

HOME SCHOOL

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AS ACADEMY AND LABORATORY IN PRACTICE

SESSION OVERVIEW

Residential landscape design the largest market for landscape architects practicing today yet receives less focus in our educational institutions and larger practices. This session will discuss the value of residential design as a learning space and illustrate how different firms leverage it to benefit their broader practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Provide an overview of the evolution of residential design in the practice of landscape architecture.
2. Understand the benefits working in the residential sphere can provide in strengthening foundational skills as landscape architect.
3. Learn from representatives of three diverse firms whose portfolios balance both residential and commercial work cultivate a thriving residential practice.
4. Learn how these practices leverage specific aspects of their residential work as both a teaching tool and laboratory and how they translate these focus areas into other aspects of their practice.

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Raxworthy, J. and Harrisson, F., 2019. Overgrown. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Brenner, D. and Booth, L., 2017. Movement and meaning. New York: Monacelli Press.

Walker, 2013. Visible / Invisible. Landscape works of Reed Hilderbrand. New York: Distributed Art Publishers.

Shaw, S. and Horchner D. A., 2003. New gardens of the American West. Denver, CO: Design Workshop, Inc.



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN THE PROFESSION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Today, residential design is the largest market sector for landscape architects however educational programs lack emphasis on residential design.

Residential design provides fundamental skills for professionals that can be translated into other facets of practice. It helps foster communication skills, develop a better understanding of the design process from start to finish, and builds problem solving at different scales. It also allows the opportunity to explore design at a higher degree of detail since projects typically materialize over a shorter time period.

Representatives of three firms of varying sizes whose portfolios balance both residential and commercial work will provide an overview of their practice, describe how residential work is produced within their studio, and illustrate how this work informs other sectors of their practice through specific examples.

BEKA STURGES, ASLA, PLA, REED HILDERBRAND
“Domestic Landscape as Laboratory for Practice”



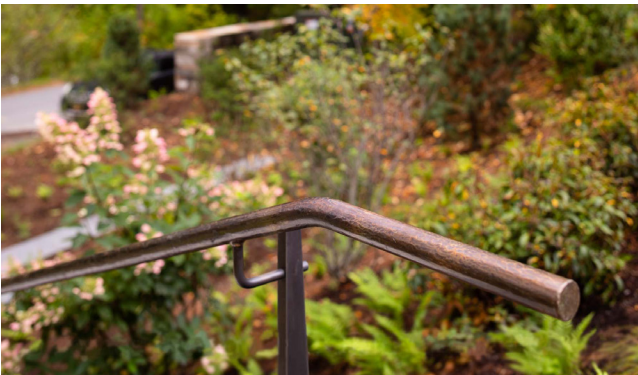
WHAT MAKES A HOME?
AND HOW MIGHT YOU SITE IT?

Reed Hilderbrand, LLC began as a practice centered around residential clients and their home landscapes. In this presentation, Beka Sturges, Principal of the firm's New Haven office, will share some of the projects that have provided the firm with opportunities to explore, along with its clients, the question of 'what makes a home?' In her talk and during the Q&A, Beka will answer your questions about how to develop approaches for treating domestic landscapes as teaching opportunities for your broader design practice.

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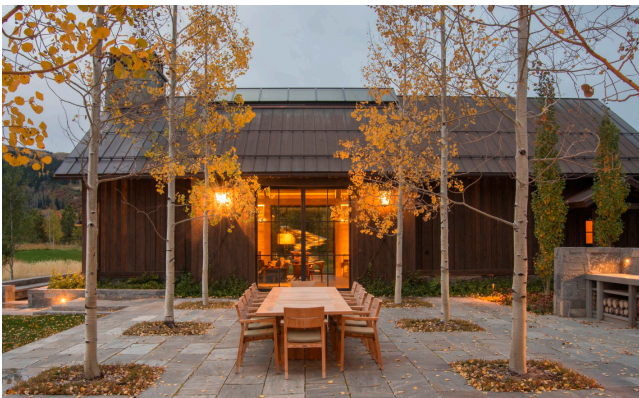
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HOW DO YOU ITERATE AND DEVELOP DESIGN THINKING?

By responding to natural systems and weaving together client needs with existing site conditions, Reed Hilderbrand honors the idiosyncracies of each client and residential site through its commitment to iteration and experimentation. Join Beka to explore how the potential of experimentation and iteration across scales, from the handrail to site hydrology, can enhance the quality and intimacy of residential project designs. Beka will also discuss how specific residential demands can stimulate research in the studio and influence work in other sectors.



EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES IN GARDEN DESIGN

Residential design often presents the opportunity to test new ideas, methodologies and technologies with clients who have a deep interest in the process of creating gardens. In this presentation, Mike Albert, Principal of the firm's Aspen studio, will share how technological advancements – including 3d scanning, modeling, and printing, microclimate analysis, and dynamic water features – have found their role in deepening the connection to one's setting. Integrated at a variety of scales, geographies, and garden styles, such processes have extended the usability of such landscapes, realized cost savings, and managed expectations between the designer, contractor, and owner through improved dialogue.



CONNECTION THROUGH MATERIALITY AND CRAFT

The gardens of Design Workshop seek to manifest a deepened appreciation of one's environs, and in turn, communicate a responsibility that we have as stewards of our own properties. This can be achieved through many avenues, but perhaps none so much as the materials we procure, craft, and realize in three-dimension. With most of the firm's residential commissions found in the sensitive landscapes of the Intermountain West, Mike will explain how their design process seeks to protect, edit, and ultimately, elevate one's connection to place using thoughtful materials, form, and craft.



GARDENS: FROM PRIVATE TO PUBLIC

By responding to natural systems and weaving together client needs with existing site conditions, Reed Hilderbrand honors the idiosyncracies of each client. Hoerr Schaudt's heritage as a firm is rooted in residential design. The firm has developed a design approach that has grown from its work in envisioning intimate private gardens for clients who share a deep appreciation of the art of landscape architecture and horticulture. Rob Gray, a partner who leads Hoerr Schaudt's Kansas City studio, will explore how the practice has leveraged its residential practice to imbue its team with a strong foundation of fundamentals while providing opportunities for exploration not often afforded in the commercial and civic realms.



HOW HORTICULTURE AND CRAFT HAVE SHAPED THE PRACTICE

Having developed a residential practice that places emphasis on client service, horticulture, and the craft of landscape construction has informed the processes Hoerr Schaudt uses to deliver projects across all typologies. These facets of residential design have informed how the firm structures its teams to provide the design quality for clients while allowing for specialization within the practice. Rob will discuss how the firm's approach to planting design, construction administration and procurement has resulted in a unique practice that fosters a connection to the profession's roots in the design of gardens.

Annual Meeting
and EXPO
November 19-22
Nashville, Tennessee



PANELISTS



ROB GRAY, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP

is a Partner at Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects where he serves as a design and thought leader within the firm. Rob has a broad range of experience spanning the fields of planning and landscape architecture, including campus and community planning, streetscape design, healthcare, public parks, botanical and zoological gardens and theme parks and resorts. Rob has developed a strong commitment to developing design solutions that evoke the spirit of a place, drawing inspiration from both site and program to create settings that immerse the user in an enriching and memorable environment.



BEKA STURGES, ASLA, PLA

is a Partner and Principal of Reed Hilderbrand and leads the firm's New Haven office. Her work is noted for its powerful spatial demonstration of the cultural and environmental value of landscapes. Since opening the New Haven office, she has led both private and public projects. Current work includes landscapes at Yale University, Storm King Art Center, and Dumbarton Oaks. Actively collaborating with the City of New Haven, she initiated the vision plan and implementation of the Mill River Trail, Phase 1, a 4-acre linear park running through the center of New Haven. Beka served as the project landscape architect and manager for the award-winning expansion of The Clark Art Institute in the Berkshires. A committed educator, she teaches at Yale School of Architecture and Connecticut College.



MIKE ALBERT, ASLA, PLA, AICP

is a Principal and board member at Design Workshop. Avoiding preconceived design styles, his work is known for its grace, contextual responsiveness, attention to technical detail, and environmental stewardship. He and his work have been featured extensively in publications and honored with numerous awards, including four National Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. He has served in leadership capacities for several professional associations, and is currently active in Urban Land Institute's National Recreational Development Council and the Design Leadership Network.

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NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.