

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Green Since 1899

## Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects

is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 15,000 members in 49 professional chapters, 72 student chapters, and seven student affiliate chapters. The Society's mission is to lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. Members of the Society use the "ASLA" suffix after their names to denote membership and their commitment to the highest ethical standards of the profession.

### ASLA began with 11 founding members:

Nathan Barrett	John Charles Olmsted (the Society's first president)
Beatrix Jones Farrand	Samuel Parsons, Jr.
Daniel W. Langton	George F. Pentecost, Jr.
Charles N. Lowrie	Ossian Cole Simonds
Warren H. Manning	Downing Vaux (son of Calvert Vaux)
Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.	

**At the end of 2013, ASLA reported 15,203 members and 49 chapters representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 62 countries around the world.**

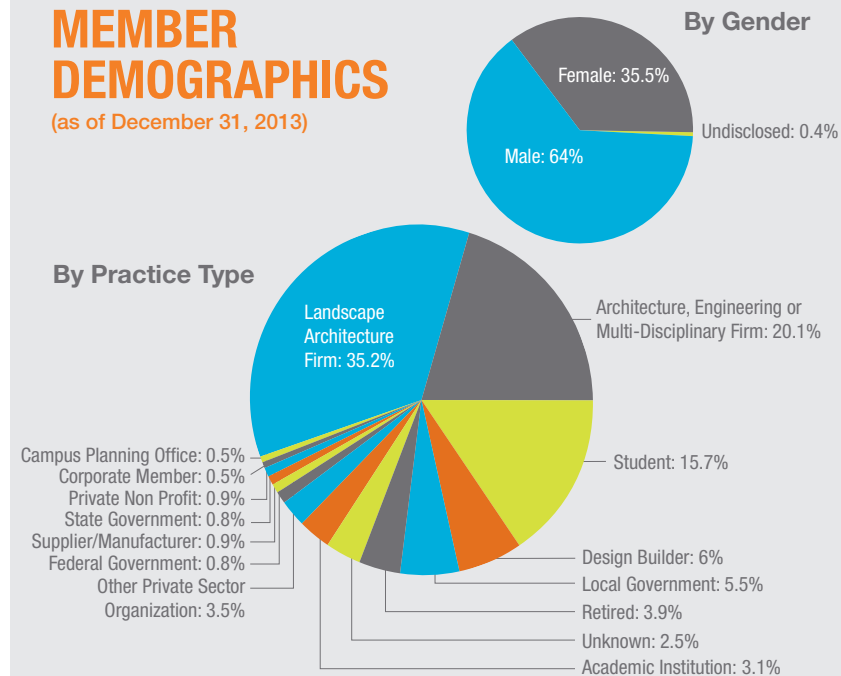
- Landscape architects held about 21,600 jobs in 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, of which 47 percent were employed in the architectural, engineering, and related services industries.
- Approximately 16,000 landscape architects are licensed. Licensure is required in all 50 states to be identified as a "landscape architect" and in 47 states to practice landscape architecture.
- In 2013, 5,352 ASLA members worked at landscape architecture firms; 3,056 worked at architecture, engineering, or multi-disciplinary firms; and 911 were employed by design-build firms. A total of 1,088 members worked for federal, state, or local government.

## MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

Member Type	Q4 2013	2012	Percentage +/- 13 v. 12
Full Member	9,354	9,185	+1.84%
Student	2,006	2,181	-8.02%
Associate	1,704	1,583	+7.64%
Affiliate	592	562	+5.34%
Full-Fellow	735	706	+4.11%
Student Affiliate	360	319	+12.85%
International	183	173	+5.78%
Corporate	125	156	-19.87%
Honorary (living)	144	137	+5.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,203</b>	<b>15,002</b>	<b>+1.34%</b>

## MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

(as of December 31, 2013)



## THE PROFESSION

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the natural and built environments.

### Among the types of projects they produce are:

- Academic campuses
- Conservation
- Corporate and commercial
- Gardens and arboreta
- Green Infrastructure
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Land planning
- Landscape art
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Stormwater management
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors
- Urban design

## THE FACTS

Approximately 70 percent of the profession is in the private sector, 26 percent in the public sector, and 4 percent in academia, based on responses to the 2010-11 ASLA National Salary Survey.

Average annual salary and bonuses for those in the field total \$78,600 (2010-11 ASLA National Salary Survey).

Some 66 percent of respondents to the 2010-11 Business Indicators Survey reported revenues in 2009 of less than \$1 million.

The economic recovery remains flat for landscape architecture firms, according to ASLA's third quarter 2013 Business Quarterly survey. Billings and inquiries for new work are down quarter to quarter for the majority of firms, and plans to hire are on hold. Comparing third quarter 2012 to third quarter 2013, the picture markedly improves.

Year to year, 84.7 percent claimed stable to significantly higher third-quarter inquiries from potential clients for new project work. Additionally, 80 percent indicated

third-quarter billable hours remained about the same or were higher.

Three largest client groups, descending order:

- Private-home owners
- Architects
- Cities/municipalities

For smaller firms (up to three employees):

- Private-home owners.

LEARN MORE AT

[asla.org](http://asla.org)

Landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states, but not yet in the District of Columbia.

## EDUCATION

Sixty-eight universities currently offer at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB)\*.

There are two undergraduate professional degrees. These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).

There are two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

- The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for those who hold an undergraduate degree in a field other than landscape architecture and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who do not have an undergraduate degree.

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture for persons who want to conduct research in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals, programs by schools that are candidates for accreditation, and certificate programs.

*\*LAAB is a specialized agency that accredits educational programs leading to first professional degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels.*

**Cities (and the administrations that lead them) are now expected to develop projects that support sustainable urbanism, leaving landscape architects well-positioned to shape that process."**

ArchNewsNow, October 2012

## LICENSURE

There are two different types of licensure laws:

- States with practice acts (47) require a license to practice landscape architecture.
- States with title acts (3) allow anyone to practice landscape architecture, regardless of their qualifications, but only those with a license may use the title "landscape architect" or advertise for "landscape architectural" services.

Each state sets its own requirements for licensure, but all require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE.