

**Nominee:** Stanley (Stan) Skalka

**Nominee's Address:** Victor Stanley, Inc., P.O. Drawer 330, 2103 Brickhouse Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754

**Phone:** 301-855-8300 x. 321

**Nominator:** David Lycke, ASLA

It is an honor to nominate Stanley Skalka, co-founder of Victor Stanley, Inc, for honorary membership in ASLA in recognition of his longstanding friendship with the landscape architecture profession and his steadfast support of ASLA.

Stan founded Victor Stanley, Inc (VSI), in 1962. Early on, the company began a complex transformation from being a manufacturer of interior furnishings to a manufacturer of site amenities such as litter receptacles, benches, bike racks, planters and bollards, etc. Today, the company employs more than 150 people with two American manufacturing facilities and products that are standard in most major cities in the United States, and many other cities throughout the world.

At a time when many manufacturing companies choose to outsource their manufacturing, VSI has opted to compete by increasing its manufacturing capabilities in its facilities in Maryland. It pioneered in using high-tech robotics, powder-coating and recycled plastics, demonstrating a willingness to invest heavily in the materials and technologies which would help move forward the available choices of site amenities.

Stan has become familiar to landscape architects throughout the country through his long support of ASLA both on a national and local level. While traveling extensively on behalf of VSI, Stan has become known among landscape architects as the business person who never discussed his products when visiting an office, but who rather discussed current events, history, and shared good humor while enjoying a donut.

It is through stories like the time Stan replaced rusting benches which had been made as knock-offs of VSI products in Canada only to realize that the rusting benches were *not* made by VSI, that his unending respect for the best interest of customers is expressed. The designer of that project had used VSI benches on the first phase and specified them on the second phase. The contractor made a substitution. Stan replaced the defective products even after he found out that they were not VSI products, rather than allow the landscape architect to be embarrassed. This commitment to quality and respect for designers and customers alike has established VSI as a company that stands behind its products and as a partner to be trusted in the design process.

Throughout Stan's 49 years in the manufacturing industry he has shown a deep respect and admiration for landscape architecture as a profession. The multifaceted components of landscape architecture created a genuine interest for Stan to bring together landscape architects from all over the world at his house, at their offices, and in the field. There is no greater ambassador for the profession who is not a landscape architect.

For nearly five decades, Stan has witnessed the transition in the design community's recognition and inclusion of landscape architects at the very inception of the design process. No longer is it common to see a beautiful plaza without beautiful plantings or with yellow drums which have "TRASH" stenciled on the side. Integrated design is now the baseline for public places. Stan has no greater professional

pleasure than helping landscape architects meet their counterparts from other communities, other countries, and other cultures.

Stan first began investigating how to communicate with cities and city planners around the world in the 1970s. The feeling was that the needs of the profession varied markedly from country to country. In Europe, cities were older, had narrower sidewalks, cobblestone surfaces, generally less litter, sometimes harsh climates...totally different from what was then the typical American downtown.

At that time, Americans were building sprawling shopping centers, while Europeans still bought from smaller, local entities. When confronted with such seeming disparities, Stan instead looked for similarities. The core similarity was the growth, worldwide, in the recognition that landscape architects provided the bridge from the old to the new, across all scales of development. In essence, a public space, green and welcoming, safe, all-season, clean, accessible, a host to families and individuals, a place for everyone from babies to retirees was once again becoming the center of the community.

Rather than focus on which specific product would sell in this or that application, Stan sought an understanding of the design community and its view of the many publics which it served. That focus has remained the centerpiece of everything which VSI has done in the intervening decades. The world is changing now, as it always does. The ebb and flow of populations, economies, demographics, as well as tastes and technologies, continue to awaken us to the perpetuity of good design in public spaces.

When the park or plaza or downtown first designed generations ago remains equally viable, cherished, and functional, while enjoyed by people who are now retirees, but who first enjoyed those spaces when they were children...when the changing seasons make the site different and even more beautiful...when the needs of disparate communities throughout the world look more and more alike despite having looked so different decades ago, the efficacy of good design is clear.

Stan has long supported ASLA as one of our largest magazine advertisers, as an EXPO exhibitor, and as an annual meeting sponsor. Recognizing the impact the recession was having on ASLA's budget, Stan called our sales staff last year to ask what *more* he could do to help. He generously stepped in to sponsor the joint luncheon of the Board of Trustees and the Chapter Presidents Council last September and has again agreed to do this in San Diego for 2011.

Participation in this process has become one of the great sources of joy in Stan's life. He is a real ambassador for the landscape architecture community.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

David Lycke, ASLA

03.03.2011

**Honorary Membership Nomination**

ASLA

636 Eye Street, NW

Washington DC 20001-3736

Attn: Ms. Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards

Re: Stan Skalka – Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

I am the owner of one of the leading landscape architect companies in Denmark and as such met Stan Skalka the spring of 2010. During our meeting, Stan Skalka hosted me, my employees and other fellow Danish landscape architects in his home where we were introduced to landscape architects from Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. We also toured the factory that manufacture Stan's products. We learned about the company's efforts to maintain high product quality, sustainability and other commitments to the environment.

Stan's genuine dedication to our field (through bringing colleagues from different nations together as well as providing high quality products that live up to European environmental standards) is an example of his support of our profession.

I cannot think of a better Ambassador for our industry from someone who is not a certified or practicing landscape architect. I strongly support that Stan Skalka should be an honorary member of ASLA.

Sincerely,



Marianne Levinsen

Marianne Levinsen Landskab ApS



# FRP

landscape architecture & urban design



[www.frpinc.ca](http://www.frpinc.ca)

Fleisher Ridout Partnership Inc.  
1 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 207  
Toronto, Ontario M6K 3E7  
tel: 416-533-4990  
e-mail: [info@frpinc.ca](mailto:info@frpinc.ca)

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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

Attn: Ms. Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards

Re: Stan Skalka – Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

We have known Stan Skalka in a personal and professional manner for over twenty years. He is an upstanding member of his local community having represented the State of Maryland on several trade related matters. He has also been an active supporter of landscape architecture both through direct support for the ASLA publication as well as his commitment to providing high quality products for public parks and open spaces. In business related matters, Stan represents the highest standard of conduct and product support. Five years ago we had the opportunity to visit both facilities, where the details of design, fabrication and quality control were demonstrated in an organized and professional manner. As a follow-up practice, Stan has contacted our firm on numerous occasions to obtain feedback on new product line. Throughout Stan's involvement in the Site Furnishings industry he has shown leadership and a commitment to excellence that supports both the ASLA and landscape architects in general both in the USA and in Canada. The furnishings that his firm creates are found in high profile projects around the globe. We submit that Stan Skalka's achievements in the field of site furnishings design, manufacturing and professional support, qualify him for election as an honorary member of the ASLA.

Yours sincerely  
FLEISHER RIDOUT PARTNERSHIP INC.

Brad Fleisher, OALA

Tom Ridout, OALA



Landscape Architects, Architects,  
Engineers, and Planners, P.C.

March 7, 2011

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

Re: Honorary Membership for Stanley Skalka

Dear Selection Committee:

I am sending this letter to express my very strong support for the elevation of Stan Skalka, to Honorary Membership in ASLA. Stan has been a stalwart supporter of the profession of Landscape Architecture on many levels, for the many years I have had the privilege of knowing him. He and his company, Victor Stanley have been exceedingly generous in terms of both their financial support and assistance to ASLA, as well as working with, advising and assisting many of us in the profession of Landscape Architecture, with our projects through the years.

Personally, he has assisted me in my professional capacity by his willingness to take ads in journals, or being a willing exhibitor at various related informational or community-related seminars or conferences. The focus of many of our firm's projects has been in distressed communities. In trying to illustrate what the proposed design recommendations might look like when they are implemented, we often design what we call pilot demonstration areas. These are areas, constructed whenever possible, at no cost to the community, that incorporate some of the recommended design vocabulary elements, in order to create a small sitting area, bus stop, or similar area. The purpose of this process is to help convey and enable the involved stakeholders to visualize the final design intent, by illustrating the actual proposed materials and site elements that are part of the overall design vocabulary, for the particular project. Over the years, Stan has been incredibly generous in working with us, by being willing to donate a bench or benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, bollards and similar site elements, without any guarantee he would be awarded the project, or that he and his company would be the successful bidder.

SARATOGA  
ASSOCIATES

Selection Committee

March 7, 2011

Page 2 of 2

Stan and Victor Stanley have been consistent participants, as exhibitors at the annual ASLA convention, for as many years as I can remember. He has also been active in introducing practitioners from abroad, to ASLA members and firms in the United States, to facilitate discussions about their respective practices, thereby facilitating discussions about the respective methods of design and construction in these countries, versus the way we practice in the United States. This has generated some interesting and informative dialog, and established contacts with practitioners from abroad.

I unconditionally recommend that Stan be recognized for his, and his company's unselfish support of ASLA, and the profession of Landscape Architecture for many, many years. He has proved to be an invaluable friend of the profession, and is well deserving of being recognized as an Honorary Member of ASLA.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William B. Kuhl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

William B. Kuhl, FASLA  
Vice President/Senior Principal  
SARATOGA ASSOCIATES  
Landscape Architects, Architects, Engineers, and Planners, P.C.

:

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

Attn: Ms. Carolyn Mitchell, Coordinator, Honors and Awards

March 16, 2011

**Re: Stan Skalka – Honorary Membership in ASLA**

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

We have known Stan Skalka since 2006 when we worked on a project that enabled us to standardize Victor Stanley's products on the streets of Oslo. Since then, we have had an ongoing friendship with Stan as well as Victor Stanley's distributor in Norway.

We have come to know Stan as a genuine humanist with tremendous interest for people and cities. This reflects his childhood in Brooklyn, New York. Stan takes his industry seriously, such as demands on quality and durability of site furnishings for fundamental premises such as public space. At the same time, Stan has a humble attitude to the site furnishing's adaptability. We would like to describe Stan as a person with a great heart for the importance of urban public space and highly recommend him to be an Honorary Member of ASLA.

Sincerely,

  
Ragnhild Momrak  
Dronninga landskap AS

  
Rainer Stange  
Dronninga landskap AS