

SPREADING THE GOSPEL

International Landscape Architects Returning Home to Practice

SUN-A03

The Session

Sunday, November 21st, 2021

9:00am - 10:00am CDT | Music City Center Room 103

1.00 PDH, LA CES/non-HSW, AIA/non-HSW, AICP, FL, NY/non-HSW

As landscape architecture gains global prominence, talented professionals are leaving the US and returning home. Driven by a passion to tackle ubiquitous issues including climate change, unchecked urbanization, and social justice, these international pioneers are disrupting the status quo and demonstrating that we must think and practice beyond national boundaries.

Learning Outcomes

1. Explore the opportunities and challenges of starting a new practice overseas.
2. Understand how landscape architects are disrupting the status quo in their home countries that have a limited understanding of the scope of our profession.
3. Learn about the award-winning and influential work of landscape architects working abroad and their unique ecological, social, cultural, and geographic contexts.
4. Engage with professionals that have insights and perspectives about how landscape architects can have a powerful voice in responding to complex global issues like climate change, urbanization, and environmental justice.



Chulalongkorn Centenary Park Bangkok, Thailand



30 Villas Antiparos, Greece

The Panel



Michael Grove FASLA

Principal, SASAKI
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Michael is the Chair of Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Ecology at Sasaki, a global design firm with offices in Boston, Denver, and Shanghai. He is a fierce advocate for the vital role landscape architects play in shaping contemporary cities. Informed by a rigorous inquiry of economic, ecological, and cultural influences, Michael believes that the role of the designer is to make cities livable, equitable, resilient, and just. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, serves on the board of directors for the Landscape Architecture Foundation, and teaches at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Kotchakorn is a Thai landscape architect, working on building public spaces that tackle climate change in urban dense areas. She created the first critical green infrastructure for Bangkok, the Chulalongkorn Centenary Park. Her works include TURF, the biggest urban farming green roof in Asia, and the first bridge park across the river in any world capital, Chao Phraya Sky Park. Voraakhom was awarded from UNFCCC for the 2020 UN Global Climate Action Awards. She was featured in TIME 100 Next, BBC 100 Women, and Bloomberg Green 30. She is also the current Chairwoman of the Climate Change Task Force for the International Federation of Landscape Architects.

Kotchakorn Voraakhom ASLA

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Thomas Doxiadis International ASLA

Founder, Doxiadis+ Architecture and Landscape Architecture
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Thomas is an Architect, Landscape Architect and founder of doxiadis+ in Athens, Greece which addresses design on the basis of environmental and landscape ecology principles. Thomas has delivered high quality projects ranging from national environmental policy and master planning to significant public parks and gardens through in Greece, Europe, Middle East and the United States. Thomas has established an international presence and reputation for his specialization in reading the landscape and providing designs that jointly satisfy the needs of people and nature by delivering projects which are at once dynamic and sensitive, addressing the often unspoken needs of the community.

Key Topics

1. The Case for Working Abroad

- Impacts of climate change in socially and environmentally vulnerable societies (Thailand, Vietnam, China, Greece, etc.)
- The political capital of landscape architecture in foreign governments
- Public perception of landscape architects in countries where the profession is relatively unknown
- Supply and demand: high profile, challenging projects on the horizon
- Setting up a practice: challenges and epiphanies
- Post-COVID opportunities to collaborate without geographic limitations

2. Positioning Landscape Architects in front of Decision Makers

- The power of thought leadership and positive publicity
- Demonstrating results: using empirical data and science to make the case for bold design interventions
- Getting involved in regional planning and urban design studies to secure a seat at the table

3. Landscape Infrastructure as a Cost Effective Solution

- The importance of understanding local culture and social context
- Navigating an unknown regulatory process
- Leveraging civic engagement and educational outreach to ensure public acceptance and support

4. Getting it Built

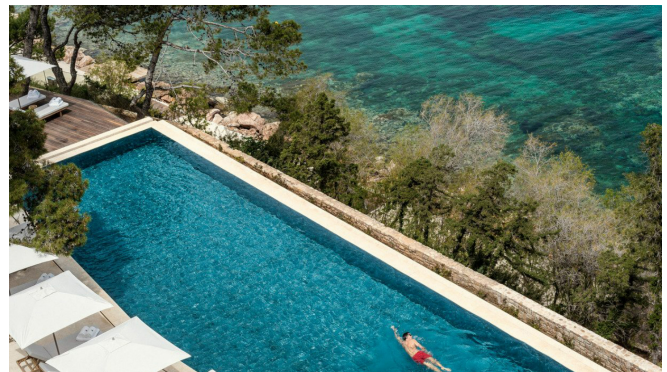
- Strategies for ensuring design intent in cultures that don't always follow documents
- Construction quality and the responsible sourcing of materials in nascent markets
- Ongoing maintenance and post-occupancy evaluation / research to demonstrate success
- Celebrating success and spreading the word



Chulalongkorn Centenary Park Bangkok, Thailand



TURF Pathum Thani, Thailand



Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel Athens, Greece



Hellinikon Metropolitan Park Athens, Greece

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<http://www.sasaki.com>
<http://www.landprocess.co.th>
<https://www.doxiadisplus.com>
<https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/2016/03/24/greek-revival/>
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