

Achievements of SWA Group

Over the course of its history, SWA Group's mission has been to provide an organizational setting that allows very talented people to perfect their craft and pursue their own visions. The SWA's ethos has been to value and encourage diverse viewpoints and the pursuit of individual aspirations. This has led to a significant array of types and scales of projects—from the planning of new communities and the revitalization of urban rivers, to the design of small urban plazas and garden spaces for senior living. Yet despite varied perspectives and the diversity of scale, three common threads run through the firm's work:

- Deep appreciation for the land,
- Willingness to look beyond the client's immediate program, and
- Artful design that enriches human experience.

Within the context of this organizational framework and professional philosophy, much has been accomplished. SWA has worked for many of the largest cities in the country (and world), key state and federal agencies, leading Fortune 500 corporations, major universities, and premier international architectural and engineering firms. SWA has also been proud to work for small non-profit organizations, environmental advocacy groups, small communities, entrepreneurial real estate professionals, and small, up-and-coming architectural practices. SWA clients, both large and small, generally have one thing in common—a desire to create high quality places. These clients have provided the firm with opportunities to make a positive difference in the world and to strive to raise the bar for professional quality. The following are a few examples:

Examples of Achievements in Creating Public Spaces

- Nationally recognized, award-winning plazas have included: Williams Square in Ft. Worth, Texas (a top regional icon), Barney Allis Plaza in Kansas City, World Wide Plaza in New York City, 101 California Street in San Francisco, and Georgia International Plaza.
- Highly regarded parks have included: Capitol Commons in Indianapolis (state capitol facility), Hermann Park (renovation of Houston's most-visited urban park) and Burnett Park in Houston, Refugio Valley Park in Hercules, California, the Tunica River Park (interpretive park on the Mississippi River) and the Louisville Waterfront Park.
- The new Lewis Avenue corridor in Las Vegas was awarded the American Public Works Association's "Project of the Year" award and the expansion of Chicago's McCormick Place has enhanced that city's public realm.
- Award-winning museums have included the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

Examples of Achievements in Urban Redevelopment and Renewal

- The Houston office of SWA has been involved in almost every major initiative in downtown Houston over the past twenty years and has had a significant role in changing the face of the downtown.
- The redevelopment of the Anaheim Resort District has become an international example of urban renewal and economic development.
- In Asia, SWA worked on: redevelopment of the city of Hangzhou in order to reconnect the city to its national Chinese treasure, West Lake; the creation of major public amenities (approaching the size of Central Park) in the city of Nanhai; redevelopment of a portion of Beijing's financial district; creation of a new city in the Philippines known as Filinvest City (creating major landscape infrastructure); and redevelopment of the entire Schenzhen Bay waterfront (current project).
- Other exemplary projects have included: San Diego Embarcadero, Dallas West End historic district, Historic Downtown Torrance, redevelopment of Mare Island naval base (in SF Bay), San Jose's Santana Row (Builder Magazine's "Project of the Year"), and Phoenix's Arizona Center.

Examples of Achievements in Working with Natural Systems and Brownfields

- Among other projects SWA has provided planning and design for: the revitalization of portions of the San Antonio River, the Napa River, and portions of the bayou system of Houston (including eliminating channelization of bayous with naturalistic solutions); transforming a flooded, contaminated, Super Fund suburban area in Baytown, Texas into a wetland refuge on the Gulf of Mexico; the ecological transformation of Schenzhen Bay in China; and helping to transform many brownfield sites into award-winning built projects (including CentrO in Oberhausen, Germany and Alameda Marina Village).
- SWA provided the master plan for the 90,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and has provided master plans for other national, state and regional parks (including Sequoia-Kings National Park).

Examples of Achievements with projects involving Education

- SWA has helped to create important environments for learning, including: 25 years of working with Stanford University to redevelop one of the nation's outstanding campuses; creation of a new international US-based university, Soka University,

centered on ideals of peace and interchange (winner of national ASLA honor award); a new college campus, Cy-Fair College that has restored extensive native prairie grassland (ULI Award of Excellence finalist in 2004)

- Other university projects have included: Tokyo University, National Taipei University, UCLA, USC, Harvard, U of Miami, U of Houston, U of Washington, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, U of Arizona, Rice University, SMU and others.

Examples of Achievements with projects involving Commerce

- SWA has also designed some of the most compelling corporate campuses in the world, including: SGI Corporate Campus (now Google World Headquarters), winner of an ASLA Centennial Medallion, and Westlake Corporate Campus, winner of the 2003 ASLA National Award of Excellence.
- Others have included: FED EX World Headquarters, Exxon Corporate Headquarters, DreamWorks SKG Headquarters, Veritas Corporate Headquarters, IBM facilities, Hewlett Packard facilities, Apple Computer facilities, and many others.

Examples of Achievements in Community Planning

- SWA has worked with the Irvine Company in Southern California for over forty years to create national examples of town planning that have influenced planning both in the US and internationally. In particular: Woodbridge (ULI Award of Excellence), Mariner Square, Promontory Point, and Shady Canyon (recipient of an Audubon Society Certificate for excellence in providing habitat).
- Others: Mountain House, California which is the largest recent new town in the US and a winner of the ASCE's "Project of the Year" award, Santaluz in San Diego County, (a 2004 and 2005 ULI Award of Excellence Finalist), Povrosky Hills in Moscow, Green Meadows in Omaha, Tuen Mun in Hong Kong, and others.

Special Contributions to the Profession

- SWA principals have held teaching or visiting lecturer positions or at many of the top landscape architectural schools including Harvard, MIT, University of Illinois, UC Berkeley, and Rutgers.
- Establishment of an international landscape architecture training program with Fujita of Japan.
- Providing presentations to several organizations around the world to confirm the importance and value of landscape architecture and land-based planning, including Urban Land Institute, American Public Works Association, American Planning Association and others.
- Providing an annual studio/internship program for college students from around the world (began in 1972).
- Writing and publishing in several professional and trade publications on an annual basis. Over 50 different publications have published articles written by SWA principals or staff.
- Training of many excellent landscape architects who have gone on to create unique and influential practices of their own, including, Peter Walker and Partners, George Hargreaves, Martha Schwartz, Anthony Guzzardo, Omi-Lang, SLA Studio Land, Inc., Brown/Sardina and firms headed by John Exley, Danny Powell, Fred Furuichi, Larry Carducci, and Susan Whitin.

Professional Recognition

Since 1960, projects that SWA has worked on have received over 460 awards representing over 100 different groups including ASLA, AIA, APA, ULI, contracting and building organizations, garden clubs, and numerous towns and cities. 191 of those have been national or local ASLA awards.

Comments from Others

"With their imaginative, open-minded approach, SWA has consistently been a critical force in creating the big idea and bringing it into being" - Thomas Brudzinski, The Rouse Company

"After many projects, I continue to work with SWA because of their commitment to excellence . . . in design of course, but as importantly in team collaboration, client service and in shared responsibility for the results of the project over the long run." - David Neuman, FAIA, University of Virginia

"Over the years, we have had an extraordinary relationship with SWA. Their ability to transform the landscape context into a source of inspiration for our work is quite remarkable". - Joseph Gonzalez, former principal of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP

"SWA was selected by the city of Las Vegas as urban designer and landscape architect for the downtown Lewis Street corridor. We were very pleased with the results and the pedestrian thoroughfare is a favorite among workers and tourists." - Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas

"For nearly forty years, SWA has helped the Irvine Company to create one of the world's premier new towns by providing us with innovative community planning and urban design. We value both their ability to plan great communities and then help bring them to life with strong landscape architecture." - Rob Elliott, The Irvine Company.