

2010
Mississippi
Chapter
American Society
of
Landscape
Architects



Design Awards



Merit Award Winners

Student Public Design Category – pg. 5

- Simon Adam Martin/
Mississippi State
University - Grocery
Street Community,
Starkville, Mississippi

Student Community Service Category - pg. 9

- Oktibbeha County
Heritage Museum –
Phase I&II, Starkville,
Mississippi

Professional Residential Design Category – pg. 13

- Robert Poore, ASLA/
Native Habitats - Rocky
Creek - Jackson,
Mississippi

Honor Award Winners

Student Research Category – pg 17

- Charles McCall - MSU
landscape architecture
graduate student -
Cultural Predilection on
Design in Planning
Ecological Sanitation in
Northern Uganda, Africa



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From The President



I am extremely pleased to present to you the first Mississippi Chapter of American Society of

Landscape Architects Awards Book. This document is just a glimpse of the high caliber work that is being produced by professionals and students in our State.

In an effort to honor one of our most esteemed colleagues who we lost in 2010, the proceeds from this book will go towards the Ed Blake Memorial Scholarship Fund for a landscape architecture student at Mississippi State University.

This effort would not be possible without the help of our Trustee, Alan Hoops, ASLA, our Public Relations Chairman, Brian Templeton, ASLA, and the Alabama Chapter of ASLA for judging the award submittals.

It is our hope that this will be a tool used to educate the public on what role landscape architects play in the natural and built environment.

Enjoy!

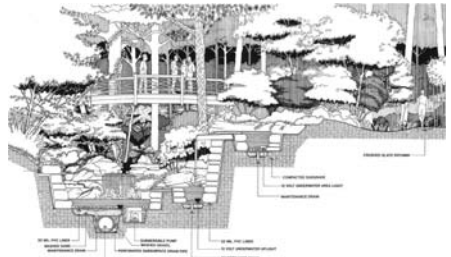
Christian Preus, ASLA



Grocery Street Community



Heritage Museum



Rocky Creek



Uganda



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Merit Award

Student Public Design

Category - Simon Adam Martin/
Mississippi State University

Grocery Street Community,
Starkville, Mississippi –

neighborhoods and encourage interaction between community members.

Role of the Landscape Architecture Student

This project required the designer to analyze the quality of local neighborhoods and context surrounding the site. Biological, Physical and Cultural observations were made to guide design decisions. These observations led to program elements that would link the community to the surrounding neighborhoods, culture, and infrastructure.

The designer was required to have a comprehensive knowledge of urban design based on sustainable urbanism models. For example, structure of streets and site design were based on traditional neighborhood development (TND) standards. Density of the community was derived from studying the accepted local density and comparing with LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEEDND) density models.

Consulting professionals assisted in guiding design decisions and offered critiques during the site planning phase. Consultants also assisted critically with design decisions that would help integrate the architecture with local environmental systems.



Project Purpose

The grocery street community plan was developed to explore an alternative living option that would enhance the quality of life and community for the surrounding neighborhoods and all citizens within Starkville.

One goal of the development was to reduce environmental impact of construction and minimize energy consumption by integrating sustainable architecture into the landscape.

In addition, a program was developed to include features and amenities that would inspire care of the surrounding

Their involvement helped to achieve the goal of reducing impact and energy consumption of the designed community.

Special Factors

One obstacle to the site was the surrounding blighted neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have become unmaintained possibly due to a lack of permanent residence and community. The side effect is neglect and an uncomfortable spatial quality.

The site offered a program that attempted to address these issues. A central green/park space, a cooperative grocery (that would also support the local farmer's market), a community development office, bike rental and office space were all included in the program.

Another noted obstacle to the site was an eighty foot city water tower directly south east. The tower could not be ignored and was ultimately used as an inspirational piece that assisted in giving form to some of the features located on the site.

Significance

The grocery street community is a model of community that does not exist in the city and reacted creatively to context and local governance. There are many

options for suburban and rural living but minimal options for urban living. No options were available for communities seeking cooperative opportunities that supported the local culture.

The project conceived a community that offers a lifestyle alternate to that of "modern tradition". As our land becomes consumed with sprawl and governing bodies implant ordinances and social practices that discourage community, a designer must find creative reactions. This project responded to governing, cultural, and community issues by offering diverse living conditions and cooperative opportunities within carefully designed spaces.

In addition, the concept of the site (corrugation) serves as inspiration to it's residence as a way to encourage care for culture from a historical capacity and respect lifestyles of all levels.

The exploration of community patterns and creation of spaces for people inspires social change that supports and protects the health, safety and welfare of this nation.



Merit Award

Student Community Service Category

Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum – Phase I&II, Starkville, Mississippi



Project Purpose

In the Spring of 2009 Landscape Architecture faculty began to work with the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum to develop a long-term plan for implementing sustainable landscape

improvements to the museum site. This award submittal highlights the first two phases of a multi-year master plan developed for the site.

Planning and Design

Faculty led the planning effort so that the projects could be implemented across multiple years. The overall design for each phase was led by faculty but students led the effort to design specific elements on each project. Students presented the proposal for each phase to the Board of Alderman to gain approval and support for the project. Students prepared cost estimated, material lists, and work plans for the projects.

Implementation

Students implemented both phases of the museum with faculty supervision. Heavy equipment for excavation was provided and operated the City of Starkville.

Special Factors

The raingarden developed in phase 1 is the only raingarden in Starkville and one of only a handful in the State. The sand filter is the only one of its kind that is known to exist in the state.

The project strives to set an example for how stormwater

strategies can be integrated into good site design, thereby setting an example to the development community of how it could be done elsewhere.

Significance

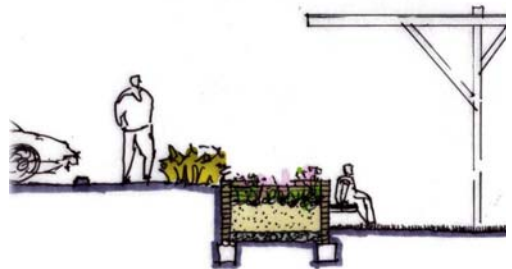
1. The sustainable site strategies developed on the site including a rain-garden and sand filter are the only ones of their kind in Starkville and one of only a handful in the entire State.
2. It exemplifies collaboration between a municipality and a university to make improvements to a site that is a resource for the entire community.
3. The projects were installed by students that gained valuable expertise that will allow them to implement similar strategies throughout the state.

Jury Comments

- Great example of a meaningful student project that has a positive impact on the community not only on the site level, but in a larger sense as a demonstration of how thoughtfully designed landscapes

can inspire creative, artistic, and beautiful solutions to common problems like soil erosion from stormwater runoff.

- Excellent learning opportunity outside the safe boundaries of the design studio - interaction with real clients and actual implications of the design solution foster a deeper understanding of the built environment than is possible on paper.
- The project has the potential to expose people to the profession of landscape architecture and its impact on the environment
- The construction details demonstrated a creative application of locally available materials, i.e. the bench with galvanized pipe arm rests. The average homeowner could easily become inspired to build a similar structure in their backyard, neighborhood, or school.



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Merit Award

Professional Residential

Design Category- Robert Poore, ASLA/ Native Habitats

Rocky Creek

Jackson, Mississippi



Project Purpose

The client, a high profile executive, requires a retreat from the urban environment, where family, friends and business associates can escape, relax and interact with nature.

The scope consists of development, of an existing drainage swale, lined with trees and bamboo. Into a sunken garden with a stone terrace,

waterfalls, native plantings and pathways.

The philosophy was to create a stream side habitat which would suppress urban noise, energize and stimulate the observers sensory perception, enhance the natural processes of the site and allow the client to interact with nature.

The intent was to immerse the observer in a lush garden environment. To achieve this we provided thick plantings along the upper edges of the swale and penetrated it with stone steps leading down to a stone terrace. The terrace was strategically placed to take advantage of views up and down the water shed and spatially defined by steep slopes and thick plantings on both sides, leading your line of site up the constructed stream bed to falling water, flowing toward the observer and framed by a diverse planting of native plants.



Role of the Landscape Architect

Was to design the stone stream bed, waterfalls, plumbing, outdoor 12 volt lighting system, pathways, steps, stone terrace and planting. The concept for a bridge was part of the Landscape Architect's master plan, but was designed by the architect of the house. the irrigation system was designed by the irrigation contractor but was directed by the landscape architect.

The landscape architect was also the landscape contractor providing on site supervision and controlling every aspect of the construction process.



Special Factors

In order for the garden to naturally mold into the site, it was determined that it must be integrated into the swale, the natural source of design energy flowing through the site. The problem with this was trash and

debris from up the swale passed thru the site during storm events. To solve this problem the garden was constructed on top of a concrete culvert, allowing the storm water to flow freely across the site. This provided the opportunity to recycle clean water through the garden water structure without having to clean out the garden after every storm event. The trash is trapped above the bridge, by a grate, keeping trash from passing down stream to the neighbors.

Significance

This project was designed and constructed in 1988, when 32mil. PVC liners were the only liners available and they had to be protected from UV rays. With little information available on constructing liner pool and no examples existing in central Mississippi. the landscape architect meshed technologies and available data to create a construction process unique to his design style. Covering every piece of the liner with stone, soil, plants and water.

The enhancement of an existing cultural pallet of ornamental species with predominantly plant species native to Mississippi, in naturally accruing patterns as an expression of natural process generated design was a new concept to Mississippi.

This project set a precedent in design and construction in central Mississippi at the time.

Wildlife

The enhancement of the wildlife community on the site was an important consequence of habitat enrichment. The National Wildlife Federation, Back Yard Wildlife Habitat program guidelines were used to implement this effort.



Jury Comments

- The water feature and bridge have an elegance that is enhanced by the beautifully matured planting design
- The waterfalls and stonework fit in well with the site and do not seem to be forced into place to create a dramatic effect. The

result is a naturalistic setting that seems to be revealed rather than designed.

- The care and attention that have gone into the years between design, installation, and award submittal are obviously very important and are a great compliment to the design. A truly great design is one that understands the long range view and how the plants will mature.



A vertical business card for Barry Landscape Inc. The card features the company name "Barry Landscape INC." in a large, green, sans-serif font, with a stylized green leaf logo to the right of "Barry". Below the name, the text "DESIGN & INSTALLATION" is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. Further down, the contact information is listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font: "Temple W. Barry, Landscape Architect", "601-932-6606", "4210 Lakeland Drive • Jackson, MS 39232-8804", and "Located behind Lakeland Yard & Garden Center on Lakeland Drive at Airport Road". The card has a light green background with a subtle leaf pattern.

Honor Award

Student Research Category -
Charles McCall - MSU
landscape architecture graduate
student

**Cultural Predilection on
Design in Planning Ecological
Sanitation in Northern Uganda,
Africa**



Project Purpose

The purpose of this study is to find out the attitudes of Northern Ugandan communities toward the potential use of ecological sanitation systems.

Role of the Landscape Architecture Student

This is a graduate level thesis as partial fulfillment for the degree of Masters in Landscape Architecture. The research was completed by the graduate

student under the guidance of his thesis committee.

Special Factors

This is a very unique research project that was done in Northern Uganda to guide in the planning and design of ecological sanitation systems to improve the sustainability of such systems. This was carried out in an effort to understand how to reduce morbidity rates, and improve economic and environmental sustainability as a whole. The researcher used a modified version of the Visual Preference Survey™ (VPS) often used in urban planning. The VPS was proven to be useful in third-world development projects.

The researcher requested and received funding to travel and perform the study. It proved challenging in the sense that the researcher had only one opportunity to collect data.



Significance

This is a worthy project because of the following:

- It is important to understand the culture before making design decisions.
- Ecological sanitation is a regenerative system with a low ecological footprint.
- Ecological sanitation is more adaptable to the environment than a waste water treatment system.
- There are many opportunities for landscape architects to be involved in developing countries.

Media/website Summary

A research project was developed by a graduate student from Mississippi State University titled: Cultural Predilection on Design in Planning Ecological Sanitation in Northern Uganda. Ecological sanitation is a regenerative system that is more ecologically sensitive than waste water treatment systems. This research project was done to aid in the design and planning of ecological sanitation systems within the region. The research methods used can be easily adapted for other development projects in third-world to better

understand the culture before implementing a project. This project demonstrates some of the many opportunities for landscape architects to be involved in developing countries.

At first glance one may not understand how the design of ecological sanitation plays into the field of landscape architecture.

However, they are closely connected in many ways. This study took a close look into the perception of a people group and their culture. This is one of the first steps in a design process and it is often left out. This process is an important part of all design and planning fields. It is crucial for a designer to truly understand what a culture needs and how to meet those needs from a design standpoint. Many projects are unsuccessful when culture is not considered in the design process. Although this project was specific to a people group in Uganda, the same methodology with a different topic could be applied to assist in the design of spaces in Mississippi where there is a deep culture and heritage. The structure of this methodology is not limited to sanitation systems only, but could be a model method used by landscape architects in community design for finding preferences for house types and common areas, parks and recreational spaces, campus planning, etc. By using a visual

preference survey, language and cultural barriers are minimized.

Many projects are strengthened when people from different backgrounds can participate in the planning process. The use of Preference Surveys provides opportunity to receive opinions from the public creating a sense of pride, ownership, and public acceptance.

Jury Comments

Obviously, this project has an importance that goes beyond the normal aesthetic and economic considerations our profession

faces on a daily basis. This project pushes the boundaries of the role of landscape architect and has the ability to create new opportunities and challenges to expand the traditional definition of landscape architecture.

- The use of the Visual Preference Survey as a tool to bridge the language gap is as clever as it is effective. One can see how this method can be applied to a variety of projects.
- The benefit and process of this project blew me away.



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Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Alabama Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for judging the award submittals.

Special thanks to Publicity Chairman Brian Templeton for making the electronic information for the awards submittals available.

For more information about this years awards please visit the chapter website at www.masala.wordpress.com/awards

The MSASLA Chapter Design Awards program is conducted in the Fall of each year with an awards ceremony during the Twin States Conference in the Spring of the following year. This years award presentation took place on March 26th, in Hoover, Alabama, in the Ballroom of the Wynfrey Hotel. We encourage you to submit your projects. Look for information concerning the 2011 Awards program in your email or on the Chapter website at www.msasla.wordpress.com



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