

RESEARCH (1980, R2001, R2009, R2024)



Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscape Architects believes research is essential to advancing the profession's ability to design for, adapt to, and mitigate challenges currently facing the world.

ASLA supports:

- research that generates knowledge, produces and disseminates scholarly work, and applies advanced approaches and technology to current and emerging areas of professional practice that are critical to solving problems through design
- strong partnerships with universities, public entities, public and private organizations, and allied professions

Justification

An evolving body of knowledge is fundamental to scientifically informed decision-making that results in evidence-based design protecting public health, safety, and welfare. Landscape architects utilize various methodologies to promote the expansion of knowledge, technology, and expertise. Research ensures that landscape architects are technically and intellectually prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Issue

Research includes diverse types of inquiry, including disciplinary and multidisciplinary; applied and theoretical; causal and comparative. Formal research and scholarly work, including research in diversity, equity, and inclusion, have the power to strengthen and expand landscape architectural theory. Guiding principles should encompass both creative insight as well as scientific rigor. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is critical to research because it supports diverse perspectives, inclusive processes, and equitable solutions. A comprehensive approach to research is essential to the continuation of landscape architecture as a distinct STEM academic discipline and professional field.

Academics have a singular opportunity to acquire, interpret, synthesize, and disseminate relevant information and ideas produced by the arts, sciences, and humanities so that such knowledge can guide the profession. Academics provide valuable knowledge, methods, and outcomes that help advance the discipline. By synthesizing and disseminating information and ideas influenced by the arts, sciences, and humanities allows them to advance knowledge, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, inform policy, and practice, and enhance public understanding.

Joint ventures with other disciplines and fields help develop the level of qualifications required by the academic institutions and by funding agencies. The profession benefits when new research and technology are integrated into the practice of landscape architecture.

Rigorous research methodologies, completed by the academy and public and private practice, contribute to the landscape architecture body of knowledge. Professionals engaged in public and private practice are well-positioned to contribute to research, including promoting the testing and application of knowledge in landscape architecture.



Resources

Landscape Journal
<https://lj.uwpress.org/>

Landscape Architect Solutions to Extreme Heat
www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Practice/Action_Research/Heat_Study.pdf

Landscape Architect Solutions to Biodiversity Loss
www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Practice/Action_Research/Biodiversity_Study.pdf

Note

This policy is one of an integrated group of policies on education issues.