Municipal Arboriculture & Landscape Architecture: Finding Common Ground

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OUTLINE

• Definitions
• History of Professions
• Similarities and Differences
• Finding Common Ground
Definitions:

- Landscape architecture is the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments.

- The municipal arborist is the individual responsible for the long-term care and management of city trees.

- They are the two most dominant forces in Urban Forestry.
History of the Professions

Municipal Forestry

- 1870’s City Planners begin to utilize 30’ setbacks to allow room for planting trees.

- 1872 First Arbor Day

- In 1896, the Massachusetts legislature passed the first tree warden law, and the other five New England states soon followed suit.

- 1910 First New York City Forester

- 1924 First International Shade Tree Conference (ISA)
In 1841, Andrew Jackson Downing, one of this country’s early landscape architects, already recognized the need to bring nature’s relief into the urban environment. Downing, while advocating the creation of an “Ornamental Tree Society,” discussed the necessity of designing with trees, advising cities to, “turn dusty lanes and bald highways into alleys and avenues of coolness and verdure”
DIFFERENCES

A Sunni Squirrel Attacks a Shia Squirrel
Scale of Work: Macro vs Micro

Regional Scale

City Scale

Site Scale

Detail Scale
Scope of Work
Comprehensive vs Specific
Thought Process: Abstract vs Concrete
Generalist vs Specialist

The typical curriculum for a landscape architecture major include classes in: Landscape Construction, Landscape Design, Planting Design, Plant Identification, Professional Practice, Geology, Art, Ecology, Urban and Regional Planning, Horticulture, History, Civil Engineering, and other relevant studies.

The Arboriculture program has been designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practices of the arboriculture profession. Courses include Arboriculture, Horticulture, Plant Pest and Disease Management, Soil Science, Botany, Plant Pathology, Plant Identification, and Turf Management.
Graphic Skills
Artistic vs Bland
Knowledge of Physiology
Extensive vs Limited
We view trees differently

Landscape Architects see trees as.....
• one of many design components.
• creators of space and mood.
• static forms.
• They view trees from the outside.

Arborists see trees as....
• providers of ecological services.
• living organisms that change over time and must be managed.
• They view trees from the inside.
How we select trees....is different

Arborists tend to select trees based on the size of the planting site and other environmental conditions (climate, soils, water, etc.).

Landscape Architects tend to select trees based on the type of space they are trying to create.
How we arrange trees...is different

Varying arrangements and composition of plants can create a completely different spaces.
Similarities
Academic Integration

Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition
The SUFC is composed of city planners, educators, landscape architects, non-profit leaders, scientists, arborists, foresters, nurserymen and women, and many other professionals who care for, monitor and advocate for trees and our urban forests as a whole.

Virginia Tech University
In addition to forestry courses, students take classes from Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Affairs and Planning and many others.

Fifth Year Comprehensive Project: An Urban Forest Model for Columbia Indiana
Student: Michelle Westermeier
Degree: Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals
Urban Forestry is a discipline that promotes the care and management of trees in an urban setting. It advocates the importance of vegetation as a critical element of the urban infrastructure. It is practiced by diverse professions: arborists, landscape architects, horticulturists, planners, educators, activists, and others who work to enhance and protect our environment.
Civil Service Integration

Urban Forester - Falls Church VA

REQUIREMENTS/EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE: Graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in arboriculture, landscape architecture or related field and extensive experience in codes enforcement.

Seattle WA

The city is looking for people to serve on its new Urban Forestry Commission. The commission will have nine members: a wildlife biologist; an urban ecologist; a representative of a local, state, or federal natural resource agency or an accredited university; a hydrologist; an arborist; a landscape architect; representative of a non-profit or NGO whose mission is to advocate for the urban forest; a developer; and an economist or real estate broker, preferably with expertise in land use or environmental planning.

Weston Wisconsin - Urban Forestry Internship

PURPOSE: This internship is being offered to provide guidance and hands on training and experience to a student pursuing a career in urban forestry, parks and recreation, landscape architecture or a closely related field.

Palm Coast Florida

The Green Team is a newly formed Division of Community Development. The Green Team comprises City technical staff including the Landscape Architect, Urban Forester, and Environmental Planner. With the formation of this Division, the City of Palm Coast provides a focused group of professionals that cumulatively comprise a diverse resource of environmental knowledge and experience.

The main objective of the Division is to preserve and enhance the City's natural and structural aesthetic land use and development through practical application of the City's Land Development Code and all established zoning and code regulations.
**Private Practice Integration**

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<th>Professional Roles</th>
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<td>Landscape Architects, Land Planners, Site Planners, Irrigation Designers, Tree Surveyors, Arborists, Landscape Designers, and City Planners</td>
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Since 1992 we have established a reputation for superior service, trustworthy business practices and strict attention to detail, led by our guiding principal Jonathan H. Toner, ASLA, ISA, Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist. Our office is located in Tampa, in the heart of the Hyde Park district, easily accessible from St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Orlando.

DHGA provides landscape evaluations, tree appraisals and expert witness services in addition to comprehensive landscape design, site planning and irrigation system design throughout the Rocky Mountain region. He is the only practicing Landscape Architect who is also a Registered Consulting Arborist in Colorado and eighteen neighboring states.
The approximately 35 trees scheduled to be cut down to make way for a new, redesigned business school building and parking lot have caused concern among environmental activists on campus, and may change the process for future expansion planning at the UW.

Campus arborist Deborah Brown intends to send a letter to the UW administration and Campus Landscape Advisory Committee in response to the approved removal of the trees, which she believes could have been avoided.

The plan, approved in January, will result in the removal of the water oak, a hickory tree and many other, mainly healthy trees.

Bill Talley, a campus landscape architect emeritus, explained that while he does not want to see these trees cut down, it is a sacrifice that must be made, and he noted there are plans to plant at least 50 new trees.

From his perspective, Plant (Landscape Architect) said what DuBois (Arborist) did was like a drive-by-shooting, where DuBois made his observations of the site without getting out of his car. Plant said he tried to contact Dubois about the project, but he didn’t want to talk.

“With all this construction, it’s made the trees unsafe. Roots hold trees to the ground and once they’ve been damaged, it limits a tree’s ability to preserve its limbs and they end up falling off,” added DuBois. “I don’t think a landscape architect necessarily has the ability to protect these trees which could be between 70 and 100 years old. If I was the arborist on this project, I would’ve given a lot of leeway for the trees.”
Collaboration is the Key....if we want healthy sustainable trees.
So…How do we collaborate?

- Sooner is always better than later and later is always better than never.
- Be proactive.
- Form partnerships that allow each participant to do what they do best.
  - Landscape Architects
    - Conceptual Design
    - Graphics / Presentations
    - Arrangement and composition of trees
  - Arborists
    - Details, Details, Details
    - Specie Selection
    - Long Term Maintenance and Management
- Organize projects around teams that are circular instead of hierarchical
- Look for opportunities to make each others lives easier....not more difficult.
THANK YOU

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