at brownfield remediation conferences, chambers of commerce, Rotary Clubs, and for organizations such as the Atlantic Planners Institute, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions network, and the Nova Scotia Planning Directors Association.

Sharing his strong design sensibility, he has completed many planning and feasibility projects assisting communities and organizations to devise and implement economic development projects. Gordon has expertise in explaining climate change impacts in easily understood terms and has developed tools that enable lay people to use a risk-based approach to make better decisions when faced with uncertainties posed by climate change. Previous presentations include:

- 2013 The ‘Walkable’ Downtown
- 2013 Adaptation to Climate Change, When is it Worth It?
- 2012 A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool for Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure
- 2011 The Importance of Botho: Cross Cultural Consulting in Botswana
- 2011 Lessons Learned from the Lunenburg Active Transportation Plan: A Rural Perspective
- 2011 An Enhanced Remedial Approach: The Role of End Use Planning and Public Consultation in the Redevelopment of Brownfields
- 2010 A Multi-Disciplinary Toolbox for Increasing Density and Providing Municipal Services
- 2008 Two Dimensional Presentation Techniques 2008
- The Layout of Presentation Panels
- 2007 Poster Design
- 2007 Marketing Relationships
- 2004 The HRM Bike Plan
- 2003 Cross Cultural Consulting in Botswana

Biography

With over 25 years of consulting experience, Gordon has completed projects for governments, schools, universities and other institutions, as well as a range of developers and other private clients throughout Canada and Botswana, Africa. He is the recipient of numerous awards spanning his academic, professional, and personal activities. His international experience has taught him to be highly sensitive to the context in which he is working and to be able to design projects effectively in a variety of situations. Gordon has skills and experience in working at a wide range of scales from regional plans covering areas of tens of thousands of square kilometres to detailed site design and construction monitoring on residential projects. This range of experience has allowed him to understand how decisions at a macro-scale can influence decisions on a micro or site and vice versa. Within this context, he promotes multi-disciplinary work and how the successful interaction of different professions can add value to projects through the creation of solutions and opportunities on a variety of levels. Gordon has direct experience in helping communities make the best use of their resources in order to thrive in the face of uncertainty.
JAMES THOMAS

Jim has presented and been a panelist at CSLA Congresses, the Canadian River Heritage Conference, and the Innate Terrain Symposium at U of Toronto (2010). Jim regularly lectures at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture on landscape analysis, site planning, natural process and form.

Jim works closely with First Nations to negotiate and implement groundbreaking land claims and land settlements in Manitoba, Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. Some of Jim’s most recognized works include the Rainy River First Nations Land Claim and The Peguis First Nation Surrender Claim and Peguis Treaty land Entitlement Claim. In 2012, Jim accepted a CSLA National Honour Award for HTFC’s work on the negotiation, analysis and implementation of aboriginal land claims. Jim has been working with aboriginal communities on land claims, community and regional planning, and environmental assessments for more than 30 years. He has developed a unique expertise in this area of practice that is sought after by First Nations, municipalities, cultural groups, private industry, federal and provincial governments.

Other major projects with aboriginal communities have included: the Management Plan for the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site nomination; traditional knowledge, land use and occupancy studies; and community-based environmental assessments with various First Nations. Jim is fascinated by human and cultural relationships with the land and, in particular, those of Canada’s indigenous people. He works closely with indigenous communities, applying their knowledge and values in landscape planning and management processes. Jim’s passion for regional landscapes also includes planning for lakes and river systems, including studies of lake carrying capacity and plans for Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Biography

Jim has been leading regional and community planning projects for more than 30 years. His unique grasp of the “big picture landscape” has made him an industry leader in socio-economic and environmental impact assessment. He is a Principal with Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram Landscape Architecture and Planning based in Winnipeg. Jim holds an Honours Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo and a Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Manitoba. He is Fellow-Elect of CSLA and a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Examples of Executed Works

- Atisipiwisipe Aki Management Plan, Poplar River First Nation, Manitoba
- Canadian Heritage Rivers Assessment and Planning, The Canadian Heritage Rivers System, Parks Canada
- Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Nomination Management Plan
- Norway House Cree Nation Community Development Plan, Manitoba
- Rainy River First Nations Surrender Claim, Rainy River First Nations, Ontario
- Community-Based Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment, York Factory First Nation, Manitoba
- Kipekiskwaywinan: York Factory First Nation’s Evaluation Report for the Keeyask generation Project
- Lake Minnewasta Carrying Capacity Study

An avid outdoorsman and accomplished triathlete, Jim has completed two Ironman races and competed at the Canadian National Championships.
MATTHEW THOMSON

2013 - Co-lead a tour of the Ken Spencer Science World Outdoor Park in Vancouver for BCSLA conference.
2012 - Lectured on ‘The Ten Essentials when Designing Public Spaces’, to the Vancouver School Board.
2011 - Lectured on ‘Memorials, making the past relevant’, LA Masters program at UBC.
2010 - Facilitated Design Illustration workshop at BCSLA conference.
2008 - Facilitated Design Illustration workshop at LA Masters program at UBC.

Biography

As a Principal at PFS Studio, Matthew specializes in the development of unique, contextually rooted design solutions, and works closely with clients and stakeholder groups to provide innovative, creative direction. He is highly skilled at conceptual design and graphic visualization, and facilitates many of PFS Studio’s design workshops and charettes.

Matthew particularly values collaborating with the residents or users of a project, and believes that by promoting dialogue and engagement with those holding knowledge of the site, not only helps foster stewardship and community involvement, but by implementing responsive design processes that capitalize on site specific qualities, the objective of creating a strong sense of place and authentic identity can be realized.

Matthew received his degree in Landscape Architecture from Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK and holds an Art and Design Diploma from Falmouth University in Cornwall. Prior to moving to Canada, he worked as a Landscape Designer in the UK based NFP organization Groundwork Trust. Matthew has been with PFS Studio for more than a decade, integrating his background in Urban Design and Fine Art into many award winning projects such as: Buchanan Courts Redevelopment Plan at UBC, Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver and the AZA First Nations CCP and Land Use Plan in Thunder Bay Ontario.

Recently Matthew Partnered with Norman Foster and Partners on an international bridge competition and is currently Matthew is leading the design of the proposed Urban Park development at Oakridge Village.

Matthew presently sits on the City of Richmond’s Advisory Urban Design Panel and is highly involved in community initiatives in and around Vancouver. He is a member of the winning team ‘Take Out’ for the Surrey Parkit 2013 competition and a team member of the 2012 Viva Vancouver Parklet installation ‘Hot Tubs’. He also contributes design consultation to local BIA community improvements.
KARA VAN MYALL

Kara is a registered landscape architect and professional planner with a B.Sc. (Env) and M.L.A. from the University of Guelph. She is a full member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and of the Ontario Professional Planning Institute. A self-proclaimed downtown enthusiast, Kara has spent 15 years promoting the power of place making in downtown cores. Her professional experience includes a number of community revitalization and improvement initiatives as a Landscape Architect with the City of Waterloo, including downtown park development, streetscapes designs, and working with the Vision Committee for “Uptown Waterloo.” She has been with the Planning and Economic Development Department of the County of Bruce since 2006 in various roles, most recently as the Acting Tourism Manager which was a logical extension and an exciting opportunity to further integrate product development and design into destination development.

By combining her unique technical skills and her passion for community, Kara spearheaded the development of the Spruce the Bruce program at the County of Bruce which is a regional downtown revitalization program. This program is a model for supporting rural and small town efforts to bring about positive change in their communities.

Kara is an engaging public speaker and connects with her audience through practical, on-the-ground examples. Many communities have sought her dynamic personality to inspire their downtown transformation.

With extensive experience at workshops and conferences, Kara can facilitate multi-day workshops on destination development and also highlight the power of place-making through standalone and breakout sessions. She has presented on a variety of topics ranging from environmental health and active transportation to community design and destination development. Her most recent presentation was at the Ontario BIA Association (OBIAA) National Conference in Toronto, where the Spruce the Bruce program was recognized with a “Bricks and Mortar” National Achievement Award.

Biography

Kara Van Myall is a Registered Landscape Architect and Professional Planner with a passion for downtowns and creating places for people. Kara has spent 15 years promoting the power of place making in downtown cores. Her professional experience includes a number of community revitalization and improvement initiatives as a Landscape Architect with the City of Waterloo and more recently with the Planning and Economic Development Department of the County of Bruce.

By combining her unique technical skills and passion for community, Kara spearheaded the development of the Spruce the Bruce program at the County. Spruce the Bruce brings together the department’s planning, economic development and tourism roles in a comprehensive regional revitalization program.

In 2012 Kara was the Acting Tourism Manager for the County which was a logical extension and an exciting opportunity to further integrate product development and design into the downtown program. Kara is a proclaimed downtown enthusiast whose energy and ideas are resulting in positive changes to Bruce County’s downtowns.
MICHAEL A. VON HAUSEN

Michael von Hausen is a dynamic speaker and facilitator. He brings national and international university teaching and professional practice experience to each customized presentation. Michael just finished his 3rd book – Dynamic Urban Design: A Handbook for Creating Sustainable Communities Worldwide (2013). This 500 page book outlines a new model for applying sustainability through the practice of urban design. Michael is a sought after keynote speaker and was ranked the top speaker at the Alberta Association of Community Planners Conference in 2012. Michael is both a registered professional landscape architect and planner. He also adds his experience and training in real estate economics (Harvard University) to ground his presentations in realistic applications. Michael can also bring balance perspective as he has both public and private experience at the senior levels. He teaches eight to ten courses each year across Canada as curriculum coordinator and chief instructor for the Simon Fraser University Urban Design Certificate Program. He is also Adjunct Professor of the graduate Urban Studies Program and facilitates the three courses for the School of Development of the Urban Development Institute, Pacific Region. Michael’s recent presentation’s included:

• Community Planners Association of Alberta Annual Conference Keynote Address, April 2012, Red Deer, Alberta: Dynamic Complete Communities.
• Economic Association of BC 2011 Annual Conference, June 2011 Presentation with the Mayor of the City of Langley, Langley BC: Dynamic Pedestrian Magnets: Learning from New Main Streets.

Biography

Michael von Hausen brings more than 30 years of teaching, training, facilitating, and working across North America in the areas of land development planning, finance, and urban design. He is President of MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc., an international consulting practice in sensitive land development planning, sustainable urban design, and community partnerships in Canada, United States, Russia, and Mexico. His firm has received 10 local, provincial, and national awards over the past 7 years for their innovation in planning, urban design, and sustainable community development. He is a registered professional planner and landscape architect. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional.

Michael von Hausen was elected to Lambda Alpha International in 2011, the honorary society for the advancement of land economics in recognition of his distinguished career and outstanding contribution to the advancement of land economics and service to his community. He is past Director of the Surrey Foundation and former member of the City of Surrey Urban Design Panel. In 2012, Mr. von Hausen was recognized as an honored member of the Heritage Registry of Who’s Who for Executives and Professionals. He represented Canadian innovations in sustainable planning and design on missions to China and Russia for the Federal Government of Canada. Michael is the chief instructor and curriculum coordinator of the award-winning Urban Design Certificate Program at Simon Fraser University. He is also Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Urban Studies Program. In addition, Michael developed and facilitates the four courses for the School of Development, Urban Development Institute, Pacific Region. He is a graduate of Harvard University with a Masters in Urban Design and a specialty in real estate development economics.
YVONNE YEUNG

Yvonne is an urban designer and landscape architect with consulting experience in Canada, US, UK and Asia with companies including Urban Strategies Inc., The MBTW Group and Hassell International Limited. As Project Manager at The MBTW Group, her projects include the award-winning Niagara Falls Tourist District Streetscape Master Plan, FILMPORT – the Toronto Portlands District for Innovation and Creativity, Windsor Waterfront Master Plan, Burlington Waterfront Master Plan, Actova Waterfront Masterplan for the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Princes’ Gates Ceremonial Precinct at the Canadian National Exhibition, and various high density developments along the Toronto waterfront. As Urban Designer at Urban Strategies Inc., she completed Urban Design Regeneration Strategies for Earls Court / West Kensington area in London, UK, and the planning of the Custom House at ExCeL – the Exhibition and Conference Centre in London, UK. The plan involves the rethinking of development potentials around the major transit node and convention destination in the Western and Eastern part of London. As Project Manager at TCCC, Yvonne organized public design workshop involving 150 volunteers, 13 community organizations and 14 speakers in topic of planning, sustainability, architectural and social awareness. The workshop was well attended by over 1000 participants including the elected officials.

Yvonne has served on the City of Toronto Public Art Commission Review Panel (TPAC), the OALA Editorial Board, Janes Walk leader and has been invited as speaker and design critic at the University of Toronto, University of Oklahoma, University of Ottawa and York University. Her community-driven urban design process with the St. James Town Community was profiled in the Design Exchange magazine and was awarded honour by the American Society of Landscape Architects. With a passion in vibrant and sustainable urban planning, Yvonne travels regularly to study and document the evolving urban typologies in different parts of the world. Yvonne has participated at Markham’s “Talk of the Town” Toastmaster Club.

Biography

Yvonne is an urban designer and landscape architect with consulting experience in Canada, US, UK and Asia with companies including Urban Strategies Inc., The MBTW Group and Hassell International Limited.

Since 2011, Yvonne holds a Senior Urban Design Planner position at the City of Markham, and is primarily responsible for the review and approval of development applications as well as streetscape / infrastructure projects in Markham.