

INSIDE THE LA STUDIO WITH JAMES CORNER FIELD OPERATIONS



SESSION OVERVIEW

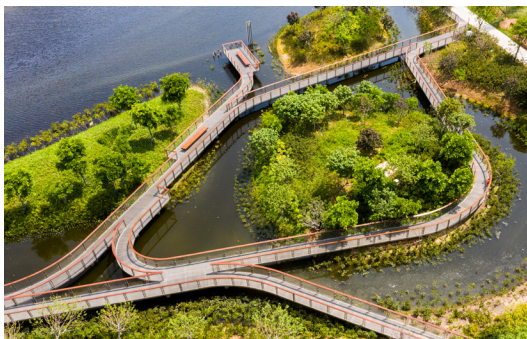
Saturday, November 20, 2021
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
SAT-B01

Guest Speaker: James Corner, RLA, FASLA
Guest Speaker: Lisa Switkin, FAAR, ASLA
Guest Speaker: Richard Kennedy, RLA, ASLA
Guest Speaker: Sarah Weidner Astheimer, RLA, ASLA
Moderator: Mary Margaret Jones, RLA, FASLA, FAAR

James Corner Field Operations is an urban design and landscape architecture practice with a focus on the design, experience, resiliency, and equity of public space in cities. With offices in New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Shenzhen, and London, the practice comprises 90 people, led by 8 principals, and received the ASLA Landscape Architecture Firm Award in 2020.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Learn about how to foster design leadership, professional growth, and communication skills;
2. Learn about collaborative working methods and leading multi-disciplinary teams within design;
3. Explore working across multiple project types, scales, and issues;
4. Learn about the integration of design creativity and thinking outside the box with technical craft and professional delivery.



SESSION OUTLINE

Moderator Introduction (5 min)

The Evolution and Foundational Principles of FO (10 min)

Beginning with a number of design competition wins in the late 1990's and early 2000's, the operating code of Field Operations was established along the lines of time, process, and adaptation—all principles of ecology and natural systems, shaped through design. At the same time, there was a commitment to working on complex, multi-disciplinary urban projects, where Field Operations served as the prime firm—effectively leading, curating, and directing the project team. These foundations continue to serve the firm well in an age of challenging climate, environmental, and social issues that demand bold innovation and multi-disciplinary tools.

Re-imagining the Public Realm (10 min)

We will briefly discuss a number of public realm projects where design has transformed entire sectors of cities and neighborhoods, bringing new life, vitality, and value to once overlooked spaces. Projects will include the High Line, Domino Park, Seattle's Central Waterfront, and the River Ring Master Plan, but will be framed around a discussion of site, place, finding, revealing, inviting, and activating—and the process of achieving design goals for inclusion, diversity, and flexibility.

Designing for Resiliency, Adaptation and Ecology (10 min)

We will summarize our approach to designing with dynamic ecological systems, time-based landscapes, new infrastructures, and adaptive, resilient strategies. Projects include Qianhai and Guiwan Park, Washington D.C.'s Tidal Basin, and Baltimore's Middle Branch, but all will be framed around our process of thinking, working, and advocating with a multi-disciplinary and inclusive approach.

Expanding Horizons and Possibilities (10 min)

We will show some ways of thinking outside the box, expanding project scope and design vision. Projects include some "cutting-room floor" ideas that never materialized but have prompted us to advance our work more broadly, including the Rotterdam 2040 Vision, South Bay Sponge, and our Icebergs installation.

Discussion with Moderator (5 min)

Q&A with Audience (10 min)



SPEAKERS & MODERATOR



James Corner, RLA, FASLA

James Corner has devoted the past 30 years to advancing the field of landscape architecture and urbanism, primarily through his leadership on high-visibility urban projects around the world, as well as through teaching, public speaking, and writing. James has been recognized with numerous awards, most notably the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award and as an Elected Member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters. He serves on the Board of the Forum of Urban Design, and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania.



Lisa Switkin, FAAR, ASLA

Lisa is widely regarded as one of the field's most creative leaders with strengths in communication, client liaison, public participation, and the design process. Lisa has a special commitment to improving cities through the design of a holistic and vibrant public realm, inspired by place, people, and nature. For 20 years, Lisa has helped to reshape New York City's public spaces, including the High Line, Domino Park, and Staten Island's master plan for Freshkills Park; other projects include Seattle's Central Waterfront, Miami's The Underline and Boston's Harbor Way. Lisa is also Past-President of the Landscape Architecture Foundation.



Richard Kennedy, RLA, ASLA

Richard leads the San Francisco office and has led many of Field Operations' most complex public realm and urban design projects around the world. With nearly 20 years of professional experience, Richard is currently leading the design of the Presidio Tunnel Tops, Pier 70, and the Oyster Point Waterfront in San Francisco, the San Pedro Promenade and Public Market in Los Angeles, and the new Oakland A's Ballpark and Master Plan in Oakland.



Sarah Weidner Astheimer, RLA, ASLA

Sarah leads the Philadelphia office and has a proven track record in designing and delivering high-profile public realm projects across the country. From community workshops through design and implementation, Sarah has successfully led projects that reflect strong contemporary design and a commitment to resilient and sustainable best management practices. Over nearly 20 years, Sarah has worked on Santa Monica's Tongva Park, Chicago's Navy Pier, Georgetown's C&O Canal, and Comcast NBCUniversal's campus in Burbank, Los Angeles.



Mary Margaret Jones, RLA, FASLA, FAAR

Mary Margaret is President and CEO of Hargreaves Jones and has over 30 years of experience, demonstrating the power of investing in the public realm to transform cities, institutions, communities, and individuals. She is a recognized leader in landscape architecture and planning, lecturing widely and shaping professional design practice and education. Mary Margaret's work with Hargreaves Jones has been recognized nationally and internationally, including the prestigious Cooper Hewitt National Design Award and the Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize.

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