

ASLA Executive Committee
C/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

March 1, 2007

Re: Nomination of Professor Linda Jewell for Jot D. Carpenter Medal

Dear Executive Committee Members;

I am honored to nominate U.C. Berkeley Professor Linda Jewell to receive the 2007 Jot D. Carpenter Medal. I have known Linda since we were undergraduate students at North Carolina State in the 1960s, taught with her at NCSU from 1975 to 1980 and at U.C. Berkeley since 1991. There are few educators in our discipline who so clearly meet the medal's stated purpose to recognize someone "who has made a sustained and significant contribution to landscape architecture education." For more than thirty years, Linda has contributed her teaching talent and wisdom to the education of hundreds of landscape architecture students at four universities. She served as Chair at Harvard and presently is Chair at Berkeley. Her former students hold leadership positions in prominent design firms and government agencies and teach in many of the most distinguished universities in the world. These former students, her articles and the publication of her design work have extended her call for the integration of design and construction technology to thousands more.

A Fellow in the ASLA since 1994, Linda has won the ASLA Presidential Award for her construction articles in Landscape Architecture Magazine and her design work has received numerous National ASLA Honor and Merit awards as well as local ASLA and AIA awards. Linda's educational commitment has always been to serve as a bridge between the conceptual and the technical, between architecture (her first degree) and landscape architecture, the large landscape and the small site, the ecological and the social, the instrumental and the artistic and, most importantly, between the academy and the profession. While academic positions have been her primary commitment, Linda has kept one foot in practice to insure her ideas are current as she pursues connections between the intellectual and scholarly concerns of the academy and the realities of the professional world in her teaching, creative work, and service.

Teaching Innovation and Educational Leadership: From her first studios and site planning courses at North Carolina State to her recent design studios and construction courses at Berkeley, Linda's teaching has been experimental in technique and has integrated technological concerns with thoughtful, innovative design. She receives high teaching evaluations and enthusiastic praise from students, a significant accomplishment given her focus on technical subjects that are not always popular with students. At Berkeley, she has developed curricula and methods that inspire students to creatively tackle the complexities of topographic visualization, earthwork manipulation, dimensional standards and construction details. She revamped the first semester graduate design studio for our 3-year MLA students by integrating three-dimensional studies of design proposals in full-scale mock-ups, the study of dimensional standards and complex topographic visualizations.

Linda's introductory construction materials class, Design in Detail, has grown from nine students in her first semester here to as many as 65 students that include both undergraduate and graduate landscape architects as well as twenty-plus architects who take the class as an elective. In addition to slide lectures, field trips and a notebook of measured details, class requirements have included the construction of furnishings, pavement and other small structures at local schools, parks, community gardens, residences and Blake Garden. She requires the use of reclaimed and recycled materials in all of these construction projects and her lectures introduced the use of sustainable materials long before the topic became standard fare.

As the introductory course grew in size, field trips became challenging and she created another construction class for advanced graduate students that has become known as "The Field Trip" course. With enrollment limited to fifteen, the class makes weekly visits to landscape projects under construction as well as recycling operations and production shops including steel fabrication, brick manufacturing, cast concrete operations, a recycled urban lumber mill, stone fabricators and more. A testament to Linda's ties to practicing professionals, local practitioners have hosted the class to some fifty construction sites in the six years it has been offered. Linda better integrates construction and design and creates more inspired excitement among students than anyone else I've known in my forty years of teaching.

On occasion, Linda has offered an elective seminar, "The Literature of the Landscape Architecture Profession". This course examines the articles and content of Landscape Architecture Quarterly (and LAM) and other ASLA-sponsored publications in ten-year increments. Although the pedagogy of the course is still evolving, it has received excellent evaluations and has been a mechanism for students to investigate thesis topics as well as learn about the evolution and scope of our profession.

Linda's ability to cover a variety of core courses beyond her own is an extraordinary and unusual trait. At various times, she has taught undergraduate studios, the earthwork and storm drainage course, advanced urban design studios, advanced landscape architecture studios (four in collaboration with architecture or urban design), thesis preparation and the thesis studio. Even before Linda became Chair, her service to our department was well beyond the norm. She served as Chair of Admissions, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, our representative on the College Executive Committee and the College Alumni Committee, Chair of the Awards Committee, Chair of the Beatrix Farrand Endowments Committee. For five years, she has been Director of Blake Garden, a public garden with a staff of four. She organized a department event on Lawrence Halprin's Stern Grove Theater with the local ASLA and she has also worked on college-wide committees to plan two alumni symposia and successfully advocated for landscape architects and landscape sites to play significant roles in these events, including one that toured significant Bay Area landscape architecture. Linda began her tenure as Chair only last fall, but she has already held a faculty retreat, initiated a sequence of faculty dinners for faculty to share their research/creative work and energized the department with her plans for reexamination of our curricula and teaching assignments.

Scholarship and Creative Work: Linda's best-known publications are her nearly thirty articles on construction materials and techniques written for Landscape Architecture Magazine in the 1980s and 90s. The articles not only received the ASLA Presidential Award, but in 1985 Jot Carpenter initiated a special award for the construction column's five-year contribution to Landscape Architecture Magazine. At the awards ceremony, Carpenter presented Linda with a large framed print from Ohio State's A.D. Taylor collection of drawings because she and Jot

both admired Taylor's drawings and his construction columns. Jot also generously supplied her with prints of the illustrations used in Taylor's construction articles from the 1920s/1930s construction articles. She still uses these in her classes. After the construction topics for LAM transitioned to others, including two of her former students and employees, Meg Calkins and Dan Winterbottom, Linda turned her scholarly focus to exhibitions and critiques of designed landscapes. Her first exhibitions were at Harvard where she oversaw several, including one on the design and construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Another, "Drawing to Learn" displayed Norman Newton's measured construction details completed in the 1920s while he was a Rome Prize winner.

Linda's more recent exhibits at The Graham Foundation, The Montgomery Museum of Art, and The Berkeley Art Museum and at multiple universities have displayed her own drawings of American outdoor theaters. These are breathtakingly beautiful and singularly instructive. With the help of graduate students, she located, measured, and illustrated these theaters over a ten-plus year period and the beautiful ink illustrations, photographs and historical text have created an important record of these previously unrecognized landscapes and will be part of a book. As with the construction column, Linda relied on examinations of the materials and techniques used by designers in the first half of the twentieth century to provide perspective on how we design and build today. Inspired by the incremental, on-site design processes used on the theaters she has begun to study, lecture and publish how such a process contributes to a successful and intimate relationship between site and structures in meaningful landscapes. One such essay, "The American Outdoor Theater: A Voice for the Landscape in the Collaboration of Site and Structure" in Re-envisioning Landscape/Architecture (2003) by Catherine Spellman was one of only two of the 22 essays written by a landscape architect. She also co-authored "Keeping the Boys Busy: Outdoor Theatres of the Great Depression" in Studies of the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes (2004). At the 2004 CELA meeting in New Zealand, she presented a lecture, "On-site Insight: The Artistic Merits of Incremental Design Decisions in the Field" that was then published in Landscape Review: New Zealand. She further explored some of her observations on the role of on-site decisions in her February 2006 piece for LAM, "The Spirit of Stone" examining the role of on-site design decisions made by Lawrence Halprin at the Stern Grove Theater. Probably no one else in our profession could make the connections Linda has about evolving a design from drawing through experiential changes.

In addition to her design work with her Berkeley firm Freeman & Jewell on projects at the University of San Francisco and Strybing Arboretum, Linda continues her relationship with the award-winning Raleigh firm Reynolds & Jewell that she helped found in the early 80s. In 2000, their design scheme for the Hartford Waterfront Platform and Theater (with Carol R. Johnson Associates) won an ASLA Honor award and Symphony Park, an outdoor theater in Cary, N.C., won several local ASLA and AIA awards (with Boston architect William Rawn).

Although Linda has recently reduced her time in active design practice, she regularly consults with both the University of Washington and Georgia Institute of Technology as a member of their Design Commissions. Serving as the only landscape architect on the commission at UW and one of two at Georgia Tech, she has found this work the most influential of her career in that it has offered her a platform for setting the conceptual direction of these important landscapes and has given her the opportunity to advocate for landscape architectural firms to be included in the design of key projects on these urban campuses.

Service: Linda has generously volunteered her time to serve and promote the profession in a variety of venues. For many years she served as a visiting evaluator for ASLA Accreditation and went on twelve site visits. She was a member of the Technical Services Committee and has been on ASLA awards juries at both the local (in California, Massachusetts and North Carolina) and national levels. She has aggressively advocated for and advised the active student ASLA at Berkeley and has volunteered time to facilitate faculty and student participation in both the San Jose and the upcoming San Francisco national meetings. She regularly attends national ASLA meetings and has made presentations at three. She has been a frequent reviewer for papers submitted to CELA and other scholarly groups and each year she reviews some four to six tenure cases for universities across the country. She also contributed the biography on Bay Area landscape architect and environmentalist, Emerson Knight, to The Pioneers of the American Landscape.

In recent years Linda has focused on community and university service to advocate for landscape change and for Landscape Architects to guide these changes. For ten years, working with the late Karl Linn, she contributed her time and expertise to the design, construction and maintenance of two Berkeley community gardens that have since received national attention, including a PBS film that has played across the country. For eleven years, she served on U.C. Berkeley's Committee for Public Art, chairing it for two years when the group initiated and shepherded a new percent-for-art program through the university bureaucracy. For the past year and a half, she has represented the University of California on the City of Berkeley's Downtown Area Plan Committee, a politically appointed 30-member group charged with recommending the future direction of the university's downtown properties and the urban design of the city's downtown. Attending one or more meetings each week, Linda acts as a professional advisor to a broad cross-section of representatives of Berkeley's political causes and is holding her own in her advocacy for creating a humane, sustainable and thoughtfully designed downtown landscape. This is no easy task in Berkeley.

Synthesis: Beyond the fact that Linda Jewell is one of the most creative and accomplished landscape architecture educators in the country, her receipt of this award seems particularly appropriate because of her connection and similar interests with Jot Carpenter. Like Carpenter, she has committed her career to the integration of professional practice and the academy and to the integration of construction technology with the teaching of design. I urge you to recognize her with this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Randolph Hester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Randolph Hester

Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning