



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
Attention: Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Trustees:

It is my privilege to nominate Laurie D. Olin, FASLA, to receive the ASLA Medal

Founder and principal of the Olin Partnership in Philadelphia, Laurie is among America's most distinguished landscape architects practicing today. Working across the United States and abroad, he has collaborated with hundreds of prominent architects, engineers, artists, and other designers and is recognized as one of the most brilliant designers of our profession.

Laurie is a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the 1999 Wyck-Strickland Award recipient, and a Fellow of ASLA. Laurie won the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture in 1974 and was the recipient of the 1998 Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He previously served as a trustee of the American Academy in Rome and prepared the master plan for the Academy campus in the 1990s.

He has written widely on the history and theory of landscape design, receiving the Bradford Williams medal for best writing in *Landscape Architecture* magazine. Laurie recently co-authored *La Foce: A Garden and Landscape in Tuscany*, which includes an historical essay, along with photographs, sketches, and a critical analysis of the early 20th century garden in Italy. *Across The Open Field* (1999) is both a memoir and series of essays on the evolution of the English landscape. He is also author of *Transforming the Common/Place: Selections from Laurie Olin's Sketchbooks*. This book highlights his amazing illustration talent.

Throughout his career, Laurie has been involved in professional education. He received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Washington and has served as Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University and as the Thomas Jefferson Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia. Since July 1998, he has been Professor of Practice in Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught off and on since the 1970s. Laurie was the first

landscape architect to hold the Ruth Carter Stevenson Chair at The University of Texas at Austin. He helped us to establish our Master of Landscape Architecture and led the effort to establish a new landscape architecture program at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, one of the leading universities in China.

History

In 1976, Laurie was teaching and was invited by Henry Cobb of I. M. Pei & Partners to participate in the design of the Johnson & Johnson Baby Products Corporate Center. That same year, Laurie joined forces with the late Robert Hanna, FASLA, a leader in landscape architecture education, to form the firm of Hanna/Olin. The intention for the firm was to create an atelier environment in which the process of developing a comprehensive design was as important as the final product itself. It is this philosophical commitment to design that created the historically significant landscapes of Johnson & Johnson's pastoral office park in 1977, Bryant Park's reincarnation as one of this country's most successful urban spaces, and the master plan and implementation of Canary Wharf, London, home of Europe's financial district and one of England's most significant urban renewal projects. In 1995, Robert Hanna established a separate firm to practice landscape architecture. Laurie Olin joined firm members Lucinda Sanders, FASLA, Susan Weiler, FASLA, and Dennis McGlade, FASLA, in forming the Olin Partnership, Ltd., and has continued to pursue a vision of landscape architecture as an art form that is both compassionate and timeless.

Design Philosophy

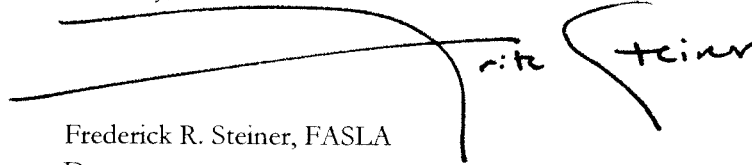
Laurie believes passionately that landscape architecture is a celebration of place and that successful design recognizes the natural and social processes that shape a place. Throughout his career, he has created landscapes that succeed both as social spaces and as environmental systems. By synthesizing the best of art and science, he transforms natural and man-made elements into expressions of social purpose, reconciling the character of the place with its contemporary adaptations. Laurie takes a long-term view of design, believing that strong, clear schemes supported by innovative detailing and fine, lasting materials are essential to melding social needs with physical resources.

The Projects

A prolific designer, Laurie's work spans the globe, from Bryant Park and Battery Park City in New York and the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles to new squares in London, housing in Frankfurt, and commercial development in Barcelona. From major planning and design projects at academic institutions including the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, Stanford University, MIT, and the University of Virginia, to national monuments, including Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia and the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. His work on these last two projects provides elegant proof that security design and good design are not mutually exclusive concepts.

Design that provides functional accommodation, symbolic meaning, and aesthetic richness can make timeless human environments. Laurie Olin embodies this ethic and was honored with the 2005 ASLA Design Medal. Beyond his design brilliance, Laurie Olin has been an academic leader as a teacher, writer, and administrator. He has inspired many with his drawing. He has served the profession through his work on design juries and his contributions to the American Academy in Rome. As a result, I hope that you will honor him with the ASLA Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Frederick R. Steiner, FASLA
Dean
Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture

FRS:cwm

Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Laurie D. Olin, FASLA to receive the ASLA Medal.

I base this recommendation on having known Laurie for over 30 years, first as my professor at the University of Pennsylvania, then as an employer at Hanna/Olin and subsequently as an academic and professional colleague.

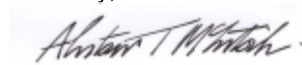
His contribution to the landscape architectural discipline has been a seamless synthesis of teaching, practice and research. This has produced a legion of landscape architects who's thought and practice have been influenced by his teaching and example; a body of built work that has created an authentic, situated urbanity in numerous places in the United States and abroad and finally, publications that have articulated his ideas regarding the integration of the natural environment and its systems with made cultural landscapes that are embedded within the flow of history.

As a teacher Laurie does not dispense a style to be imitated but leads each student into a critical engagement with a site and a particular program. The goal is that a student evolves both their own design sensibility and the technique to develop their thinking throughout their professional life.

Two examples of Laurie's built works illustrate his contribution to the landscape profession. The design of Bryant Park, New York subtly transformed the found historical fabric of this space into a stage for daily life in Midtown Manhattan. It is a place where the "programs" of contemporary urban life are situated within a spatial and material frame that lends authenticity to the quotidian. The landscape of the Stata Center at MIT subsumes the instrumentality of "sustainable site practices" within an abstracted regional landscape expression that sweeps around and over the architecture. Sustainability becomes a natural part of a larger enduring campus landscape experience.

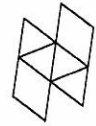
The work of Laurie Olin as teacher, practitioner and writer conveys an understanding of landscape architecture as the integration of the cultural and the natural, of the equal importance of daily life and unique events and of the creation of places out of the found conditions and histories of particular sites that endure and acquire layers of meaning over time. Landscapes within which one's experience of the world is renewed and refreshed. It is for this contribution that I heartily support the nomination of Laurie Olin for the ASLA Medal.

Sincerely,



Alistair T. McIntosh FASLA, RIBA
Principal

Harvard Design School



ASLA Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Reference: Laurie D. Olin FASLA
ASLA Medal

Dear Colleagues:

It gives me pleasure to strongly support the nomination of Laurie D. Olin FASLA for the ASLA Medal. Laurie Olin has made an immense contribution to the practice, research and teaching of landscape architecture and in particular to the intersections of social space, project design and professional practice. In short, Laurie Olin and the evolution of his built work since the 1970's is one of the highest benchmarks for landscape design practice both nationally and internationally. In addition he is active teacher of enormous sensitivity and rigor- a rare balance to achieve in landscape design instruction.

To Laurie's credit he has continued to evolve from his earlier work with Robert Hanna on campuses, corporate headquarters and later urban redevelopment projects to engage in more speculative and more potent ways of interdisciplinary working with contemporary architects. He has developed creative agendas in the shaping of the public space, in the crafting of civic landscapes and in doing so has advanced the field of landscape design and contributed to a resurgence of the medium of landscape architecture as an integral part of the national artistic and aesthetic agenda.

To write a supporting letter review for Laurie Olin does not need to dwell on his many achievements and awards, his extensive resume speaks for itself. The American Society of Landscape Architecture is fortunate to have such a gifted practitioner, educator and design leader in their ranks. I therefore fully support and commend his nomination to the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Niall G. Kirkwood FASLA

Professor of Landscape Architecture and Technology
Director, Center for Technology and Environment
Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
Gerald O'Hare Visiting Professorship, University of Ulster

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Re: ASLA Medal Nomination for Laurie Olin

Dear Trustees:

It is an honor and privilege to write in support of Laurie Olin's candidacy for the ASLA Medal. I am at a loss to imagine any living candidate who would be more deserving.

Laurie Olin is within a select group of internationally recognized landscape architects who emerged in the generation that followed such luminaries as Dan Kiley, Ian McHarg and Lawrence Halprin. The only other ones who would match Laurie's stature have previously received the ASLA Medal. It would not be an understatement to say that Laurie is overdue for this honor.

My enthusiastic testimony on Laurie's behalf stems from his extraordinarily diverse contributions –in theory, teaching and practice –to not just our profession, but to the larger interdisciplinary fields of urban design and planning. He thrives on collaboration, and in so doing, has provided our related disciplines with the very best ambassador the field of landscape architecture could have offered.

What impresses me most about Laurie Olin –why I think he is a superlative candidate for the ASLA Medal –is his unstinting mentorship at all levels of the profession. He mentors by personal contact, by inspired writings, by spirited drawings and by remarkably substantive design works. I recall an article about Dan Kiley that proclaimed Mr. Kiley a modern classicist. I think Laurie better fits that description in this sense –Laurie's work, inspired by his first-hand and deep understanding of the classic canon of landscape architecture, seems to have a timeless quality that will only improve with the passage of generations.

His "hand" is a sensitive and informed one; it knows how to craft and build to endure. Witness his achievements at Bryant Park, at Columbus Circle and at the Washington Monument Grounds. It is work that is subtle, nuanced and beautifully detailed. His legacy lives on in these greatest of public places and

contexts. One would be hard pressed to find a more fitting testimony than these particular accomplishments.

It would be a just and appropriate tribute to one of our great American landscape architects that Laurie Olin be recognized with the ASLA Medal.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Warren", with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a large loop underneath.

Warren T. Byrd, Jr FASLA

Founding Partner, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects
Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia

Gehry Partners, LLP

Frank Gehry

Brian Aamoth
Terry Bell
John Bowers
Edwin Chan
Jennifer Ehrman
Berta Gehry
Meaghan Lloyd
Tensho Takemori
Laurence Tighe
Craig Webb

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Dear Trustees,

I have known and worked with Laurie Olin in collaboration for the last 30 years. He is the easiest person to collaborate with that I've experienced in my career. It takes a lot of confidence in one's self to be able to work in a collaborative way with the many personalities in architecture that Laurie has had to work with. His sensibility about making places at every scale is exemplary. He easily rolls with the circumstances that confront him while maintaining the highest level of design excellence. Over the years, I've worked with a number of people in his profession and whenever possible, I keep coming back to Laurie. He's definitely a one-of-a-kind, he definitely knows his stuff and he definitely knows how to get it done. It's a great honor for me to voice my support for him to receive the ASLA medal.

Best Regards,



Frank Gehry
Architect



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ASLA Board of Trustees
c/o American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Trustees,

It is my honor and pleasure to write a letter on behalf of Laurie Olin for the ASLA Medal.

Laurie Olin is a renaissance man – a fantastic artist, a great landscape architect, and a consummate mentor. Laurie is interesting, interested, and generous with his time. Laurie's landscape architecture practice, his writings, and his leadership in professional circles are leaving a mark on our generation of designers, on the environments that he touches, and as a result on many many people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mia Lehrer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mia Lehrer, FASLA

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