

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee:

Robert Harris
204 Watt Hall, University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0921
213) 740 2723

Nominator:

Douglas A. Campbell ASLA

Re: Robert S. Harris

I take great pleasure in submitting this nomination of Professor Robert Harris, Director, Landscape Architecture Studies, USC School of Architecture, for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Accompanying this nomination narrative are letters of support from colleagues in academia and in the profession, all of which attest to Professor Harris' achievements of national and international significance benefitting the profession of landscape architecture.

Bob Harris is a distinguished architect, educator and advocate for the public realm. He has served as Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon; and Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Southern California.

He has been recognized by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) as recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Educator Award, by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) with its Distinguished Professor Award, and by an array of other professional, academic and civic organizations with numerous other accolades for teaching and research. His public service includes authorship of important strategic plans, design and urban infrastructure studies, leadership on National Endowment of the Arts national panels, regional, statewide and municipal boards and commissions, and chairmanship of numerous urban design and planning juries.

In all of these endeavors, he has been a passionate, articulate and persistent advocate for the critical and central role of the profession of landscape architecture in improving the urban condition, linking and engaging landscape architecture with allied arts and sciences including architecture, urban design, planning, geography, ecology and public policy studies into a unified intellectual, creative and ethical enterprise.

Since 2006, Professor Harris has served as Director of USC's Landscape Architecture Studies Program. His patiently unfolding and visionary initiatives over many years within the School of Architecture, the University, and the field and profession of landscape architecture in southern California and beyond have resulted in a thriving landscape architecture studies program at USC, moving from modest beginnings to successful accreditation. In the words of Dean Qingyun Ma, "His vision for creating a world-class landscape program uniquely tied to issues and potentials of both the Pacific-Rim region and the City of Los Angeles will continue to directly inform the curriculum of this program for years to come."

His significant achievements noted above are a matter of public record, but much of importance is based on the personal observations of his students, collaborators and colleagues, a sampling of which is articulated in the letters of support accompanying this nomination.

Bob Harris is a tireless, nurturing and compassionate mentor to a growing number of students, many with international backgrounds, in whom he has inspired with to see that "everything is connected". He has brought together a diverse and disparate group of professionals, community leaders and public policy makers, providing common ground at USC for a sustaining and mutually supporting community within and surrounding the discipline of landscape architecture. Among his many initiatives on behalf of the profession is his current service as Chair of the Host Committee of the 2011 CELA Conference to be held in Los Angeles this spring. Characteristically, he has invited colleagues at UCLA and Cal Poly University to take part as co-hosts of this important gathering in Los Angeles.

My colleagues and I believe that Robert Harris' work toward the creation of this community, in and partaking of the unique urban nature and culture of Los Angeles, is a significant contribution to our profession nationally and internationally, and will be increasingly so into the future.

It is for this notable service to the profession of landscape architecture that I make this nomination.

Douglas Campbell ASLA
Adjunct Professor, School of Architecture
204 Watt Hall, University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0921
(310) 795 8234



March 1, 2011

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Robert S. Harris for Honorary Membership

To Whom It may Concern:

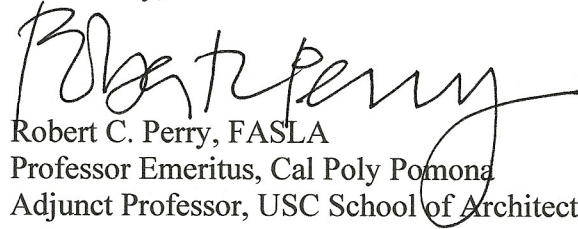
This letter is in support of the nomination of Professor Robert Harris of the USC School of Architecture for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects, in recognition of his significant contributions to the profession of landscape architecture. I am most aware of Bobs' contribution to the profession in academia. In this regard, I have had the pleasure of working with Bob at USC for more than 3 years; this has enabled me to teach under his leadership and see his tireless dedication to the studies at USC. In few years, Bob has transformed the existing certificate program in landscape architecture into a first professional degree program at the graduate level that is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board. The remarkable advancement and transformation of this program reflects Bobs' leadership skills and tireless pursuit of academic excellence.

I have been an educator in landscape architecture since 1972 at Cal Poly Pomona and have taught in both graduate and undergraduate programs. I have also taught in the extension programs at UCLA and UC Irvine in landscape architecture and as an adjunct at USC since 2009. From this background I can describe Professor Harris to be one of the most dedicated, persistent and effective advocates of landscape architecture in southern California. He has demonstrated this character through the pursuit of highly accomplished faculty, advanced curriculum development, interdisciplinary networking and his constant presence in design juries and review sessions.

Professor Harris is guided by a strong vision that recognizes the opportunity for a world-class landscape architecture program at USC centered on the challenges and opportunities within the urban context, particularly in Los Angeles. It is in this environment that courses are designed to address environmental, cultural and economic aspects of sustainability applicable to landscape architecture and urban design. In this way, policies as well as technical standards are combined in the academic setting.

Perhaps the most endearing quality I observe about Professor Harris is his consideration of students and faculty as real people. He is truly interested in the success of everyone and strives to assist, guide and encourage the best performance possible. I am honored to contribute these insights for the nomination of Professor Robert Harris of the USC School of Architecture for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects

Yours truly,

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

Robert C. Perry, FASLA
Professor Emeritus, Cal Poly Pomona
Adjunct Professor, USC School of Architecture

February 23, 2011

ASLA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee

Re: Robert Harris, FAIA for consideration as Honorary ASLA member

Dear Colleagues,

I have had the pleasure of working with Robert Harris over the last two years, both as the Chair of the California Landscape Architect's Technical Committee and also as Director of the Landscape Architecture Program at UCLA Extension.

Through the years I've been in Los Angeles, I have watched the University of Southern California struggle to start a thriving landscape architecture program. A great start under Emmet Wemple's vision, then small steps forward and then little movement and no champion. That is until Robert Harris took the reins. Bob's previous work with Emmet Wemple, ASLA, gave Bob not just great respect for the profession, but a great love. His passion for our profession has taken USC's program forward toward achieving accreditation this year. He has hired great designers as adjuncts, and he has capitalized on Los Angeles and southern California as a laboratory for urban form and sustainable research.

USC was selected to host the 2011 CELA Conference, and Bob generously invited the programs at UCLA Extension and Cal Poly Pomona to collaborate on the conference.

He has positioned USC's Landscape Architecture program as a program that serves, supports and is highly respected in China and internationally.

Robert Harris may be trained as an architect, but he is a landscape architect at heart. He is a champion for the profession and for educating the profession. Without reservation, I encourage you to consider his work on our behalf, and invite Robert Harris to join us as an honorary member of our Society.

Respectfully,



Stephanie V. Landregan, FASLA

1 March 2011

School of Architecture

Qingyun Ma
Dean
Della and Harry
Macdonald
Dean's Chair

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Robert Harris's nomination for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Bob has served in many roles at the USC School of Architecture: dean, program director, design practitioner, faculty mentor, teacher, and scholar. Underlying his significant contributions in all of these positions is Bob's profound understanding of the relationship between education and human purpose and architecture of the future and the craftsmanship of curriculum and pedagogy.

Since I assumed deanship of the School in 2007, I have known Bob in his capacity as the director of our landscape program. However, Bob's service to the landscape architecture program began long before he assumed this role. When he was first dean of the School of Architecture, there was no designated landscape degree program in the School. During his deanship, Bob strategically hired and tenured landscape faculty, ensuring not only the integration of landscape thinking and knowledge within the traditional architecture programs, but more importantly, setting the stage for the subsequent successful development of both a full undergraduate degree program and our current Masters in Landscape Program, which he stewarded.

After his deanship, Bob worked closely with School in establishing two funded endowments which now are used exclusively to support students and faculty initiatives in our Landscape programs: the Emmett Wemple Endowment and the Robert Harris Endowment. Over the past decade, Bob has been the central driving force in developing and refining every course now taught in the graduate landscape program, and the single driving force in building the full team of exceptionally qualified landscape architecture faculty we now have teaching.

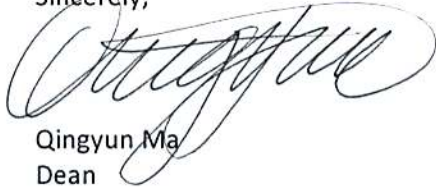
Over the past four years, Bob has been responsible for both recruiting and yielding each class of graduate students in the Landscape program. Most importantly, he has succeeded in two areas in which no other director of the Landscape program has succeeded: by first and foremost, leading the program both through its initial accreditation candidacy status as well as the accreditation process; and expanding our graduate admissions of new students to now include entry at all three year levels of the

professional degree program, whereas before, we only accepted students with advanced standing and previous degrees in landscape or architecture.

Bob's efforts have all been tremendously successful, truly transforming the entire spirit of the graduate degree program in both quality and vibrancy. His vision for creating a world-class landscape program uniquely tied to issues and potentials of both the Pacific-Rim region and the City of Los Angeles will continue to directly inform the curriculum of this program for years to come.

I can imagine no one more deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Qingyun Ma', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Qingyun Ma
Dean
Della & Harry MacDonald Chair



March 1, 2011

ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Robert S. Harris, FAIA – Nomination for Honorary Membership

To: ASLA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee:

This letter is in ultimate support of the nomination of Professor Robert Harris of the USC School of Architecture for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

I understand that this honor recognizes significant contributions and notable service to the profession of landscape architecture.

I am a landscape architect licensed in California since September 1, 1954 (license #832) with 57 years of active practice and involvement with the landscape industry. I have been in business for the past 62 years, and I am proud to have been a part of helping to establish licensing of landscape architects in California.

I have been working with the USC School of Architecture for over ten years with Professor Harris. First working with him on curricular planning to bring landscape perspectives into the general course of studies and, since its inception five years ago, with the landscape program.

In my role as a member of Dean Qingyun Ma's Board of Advisors I have seen the influence of Professor Harris' leadership on the successful growth and integration of the landscape program into the mission of the School of Architecture.

I have known and worked with Professor Harris for all of the years he has worked with USC and I have seen him build the landscape architecture program at USC from its beginnings to its present international standing. I am also personally working with him at present to support his efforts as Chair of the Host Committee for Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Conference that he is bringing to Southern California this spring.

My long experience in working internationally has given me a special appreciation of Bob Harris' understanding of and work toward increasing the influence of the profession of landscape architecture on the quality of life globally, especially in the growing cities of Asia and the Pacific Rim.

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C O M P A N I E S

I know of no other architect with greater passion and better understanding of landscape architecture than Professor Harris. I believe that the program that Bob Harris has built is making and will continue to make a significant contribution our profession internationally.

I strongly endorse the nomination of Professor Harris for this honor.

Please contact me with any questions. (818) 737-2601

Yours truly,

Burton S. Sperber, FASLA
CEO



Office of the Dean
College of Environmental Design

3 March 2011

Jonathan Mueller, FASLA
President, Board of Trustees
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: NOMINATION OF PROFESSOR ROBERT S. HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF THE
MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM AT THE USC
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Dear Mr. Mueller:

I am writing to convey my extremely enthusiastic support for the nomination of Professor Robert S. Harris, Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program at the USC School of Architecture, for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architecture.

I have known Professor Harris since the 1980s, when he was the very capable Chair of the Downtown Los Angeles Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. At the time, I was a Member of the Los Angeles City Council and Professor Harris was then the Dean of the USC School of Architecture. Now that I am a University Dean, I am surprised that Professor Harris had the time to be so effective in an external role while he was Dean of the School of Architecture. But my level of admiration is all the greater, now that I am a Dean.

More recently, Professor Harris has become the Director of the new Master of Landscape Architecture Program in the USC School of Architecture. He has done a fine job of getting the program started. I have been particularly impressed with his insistence on attention to the quality of the public realm. Also, Professor Harris has played a leadership role in preparations for the upcoming 2011 CELA conference.

For all these reasons, I urge the ASLA Board of Trustees to give serious consideration to granting Professor Robert S. Harris honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL WOO
Dean