Inspired Gardens // 8:30 am // Dedham Room

Doug Jones, ASLA, LeBlanc Jones Landscape Architects

Projects of the nationally renowned LeBlanc Jones Landscape Architects will be discussed. All are examples of work defined by conceptual clarity and strong spatial order. Explore a dramatic range of projects and learn how clients’ needs were met in a series of distinctly unique properties. Understand why the firm believes successfully designed landscapes balance the independent and sometimes conflicting forces of site, context, architecture and client aspirations while achieving their own timeless quality.

Learning Objectives (1.5 LA CES Approved)
- Explore how a wide range of professional experience and personal inspiration leads to creative, inviting and immersive design outcomes.
- Learn how a strong conceptual basis can create a sense of order and unity, from master plan to detail.
- Learn how LJLA overcomes site specific challenges to design creative and richly layered landscapes.
- Explore the firm’s use of materials to create landscapes that feel uniquely contemporary and familiar.

Perspectives on Landscape Identity in the 21st Century // 10:30 am // Dedham Room

Daniel Vasini, Affiliate ASLA, Harvard Graduate School of Design and West 8.

The concept of landscape identity is often related to narrative. Landscape Narrative has many different meanings, interpretations or framing circumstances. Landscape identity, as genius of a place – describes the essences of this definition more concisely by introducing place, context and atmospheres. Within landscape scenery the sequences introduces the framework of the Landscape Identity. Parks also provided a narrative intimate of who we are as a society. Not merely just an ecosystem in today’s second nature, but is also an expression of the true essence of a place. An opportunity to show to the world who we are; a display window for our identity and status, for future generations to come.

Learning Objectives (1.5 LA CES Approved)
- Analyze how previous parks examples showcased the unique identity of a place, with a landscape narrative.
- Explore how Olmsted’s Emerald Necklace, contribute to shape today’s identity.
- Compare and understand how to acknowledge the importance of context, place, and history.
- Learn how to embed all of the design constraints within the narrative of landscape.
- Understand how to reframe a new landscape identity for the future.

afternoon sessions on reverse side
Playful Research to Inform Playscape Design // 1:30 pm // Duxbury Room

Kate Tooke, ASLA, Sasaki Associates

How does current developmental theory and post-occupancy evaluation inform playscape design?

A research-based approach to the design and performance of Cincinnati’s Smale Riverfront Park Adventure Playscape will be explored. Participants will take a deep dive into developmental theory for children, as it applies to the design of learning landscapes and playscapes, and the research will be applied to the case study of designing Smale, an entirely custom play experience in a public setting. The second part of the session will examine findings from a post-occupancy study of the playscape, which revealed several key takeaways for designers of custom play and learning environments. The conversation will focus on implications for safety, how children and families interact with designed features, and long-term maintenance.

Learning Objectives (1.5 LA CES approved)

- Explore current research on children’s development, especially as it relates to playing and learning in outdoor environments
- Connect developmental research to the design features of a custom playscape by exploring the design process
- Understand how post-occupancy study can enrich a designed environment and future iterations of design
- Take-away key lessons-learned from the design, implementation, maintenance and use patterns of a custom public playscape

Landscape Humanism in Practice // 3:30 pm // Dedham Room

Gina Ford, ASLA, with Travis Mazeral, ASLA, Sara Cohen, ASLA, and Philip Dugdale, International ASLA (all of Sasaki Associates)

Cities, in an effort to maintain competitiveness and address broader economic, ecological, or social issues, are investing in innovative planning and design. In her lecture, Ford and her colleagues from Sasaki will discuss projects at a range of scales where landscape is leading this charge, levering human-centered design as a powerful urban catalyst.

Learning Objectives (1.5 LA CES approved)

- Learn about the ways landscape architects are helping to shape urban change in a variety of cities, large and small
- Understand how livability and social considerations can be design inspiration across a variety of site scales (site, district, region)
- Explore the challenges and successes of complex landscape construction in dense urban contexts
- See examples of detailed design strategies that enhance social interaction and human comfort in public spaces