

## **Presentation Title**

Waterfront and Wetlands in Residential Design; Balancing Ecology and Aesthetics (SUN-A04)

## **Speakers**

**Christopher LaGuardia, FASLA | Principal LaGuardia Design Group | [chris@luardiadesign.com](mailto:chris@luardiadesign.com)**

Christopher LaGuardia, FASLA is the managing principal of the LaGuardia Design Group a 15-person Landscape architecture firm that has been practicing for over thirty years.

The focus of the firm's nationally award winning work is primarily on second home residential projects on the east end of Long Island N.Y.

Chris serves on the boards of The Cultural Landscape Foundation in Washington DC, The Lake George Land Conservancy in Bolton Landing N.Y. and Co-chair of the Parrish Art museum's Landscape Pleasures annual symposium. Chris earned degrees at the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design and Cobleskill College.

**Eric Groft, FASLA | Principal OEHME, Van Sweden | [egroft@ovsla.com](mailto:egroft@ovsla.com)**

Eric Groft has over 30 years of experience in residential, commercial and institutional work and prides himself on his sense of regionalism and attention to the vernacular.

He is widely recognized as an industry leader in residential garden design: from urban townhomes to beachfront estates to multi-acre horse farms and sheep stations.

Eric serves on the boards of The Cultural Landscape Foundation in Washington DC, and holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Virginia.

**Brian Sawyer, FASLA | Principal Sawyer Berson | [bsawyer@sawyerbereson.com](mailto:bsawyer@sawyerbereson.com)**

Brian Sawyer co-founded Sawyer|Berson in 1999, and before that worked as an associate at Robert A.M. Stern Architects. Throughout his career, Brian has pursued architectural design, landscape architecture and interior design as interdisciplinary endeavors brought together through residential design.

He received undergraduate degrees in music and botany from Wabash College, and subsequently earned his Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.

Brian serves on the Stewardship Council of The Cultural Landscape Foundation in Washington D.C., serves on the board of directors of the PRFCT Earth Project and provides extensive pro bono work on behalf of New York Restoration Project.

## **Session Marketing Statement**

Landscape architects are uniquely situated to address sites impacted by ecological disturbance and decline. Wetlands and waterfronts are often impacted by reduced water quality, erosion, and colonies of invasive species. Three landscape architects discuss strategies for designing in these ecologically sensitive areas and discuss how to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment, while serving the client's perceived needs.

## **Learning Objectives**

1. Present a clear and coherent design philosophy as a guide for the project
2. Communicate the ideas of sustainability and bio-diversity
3. Explain various approaches to systemize communications
4. Illustrate examples of integrated Landscape Architecture from diverse regional contexts

Why did the three of us come together?

- Regional Connections / Differences

Regional influences

- Culture and History
- Climate and Ecology
- Client Lifestyle and Expectation
- Sustainability Ethics

What are the individual firm approaches to working with residential clients?

- Office size
- Project scope and management style
- Strategies for integrated development

## **The Hamptons**

Christopher LaGuardia, FASLA

1. Discuss the second home market, what it means to the client and designer, and what environmental factors need to be considered.
2. Discuss alternatives to traditional landscape applications.
3. Integrated Design, collaborating with Architects, Artists, consultants and contractors
4. Case studies

## **South Carolina to Maine**

Eric Groft, FASLA

1. Challenges of working (climate, hurricanes & storms, planning and zoning laws).
2. Discuss the use of interesting hardscape solutions, and creative structures within the landscape
3. Integrated Design & Plant material use
4. Case Studies

## **East End of Long Island**

Brian Sawyer, FASLA

1. Discuss opportunities for returning coastal projects to pre-development conditions. Ameliorate existing environmental challenges through grading, constructed ecosystems and eradication of invasive species.
2. Consider site layout and programming when abiding by state and local guidelines. Create resilient landscapes at the interface of marine ecosystems (accommodate FEMA regulations, incorporate terraced landscaping, design for sites to accept storm surge).
3. Planting design as a catalyst for biodiversity and habitat creation. Replacing monocultures with a wide range of native species. Promote toxin-free landscapes through sustainable installation and best management practices.
4. Case Studies

## **Audience Question and Answer**