



## Remarks given by Gordon Smith, APALA, CSLA, President of CSLA, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at Rideau Hall

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

In 2014, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, agreed to establish the Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the CSLA (the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects).

Je suis ravi d'être ici parmi vous aujourd'hui pour célébrer la première édition de la médaille, qui est la plus haute distinction décernée à un architecte paysagiste par l'AAPC.

The award highlights the long history of landscape architects' role in shaping, preserving and protecting the Canadian landscape through a collaborative, design-based approach. In developing solutions, landscape architects work with the interests of their clients and the public, and synthesize information from a wide range of specialists such as engineers, architects, social scientists, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, foresters, artists and ecologists. Canadian landscape architects have made, and will continue to make, significant contributions to the quality of life in Canada and the world.

The Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture honours an exceptional landscape architect whose lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession have made a unique and lasting impact on Canadian society.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the recipient of the 2016 Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture, Ms. Cornelia Hahn Oberlander.

Cornelia Hahn Oberlander pratique l'architecture de paysage depuis plus de 60 ans et elle a joué un rôle majeur dans l'évolution du modernisme au sein de l'architecture, de l'architecture de paysage et de la planification.

She graduated in 1947 from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design as one of its first female landscape architects. At Harvard, she embraced modernist ideas and values that encouraged collaboration across disciplines – a concept that became an Oberlander hallmark.

Cornelia has also been concerned for the public's welfare throughout her career. Cornelia's work on the Children's Creative Center for Expo 67 led to her participation in the creation of national playground guidelines and the design of more than seventy playgrounds across Canada.

Cornelia is known for her collaborative, socially responsible, and environmentally thoughtful approach. She thoroughly researches each site and embraces new technologies to address issues of sustainability and climate change.

Many ideas hailed as groundbreaking today, such as the importance of exposure to nature and the creation of opportunities for social interaction, formed the foundation of her design philosophy decades ago. For more than sixty years, she has been an influential leader in building places and policy that support an intimate and beautiful connection with the natural world.

Your Excellency, Ms. Cornelia Hahn Oberlander.