



2006 ASLA General Design Award of Honor

The Floating Gardens - Yongning River Park,
Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province, China

Peking University Graduate School of
Landscape Architecture and Urban Design,
Beijing, China

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June 5, 2006

Board of Trustees Revises Procedures for Filing an Ethics Complaint

New rules clarify the appeals process and establish clear time frames for filing and resolving complaints.

The Board of Trustees amended several provisions of the **Code of Professional Ethics** at its mid-year meeting on May 6. Many of the amendments were for minor editorial changes. A revision to R1.110 provides for copyright protection for all copyrighted work rather than just the work of design professionals. The most significant amendments are to the enforcement section and establish rules of procedure for filing and resolution of a complaint. The new rules are more transparent for both the complainant and respondent and provide a more predictable process. They establish time frames for filing and resolving complaints and clarify the appeal process. Under the new procedures a complainant must clearly establish the basis of the complaint and reference the relevant provisions of the code; the respondent must respond, and failure to respond may prejudice the outcome of the case. All complaints are to be resolved based on written records; provisions for rebuttal safeguard against untruthful allegations or responses. **Visit the Code of Professional Ethics section of the website to see the revised procedures.**

The ASLA Code of Ethics applies to the professional activities of all ASLA professional members, i.e., full members, associate members, and international members, and contains important principles relating to the duties of members to clients, employers, employees, and to other members of the Society.

The code is arranged so that each canon contains ethical standards—essentially goals that members should strive to meet. Some of the ethical standards contain objective rules. Violation of rules might subject an ASLA member to a complaint, while violation of ethical standards will not. Therefore, the word “should” is used in the ethical standards and “shall” is used in the rules.

The policies established by the Board of Trustees relative to environmental stewardship, quality of life, and professional affairs are summarized in the **ASLA Code of Environmental Ethics**. Members should make every effort to enhance, respect, and restore the life-sustaining integrity of the landscape and seek environmentally positive, financially sound, and sustainable solutions to land use, development, and management opportunities.

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