

MORRIS & RITCHIE ASSOCIATES, INC.

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, SURVEYORS,
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



March 1, 2007

Board of Trustees
C/O Carolyn Mitchell, Honors & Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: James R. Urban, FASLA nominations for ASLA Medal of Excellence

Dear Trustees,

I support the nomination of James R. Urban, FASLA for the ASLA Medal of Excellence.

Jim has been active in the preservation and restoration of the urban landscape for over 25 years. He has taken on the challenge of understanding the cultural and practical elements of tree survival in the paved and heat stressed urban environment. He has done this unselfishly through his extensive publishing of his findings. He is also a perennial figure at the national ASLA Annual Meetings and Education Sessions. Through these activities he has been able to document many successful applications of his technical planting technologies. This shared knowledge has benefited many practitioners.

His knowledge, design capabilities and experience has been recognized by many clients and organizations through many landmark projects and award recognition. His designs don't stop at the presentation or even construction documentation but considers soil mechanics, plant root zone moisture and oxygen requirements as well as installation and maintenance considerations.

His projects are successful and practical implementations of his design presentations. Jim Urban's projects are built environments and recorded by their sustainable capabilities.

Sincerely,
MORRIS & RITCHIE ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Locke", is written over the typed name.

David Locke, FASLA, Trustee Maryland ASLA
Associate

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To ASLA

RE: James Urban nomination letter
ASLA Medal of Excellence

James Urban is a leader in landscape architecture. Jim is an outspoken, tenacious and avid advocate in all areas of landscape. His work with protection of trees has encouraged us to higher and better standards as we build landscape.

I've known Jim since 1996 when he introduced himself and quickly told me in no uncertain terms what worked and did not work in a recently completed project design. Jim does not mince words. His expertise and knowledge of his work is quickly apparent. And he is right. As designers our landscape plans should be the best we can accomplish. We should understand that we are the protectors of the design at all times and if the trees need more space, or water, or soil or protection that is our goal. That is what Jim does best is to challenge us with his knowledge.

Not only do we as designers acknowledge Jim's leadership, many, many arborists, foresters and horticulturalists throughout the country understand Jim to be the go to person for all landscape concerns. He is often featured as a speaker and panelist with regard to urban landscape and street trees and acknowledged as the leader and the expert. Jim's contribution to the recently published **Landscape Architecture Graphic Standards**, Wiley, 2006, includes the environmental effects of trees, soil improvements, and tree planting in urban areas. Proving again he is the expert.

Speaking before many organizations, LABASH, design firms, universities and ASLA Jim has tirelessly and continuously advanced his knowledge and his research on trees in urban spaces. I consider Jim and his leadership accomplishments of excellence and encourage you to award this medal to James Urban.

Barbara Faga, FASLA
Executive vice president

Susan Hatchell

Landscape Architecture, PLLC

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Board of Trustees
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American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

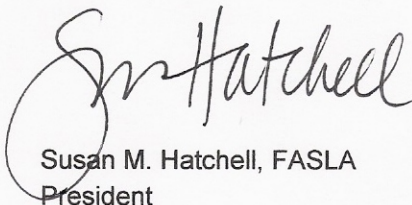
It is so easy to endorse the nomination of James R. Urban, FASLA, for the ASLA Medal of Excellence! He is such a deserving candidate for this honor in recognition of his work with urban trees and soil.

For the last several years, Jim has come to lecture at North Carolina State University to my Planting Design class. Everyone in attendance is overwhelmed by Jim's passion for his work, and the clarity with which he states his research and findings. My students have continually commented that their view of planting design is forever changed after hearing him make his case. His dedication and focus are a true inspiration to the students.

If you have ever taken a walk or a ride with Jim, you will quickly learn that he is a bit obsessive about his topic, and he is constantly digging – both literally and figuratively – to increase the understanding of how trees survive, and how we can help them thrive in our urban environments. His work also builds a bridge between landscape architecture and arboriculture in a way that benefits both professions. It is fortunate for us all that he is so eager to share his enthusiasm and knowledge.

I hope you will agree with me that Jim Urban deserves this honor by casting your vote for him for the ASLA Medal of Excellence.

Thank you,



Susan M. Hatchell, FASLA
President