Little River Basin Master Gardeners and the El Camino Real Master Naturalists

Wednesday, January 13, 2010
9:00 AM

Wm. Alan King, ASLA
The Land Design Group Inc.
TheLandDesignGroup.com
Texas A&M

- 1989 Bachelors of Landscape Architecture
- 5 yr degree
- Study Abroad Italy
Origins

- Born in Dallas - June 22, 1967
- Raised in Missouri City, TX
- Lived in El Salvador for 2 yrs
- Schooled in College Station
- Study Abroad in Ponte Agli Stolli, Italy

Traveled to Italy, Greece, Germany, Mexico, and all over the U.S.
Professional

- Interned at Contemporary Landscape Services and Nursery (CLS) in Bryan (1988)
- Graduated and took a job with CLS (1989)
- Moved away to Plano for a year (1991)
- Came back to CLS in (1992)
- Bought out the company in (1999)
- Changed the name to The Land Design Group inc.
Achievements

► 2005 HGTV Dream Home, Tyler, TX
Southern Living Idea House 2006, Bryan, TX
ABC Extreme Home Makeover 2007, Washington, TX
Enough about me!
So what about you

► Name
► Occupation
► Where is the farthest you have traveled?
► Why are you here? Hobby, Career, My wife made me?
Schedule

► 9:30  Everything you want to know about Landscape Architecture
► 10:15  5 min Break
► 10:20  Introduction to Design (LA101)
► 11:00  30 min Lunch/Snack Break
► 11:30  Practical Knowledge
► 12:15  Design Charrette
► 1:00  Wrap up
What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architecture is the design of outdoor and public spaces to achieve environmental, socio-behavioral, and/or aesthetic outcomes. It involves the systematic investigation of existing social, ecological, and geological conditions and processes in the landscape, and the design of interventions that will produce the desired outcome. The scope of the profession includes urban design, site planning, town or urban planning, environmental restoration, parks and recreation planning; green infrastructure planning and provision, all at varying scales of design, planning and management.
Landscape Architecture is the manipulation of outdoor spaces to fit the design criteria in both aesthetic and functional aspects.
History

► Father of Landscape Architecture in America
  ▪ Frederick Law Olmstead
    ► Central Park, New York, NY
Prospect Park, Brooklyn
Boston's so called Emerald Necklace park system.
What LA’s Do

The planning, form, scale and siting of new developments
Civil design and public infrastructure
Stormwater management including rain gardens, green roofs and treatment wetlands
Campus and site design for institutions
Parks, botanical gardens, arboretums, greenways, and nature preserves
Recreation facilities like golf, theme parks and sports facilities
Housing areas, industrial parks and commercial developments
Highways, transportation structures, bridges, and transit corridors
Urban design, town and city squares, waterfronts, pedestrian schemes, and parking lots
Large or small urban regeneration schemes
Forest, tourist or historic landscapes, and historic garden appraisal and conservation studies
Reservoirs, dams, power stations, reclamation of extractive industry applications or major industrial projects
Environmental assessment and landscape assessment, planning advice and land management proposals.
Coastal and offshore developments
Ecological Design any form of design that minimizes environmentally destructive impacts by integrating itself with natural processes.
How does Landscape Architecture affect you?
Residential
Commercial/Public Space
How to hire a Landscape Architect

► What to expect

- Problem Solver
- Creative mind
- Considerable knowledge base
- Technical expertise
- Critical thinking
- Interview
Questions to ask

- Experience with your type of project
- Examples of projects
How to prepare

► Know what your goals are
  - Fixing a drainage problem
  - Herb Garden
  - Pool
  - Outdoor Kitchen
  - Views
  - Shade
Budget

► Know your budget
  ▪ Be ready to share it
  ▪ Be realistic
  ▪ Consider phasing
  ▪ Understand that custom structures are one off items and will be more expensive
Be Open Minded

- Open your mind to possibilities
  - A good Landscape Architect will bring you ideas you have not thought of
  - Projects may emerge that are more important
  - Things may need to be done to prepare for the main project that you have not considered
Do your Homework

- Have as much site information as possible ready to give
  - A copy of the most recent survey
  - Information regarding restrictions in your community
Schedule

Consider the timeline

- A well thought out master plan might take several weeks or months
- Other professionals may need to be contracted
- Custom work and contracting take time to do well
The Value of Observation

► You and your Landscape Architect Should be Observant
  ▪ Learn to look outside the box
  ▪ Travel to see what has been done before
  ▪ Original ideas are few and far between
  ▪ Learn to see what you are looking at
    ► The lost sock paradox
    ► See the unseen
When you travel

► Take a journal
► Photograph everything
► Look at the unique details
  ▪ Drainage structures
  ▪ Bio Swales
  ▪ Structures
Break

► Get up & Stretch
► Be Back in 5 minutes
Introduction to Design

Design Principles
- Line
- Form
- Texture
- Color
- Scale
Line
Form
Texture
Color
Scale
Lunch/Snack Break

- 30 min
- When we get back practical planning charrette
Programming

Programming is the formulation of parameters into which a design must fit.

- Legally
- Budgetary
- Aesthetically
- Needs Based

It is the playbook!
Formulating parameters

► Who are the users, owners, special interest groups?
► What is the budget?
► What is the maintenance budget?
► What are the legal boundaries?
► Who calls the shots?
► What is the purpose?
Site Plan Development

► Survey – The legal parameters
► Analysis – Figuring out the issues
► Synthesis – Problem solving
► Illustration - Communication
Tools

- Butter Paper
- Pencil
- Straight Edge
- Scale
- Circle Template
- French Curve
Practical Knowledge

► Landscape and Hardscape

► Finishes are the details that count and just like in the kitchen they cost a lot.

  ▪ Paving materials
    ▶ Concrete
    ▶ Wood
    ▶ Stone
    ▶ Natural and Appropriate
Attracting Wildlife

► Cover
  ▪ Places to hide from predators
    ► Trees, Shrubs, arbors, etc...

► Water
  ▪ Both for drinking and bathing
  ▪ Shallow and pretty still

► Food
  ▪ Every creature will come to food
Water Features

On a budget

- 5 gallon bucket with a lid
- A reservoir, liner, tub, concrete basin. Any vessel that will hold water and is large enough to submerge the bucket.
- Electrical source
- A pump
- Clean ¾ in. to 3” washed rock to fill the vessel
- A large stone or pot
Design Charrette
Program

► Driveway
► Walks
► Water Feature
► Vegetable Garden
► Foundation Beds
► Screen A/C
► Arbor For Shade
► View of the sunset
Analysis

► What is here besides the foundation?
► What is next door?
► What is above?
► What is below?
► Who are the users?
► Can the project be built?
► What factors are unchangeable
Synthesis

► Draw a rough driveway layout

- With enough turning area
- At least 12’ wide
- Make sure it presents the house well
- How does the drainage work now?
- Where will the trashcan go?
- What is the surface?
Draw a rough sidewalk location

- Do you want to get from the street to the door?
- Do you want to access the driveway?
- Where is the mailbox?
- How are the existing trees affected?
- What material is used?
- Do you need steps?
Design

► Bubble in a:
  - Water feature
  - Vegetable Garden
  - A/C units
  - Arbor/Patio

► What is left for Flower beds?
Illustration

- Take your pen and refine your pencil lines
- Use a straight edge and scale
- Refine until it is clear enough to explain
- Make a copy and color it up.
- Learn to sketch. You do not have to be good. You have to communicate.
Helping you realize your dreams for 10 beautiful years.

the land design group inc.

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