



SUN-B03:

Form, Space & Other Preoccupations: a Conversation About Landscape's Appearance

Session Overview

Landscape Architects are experts at engaging landscape performance through the lens of equity, environment, and economy. So engaged are we with our work's performance, however, we say almost nothing about why our projects look the way they do. Equally as compelling, however, are preoccupations with how landscapes appear, from how they look as spatial and material formations to the ways in which they come into being—through techniques, technologies, and through the creative processes of design.

This session is organized as a conversation amongst three designers who clearly advance a design agenda regarding landscape's appearance, in all of its complexity. Through specific examples within our work, we will examine such generalizable questions such as:

- What ongoing set of concerns and sensibilities that evolve over time drive the creative process?
- How do designers think about their work, outside of the services they provide and the needs of their clients?
- What design sensibility travels with them from site to site?
- How do accumulated knowledge, experimentation, reiteration, and construction impact its evolution?

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about how designers' personal stories and educational interests inform the ways they think about the design process and designing landscapes.
2. Share strategies for the various ways designers develop social and environmental agendas alongside investigations into form, space, materiality, texture, etc.
3. Compare and contrast design methodologies using both analog and digital design/fabrication tools and techniques, the ways these can be applied, and what they yield for the creative process.
4. Learn about the ways personal and professional research can inform both creative practices and real projects, projects that are ultimately realized in sometimes complicated places.

Speakers



Julia Czerniak, ASLA – Professor & Associate Dean, Syracuse Architecture, Syracuse University

Julia (BSLA, MArch) is an academic, writer, and curator who hails from Bucks County, PA; she is educated as both landscape architect and architect. Julia is professor and associate dean at Syracuse Architecture, where she teaches studio and seminars on landscape.



Shannon Nichol, FASLA – Founding Principal, GGN

Shannon (BLA) is a co-founder, with two female partners, of GGN, a landscape architecture practice in Seattle; she grew up in the Pacific Northwest and worked her way through school. Shannon continues to highlight the relevance of economically accessible inspiration and self-taught experiences in her design and detailing approaches.



Chris Reed, FASLA – Director / Professor in Practice, Stoss / Harvard GSD

Chris (BA, MLA) grew up in a working class family in the port city of New Bedford, on the US East Coast. Chris is a landscape architect, urbanist, founder of Stoss (Boston and Los Angeles), and professor at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is especially interested in inclusive urban landscapes for diverse audiences.

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