

Department of Landscape Architecture

LA 260

Understanding Landscapes

Professor Ron Lovinger



This class offers an overview of the relationships between human cultures and their intentional landscapes, most often designed gardens. By studying a broad range of gardens, it exemplifies both cross-cultural themes as well as the distinctive characteristics of many world cultures. The gardens are studied as metaphors of the human cultural expression, for example, “The Landscape as Retreat and Refuge” (Chinese scholar gardens), “The Landscape as a Window into Self” (Zen gardens of Japan), “The Landscape as Public Garden” (including examples from 18th century England through contemporary examples) and “The Landscape as Public Room” (including both historic and contemporary urban plazas).

This class satisfies ARTS & LETTERS Group requirements

Draft Lectures and Schedule

UNDERSTANDING LANDSCAPES: L.A. 260/608

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES OF THE WORLD:

Room 115 of Lawrence Hall

4:00 - 5:50 P.M. Tues. & Thurs.

Instructor: Ron Lovinger, Professor of Landscape Architecture. Office: 218 Lawrence Hall;
Hours: T, TH 1-3 or by appointment. rlov@uoregon.edu

Graduate Teaching Fellows: TBA

Recommended Text: **The Landscape of Man** by Geoffrey and Susan Jellicoe.

Website: <http://uoregon.edu/~la260>

Course requirements:

Attendance (10%)

Assignment 1: Juxtaposition (20%)

Assignment 2: Pervasive Patterns (20%)

Midterm Exam (25%)

Assignment 3: Walled Garden (25%)

The Schedule of Lectures is as follows:

Oct. 1 Tuesday

The Landscape as Structure and Control: Physical patterns as an expression of earth processes. Relationship of settlement pattern to geomorphic structure, contrast between orders of nature and orders of man; the derived landscape vs. the contrived landscape: the ecotone. The Willamette Valley: Brownsville, Bell Fountain, aerial photo of Honshu, Japan. Landscape as territory; the earth ordered, arranged, systematized: Geometry of the Homestead Act: extended as in Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Francisco, San Diego. Shelterbelts of North Dakota, Zuider Zee, Holland; and Matsue, Japan

1st Assignment Posted - Due: Oct. 16

Oct. 3, Thursday

The Landscape as Time: The garden as a measure of the passage of time. Landscape evolving into its own personality. The accumulation of landscape patterns. Predicting the future. The maturing of gardens in the fourth dimension. Ise Shrine , Parque del Professor, Gas Works Park

Oct. 8, Tuesday

The Circumscribed Landscape : The landscape divided; edges as an expression of cultural divisions, geomorphic surfaces as determinant of settlement patterns. Tension at the edge. Jerusalem, Israel, Kyoto, Japan: Rakuchu/Rakugai, Saqqara, Giza, Hatshepsut's tomb, Luxor

Oct. 10, Thursday

The Landscape as Language : The landscape as guide-book, clues revealed: the perception of landscape as "to whom it may concern" indicators. Settlement patterns as a manifestation of vernacular traditions, organic structure and evolved order. Landscape as artifact. Pequiin, Israel - vines and terraces in the sun. Syri, Greece - the harbor with arms extended. Chenini, Tunisia - landscape as hinge. Elephantine Island, Egypt - the continuity of light, shade and sun. Telc, Czechoslovakia - arcades on the borderline, plaza and loggia as pervasive pattern of colonnaded arcade.

Oct. 15, Tuesday

Landscape as Retreat and Refuge : Personal refuge, personal fantasy and idealization of nature. Gardens of Suchow, China. Chuo Cheng Yuan -The Humble Administrators Garden, The Wang Shih Yuan - Garden of the Master of the Fishing Nets, Liu Yuan - The Lingering Garden. Layers of enclosure, security, safety, cultivation...outside chaos, whimsical wilderness, untamed and hostile.

Oct. 17, Thursday

The Landscape as Window into Self : The Zen garden as symbol of the cosmos, as a means of transcendence and source of inner peace. The garden as the ultimate inside; as place of meditation. The journey within . . . the ordinary made extraordinary Daitoku-ji, (Daisen-in) Myoshin-ji, (Daishen-in) Ryoan-ji Saiho-ji Tenryu-ji Tofuku-ji

1st Assignment Due: 2nd Assignment Posted: Due October 30

Oct. 22, Tuesday

The Landscape of the Mind : The garden hidden. A sequential collection of composed images and views shrouded in mist and mystery: the garden as space and time unfolding. Garden Dreams. The landscape as a source of understanding high style vernacular. Shinden-zukuri/Skia style. The Imperial Gardens of Kyoto: Shugaku-in, Sento-gosho and Katsura Detached Palace

Oct. 24, Thursday

The Paradise Garden : The landscape within the landscape - a circumscription within the circumscribed. The origin of the garden as an idealized archetypal construct exhibiting the intimacy of the primitive to the profound.

Oasis of Douz , Djerba and the Menzel - Djerba, Tunisia, The Alhambra and Generalife - Granada, Spain The Court of Oranges - Cordoba, Spain McIntyre Garden - Hillsborough, California, Salk Institute - La Jolla, California, The Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem

Oct. 29, Tuesday

The Landscape of Pilgrimage : The nomad and the oasis, the garden as destination; the search for respite. The garden as Pleasure and Delight. The Mughal Garden. Chahar Bagh, Bagh-i-fin (Qashgai Nomads) Kashan, Iran Chashma Shahi, Shalimar, Nishat Bagh; Kashmir, India Amber Palace; Jaipur, India Itmad-ud-dalah; Delhi, India and The Taj Mahal; Agra.

Oct. 31, Thursday

The Landscape as Metaphor . The garden as a record of time, space and meaning; garden dialectics. The landscape of mystery and fantasy. Sequence of spaces revealing the idea of the garden. Villa Lante, Villa Gamberaia (giardino segreto), Villa D'Este, Villa Medici

2nd Assignment Due, 3rd Assignment Posted

Nov. 5, Tuesday

The Landscape as Continuous Thread : The landscape as context. The vernacular extended, transformed and elaborated. The landscape as idealized geometry. The Veneto , Italy - the architecture and landscapes of Andrea Palladio, Villa Emo, Villa Barbaro at Maser, Villa Rotunda, Vaux le Viscomte

Nov. 7, Thursday

Review of lectures.

Nov. 12, Thursday Midterm Exam

Nov. 14, Thursday

The Landscape as Painting : The grand tour, the paintings of Claude, Poussin, Salvatore Rosa; Hogarth, William Gilpin. Uvedale Price and the Picturesque. The remodeling of the English countryside. Pope's epistle to Lord Burlington. Monet's garden at Giverny. Greenwich - Naval College - Inigo Jones - Henry Wise Harewood House, Stowe, Rousham, Castle Howard, Stourhead

Nov. 19, Tuesday

The Landscape as Public Garden : The Jardin Anglais - the English romantic garden made public. The landscape as an expression of social consciousness. The Parque des Butte Chaumont; Paris, France Bois de Boulogne (the Grand Cascade); Paris, France The New Town; Edinburgh, Scotland; Central Park, New York, New York; Crematorium: Gunnar Asplund, Sven Legergren; Stockholm.

The Landscape as Public Room: as stage set, theater and place of performance and the human drama. Piazza San Marco, Venice; Piazza del Campo, Sienna; Campidoglio, Rome; Gubbio; Cortona and Perugia; Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington, D.C., Horikawa Canal, Kyoto, Japan

Nov. 21, Thursday: Model Making Tutorial

Nov. 26, Tuesday: OPEN

Nov. 22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Dec.2 - 6: Review Week in the school of Architecture and Allied Arts. There will be no class during this week.

Final Presentation of Walled Garden Project is during time of the Final Exam Date as Posted.