

MON-FS-005

## WATER, LAND, AND CULTURE AT FILOLI HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDENS

### Session Summary

Join the design team and Filoli leadership to explore the site and approach to a master planning process to envision the future of the organization by expanding beyond the famous house and gardens and into the greater ecological and cultural context of the surrounding 600 acres to engage wider and more diverse audiences. Filoli (Fi.Lo.Li) is a turn of the century William Polk-designed country house set in 16 acres of formal gardens surrounded by a 654-acre nature preserve. The National Trust site features cultural landscapes as well as a variety of ecosystems, including oak-madrone forests, redwood groves, chaparral, natural springs and creeks, a reservoir, and cultivated grasslands. This field session will center on developing and meeting guiding principles for vision planning, diversifying audiences and maintaining visitor engagement through year-round programming, and exploring the history of the Filoli site by revealing stories of its early development and unique regional ecologies.

### Learning Objectives

1. Learn about the unique development history of early twentieth century California through the region's water history, house, ecologies, and program of Filoli Historic House and Gardens.
2. Understand the importance of and learn how to identify and champion a unified vision and guiding principles in vision planning processes.
3. Understand the necessity of incorporating maintenance and operations for long-term sustainability and growth.
4. Learn how to design the transition of formerly residential cultural landscapes into welcoming, sustainable spaces that engage and accommodate diverse audiences of hundreds of thousands of people while preserving historic structures and grounds.





## FIELD SESSION LEADERS



**Mark Strieter, PLA, ASLA**

Associate Principal, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Mark's interest in social and cultural values and how they influence design have been a thread throughout his 20 year career. His experience ranges from planning and design leadership through construction for a variety of project types. Whether they are complex urban plazas such as Hudson Yards in Manhattan or carefully rehabilitated historic landscapes such as Filoli, Mark's work involves deep research that weaves cultural and ecological narratives into design to create meaningful place-based landscapes.



**Naomi Miroglio, FAIA**

Principal, Architectural Resources Group

Naomi is a remarkable advocate for the great value and untapped potential of historic resources to enrich contemporary life. Her work is inspired by the history of existing buildings, and by uncovering the unique stories each one holds. Her award-winning designs build on the distinctiveness of the original architecture, creating relevant modern places that celebrate the cultures and circumstances that shaped them.



**Alex Fernandez**

Chief Operating Officer, Filoli

Alex has been with Filoli for over 25 years, beginning his career at the estate in 1994 as the assistant garden superintendent and eventually co-leading the Horticulture department before becoming director of property operations in 2014. As COO, he oversees all of site operations.



**Will Hart, PLA, ASLA**

Associate, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Will's works is focused on projects that connect people to the historical and ecological narratives of landscapes. The dynamic interaction of culture, natural systems, and time inspire and inform his approach to landscape design. The breadth of his experience spans from initial project visioning and master planning through construction. At Nelson Byrd Woltz, Will was the project manager for the Filoli Master Plan.



## OUTLINE



### Filoli Overview

The day begins with an introduction to Filoli and a brief history of the Historic House and Gardens, the organization, and the recent master plan. Discussion will explore why historic sites and cultural landscapes are unique and significant to landscape architecture, and how meeting challenges such as those presented at Filoli are a collaborative, vision-driven effort.



### Tour of Historic House and Gardens

Session leaders will share history in situ as the group explores the house and structures while discussing the architectural history of Filoli from water empire to dynasty. Leaders will discuss the ecological, geological, and cultural history of the site as the group walks the gardens, revealing hidden stories and narratives of the historic site found through a research-driven process. The team will describe approaches for adaptive reuse of structures and how the Cultural Landscape Report and Historic Structures Report informed the design process.



### Behind the Scenes: Horticulture / Operations / Management

The field session will explore the site's horticulture and operations spaces and discuss the demands, challenges, and opportunities of the operations and management of a site like Filoli. Planning for circulation needs for deliveries, vendors, service, and visitors will be shared.



### Site Trails and Orchard

The day will conclude with a walk along the Woodland Trail to Reds Barn and returning to the Orchard and Visitor Center by way of Dundag Hill to experience the plan for the new arrival sequence. This walk will allow attendees to experience the variety of ecologies on-site. Discussion will center on sustainably planning for institutional growth, agricultural history and practices, land management, and interpretation strategies.

