

larc 507 landscape and art: gesture, expression, place

Instructor	Elizabeth Umbanhowar	Office Hours	M 9-10, T 4-5, CDB 104
Schedule	MWF 1:30-5:20	Email	umbanhow@uw.edu
Location	Gould 106		
Credits	6 cr/nc		

A garden is a complex of aesthetic and plastic intentions; and the plant is, to a landscape artist, not only a plant - rare, unusual, ordinary or doomed to disappearance - but it is also a color, a shape, a volume or an arabesque in itself.

~ Roberto Burle Marx

For me, a landscape does not exist in its own right, since its appearance changes at every moment; but its surroundings bring it to life – the air and the light, which vary continually.

~ Claude Monet

overview

Landscape architecture actively embraces art, science and a community to conceive, preserve and create memorable and meaningful places throughout our cities and regions. The role of art in landscape—and landscape as art—both historically and today has been to connect people to place and to reveal complex ideas, hidden histories, and ecological function in evocative and consequential ways. This studio will explore the boundaries between landscape architecture and the fine arts through an inquiry-based and immersive approach, examining history, theory and current practice within the studio context.

Through case studies, conversations with practitioners across disciplines, hands-on exercises, fabrication and installation, and a site-specific design competition, students will: interrogate the parallels and distinctions between art and landscape practice; cultivate real-world design, communication and collaboration skills; develop a framework for defining professional practice values and personal expression; hone software and hand skills; and gain a grounded understanding of opportunities and challenges in collaborative and interdisciplinary work.

learning objectives | outcomes

The learning objectives and anticipated outcomes for this studio include exploring issues of aesthetics, design practice and the boundaries between disciplines, including art, ecology, architecture, planning, engineering, education, and politics, to name a few. While there are many points of intersection with art practice, we will also investigate the question of what is art practice and what is landscape architecture and continue to refine your own working definitions.

The studio will emphasize:

1. **cultivating and improving professional skills** through individual, group and collective studio exercises;
2. **building a working vocabulary of theory and precedents around art** and artful landscape practice through field trips, readings, guest speakers, discussion, research and film to inform design process, program, and ideas; and the historic and current role landscape architects play in this critical arena;
3. **working collaboratively** to develop design concepts and generate schematic design;
4. **developing a meaningful and memorable context in which landscape and art co-exist**, using a variety of hand and computer skills and exploring form, scale and material, as well as possible strategies for implementation;

5. **delivering a design competition package** as preparation for the professional world
6. **defining and tracking personal goals** for studio learning, skill-building and professional networking.

assessment measures

Your primary studio focus should be on advancing your research, design, and communication skills in the context of this project and through effective group collaboration and learning with peers. It is important that you participate during scheduled studio times and presentations. It is also essential that you meet deadlines set for studio efforts: if something happens and you are not able to do so, you must make arrangements with me prior to the deadline.

If you have questions or conflicts, please contact me. If questions come up outside studio sessions, please contact me in person, by phone (685-4006), by email (umbanhow@uw.edu), and/or sign up for office hours.

While this is a credit/no credit course, you will receive extensive written and verbal feedback on your performance through desk critiques, review comments and guest input. The course evaluation will be weighted by:

borrow precedents and perception	15%
build on site intervention tactical urbanism	30%
believe schematic design competition package	40%
readings and reflection involvement in studio	15%

You are required to submit all documentation of your drawings, graphic work, and text produced for pin-ups and presentations throughout the quarter for the studio to Canvas.

SCHEDULE**week 1** **exploration I collection initial questions**

w 9/28 overview | is it art or landscape?
campus site visit

f 9/30 **pin up I lecture**

Jillian Wallis (University of Melbourne) and Heike Rahmann (RMIT) on *Landscape Architecture and Digital Technologies: Reconceptualising Design and Making*, Gould 322, 4:30 PM

<http://swarmdev4.be.washington.edu/event-calendar/?trumbaEmbed=eventid%3D120844377%26view%3Devent%26-childview%3D>

week 2 **borrowing** **researching I precedents I re-seeing**

READINGS Hunt, John Dixon. "Foreward." In Udo Weilacher. *Between landscape architecture and land art*. Birkhauser: Basel, Berlin, Boston, 1999, pp. 6-7.

Bann, Stephen. "Foreward." In Udo Weilacher. *Between landscape architecture and land art*. Birkhauser: Basel, Berlin, Boston, 1999, pp. 8-9.

m 10/3 reading discussion I work day

w 10/5 presentation I introduction of inquiry02_build I video

f 10/7 field trip

s 10/8 **Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative** (held in Gould 114 and 110)

week 3 **building** **seeing I engaging I making**

READINGS Project for Public Spaces, "When is temporary art appropriate?"
<http://www.pps.org/reference/pubartdesign/#when>

A Guide to What is (and isn't) Public Art in Seattle
<http://www.thestranger.com/visual-art/features/2016/01/27/23483067/a-guide-to-what-is-and-isnt-public-art-in-seattle>

David Pinder, "Arts of Urban Exploration," *Cultural Geographies*, 2005, 12:383-411 (PDF on Canvas)

m 10/10 inquiry02_build_part 1 (brief) pin up
lecture I reading discussion I work day

w 10/12 field trip

f 10/14 work day

Michael Verguson Drawing Workshop Lecture 5:30 PM Gould 322

week 4 **building** seeing | engaging | making

READINGS Howett, Catherine M., "Landscape Architecture: Making a Place for Art." *Places*, 2(4), 1985, pp. 52-60.

m **10/17** lecture | reading discussion | work day
w **10/19** pin up of inquiry02_build (work in progress)
f **10/21** work day

week 5 **building** seeing | engaging | making

READINGS Lippard, Lucy. "Entering the Big Picture" *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicultural Society*. The New Press: New York, 1997, pp. 285-292.

m **10/24** lecture | reading discussion
w **10/26** presentation of inquiry02_build (on site)
f **10/28** field trip

week 6 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

READINGS Weilacher, Udo. "Isamu Noguchi: Space as Sculpture." Between landscape architecture and land art. Birkhauser: Basel, Berlin, Boston, 1999, pp. 43-54.

m **10/31** reading discussion | lecture
w **11/2** work day
f **11/4** work day

week 7 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

READINGS Bogert, Phoebe Erin. *Creative convergence: an investigation and comparison of the approach and process of those who work at the overlap of art and landscape architecture*, Thesis, University of Washington, 2006, selected pages.

m **11/7** work day
w **11/9** midterm presentation
f **11/11** Veteran's Day NO CLASS

week 8 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

m **11/14** work day
w **11/16** work day
th **11/17** Kate Orff "Toward An Urban Ecology," 6:30 PM (venue TBA)
f **11/18** work day

week 9 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

m	11/21	work day
w	11/23	work day
f	11/25	Thanksgiving - NO CLASS

week 10 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

m	11/28	work day
w	11/30	work day
f	12/2	work day

week 11 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

m	12/5	work day
w	12/7	L507 FINAL REVIEWS
f	12/9	OTHER FINAL REVIEWS

week 12 **believing** conceptualizing | committing | competing

m	12/12	OTHER FINAL REVIEWS
w	12/14	
f	12/16	END OF QUARTER

QUARTER ENDS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

preliminary reading I resource list

text (print)

Beardsley, John. *Earthworks and beyond: contemporary art in the landscape*.

Boettger, Suzaan. *Earthworks: art and the landscape of the sixties*

Bogert, Phoebe Erin. *Creative convergence: an investigation and comparison of the approach and process of those who work at the overlap of art and landscape architecture*, Thesis, University of Washington, 2006, selected pages.

Gillette, Jane Brown and Marc Treib. *Meaning in landscape architecture & gardens: four essays, four commentaries*

Howett, Catherine M., "Landscape Architecture: Making a Place for Art." *Places*, 2(4), 1985, pp. 52-60.

Lippard, Lucy. *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicultural Society*. The New Press: New York, 1997.

Maggio, Catherine Susan. *Integral landscapes: environmental art, ethics and landscape architecture*

Prigann, Herman, Heike Strelow and Vera David, *Ecological aesthetics: art in environmental design: theory and practice*

Ross, Stephanie. *What gardens mean*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998 (see especially Chapter 1, "Garden and art, gardens as art")

Weilacher, Udo. *Between landscape architecture and land art*. Birkhauser: Basel, Berlin, Boston, 1999.

text (virtual)

4Culture Public Art <http://www.4culture.org/publicartintro/>

Forecast Public Art, *Public Art Toolkit*, <http://forecastpublicart.org/toolkit/>

A Map of Land Art Across America, *Curbed*, <http://www.curbed.com/maps/the-big-dig-a-map-of-land-art-across-america>

Project for Public Spaces, "Design and Review Criteria for Public Art," <http://www.pps.org/reference/pubartdesign/>

moving image (video)

Art21

<http://www.art21.org/>

Change

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-change>

Ecology

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-ecology>

Fiction

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-fiction>

Place

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-place>

Power

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-power>

Systems

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-systems>

Time

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-time>

James Turrell: Spirituality

<http://www.art21.org/videos/segment-james-turrell-in-spirituality>

Vancouver

<http://www.art21.org/videos/episode-vancouver>