Site Matters

STRATEGIES FOR UNCERTAINTY THROUGH PLANNING AND DESIGN

Edited by

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Routledge

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In the era of the Anthropocene, site matters are more pressing than ever. Building on the concepts, theories, and multi-disciplinary approaches raised in the first edition, this publication strives to address the changes that have taken place over the last 15 years with new material to complement and re-position the initial volume.

Reaching across design disciplines, this highly illustrated anthology assembles essays from architects, landscape architects, urban designers, planners, historians, and artists to explore ways to physically and conceptually engage site. Thoughtful discourse and empirically grounded pieces combine to provide the language and theory to context-ualize the meanings of site in the built environment. The increasingly complex hybridity of constructed environments today demands new tools for thinking about and working with site. Drawing contributions from outside and within the traditional design discip-lines, this edition will trace important developments in site thinking with new essays on topics such as climate change, landscape as infrastructure, shifts from global to planetary urbanization debates, and the proliferation of participatory site transformation practices.

Edited by two leading practitioners and academics, *Site Matters* juxtaposes timeless contributions from individuals including Elizabeth Meyer, Robert Beauregard, and Robin Dripps with original new writings from Peter Marcuse, Jane Wolff, Neil Brenner, and Thaïsa Way, amongst others, to recontextualize and reignite the debate around site. An ideal text for students, academics, and researchers interested in site and design theory.

Andrea Kahn is a professor of site thinking in research and practice at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp/Malmö, where she facilitates SLU Landscape, a research and teaching collaboration initiative. She is founder of designCONTENT, a consultancy offering strategic and communicative process support for complex design, planning, research, writing, curatorial and editorial projects. She has taught architecture, urban design, planning, and landscape extensively in the United States, Europe, and Australia. Her current research interest revolves around collaboration, communication, and synthetic, transdisciplinary knowledge creation.

Carol J. Burns, FAIA, an educator and principal with Taylor & Burns Architects, has taught at Harvard GSD, MIT, UVA, Yale, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. She pioneered the founding of the AIA Women's Leadership Summit, as well as the BSA Research Grants program, which spurred the AIA Upjohn and Small Project grant programs. Her research has resulted in books, articles, competitions, and design studios. Integrating education and practice within a culture of research, she has with her firm designed buildings, spaces, and theoretical projects recognized with awards, including the national Honor Award for Excellence from the Society of College and University Planners.

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ABSTRACTS

Ch 1   Carol J. Burns and Andrea Kahn, "Why Site Matters"

For the disciplines and professions concerned with design of the physical environment, site matters. Not only are physical design projects always located in a specific place, the work of physical design also necessarily depends on notional understandings about the relationships between a project and a locale. Given that design reconfigures the environment using physical and conceptual means, articulate comprehension of site in physical and conceptual terms should be fundamental. Surprisingly, however, the design field overall has a history of scanty literature directly addressing the subject. Why Site Matters argues for an understanding of the design site as a complex construct that incorporates three distinct geographic areas, two divergent spatial ideas, and past, present, and future timeframes. It posits site thinking as the means whereby sites are construed and comprehended. As a form of knowing, site thinking is concretely situated, more interactive than abstract, and less concerned with the semantic content of knowledge than with a concern for relationships among knowers and the known. Site thinking understands knowledge as embedded within specific ways of engaging the world.

Ch 2   Harvey M. Jacobs, "Claiming the Site: Evolving Social-Legal Conceptions of Ownership and Property"

Sites are contested places. There can be many claims to them, and these claims are often a function of differing ideas about what ownership "means," and what are the rights attendant to ownership. This essay seeks to explicate American social and legal ideas about site-based ownership and rights. One argument is that any contemporary ambiguity about ideas of ownership and rights is a function of unresolved debates from the colonial period, encapsulated in America's founding national documents. A second argument is that ideas about ownership and rights have evolved over the course of the nation's history. This flow of the national social-legal dialogue about ownership and rights is traced through to the present day. Technological development and changes in social values are offered forth as the two primary forces driving changing ideas about ownership and rights. The essay closes with predictions as to how this situation might unfold during the 21st century. I argue that more claimants will assert more legitimacy for site use, and thus debates over sites will become more heated. There is no formulaic way to solve this problem; there never has been. The only vehicle Americans have developed is rooted in dialogical democratic processes.

Ch 3   **Esin Komez Daglioglu, "Reclaiming Context: Between Autonomy and Engagement"**

Understanding of context in the field of architecture has been in a state of flux over the last century, affected by architectural discourse swinging between debates of autonomy and engagement. Numerous architects, historians, and teachers turned to context in the 1950s and 1960s to heal the ill effects of orthodox modern architecture and to overcome the destructive post-war reconstructions taking place in the United States and Europe. Following the 1980s, however, context lost popularity, after being absorbed by postmodern historicism and eclecticism, co-opted by traditionalists and conservationists, and attacked by the neo-avant-gardes. This essay identifies the background of this trajectory with particular reference to the works of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, whose definition of context shifted from a spatial to an iconographic emphasis early in their work. The intention here is to reclaim context by proposing a fresh definition of the term that could reinforce architectural practice and discourse as both critical and engaged.

Ch 4   **Elizabeth Meyer," Site Citations: The Grounds of Modern Landscape Architecture"**

Given the pervasiveness of contemporary writing about site, curiously little reflection exists on the history of site in modern landscape architecture. Granted, there has been significant scholarship on the importance of site in pre-nineteenth-century landscape theory. This essay, part of a larger project of recovering modern landscape architecture theory, extends such site stories into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in America. Site-reading and editing were central to establishing landscape architecture as a discipline separate from architecture, engineering, and horticulture. Counter to the historical narratives that reduce landscape practice to stylistic debates about the picturesque and the beautiful, or the formal and informal, the written record of park reports, treatises, journal articles, monographs, and design primer is replete with designers' positions about site. These sources substantiate the significance of site in modern landscape design theory and, as such, in differentiating landscape architecture from other disciplines.

Ch 5   **Interview with Denise Markonish, "Site Specific or Site Responsive?"**

Among the arts, sculpture has had a particular connection to site. Artists, curators, and critics have made diverse and ranging contributions, especially since the emergence of modernism, to exploring and expanding the potential of site for sculpture. In this interview, Carol Burns and MASS MoCA curator Denise Markonish discuss how sculptors and curators can expand the potential of site, in working evermore closely with the medium of architecture. Addressing the works of various artists, including William Kentridge, Nick Cave, Sarah Oppenheimer and Mark Dion, Markonish considers the museum as site, drawing a distinction between site-responsive and site-specific contemporary artistic practices. The interview covers a range of topics, from the particularities of MASS MoCA as a site of artistic engagement and construction to the process of working collaboratively with artists to create works for and with a site.

Ch 6   **Robin Dripps, "Groundwork"**

This essay aims to develop an awareness and understanding of the structure of the ground so that its potential for making connection can become a part of any architecture that engages it. It uses the term ground in a literal sense, to describe the structure and processes of the earth, and also as metaphor, referring to the various patterns of physical, intellectual, poetic, and political structure that intersect, overlap, and weave together to become the context for human thought and action. The consequence of an indifference to the ground is an almost terminal insensitivity to the rich subtleties of the teeming wild, the variegated forms and materials of the landscape, the nuanced patterns of urban texture, and the rituals of the every day. The essay questions assumptions about the relationship of ground to human existence, such as those embedded within the figure ground drawing, to come to a better understanding of the value of the ground in human terms. By exploring imaginative means to represent what has been invisible for so long, it brings the ground to attention as something worthy of consideration. It argues that in being open to the ground, architecture can discover a wealth of means to deal with intractable problems of its own, and that the consequence of this intense engagement is the effective reattachment of humans to the many worlds that support them.

Ch 7   **Simon Dixon, "Landscape Processes as Site Context"**

Geomorphology studies the Earth's surface and the processes that shape it. Although it has historically focused on the study of pristine landscapes, recently attention has turned to landscapes shaped and influenced by human activities. These activities can substantially reshape the Earth's surface, creating new landscapes, including sprawling urban areas. Human activity can also affect the processes which shape and reshape landforms through erosion and deposition, for example though building dams to regulate the movement of water and sediment. Geomorphology can make an important contribution to site matters, as it seeks to understand the forms and processes of the Earth's surface in a particular area, as well as understanding how these processes have shaped the present and forecast how the form will change into the future. This study of the form of the Earth's surface, and its past and future dynamism, can be used as a lens through which to add richness to the context of a site. By understanding the processes and rates of change in an area the site can be placed into a longer geomorphological history.

Ch 8   **Dirk Sijmons, "In the Anthropocene, Site Matters in Four Ways"**

For members of the design and planning fields, waking in the Anthropocene unsettles previous thinking about relations between humankind and the sites and planet they inhabit. This essay argues that the Anthropocene must spur a new search for professional attitudes, responsibilities, and further still, a new look at the ethics of the design disciplines. Since reflecting on perspectives for action on the environmental conundrum wherein humans find themselves demands a more distant view, the essay turns to theory for assistance. Borrowing from the Australian philosopher and science writer Clive Hamilton, a set of four distinct philosophical views—or attitudes toward the Anthropocene —may help to navigate the new era. This chapter draws on these philosophical positions as instrumental in this quest. Presented in a quadrant, four ideal/typical positions emerge.

The first pair, denialism and eco-modernism, dominate the current environmental debate and can be described in terms familiar to the design field. The other two, post-humanism and anthropocentrism 2.0, each demand a paradigm shift in thinking about the world; both remain largely terra incognita for the design community.

Ch 9 **Kristina Hill, "Shifting Sites"**

Sites exist as dynamic expressions of structures and flows. Within this dialectic, conceptions of site can emphasize cultural and physical boundaries, or focus on the flows of energy, organisms and materials across those boundaries. In the context of a rapidly-changing global climate, the traditional emphasis on boundaries for defining a site is limiting and even dangerous. In order to respond to climate change and its secondary and tertiary impacts within a highly-interconnected world, sites should be conceived as a nexus within systems of flows. Flows of energy (fire), materials (water, sand), and organisms (people, for example) are increasingly likely to overwhelm physical and legal sites boundaries, particularly those that have been defined in proximity to a shoreline, a forest canopy, or a territorial boundary. Now more than ever, sites matter as flashpoints on a changing planet. The ways that designers and planners conceive of sites are likely to change in relation to the observed impacts of intensified or muted biophysical flows. But new priorities in the definition and representation of sites will also mark changes in how knowledge can be gained about the world, the place of humans within that world, and human values.

Ch 10 **Carol J. Burns, "Adaptive Systems: Environment, Site, and Building"**

Faced with the increasing complexity in design of buildings as well as with anthropogenic climate change, architects need new and tools to understand the interaction between individual acts of building and the larger environment. The article introduces systems theory—a highly interdisciplinary field influenced by physics, computer science, biology, ecology, management, economics, sociology, political science, and more—to focus on complex adaptive systems. Such self-organizing systems offer insights into relationships between learning, adapting, and survival. Emerging tools related to the environment, the site, and building are described including: data-driven design, using real-time analysis and simulation with the potential to add prediction as a tool for architectural design; an energy accounting system based on thermodynamics; and a leadership model from information technology known as enterprise architect. Involving coadaptation and depending on events played out in time, adaptive systems dissolve artificial dualities, including the distinction between nature and culture, and provoke urgency for addressing complex problems in building in the Anthropocene.

Ch 11 **Lisa Diedrich, "Translating Sites: A Plea for Radicant Design"**

Post-industrial transformation poses one of the biggest challenges of urban planning since the late 20th century, and a major task for the physical design disciplines. Design answers most often aim at radical turn-over or radical museumification of derelict industrial land, without much interest for the qualities of the

specific sites. Behind these dualistic approaches lies a shadow zone of alternative, more site-responsive answers, observed in contemporary transformation projects. They cater for the idea of sites as resources whose specificities can be valued in new ways to support sustainable transformation processes. To update ideas of site-specific design, intuitively associated with recognizing static site qualities, radicant design is introduced as a concept that brings transient aspects of site back to mind, such as human uses and processes of nature, so far often overlooked. The act of design, rather than formalization of static site components, becomes then an act of continuous translation. Such reconceptualization of design builds on the exploration of design practice and promotes design research as a transdisciplinary endeavor in a historic moment in which no one discipline can claim to solve globally entangled problems alone.

Ch 12   Andrea Kahn, "Defining Urban Sites: Toward Ecotone-Thinking for an Urbanizing World"

This essay explores the challenge of site definition with specific reference to urban sites, positing it as a necessarily indefinite task. Drawing on examples from New York City, it lays out an operationally-based definition concerned with what an urban site "does" rather than what (or where) it "is." It then turns to the role of representation in site definition processes, offering up a set of terms -- mobile ground, site reach, site construction, unbound site, and urban constellation -- to specifically address the complexity inherent in urban sites. The five terms provide conceptual tools equally applicable to urban site research and analysis as well as urban design practice. By representing any given site as multiply bounded and simultaneously operational at various scales, these additions to site discourse frame a new conceptual model for describing, interpreting, and analyzing places slated for urban design intervention as at once relational and dynamic. This model lays as well the foundation for "ecotone thinking" posited as an approach to urban design in the Anthropocene that borrows from landscape as well as ecology.

Ch 13   Jane Wolff, "Portfolio: Sites, Stories, Representations, Citizens"

At any given moment, a single site has different meanings to different people; they understand its significance depending on their interests, their viewpoints, and their values. Beyond that, landscapes change over time; they evolve as material realities and also as ideas. The studies in this portfolio propose representational strategies to acknowledge and document a site's plural stories. Conceived to address large scales, complicated situations, and contradictory ambitions, their goal is to propose methods that translate rigorous information into widely accessible terms. Representation does not mean the neutral cataloguing of every dimension of a site. It articulates values and relationships. A representation makes a site visible in new ways, and if its language can speak to general audiences as well as specialists, it has the ability to offer terms for public conversation about the future. It becomes a tool for advocacy – and for action.

Ch 14   Thaisa Way, "Urban Site as Collective Knowledge"

To untangle the strange, irregular, and complex forces that shape urban sites requires deep and broad transdisciplinary knowledge. It calls for thinking through

the complexities and multivalences of an urban site aptly described as a "multi-scalar, heteroglot setting for interactions and intersections." Such sites serve as the ground for re-imagining a world where human and environmental health and wellbeing can be fostered and where one might tackle urbanism's wicked challenges and remarkable opportunities. In turn, the urban landscape is distinctly suited to constructing transdisciplinary knowledge. Landscape architecture holds the potential to lead this generation of place-based and site-framed knowledge. The urban site then might catalyze the production of site-knowledges that re-describe the academy not as an aggregation of disciplines but as a catalyst for shared and collectively-generated knowledge. This essay explores how Urban@ UW functions as a platform to explore territories of transdisciplinary scholarship and teaching led by design thinking and through the frameworks of boundary objects and concepts, alongside the tools of the thick section and collective site. As an academic laboratory, Urban@UW suggests how design schools could be leaders in reshaping not only how scholars discern, understand, and imagine the urban site, but how the academy becomes defined by the questions it tackles rather than the disciplines it defines.

Ch 15   Robert Beauregard, "From Place to Site: Negotiating Narrative Complexity"

In this chapter, I present sites as professional representations that bridge between an existing place and its transformation into a new place. For example, this occurs when an abandoned industrial area along a river is re-imagined as a residential area with a waterfront promenade. The area is presented as under-valued and needing environmental remediation but with the potential to become desirable for urban living. I explore the relationship between place and site through two examples: Operation Breakthrough, an early 1970s program launched by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to redevelop under-used places through the deployment of modular building systems, and the planning for the new capital city of Brasilia in the 1950s. I focus on how the places were stripped of their history, meaning, and value in order to justify them as development sites ripe to become new places.

Ch 16   Paul M. Hess, "Neighborhoods Apart: Site/Non-Sight and Suburban Apartments"

This chapter focuses on three sites in the Seattle region containing large clusters of multi-family housing that contradict conventional notions of suburbs as disorganized and dominated single-family subdivisions. An integral part of post-war development, suburban apartment sites reflect pre-war lot patterns, early planning models such as the neighborhood unit, and developer interests. They illustrate how intertwined methods of measurement and cultural frames render invisible their development logics. Using standard geographic units of analysis adopted for analysis and decision making, for example, apartment clusters disappear from maps. Likewise, they are peripheral to early planning visions of neighborhood and domestic life and were conceived as independent sites with minimal connections to their surroundings. Yet, they link spatially and functionally to retail areas and subdivisions, creating potential neighborhoods, albeit ones with skeletal public infrastructure, and impoverished public spaces and pedestrian environments. Still, they are significant places because of the substantial numbers of people living in

them and for what they say about our images of suburbia. All these places could be improved as neighborhoods and communities, but first we need to refine our images of suburban landscapes and the variety of sites within them.

Ch 17   **Peter Marcuse, "From Gerrymandering to Co-Mandering: Redrawing the Lines"**

Gerrymandering––the partisan practice of drawing congressional district lines in ways that deliver a voting advantage to the majority party, at the expense of the minority––is of paramount concern to our national politics. Given that congressional districting structures electoral college voting, partisan influence on how district lines are drawn effects governance at every level. Essentially a spatial planning process, gerrymandering should be of particular concern to those who lay out sites and determine land use. Yet few planning and design professionals are trained to consider how their work intersects with districting procedures and their wide-reaching social, economic, and political ramifications. Established by constitutional law, congressional districting practices came under intense scrutiny following the 2016 Presidential election. Heightened awareness of inequities resulting from gerrymandering has led to redistricting. This essay envisions that redistricting process as a constructive "co-mandering" practice - by which concerned professionals from all fields, including planning and design, actively collaborate to ensure social and economic justice for all.

Afterwords,   Neil Brenner, Naomi Darling, Anne Gatling Haynes, Claudia Herasme, Natalie Mahowald, Jim Musser, Judith Nitsch, Jeremy Till, and Janet Echelman, "What does site look like to…."

Nine brief texts (by a group that includes artists, scientists, educators, urban theorists, regional developers, urban designers and architects) serve as provocations indicating only a few of the many routes site thinking and practice may follow.

List of Contributors

Robert A. Beauregard is a professor emeritus of Columbia University, where he taught in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. He writes on planning and urban development, with particular attention to US postwar cities. His most recent books are *Cities in an Urban Age: A Dissent* and *Planning Matter: Acting with Things*, the latter a reinterpretation of planning from a sociomaterial perspective. Currently, he is finishing a book on planning theory for a series published by Edward Elgar, titled Advanced Introductions, and is developing a book on the moral geography of nations.

Carol J. Burns, FAIA, an educator and principal with Taylor & Burns Architects, has taught at Harvard GSD, MIT, UVA, Yale, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. She pioneered the founding of the AIA Women's Leadership Summit, as well as the BSA Research Grants program, which spurred the AIA Upjohn and Small Project grant programs. Her research has resulted in books, articles, competitions, and design studios. Integrating education and practice within a culture of research, she has with her firm designed buildings, spaces, and theoretical projects recognized with awards, including the national Honor Award for Excellence from the Society of College and University Planners.

Esin Komez Daglioglu received her BArch. and March. magna cum laude from the Middle East Technical University (METU) Department of Architecture, where she also worked as a research and teaching assistant from 2008 to 2012. She completed her PhD research in 2017 at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) Department of Architecture, where she also taught design and theory courses at the Chair of Architectural Composition and Public Building. Among others, she has published in the *Architectural Theory Review*, the *METU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, and *OASE*. Currently, she is an assistant professor at METU in the Department of Architecture.

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Simon Dixon is a lecturer at University of Birmingham in the Department of Geography, Earth, and Environmental Science. He received his PhD in geomorphology from University of Southampton, and his research focuses on the intersection between human activities and landscape processes. His research areas include the effects of land use change on flooding, the movement of discarded plastics around the environment as novel sedimentary particles, and emerging geomorphology in cities. His 2018 paper "Ozymandias in the Anthropocene: The City as an Emerging Landform," on the interactions between geomorphology and the built environment, was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's Area Prize.

Robin Dripps is the T. David Fitzgibbon Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia, where she has taught for more than forty years. She was the chair of the Department of Architecture and founding director of the program in American urbanism. Her research on the structure of myth as a fundamental basis for architecture was published in *The First House: Myth, Paradigm, and the Task of Architecture* in 1997. Her current research and teachings explore how relational software can enable the reciprocal engagement of complex urban structure and natural processes. In 2017, the Design Intelligence Survey found her to be among the twenty-five most respected educators in North America.

Paul M. Hess is an associate professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Geography and Planning, where he teaches urban design in the professional planning program. His current research projects include changing North American street design practices and the ways they create socially inclusive and exclusive places; examining the effectiveness of planning strategies to retrofit suburban centers and corridors; and the history of planning, modernist apartments, and private redevelopment in postwar Toronto. His students are involved in studying active transportation and public space topics in diverse settings including Toronto, New York, Moscow, Bangalore, and Mexico City.

Kristina Hill, a scholar of urban design and environmental planning, studies the impacts of flooding on urban districts and ecosystems and develops strategies for adaptation to climate change. Her current work is on adaptation to rising coastal groundwater, centered on biodiversity, new financing strategies, and environmental justice. She has published widely, lectures internationally on infrastructure and adaptation, and has developed adaptation strategies for the San Francisco Bay Area, New Orleans, Seattle, Virginia Beach, and the South Bronx. She holds a PhD from Harvard University and teaches at UC Berkeley in landscape architecture, urban design, and environmental planning.

Harvey Jacobs is a professor and visiting professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1984–2018) and at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands (2012–2019). His specialty is in the social and legal aspects of land policy, with a particular focus on property rights and on the structures (like zoning) that communities and societies develop to manage the relationships among different rights in property. He has been recognized through invitations to universities across the globe; the receipt of multiple Fulbright Specialist awards; and the awarding of an academic knighthood (L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, rank Chevalier), presented by the French government in 2008.

Andrea Kahn holds the title Professor of site thinking in research and practice at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp/Malmö, where she facilitates SLU Landscape, a research and teaching collaboration initiative. She is also the founder of designCONTENT, a consultancy offering strategic and communicative process support for complex design, planning, research, writing, curatorial and editorial projects. She has taught architecture, urban design, planning, and landscape extensively in the United States, Europe, and Australia. Her current research interest revolves around collaboration, communication, and synthetic, transdisciplinary knowledge creation.

Denise Markonish is the senior curator and managing director of exhibitions at MASS MoCA. Her exhibitions include *Suffering from Realness*; *Trenton Doyle Hancock, Mind of the Mound; Critical Mass*; *Nick Cave: Until*; *Explode Every Day: An Inquiry into the Phenomena of Wonder* (catalogs by DelMonico/Prestel); *Teresita Fernández: As Above So Below* (catalog, MASS MoCA); *Oh, Canada* (catalog: MIT Press); *Nari Ward: Sub Mirage Lignum* (catalog, MASS MoCA); *These Days: Elegies for Modern Times*; and *Badlands: New Horizons in Landscape* (catalog: MIT Press). She edited the books *Teresita Fernández: Wayfinding* and *Wonder: 50 Years of RISD Glass*, and coedited *Sol LeWitt: 100 Views*.

Peter Marcuse, FAICP, a lawyer and planner, has taught urban planning at Columbia University in New York City for over thirty years. He is a past president of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, a former chair of Community Board 9's Housing Committee in Manhattan, and has been long active in the Planners Network. Now retired, he lives in Santa Barbara, California. He has written widely on housing, planning, professional ethics, globalization, and policy issues, with a focus on affordable housing and social justice issues. His latest book is *In Defense of Housing: The Politics of Crisis*, with David Madden.

Elizabeth Meyer, FASLA, is a landscape architect who has taught at the University of Virginia School of Architecture since 1993. She has lectured and published extensively on modern landscape architectural theory and criticism and her writings have appeared in anthologies and journals including *Landscape Journal, Journal of Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architecture Magazine*, and *Places*. A licensed landscape architect, she has worked on numerous award-winning urban landscape design, historic preservation, and campus-planning projects. Her expertise has been recognized through her appointment to the US Commission of Fine Arts by President Obama in 2012 and her selection as the Vincent Scully Prize laureate in 2019.

Dirk Sijmons is a founder of H+N+S Landscape Architects, where his work focuses on regional plans and research projects. H+N+S received the Prince Bernhard Culture Award in 2001. In 2002, he received the Rotterdam-Maaskant Award, and in 2007 he received the Edgar Doncker Award for his contribution to Dutch culture. His recent books include *Landscape and Energy, Moved Movement*, and *Room for the River*. He was appointed the first state landscape architect of the Netherlands (2004–2008), and served as the chair of Environmental Design (2008–2011) and Landscape Architecture (2011–2015) at TU Delft. In 2014, he curated that year's IABR, *Urban by Nature*. In 2017, he received the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award.

Thaïsa Way is a professor of landscape architecture at the College of Built Environments, University of Washington. Her books include *Unbounded Practice, Women and Landscape Architecture in the 20th Century* and *The Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag: From Modern Space to Urban Ecological Design*.

Jane Wolff is an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. Her design research investigates the complicated landscapes that emerge from interactions between natural processes and cultural interventions; its goal is to articulate terms that make these difficult (and often contested) places legible to the wide range of audiences with a stake in the future. Her subjects have ranged from the Western Netherlands and the California Delta to post-Katrina New Orleans, the shoreline of the San Francisco Bay, and the metropolitan landscape of Toronto.