

Goals and Origins of ECLAS

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools exists to foster and develop scholarship in landscape architecture throughout Europe by strengthening contacts and enriching the dialogue between members of Europe's landscape academic community, by representing the interests of this community within the wider European social and institutional context and by making the collective expertise of ECLAS available, where appropriate, in furthering the discussion of landscape architectural issues at the European level.

In pursuit of this goal the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools seeks to build upon the Continent's rich landscape heritage and intellectual traditions to:

- Further and facilitate the exchange of information, experience and ideas within the discipline of landscape architecture at the European level, stimulating discussion and encouraging co-operation between Europe's landscape architecture schools through, amongst other means, the promotion of regular international meetings, in particular an annual conference;
- Foster and develop the highest standards of landscape architecture education in Europe by, amongst other things, providing advice and acting as a forum for sharing experience on course and curriculum development, and supporting collaborative developments in teaching and learning;
- Promote interaction between academics and researchers within the discipline of landscape architecture, thereby furthering the development of a Europe-wide landscape academic community, through, amongst other things, the development of common research agendas and the establishment of collaborative research projects;
- Represent the interests of scholarship in landscape architecture within Europe's higher education system, encourage interdisciplinary awareness and enhance the overall standing and the public understanding of the discipline;
- Stimulate dialogue with European bodies, institutions and organisations with interests in landscape architecture and with other international organisations furthering landscape scholarship.



European collaboration within the discipline of landscape architecture began in a structured way with an informal meeting of European landscape schools in Berlin in 1989, and the subsequent establishment of ECLAS - the "European Conference of Landscape Architecture Schools" in 1991. Since then conferences have been held annually, each hosted by a different landscape architecture school.

Since 2000 ECLAS has been developing its activities beyond the annual conferences. In this context, the ECLAS web site www.eclas.org provides an important means of communication between members of the organisation between the annual conferences.

www.eclas.org



More information about ECLAS and its activities can be found on the ECLAS web site at www.eclas.org

ECLAS Executive Committee 2002 - 03

- Richard Stiles, Technische Universität Wien - A
- Catharine Ward Thompson, Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot-Watt University - UK
- Jeroen de Vries, Larenstein University of Professional Education - NL
- Karsten Jörgensen, Agricultural University of Norway - N
- Luis Ribeiro, Technical University of Lisbon - P
- Ingrid Sarlöv-Herlin, Swedish Agricultural University, Alnarp - S
- Ivan Marusic, University of Ljubljana - SLO
- Ian Jörgensen, Agricultural University, Copenhagen - DK
- Cornelius Scherzer, HTW Dresden - D
- Diedrich Bruns, Universität Kassel - D
- Aleksander Böhm, Cracow University of Technology - PL
- Kristine Kalmane, Latvia University of Agriculture - LT
- Kinga Szilagi, Szent Istvan University, Budapest - H
- Maria Goula, ETSAB, Barcelona - E



For more information about joining ECLAS contact the ECLAS President:
Professor Richard Stiles of Vienna University of Technology at:
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Landscape Architecture – The European Dimension

Landscape architecture is the discipline concerned with mankind's conscious shaping of his external environment. It involves planning, design and management of the landscape to create, maintain, protect and enhance places so as to be both functional, beautiful and sustainable (in every sense of the word), and appropriate to diverse human and ecological needs.

Development of landscape architecture in Europe

The modern history of the subject has a particular European dimension. This can be traced from mediaeval beginnings in monastery cloisters and secular pleasure gardens - with their roots in Roman, Byzantine and Moorish traditions - through the humanist gardens of the Italian Renaissance, the magnificent French Baroque gardens of André Le Notre, to the English landscape tradition of the eighteenth century. During the 20th century ideas from Germany, the Netherlands and Spain played an important role in shaping contemporary European landscape architecture. Over recent decades the discipline has expanded to encompass wider environmental concerns, by combining approaches from the natural sciences and the planning disciplines, developing strategies, methods and techniques for the assessment and amelioration of environmental impacts and also for the treatment of issues associated with sustainability and the conservation of the cultural landscape heritage.

Diversity in European landscape architecture education

The exceptionally wide-ranging nature of the landscape means that the subject area is one of unusual breadth, drawing on and integrating not just material from the two sides of the traditional divide between the creative arts and the natural sciences, but incorporating many aspects of the humanities and technology as well. This complexity is closely reflected by the diversity of approaches to the discipline which can be found throughout Europe, a diversity which is clearly illustrated by the range of different types of higher education institutions across Europe in which landscape architecture teaching has been established. These range from universities specialising in the fine arts to those dedicated to agriculture and forestry, and encompass technical universities as well as the more broadly-based 'general' universities.



ECLAS and the European Landscape Convention

This rich intellectual provenance and broad approach to landscape architectural issues is reflected in the provisions of the European Landscape Convention. The text of the Convention, which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in October 2000, is the first European Treaty which is concerned with the conservation and development of the landscape of Europe as a whole. It explicitly requires signatories to promote training for specialists and university courses concerned with landscape protection, management and planning. ECLAS is glad to be a partner organisation of the Council of Europe for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

The ECLAS Annual Conference

Since the first informal European meeting of landscape architecture schools took place in Berlin in 1989, followed by a second meeting in Vienna the following year, there have been annual conferences of European landscape architecture schools in the following cities:



- 1991 Wageningen - NL
- 1992 Ljubljana - SLO
- 1993 Alnarp - S
- 1994 Edinburgh - UK
- 1995 Barcelona - E
- 1996 Brussels - B
- 1997 Haifa - ISR
- 1998 Vienna - A
- 1999 Berlin - D
- 2000 Dubrovnik - HR
- 2001 Larenstein - NL
- 2002 Budapest - H

The 2003 ECLAS Conference will take place in Portugal from 23rd to 26th October and will be hosted by:
Host Institutions High Institute of Agronomy, Lisbon Technical University and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

The conference theme is:

Landscape Architecture and Modernism:
Exploring the Heritage and Learning the Lessons

Further information about the conference will be posted on the ECLAS web site or is available by contacting:

Luis Ribeiro at topjaris@mail.telepac.pt

Future conferences: the ECLAS 2004 Conference will be hosted by the Agricultural University of Norway and the 2005 Conference is planned to take place in Ankara. Please make the necessary reservations in your diary.

LE:NOTRE Thematic Network Project

Thematic Network Projects are part of the European Union's ERASMUS Programme which further co-operation between European universities for the purpose of developing a European dimension within a subject area and comparing approaches to the discipline in different countries. Aims include: introducing improvements and innovations into teaching and generally furthering the academic dialogue at the European level.

ECLAS' application to the EU ERASMUS Programme for funding for a thematic network project in landscape architecture was approved in June 2002 and the project started officially in October 2002.

The LE:NOTRE Thematic Network in Landscape Architecture aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of landscape architecture education in Europe by identifying, analysing and building on current best practice to define new standards and identify future needs for professional education at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education levels, as well as for research methods teaching.

While aiming towards greater harmonisation of course structure and content in order to facilitate student, teacher and researcher mobility, the project will respect and exploit the existing diversity of Europe's landscape schools, recognising the benefits of cooperation within both arts- and science-based approaches.

This will be achieved by establishing a long term framework for the intensive exchange of information and experience, involving the identification of both common and distinctive approaches and the potential to develop shared and complementary concepts, methods and teaching materials which address future professional, industrial and social needs.

Beneficiaries of the project will include university teachers and researchers in landscape architecture, their students at graduate and postgraduate level, professional offices and public bodies working in the field, and all those involved in conserving and enhancing the landscape of Europe, the central importance of which has recently been recognised in the European Landscape Convention.

The core of the LE:NOTRE Project will be the working groups, which will provide a common forum for colleagues from landscape architecture schools across Europe with similar teaching responsibilities and common research interests. Members of the working groups will have the opportunity to meet once a year within the context of an annual spring workshop and will communicate via the project web site in between times. The following working groups are planned:

- Landscape Design
- Professional Practice
- Landscape and Infrastructure
- Cultural Landscape
- Plant Materials and Vegetation Establishment
- Information and Communication Technology
- History and Conservation of Parks and Gardens
- Landscape Planning and Policy
- Materials and Project Implementation
- Landscape Management
- Urban Open Space Planning and Policy
- Theory and Methodology



LE:NOTRE
Landscape Education: New Opportunities for
Teaching and Research in Europe

www.le-notre.org