



## Editorial

### Landscape Architecture\_Challenges

Martha C. FAJARDO- Immediate Past President

This is my last co-editorial Newsletter issue. In reviewing my last four years as IFLA President, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on IFLA and the significance of landscape architecture at the global level.

What are the challenges? What role can we - along with our partners - play in providing a coherent response?

Not surprisingly, we are moving into a very different world from the one that existed when IFLA was created in 1948. It is a world shaped by globalism, technology, scientific knowledge and cyberspace.

As the world's population becomes increasingly urbanized, a new political interest in landscape has developed. As people long for a sense of identity in an increasingly homogenized world, landscape architects have been in the vanguard of understanding and interpreting the special qualities of place.

Here are what I see as the most important tasks for our profession worldwide today:

\* First, we must move towards a more collective leadership through the art of cooperation and consensus. It is about defining common goals and interests, it is about the visibility of the profession, it is about the quality of what we design in sustainable terms.

\* Second, we need to look at the policy challenges we face as pieces of an interconnected puzzle. We can no longer treat the environment, development, health, or finance as separate sectoral issues.

Our world is an interdependent world; the future of landscape architecture depends on an understanding and assimilation of the achievements of other disciplines and professions.

\* Third, we need to work together within the global organization to manage these complex issues:

- One that is truly representative of the new global realities.
- One that brings leaders together to undertake an expanded policy of visibility and the new challenges of professionalism.

Last but not least, we need a clear mandate from the associations, institutions, and academia to promote a common global strategy and common actions.

- A common strategy - among our international partners, national associations, and members - for strengthening

- A common strategy for investigation and research into scientific knowledge.

- A common commitment to a code of ethics - focused on people and values, nature and diversity, interdependence and globalization - to address today's challenges.

- A common strategy of public awareness of landscape architecture and our work; we must "sell" the profession," to politicians, media, and society at large

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**Martha C. FAJARDO**

**Next issue**  
**April/May 2007**



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## IFLA Regional Conference of the Americas, Mexico City

1st regional conference of the **americas** IFLA  
V national congress of **andscape** architecture

sociedad de arquitectos paisajistas de méxico  
international federation of landscape architects

24 | 27 | may | 2007

keynote speakers:

Diane Menzies  
Fernando Chacel  
Marc Treib  
Mario Schjetnan  
Kongjian Yu

new zealand  
brazil  
usa  
mexico  
china

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subscriptions, information, students competition:  
[www.sapm.com.mx](http://www.sapm.com.mx)

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www.unam.mx

universidad barcelonesa  
departamento de arquitectura y urbanismo  
www.uab.cat

www.sapm.com.mx

**diseño en el siglo XXI**

Venue: Hotel Camino Real, México  
**24 -27 May 2007**

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## IFLA 2007 World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



<http://www.ifla2007.com>

**27-31 August 2007**

Venue: Kuala Lumpur

### Theme: **EDEN-ing The Earth**

The advancement of science and technology over the past century has greatly changed the lives of billions and their immediate environments. The quest for a better standard of living has adversely impacted the current population especially ethnic groups and the under privileged. As a citizen of the earth and a guardian of the environment, we are constantly in search for innovative solutions to safeguard our mother earth for the future generations.

The Congress seeks to address and attempts to find solutions for the various issues and challenges that face future generations and the landscape architecture discipline in making the world a better place to live in. The sub-themes are as follows:

- Landscape and Parks as Natural Resources
- Sustainability in Landscape Planning & Design
- Disaster Management & Landscape Architecture
- Cultural Landscape in the Era of Globalisation

### Highlights in 2007

#### Visit Malaysia Year 2007

The Malaysian government has designated the year 2007 as visit Malaysia year .The year 2007 has been chosen because it coincides with the 50th year of Malaysia's independence. Various celebrations will be held throughout Malaysia, making 2007 one of the best times to visit the country and making Malaysia the preferred international destination. [Visit Malaysia Year](http://www.visitmalaysia.com) website

#### Malaysian Golden Jubilee Celebration

Malaysia proudly invites delegates to IFLA2007 to join in the festivities as Malaysia celebrates its 50th National Day with great fanfare.

#### 10th Year Anniversary of Putrajaya

Themed 'Garden City, Intelligent City' Putrajaya is the new Federal Government Administrative Capital of Malaysia. It represents a city with a vision of creating a heritage for future generations.

#### Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Department

This year, the National Landscape Department will be celebrating its 10th anniversary with activities and awards in recognition of landscape professionals and projects that over the past 10 years, that have contributed towards "Making Malaysia a Garden Nation". Since the establishment of the National

#### Malaysia International Fireworks Competition

From 25-30 August, the Putrajaya skyline will be filled with spectacular fireworks display. Be amazed; be enthralled as you witness firsthand the sky ablaze with impressive fireworks showcased by various international participants.

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## IFLA Regional Conference of the Americas, Mexico

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### Theme: Landscape Design in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

#### Supported by

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México,  
Unidad Académica de Arquitectura de Paisaje,  
Universidad Iberoamericana,  
Departamento de Arquitectura y Urbanismo

#### Key Note Speakers

Diane Menzies – New Zealand  
IFLA President

Fernando Chacel- Brasil

Kongjan-Yu – China

Mark Treib - USA

Thorbjörn Andersson – Sweden

Mario Schjetnan - Mexico

#### Fees

Registration Fee	Before April 12	Before May 10	After May 10
Students <sup>1</sup>	\$60.00	\$90.00	\$120.00
Members	\$150.00	\$180.00	\$250.00
Non members	\$200.00	\$220.00	\$300.00

1. Please enclose copy of student's ID.

**All prices in US Dollars**

#### Contact

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## 44<sup>th</sup>. IFLA 2007 World Congress Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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### “Eye On Malaysia” & International WaterSky Spectacular

The Eye on Malaysia, the largest portable 'observation wheel' in the world. This giant ferris wheel allows visitors to experience a 360-degree panoramic view of Kuala Lumpur during a 12-minute ride that goes 60 metres high. It offers a magnificent view of Kuala Lumpur and over 20 kilometres of its surroundings areas.

#### The Host Cities

World Congress: **Tropical Garden City of Lights – Kuala Lumpur**  
Exco and World Council Meetings: **Garden City, Intelligent City - Putrajaya**

#### Calling for Papers

30 December 2006	Call for papers
28 February 2007	Submission of Abstract
31 March 2007	Notification of Acceptance
31 May 2007	Full Papers Submission
1 June – 25 August 2007	Preparation of proceeding
27 August 2007	Publication deadline

#### IFLA Exco & World Council meeting

<b>23 August 2007 (THU) @ Putrajaya</b>		
Arrival of Exco & Council Members @ Putrajaya		
<b>24 August 2007 (FRI)</b>		
9.00am - 5.00pm	Exco Meeting	@ Putrajaya
3.00pm - 10.30pm	Student Charette	@ D-Ark Resort, Janda Baik, Pahang
<b>25 August 2007 (SAT)</b>		
9.00am - 5.00am	World Council Meeting	@ Putrajaya
8.30am - 10.30pm	Student Charette	@ D-Ark Resort, Janda Baik, Pahang
<b>26 August 2007 (SUN)</b>		
9.00am - 12.00pm	Regional Council Meeting	@ Putrajaya
2.00pm - 5.00pm	World Council Meeting	@ Putrajaya
12.00pm - 6.00pm	Congress Registration	@ Congress Venue, K L

#### Contact:

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Tel : 603-4045 2416 Fax : 603-4045 2415

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# IFLA Meetings and Decisions



Exco Meeting Radmila Figerova, Diane Menzies, Darwina Neal, Teresa Andresen, James Hayter and Tong-Mahn Ahn

**A**n historic meeting was held by IFLA's executive committee (Exco) in January. For the first time a combined IFLA /EFLA joint meeting was held. *The 'coming together' of IFLA and EFLA is now 'working together.'* The joint meeting proved a constructive way of sharing information and understanding and will be a very helpful foundation for progressing the transitional plan and communications for future committee work, such as on education.

In addition to the joint meeting, the IFLA Exco met and made the following decisions:

- **IFLA archives** are to be lodged with the Renée Pechère Library in Brussels. IFLA had previously held archives and a book collection in the Versailles office. However this had a number of problems such as lack of easy access for researchers, poor climate control for records, lack of cataloguing, and no person assigned to security for the material. Some of the collection was still in the boxes which had been sent from Portugal when the records were held there. A solution was sought and the decision was made on the basis that IFLA retained ownership of the collection, it can be added to, researchers will be able to obtain documents and the collection will be listed on the Pechère Library's excellent website. Documents can be scanned and forwarded to researchers. Renée Pechère was a founding member of IFLA and of the ICOMOS-IFLA Historic Gardens committee so we also saw a relationship with the Library which we should encourage. The IFLA archives are now being carefully packed and will be transported to the library in the next few weeks. IFLA News will advise members when they can obtain access to this collection.
- **An IFLA secretariat office** is to be opened in Brussels. IFLA has been challenged over the last six years by the lack of a secretariat. The Versailles office has heritage connections and was close to the French landscape architecture school at Versailles, but proved an inhospitable location for staff needing to commute from Paris.

James Hayter our Treasurer reviewed options for a secretariat as the basis for our decision. Location of a secretariat in Asia would be most cost effective for IFLA, but the decision took into account proximity to UNESCO and other 'partner' offices, co-location with the European Region's office, the proximity to other offices and facilities for meetings and the pleasantness and working conditions for future staff. Having made the decision we have also found that there are likely cost advantages with our bank which is also located in Brussels, and the IFLA archives. The Exco are currently reviewing office accommodation and job descriptions and hope to have a part time staff member in place before August.

- **Landscape Foundation** proposal accepted. Members of LI with links to the Landscape Foundation offered the 'use' of an already formed trust in order to build a fund for the international profession. The Exco considered the trust deed and resolved to accept the kind offer and will proceed to work with Trustees to grow the Foundation. The Foundation was formed by an IFLA founder and first President, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, and its objects are entirely appropriate to a fund for landscape architecture. We are currently having a lawyer undertake a 'due diligence' check and will then start to find ways to develop this resource base.
- **International Student competition sponsor.** The Exco were very pleased to accept sponsorship for the student competition for 2007 from Park Myung-kweon, a practicing landscape architect from Korea. Mr Park's much appreciated sponsorship of \$7.000US will provide for the first prize of \$.3500 and for judging and allied costs for the competition.
- **IFLA new Constitution lodging.** The Exco is most grateful for the assistance provided by FFP, our French association member, in translating our constitution in preparation for lodging in France, which they will also do on our behalf. The Constitutional changes had not been updated and are required to be so for banking and legal requirements. The translation work is currently underway.
- **Website update approved.** IFLA is to have a fresh and more navigable face to its website. The work has been undertaken to allow easier access and more timely and cost effective updates for the website so we thank our webmaster James Hayter for this work. Website to be used in preference to producing IFLA CD's. In line with the website refreshment, the Exco decided not to make a CD this year but instead encourage members to use the website where all information will be placed. We encourage members to do this and provide feedback for next year.



# World Landscape Architecture Month

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## IFLA Meetings and Decisions

The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) is proud to announce the first World Landscape Architecture month.

Under the broad theme of 'Sustainable Landscapes' members are encouraged to celebrate landscape architecture and its contributions to creating sustainable landscapes and improving public quality of life. April of each year beginning in 2007 is to be World Landscape Architecture month. IFLA members around the globe are now urged to plan an event for April and to advise IFLA of their plans at [secgen@iflaonline.org](mailto:secgen@iflaonline.org)

The month of April is special for the profession as it encompasses the birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park, New York and founder of the American landscape architecture profession on April 26; Earth Day on April 22, and the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April. We call on every association to advise of their plans for April.

An international calendar of Landscape Architecture events will be drawn up and posted to IFLA's and members' websites. Activities are already planned in USA, Canada and New Zealand. Events could include public lectures or exhibits on sustainable design, publicizing projects such as green roofs, and career days or programs at local schools.

Join us in making World Landscape Architecture month a time to celebrate and promote the profession around the world!

Diane Menzies, IFLA President.

- **Online journal to be promoted.** All associations and delegates will be receiving encouragement from their Vice Presidents to use the IFLA Online Journal. We regard this as an unrecognized resource and want to make sure members take advantage of it. At the same time we will undertake a review and will then consider the future of the journal.
- **IFLA launching World Landscape Architecture Month for April 2007** and yearly from then on. We hope associations will use this opportunity to promote our profession in April.
- **Progress on committee work.** The Exco received a personal briefing from Carlos Jankilevitch on ideas for innovation and reports from other committee chairs, particularly Jim Taylor for both Education and Africa committees. Jim Taylor is to attend a meeting of UN Habitat in Nairobi in April so we hope more contacts and plans will result from that meeting.
- **Torsanlorenzo Prize judges** nominated. Torsanlorenzo, a nursery in Italy which promotes an international landscape architecture prize, requested the nomination of a judge from IFLA. Professor Liu Xiaoming agreed to undertake this task for IFLA and Carlos Jankilevitch is judging on behalf of UIA.
- **Liaison and projects with International Union of Architects.** Thanos Sklavenitis has agreed to act as a liaison person for IFLA's contact with UIA. Joint projects and a joint Exco meeting is also being discussed with UIA and we will welcome the UIA President Gaetan Siew to our Congress in Malaysia.
- **Projects with ISoCARP.** Some Exco members also met with the President of ISoCARP, Pierre Laconte and look forward to working together on projects, initially in Europe.

**Stop Press Please note that the St Petersburg Conference in Russia is to be held in June 2007.**

IFLA EXCO February 2007

## IFLA Online Journal [www.iflajournal.org](http://www.iflajournal.org)

**It seems that IFLA might have been keeping a secret: our Online Journal.**

IFLA has an electronic journal which takes the best articles from landscape magazines, with their permission, and will also publish articles directly. The articles do not need to be in English, although the abstracts for the article do need to be in English. IFLA developed this facility to particularly encourage members of the profession in countries where there is no landscape architecture magazine. Latin American landscape architects and others are urged to contribute directly to our online journal so that the opportunity created is an advantage to our international profession.

Please visit our Online Journal today and give us your views on how this could be improved. This is the time for review of the journal. We want to know whether members value having an Online Journal.



**Gaetan Siew**  
International Union of Architects  
President



## Cities and Identities

### Extract from a paper about Cities and Identities

As a simple architect, I will only speak of identity and leave the main subject of architecture for the real specialists. I was still a student when all of them already had international experience.

Globalisation is a very sensitive issue especially nowadays and also to me personally.

#### 0. Introduction

Is it really a coincidence that I am here to talk on this subject? Allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen to introduce myself. My ancestors claimed to be Chinese, French, Indian, Scottish and others. In spite of or thanks to my multiple heritages I feel totally in harmony with myself.

I am an existing product of globalisation.

#### 1. Identity: multiple – dynamic - place

Each and every Identity has *multiple* origins and heritage.

It includes languages, nationalities, races, religions, profession, social milieu and the list is long.

Identity is not given once and for all; it is a *dynamic* process that transforms itself all the time.

Identity is relevant to *place*:

Being black in South Africa or in Nigeria is totally different from being black American.

#### 2. When modernity becomes a foreign threat

At all times, there was one civilization claiming to be in advance on the others.

The Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Arab or Byzantine

When we look around nowadays, the Western world is everywhere

- From Vladivostok to Singapore,
- From Boston to Dakar,
- From Sao Paulo to Tashkent

It has impacted seriously on our everyday life for good and for bad.

Wherever you live, modernization is almost always considered to be westernization.

And it's an accelerating phenomenon. And this is also true in architecture.

For the Africans, Japanese, Arabs, Jews and Turks, modernisation have implied the abandonment of a part of themselves.

On the other hand, for several third world countries politicians a new modern building is a symbol of progress and development.

In France, during these past years globalisation is seen as a scourge. Globalisation is seen as Americanisation and as a threat against

- their language,
- their culture,
- their prestige,
- their influence and
- their mode de vie.

They are however not alone to be irritated with all the new Fast Food outlets, with CNN, Disney and Microsoft. The adoption of the motion on Cultural Diversity at the UNESCO General Conference last October confirms this.

Can integrate modernity within our culture and identity without any compromise?

Should there be an element of reciprocity?



#### 4. Time for the global tribe

We live in an age where progress is fast but communication is still faster.

As a result, societies have no time to adopt and adapt.

- 6,5 billions population
- 4,5 billions radios
- 3,5 billions TV
- 2 billions mobiles
- 1 billion computers

Never had humanity shared

- so much knowledge,
- so many references and
- yet this is separating them apart.

They are shouting loud their differences. Globalisation is strengthening of the need for identity.

Need for identity on one side and need for universality on the other side.

A form of universal values seems to emerge inevitably.

Do we consider Puccini's operas or Vivaldi's concerto's as Italian music?

I would rather favour a new approach to the definition of identity, one that will absorb modernity as an element among others, as part of a new heritage in our future identity.

#### 5. UIA

UIA has a duty to protect our Collective global assets

- Values – Social issues
  - Access to health
  - Access to education
  - Access to the city
- World collective heritage
  - Cultural Diversity
  - Environment
- International Norms for
  - Education in Professional practice

#### 6. Conclusion

You will forgive me for being optimistic.

Men are more sons of their time than sons of their fathers.

One identity, double heritage

To conclude I will tell you that there is a Chinese ideogram for the word "crisis".

It composed of two symbols

- One meaning – danger
- and
- The second meaning – opportunity.

**I see in globalization both the danger and the opportunity.**

**But Identity and cultural diversity are its future.**



# IFLA Initiatives for Africa

By James Taylor, Chair of the Africa Standing Committee

**The African Working Group was established in 2005 by the President and Executive Committee of IFLA to explore how we might effectively advance the profession on the African Continent and to develop strategic programs for implementation by the World Level.**

This initiative was brought forward in consideration of the reorganization of the former Central Region of IFLA to comprise only the greater European area. Africa, including the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Countries is now being encouraged to develop a new region with the support of IFLA at the World Level.

An Action Plan was presented to the World Council at Minneapolis in October, 2006 and was supported as a framework to proceed.

The program was given full committee status with James Taylor, Chair; Past President Martha Fajardo; and Grant Donald as members. It was agreed that a member of the European Region should be found and Paul Beyl of Belgium has been invited to serve in that capacity.

## Action Plan:

### AFRICAN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist in the development of the profession of landscape architecture through enhancing recognition, improving educational opportunities, organizing professional associations, developing means for communication and through capacity building.
2. To engage existing IFLA associations, individual members and trained landscape architects on the continent in developing the program.
3. To explore and coordinate means of obtaining external funding from UNESCO and other NGO's for education in the African Region.
4. To achieve a sustainable African Region of IFLA within the next five years.

## PROGRAM FRAMEWORK:

It is intended that the following framework provide a basis for IFLA African support.

### 1. Professional Development

- Survey of professionals/educators and establish a working network: This has been an ongoing process initially developed by Grant Donald and now has over 50 members
- Communication among the network is facilitated by the internet and was launched in late January, 2007. Additional members of the network are welcome and need only to email [iflajit@msn.com](mailto:iflajit@msn.com) to be included.
- Develop a dialogue within the network to identify opportunities and needs. As part of the communication process, the network will provide advice on issues and opportunities facing the profession in Africa, on needs to support development, and on the venue for a future meeting to establish an agenda to go forward.

- Organize an African Symposium to establish an Agenda for the future. It is proposed that a symposium be held at a convenient African venue that would bring together professionals and educators in landscape architecture from throughout Africa to establish an agenda for the future and to assist in organizing the new African Region. It has been proposed to President Di Menzies that the 2008 winter IFLA Executive Committee meeting be held in conjunction with the African Symposium.
- Assist in the organization of associations of landscape architects. The mission to Kenya last September provided organizational support to the national association. Kenya is now in good standing with IFLA. IFLA has completed a review of the Nigerian Association constitution and by-laws. Members of the Africa Committee plans to visit South Africa and work with the Institute of Landscape Architects of South Africa (ILASA) to explore opportunities for assisting other countries in the region. The addition of individual members from Africa is highly encouraged to begin the groundwork for potential future associations.

## 2. Education & Capacity Building



Robert Kariuki, Jim Taylor & Grant Donald meeting with JKUAT faculty

- African Student Scholarship  
The idea of establishing a sustaining scholarship can take many forms and requires further development and funding.
- University professional educational program assistance  
The IFLA Education Committee and the IFLA African Working Group provided assistance and advice through a mission to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in 2006. A full report was prepared to assist the program. This newly established BLA program provides an excellent resource for professional education in the east-central region of Africa. The Education Committee continues to be in communication with Zimbabwe on a developing program in that country. The African Network has a number of educators from Africa or with African roots that will provide advice. Also European educators with active cultural links to Africa will be in a position to inform this action item.
- A meeting was also held in Montreal with the UNESCO Chair in Landscape & Environment to exchange information on program interests. There are plans to attend the meeting of the UN Habitat Professionals Steering Committee at UNESCO/UNEP in Nairobi in April. This will presents the opportunity to investigate further cooperation with our allied professionals and with UN Habitat. We will continue to liaison with the UNESCO Chair of Landscape and the Environment with programs in Francophone Africa.
- Identify partners and funding sources (both within IFLA and outside of IFLA). This is an ongoing process and requires input from IFLA at the World and Regional levels.



## BALA supports Africa Project

The Bermuda Association of Landscape Architects (BALA) have put forward an interesting proposal to help the IFLA Africa project. They had two suggestions. Firstly they will contribute toward the membership fees for a new African member association of IFLA. Secondly they will act as mentor for that association, working with the emerging association. "The opportunity to partner with another organization will inspire our own members," BALA's president said. BALA now await the advice of the Chair of the Africa Committee Professor James Taylor, who will search for an emerging association of landscape architects in Africa.

*Thank you BALA for this innovative support. We hope it will also inspire other IFLA member associations to make similar offers.*

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### IFLA Initiatives in Africa

However, a number of ideas and opportunities have been forthcoming. The Bermuda Association of Landscape Architects (BALA) through their President Sarah Vallis Pietila offers two suggestions for associations in all Regions of IFLA to consider:

- 1) support paying the fees of an African IFLA member association that cannot afford IFLA membership (with the idea of being a twin or partner) or
- 2) offering financial support to establish a scholarship at an African University in landscape architecture.

The BALA is considering offering option 1 for a newly formed African Association.

Another suggestion comes from Madame Brigitte Colin, our valued colleague at UNESCO in Paris. She notes that there is a potential project, "The right to a healthy urban environment" in Africa for 2008/2009 that IFLA might participate in.

**In conclusion, the Africa Committee will continue to develop the program with a detailed progress report to be presented to IFLA World Council next August in Kuala Lumpur. Your suggestions and support will be most appreciated.**

James R. Taylor FCSLA FASLA .  
Email: [iflait@msn.com](mailto:iflait@msn.com)

## Yet It Is Possible

By Fernando Britos

**In Latin American countries, memory is the certain way to understand and validate a culture and its people.**

"**Designing Landscapes, Molding a Profession**" is the title of a book published in 2006, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This is a retrospective book about the professional work of a pioneer in landscape architecture in Brazil: Rosa Grena Kliass.

Her career began in 1951 when she entered the School of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. After fifty years of hard work, her balance is very successful. The latest awards and tributes rendered to her are a testimony of this.

In 2004, during the Biennial of Quito, Ecuador, she received an award for her urban project of the Youth Park in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In 2005 she was honoured with a special salon to show her own works at the 6th International Biennial of Architecture, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ibero-American Architecture and Urbanism Biennial, which took place in "my city", Montevideo, Uruguay, granted her the "Trajectory Award" in December 2006.

This prize is an unquestionable recognition of the quality of her professional work and her continuing support to the landscape profession, both in her own country and around the world. In 1974, Rosa joined IFLA as an individual member. In 1976, she and other colleagues from Brazil founded the Brazilian Association of Landscape Architects (ABAP) which became an IFLA member in 1978. Her trajectory had begun.

I knew her in 1996. She and other Latin American professors came to Montevideo to lecture at a graduate course. Today, I can still remember her last course message: "**Landscape is possible.**"

In 2004, I attended the IFLA Regional Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and introduced myself as the co-author of a paper about the landscape profession in my country. Martha Fajardo and James Taylor encouraged us to organise a landscape association in Uruguay. Rosa and Virginia Laboranti helped us to accomplish this important task. "The Association is possible", Rosa always said to us. In 2004, the Uruguayan Association of Landscape Architecture (AUDADP) was founded, and the IFLA World Council Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, was my first meeting as IFLA Delegate of AUDADP. At that meeting Rosa announced that that was the last time she would act as an IFLA Delegate of ABAP.

Concluding her published retrospective, she writes, "I can see that the path has been hard and that it is still not over and respectfully I want to add: YET IT IS POSSIBLE."

Congratulations Rosa!!



**Fernando Britos**  
IFLA Delegate of AUDADP  
Uruguay, January 2007





# A misunderstood progress

By Joanna Cruz

President of the Costa Rica Society of Landscape Architects

When you have the chance to travel, to know beautiful cities, marvellous natural landscapes, it is impossible to avoid comparison. Comparing can be gratifying when we see that our natural landscape gives us no reason to envy others. Nature has been generous in many places of the planet and Costa Rica is no exception. On the contrary, this is a country blessed with mega diversity. We have been able to take advantage of this, and thanks to our characteristic hospitality, ecotourism is currently the major source of income for 'Ticos.' In spite of many errors, but also many successes, we proudly raise a green flag that distinguishes us from the rest of the world.

But we have had failures, mainly when it comes to cities: San José, "God, it's ugly". It was nice once. What happened? Since the seventies we have directed our efforts to strengthen environmental policies and the conservation of natural resources but we have forgotten cities and people. The result is a country known around the world for its environmental actions, its rich biodiversity and ugly and decadent cities.

Sacrificed by misunderstood progress, marvelous architectural jewels in down town San Jose have been demolished to create parking lots. Green areas are razed to accommodate enormous concrete structures and as a consequence we have an unlivable city that is slowly suffocating.

It is evident the problem is caused by lack of appropriate urban planning. San Jose pleads to be rescued, to improve security levels, to promote a better quality of life and to increase road safety. San Jose requires planners that are environmentally aware, and above all, more human. As well as other cities in Costa Rica, San Jose urgently needs more green public spaces. Most of the people in our country live in cities, not because we choose to, but because concrete has reached us. Those who moved to rural places thirty years ago, sadly watch how this heterogeneous, exotic and gray development has reached us. Now we are part of the Big Metropolitan Area. This disorganized growth, the total absence of planning has generated chaos in many aspects, mainly the one related to traffic.

Time has come, and it is now when citizens of this country demand of their authorities that actions taken pro development are carried out in a way that people are integrated and nature respected.

We are tired of living in an ugly city, so no wonder when news spread that 200 Jacaranda trees (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), planted 35 years ago, were going to be cut down, we reacted with fury. These trees create a magnificent view during the endless 25 minutes that takes to go over only 2 kilometers. Of course, we wanted to stop the *dendro* assassination!

Madness! To heal insanity with another insanity!.

When we heard about this news there wasn't much we could do. Developers already had legal permits to fell the trees, protected by the law that states that a planted tree can be cut, not so those that have germinated naturally. They also presented phyto-sanitary studies indicating that most of the trees were sick. On top of that, in Costa Rica there is the possibility to decree a work of public interest, and the enlargement to a four lane road, to clear traffic, which they said was urgent, a necessity, goes beyond that interest.

What a deep helplessness before such circumstances!

But, sacrifice trees? No! We could not allow it! We know about environmental, social and psychological benefits trees provide, they are countless, and we were determined not to remain silent. We decided to protest, to advocate for the lives of those 200 trees. We spent days at the Metropolitan Park La Sabana collecting signatures and many people even offered to tie themselves to the trees to avoid their felling, the media was on our side and general opposition to this error became obvious.



On the other hand, very timely, the Institute of Tropical Architecture worked on a project to demonstrate that it was not only possible to enlarge the mentioned road and have sidewalks but the trees could be preserved.

To protest! Yes, we protest! To react! Yes the minister in charge reacted, happily in favor of the common good.

As a New Year gift, she invited us to her office where we met a road safety specialist, 2 engineers, 3 architects, the minister and me, representing the Costa Rican Landscape Association.

During more than an hour doubts, opinions and suggestions were aired which lead us to the determination that most of the trees are not going to be cut. Only a few will be sacrificed in order to fulfill the guidelines of law 7600 which protects disabled rights and others in favour of pedestrians.

As we left the minister's office, satisfied and happy with the attained success, my thoughts went to those jacarandas, those trees ignorant of their verdict, that faithfully continue their purpose, reducing atmospheric contamination, lowering the temperature, absorbing noise levels and nurturing our spirit with their beauty. Maybe if someone told them how close to death they had been, they wouldn't understand.

We can be satisfied that we have achieved well understood progress. We gained a positive experience and the knowledge that it is possible to restore a little joy of life to places where respect for human beings and nature comes first, a progress that reverts the tendency towards our own extinction.



## EFLA General Assembly 2006 Brussels 11-12 November 2006

By Robert HOLDEN

EFLA General Assembly meets annually in Brussels each autumn and the weekend-long meeting is preceded by a Seminar on the Friday aimed at aspects of trans-European policy and usually focussed on the European Union (EU) or the Council of Europe (CoE). The seminar involves international civil servants of the EU or the CoE so they may be questioned on aspects of landscape policy.

### *Meeting Point European Landscapes Seminar*

The EFLA Seminar this year was focussed on the European Union's policies on spatial and rural development with presentations by Mrs Ilona Jepsena of the European Union DG Environment, and Jean-Michel Courades of DG Agriculture on rural development.

The EU aims to

- improve the competitiveness of the farm and forestry sector through support for restructuring, modernisation/innovation and quality production,
- enhance the environment and the countryside through support for land management.
- improve the quality of life in rural areas and promote diversification of economic activity.

The European Union covers (in 2007) 27 countries and deals with social, physical and regional policy as well as economic matters in way which is highly developed. So it is vital that landscape architects contribute to the development of rural, regional and agricultural policy and promotion of ecological development and protection. This is particularly so in a decade, when the Common Agricultural Policy (which shapes the landscape of much of rural Europe) is being questioned.

However, as well as talking to the civil servants in Brussels it is also necessary to understand the processes of the European Council of Ministers which is the decision-making body of the EU. The Presidency of the EU is hosted by national governments on a rotating basis and for 2007 the German Presidency has proposed development of the Territorial Agenda. This aims to promote environmental growth in the EU through regional and environmental development while also strengthening regional identity. So this year Christian Huttenloher, one of the German Presidency's advisors, presented the policy formation ideas. EFLA has already responded to the consultation on this (ref. [www.territorial-agenda.eu](http://www.territorial-agenda.eu) for more information).

The Seminar also involved a presentation by the EU Monitoring Group which is one of the most successful initiatives of recent years led by the BDLA, supported by IFLA and EFLA with direct funding also from the BDLA, the BSLA and PHALA. One curious aspect is that the national associations (other than the Germans and Austrians) have not readily responded to the opportunities provided by this Group and so both IFLA (at the Edinburgh Congress) and EFLA have aimed to spread the message.

Environmental legislation is key to the development of the landscape profession: that has been message since the days of Olmsted and Jellicoe. One problem is to realize the opportunities that legislation presents. These seminars are part of the effort to educate ourselves so we may promote landscape architecture.

### *EFLA as a Region of IFLA*

The form of the EFLA General Assembly weekend consists of two mornings of General Assembly attended by delegates. On the Saturday afternoon meeting the Council of Presidents of the national associations (a sort of senate) meets while there are also meetings of the two main Committees of EFLA: professional practice and education. Furthermore EFLA also holds meetings of the various working groups (on matters ranging from the European Landscape Convention to the School Recognition Panel which report to the two committees).

### *Growth of EFLA*

November 2006 was noteworthy for the conclusion of the IFLA-EFLA *Coming Together* process so that from 1 January 2007 EFLA became the European Region of IFLA. As part of this process European national associations of IFLA and EFLA have a period of grace before joining both organisations. This year saw ÖGLA, the Austrian association, and ALA the Serbian and Montenegrin association, become full members of EFLA so joining the sixteen 2006 members of EFLA. In addition ALACIS the CIS association covering Russian, Ukraine and Belarus and TMMOB, the Turkish association, became interim associate members of EFLA (this is seen as an entrée for TMMOB to join IFLA).

EFLA as the European region of IFLA is open to national associations of landscape architects of the Council of Europe and the intention is for IFLA to develop landscape architecture in Africa and the Middle East, as part of a world-wide effort (with EFLA assisting of course). Ad interim, African and Middle Eastern national associations of the former IFLA Central Region may join EFLA as associate members and in 2006 the Israeli association joined EFLA on this basis. Applications were also received from the Hungarian association and from landscape architects in Poland and these are being proceeded with and will be voted on in 2007.

The Council of Europe is wider than the European Union and is a grouping of 45 countries extending to Russia, Turkey and the Caucasian republics. It has both environmental and social policies and for us one great interest is the European Landscape Convention (the subject of EFLA's 2005 seminar). EFLA is working with national associations to promote this and ideas such as Landscape Laboratories such as that already established in Catalonia.

### *Educational Recognition*

EFLA operates a school recognition system and more schools applied this year. This system involves vetting of the nature of the courses and may be a model for IFLA to follow world-wide. It is one of the chief roles of EFLA to promote landscape education Europe-wide. In 2006 EFLA has also been involved in advising schools in Belgrade and also in Africa, Cairo, about how to establish landscape architecture courses.

### *Support for the Central European profession*

This year the national associations of ÖGLA (Austria), CZLA (the Czech Republic), HALA (Hungary), SAS (Slovakia) met with EFLA Executive Council and IFLA Central Region in Budapest in September in order to discuss cooperation. The Monitoring Group was also presented and Le:Notre attended. It is hoped that these contacts will lead to further co-operation and promotion of the profession throughout Central Europe.

### *And much more*

EFLA aims to be more than the sum of its parts, there is much else that could be reported on, the IFLA rules Competition in Malta that EFLA advised on, the cooperation with the European educationalists (ECLAS and its Le:Notre thematic network), the development of the EFLA website, major symposia and conferences in Lille and Athens. 2006 also marked the first publication of *Fieldwork* in four language editions: this was the first edition of a triennial book aiming to hold a mirror to the growth of the European profession. There is the ambition to reach more of its parts (2006 EFLA national associations number over 6000 landscape architects: but there are over 20,000 in Europe), EU development aid, concerns about climate change, etc, etc.

See the EFLA Newsletter which appears quarterly for fuller reports downloadable from the EFLA website ([www.efla.org](http://www.efla.org)).



# We need Research

## A New Year Message for IFLA News 2007

By Hal Moggridge

In my article for IFLA Newsletter no. 50 (January 2004), I wrote that one of my three hopes for the future is that *"it will not only be possible to point out some examples of fine landscape architecture from historic and contemporary times, but also to cite lucid theoretical support for our activities"*. What might be implied by this?

Often landscape theory from past eras remains relevant to modern times. Because such theory tends to be scattered or fragmentary there is a need to collect it and make it accessible. Such collection needs to select thought which retains universal significance across time, omitting what now appears merely quaint. For instance the relevance of sending one's uncle to a remote artificial grotto to spend the afternoon posing as a hermit may nowadays be impossible to comprehend. However Repton's lucid expositions of the geometry of reflections in still water, or the effects of light on water at different times of day, or his comments about the usefulness of terraces around buildings remain as relevant to the contemporary designer as they were in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century(1). The many excellent studies of landscape history written during the past two to three decades have made reference to historical theoretical writings; in Britain for instance David Jacques has included quotations from the works of many including Switzer (1682-1745), Walpole (1717-97), Gilpin (1724-1804), Loudon (1783-1843) and others(2). However, it would be helpful to know more about the theories themselves.

It would also be beneficial for all of us to be aware of worldwide sources of historical thought about landscape design, in the same way as all architects can refer to the theoretical writings of such figures as Vitruvius (active 40BC), Alberti (1404-72), Serlio (1475-1554), Vignola (1507-73) or Palladio (1508-80) or more recently LeCorbusier (1887-1966) (3). As members of IFLA, we should also be able to look beyond the confines of our own regional cultures. For instance our Chinese colleagues rely upon their own rich theoretical literature, parts at least of which could help us all worldwide (4).

The time span of growth in the landscape is slow. To understand the fabric which is the starting point of current work, it is just as important to comprehend the human thought processes underlying what past generations have handed down as to understand the natural ecology of each place. For this reason landscape theory from the past is invaluable to the present.

It has long been argued that contact with nature enriches people and becalms the troubled spirit. Thus in asserting the value of London's Royal Parks remarks from the past are quoted such as: *"the parks are the lungs of London"*(5); *"the change from the close, adulterated atmosphere of the workshop and the living-room, and stone-paved noisy street, to the open, green, comparatively quiet park, is indeed great, and its benefit to body and mind incalculable. The sight of the sun of the sky, no longer a narrow strip, but wide, infinite overall; the freshness of the unconfined air which the lungs drink in; the green expanse of earth, and the large trees standing apart, away from houses – all this produces a shock of strange pleasures and quickens the tired pulse with sudden access of life. In a small way .... It is a return to nature"*(6)

Technical literature has recently referred to more scientific research coming to similar conclusions. Benefits to personal health and relief from metropolitan stress are cited but usually without the concrete research results which would act as definite evidence that such assertions are certainly the case. Furthermore if contact with nature is beneficial to human peace of mind, a belief likely to be readily accepted by landscape architects, it would be helpful to know just what this means. In terms of human wellbeing would it matter if skyscrapers were to appear above the tree canopy of Olmstead's Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York, a metropolitan park at present completely secluded? The seclusion of this and many similar urban parks seems a special delight. However it would be helpful to the effective planning of urban areas to know from detailed research studies what beneficial contact with nature in cities really consists of.

Many landscape designs seek to modify local climate out of doors to enhance comfort. Others ignorantly cause a deterioration of local microclimate. For instance the American architects Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates with the British town planners DP9 have recently received planning consent to have built a 290m high skyscraper in the City of London. This tower is to be precisely placed so that it will plunge Bishopsgate into permanent and windy shadow for the five winter months. This is a street used by pedestrians so aligned that it at present enjoys winter sunshine during the lunch hour on a northern island where freedom from wind and exposure to sunlight can create benign outdoor conditions even in mid-winter.

The types of improvements to micro-climate which are advantageous depend upon location in the world. In desert regions shade from sun and fountains to lower ambient air temperatures are traditional landscape elements. In the moist tropics every breath of wind is desirable. In temperate zones, spaces wide enough to allow sunlight to slope down to the ground where there is shelter from wind provide an ideal outdoor microclimate. A great deal is known about microclimate. For instance Caborn has analysed the shelter provided by tree belts in windy Scotland (7). However knowledge is diffuse and hard to bring to hand when needed to aid design in a specific place. There is a need for a thorough worldwide analysis of beneficial microclimates and how to create them, a matter that should be measurable and definable in mathematical terms.

In contrast, human perception of landscape, the outdoor world, is an intangible but equally important subject. Research should not ignore knowledge which is hard to measure. It appears that outdoor space is perceived differently from interior spaces inside buildings or caves. Vertical elements, even far away, draw the eye more powerfully than horizontal masses. Le Corbusier has identified *"the sensation of density: a tree or a hill is less powerful and of a feebler density than a geometrical disposition of forms"*(8), so that even small structures in a landscape catch the eye. Dark tones fade into the background. Flights of steps out of doors need to rise much more gently than indoor staircases; however steep ramps and varying sloping floors, which indoors induce vertigo and instability, are easily comprehended and negotiated when moving out of doors. Collection of examples and analysis of the reasons why humans perceive the world around them in certain ways will be invaluable. Is it the sky above which influences modes of perception? What gives delight? What excites the poetic feelings which are inherent in all people?

**Because we live in a scientific age when knowledge is measured, landscape architecture needs to be strengthened for the future by wide availability of intensive research into such subjects.**



## Events

### Design your own vineyard: Italian Competition

<http://www.antaItalia.org/ocms/openocms/menu/premio2007/>

The southern chapter of the Italian Association AIAPP with the *Associazione Nazionale Tutela Ambiente* (ANTA), *The Italian Sommeliers Association* (ISRR), the Order of Architects, and the Council for Agricultural Research (CRA) are organising an international prize titled *Vine Gardens* to encourage the landscape values of vineyards during the Roman Summer exhibition. The design of a vineyard can be a sensorial pleasure to be appreciated through the perfumes and elegance of its products. The idea is give life to a multitude of micro landscapes from different areas, a feast of fruit and flowers, colours and tastes, smells and shapes from the lexicon of the grapevine. Candidates can include oenological (i.e. wine related) businesses as well as landscape firms. A plot within the ANTA Nursery (ANTA is the National Association of Environment Control), will be given for each participant to lay out on the payment of €3,000, which will be reimbursed to the winners. Each installation will be selected by the Organising Committee, by the Patrons and by Landscape Professionals and will be designed by recognised professionals. This will also give an opportunity for the sponsors to organise events for their clients within the exhibition.

*Deadline for entries is Saturday April 14th.*

### 5th Iberoamerican Congress of Public Parks and Gardens

5 - 8 November 2007 San Miguel de Tucumán.  
Argentina

[www.parijapargentina.com.ar](http://www.parijapargentina.com.ar)  
[pariap@pariapargentina.com.ar](mailto:pariap@pariapargentina.com.ar)

The Spanish Association of Parks and Public Gardens (AEPJP) was founded in 1973 in Valencia by a group of technicians of different Spanish cities. History, experience and qualifications of its members have made AEPJP one of the most important associations of its type in the world. More than 300 partners speak clearly of the influence AEPJP has in the management of green public spaces. The members have as an almost unique objective the promotion of better knowledge of different aspects and problems of parks, gardens and scenery.

On the other hand, members co-operate intensively in the interchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences through domestic and international congresses and seminars. They co-ordinate various activities and suggestions to better the welfare of all by raising the life standard of everyone

AEPJP, recognising the need to get closer to the Latin American continent, decided to start organising biennial congresses called IberoAmerican Meetings. These have been held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1999, La Havana (Cuba) in 2001, Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2003, and Santiago de Chile in 2005.

As the focus of the meeting, the "Letter of Argentina 2007" will reflect the most outstanding proposals to lead Ibero American municipal authorities to adopt the changes that will contribute to the successful development of our cities.


From page 11

### A New Year Message for IFLA News

Because we live in a scientific age when knowledge is measured, landscape architecture needs to be strengthened for the future by wide availability of intensive research into such subjects.

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### Holcim Forum 2007 - "Urban\_Trans\_Formation"

[www.holcimfoundation.org/forum](http://www.holcimfoundation.org/forum)  
April 19-21, 2007, Shanghai

The Holcim Forum for Sustainable Construction is a series of global symposiums for academia and practitioners to encourage discourse on the future of the built environment; the symposium provides a platform for scholars and practitioners from the fields of architecture, urbanism, landscape, engineering, and other related disciplines to debate the future of the built environment.

The themes:

- [normative urbanism](#) - between convention and differentiation
- [informal urbanism](#) - between sanctioned and shadow orders
- [green urbanism](#) - between ecology and economy
- [touristic urbanism](#) - between local and global
- [temporary urbanism](#) - between the permanent and transitory

IFLA Immediate Past President Martha Fajardo has been invited as their guest. The event is organized by the independent Holcim Foundation, which is supported in Colombia by Holcim (Colombia) S.A.



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