

ASLA Executive Committee
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-3736

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

1 March 2007

Dear Executive Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I support Randy Hester's nomination of U.C. Professor Linda Jewell to receive the Jot D. Carpenter Medal for distinguished teaching in our profession.

Linda is truly a jewel – one of the greatest in our profession who has devoted her career to teaching. I first met her in 1974 when she was in her final year as a graduate student at Penn. As her faculty advisor on an independent thesis I was struck by her talent, insight, drive, and intelligence. Her project – a housing project for Roosevelt Island in New York City ended up as one of the honorable mentions in an international competition. Two years later she returned to Penn as Bob Hanna and I recruited her to teach the Undergraduate Design of the Environment program. My student became my colleague and we team taught the next 4 years. She was brilliant, inspiring and extraordinarily perceptive regarding the student's needs and those of the evolving profession and American society. When she left to return to North Carolina to practice and teach there, we were bereft, for Linda had become a fixture in the firmament that revolved around Ian McHarg and Peter Shepherd – two of the greatest landscape teachers of our time. Several years later as I was wearing down as chairman of the Department at Harvard I concluded that I needed to recruit young faculty, especially women of promise, to be there after my departure. I coaxed Linda into coming at some serious sacrifice to her growing practice, as I knew she would be a great teacher in that important but difficult institution. She came, and again was spectacular in her teaching. Her students shone, and so did she. I quietly withdrew to Philadelphia, and as I'd hoped after a search Linda Jewell became the first woman chair at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. She was a brilliant teacher, and those who were there during her tenure all attest to her brilliance, devotion to the students and profession, her stress upon social issues, building,

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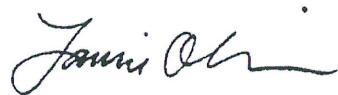


craft, passion, and the art of design. Her warmth, depth of knowledge, and concern for ecological and social process in our endeavor in her teaching at Harvard are to this day unsurpassed at that great school. Eventually, she too, moved on, this time coaxed to U.C. Berkeley, where she remains today as a pillar of the Department. There she has inspired a generation of students – men and woman alike – with her insight, knowledge, and remarkable breadth. Linda knows construction from the ground up and shares her passion for building and making, but she also loves history, art and literature, a passion for which she shares constantly, as well as her concern for human society, justice and community. She is as passionate today as she was as a young graduate student, while she has grown continuously.

Linda is a jewel. She is one of our finest. She is a great teacher. Everyone who has ever met her knows it.

Our society should honor and thank her by bestowing the Jot Carpenter Medal on her, and hope she continues to teach for many more years.

Sincerely,



Laurie D. Olin, FASLA, Hon. AIA, Hon. RIBA, AAAS, AAAL, FAAR

