



Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects, promoting the profession, and advancing the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. In addition, stewardship of the land has been a critical part of the mission of ASLA since its founding.

ASLA began with 11 founding members:

- Nathan Barrett
- Beatrix Jones Farrand
- Daniel W. Langton
- Charles N. Lowrie
- Warren H. Manning
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- John Charles Olmsted
(the Society's first president)
- Samuel Parsons, Jr.
- George F. Pentecost, Jr.
- Ossian Cole Simonds
- Downing Vaux
(son of Calvert Vaux)

At year-end 2008, ASLA reported **17,236 members and 48 chapters representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 68 countries** around the world.

- There are about **30,000 landscape architects in the United States** (U.S. Department of Labor, 2006), including **11,092 Full or Fellow ASLA members**; therefore, ASLA represents roughly 37 percent of the landscape architecture profession.
- Firm size is increasing and more firms are becoming multi-disciplinary. Some **7,144 companies employ at least one active member: 6,992 in the U.S. and 152 outside of the U.S.** For context, U.S. Census data for 2005 reports 6,505 landscape architecture firms.
- Approximately **15,000 landscape architects are licensed**.
- **Licensure is not a requirement** for membership in ASLA.

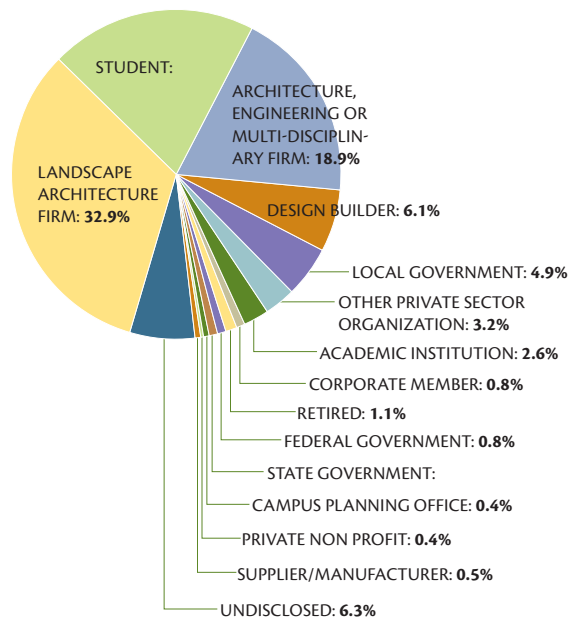
Member Growth by Type

Member Type	2008	2007	2006	2005	Percentage +/- 08 v. 05
Full Member	10,474	10,757	10,008	9,733	+7.6%
Student	2,644	3,213	3,070	3,042	-13.1%
Associate	1,562	1,942	1,704	1,542	+1.3%
Affiliate	850	824	667	655	+29.8%
Full-Fellow	618	611	585	558	+10.8%
Student Affiliate	636	434	348	686	-7.3%
International	161	239	119	126	+27.8%
Corporate	182	208	188	161	+13.0%
Honorary (living)	109	97	91	83	+31.3%
Total	17,236	18,324	16,780	16,586	+14.3%

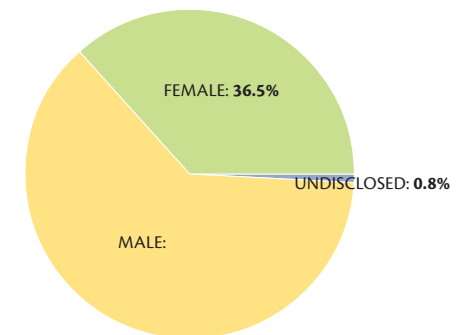
NOTE: ASLA's online renewal system was out of service in fourth quarter 08.

Member Demographics (as of November 15, 2008)

BY PRACTICE TYPE



BY GENDER



the profession

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the natural and built environments.

Among the **types of projects** they produce are:

- Academic campuses
- Conservation
- Corporate and commercial
- Gardens and arboreta
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Land planning
- Landscape art
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors
- Urban design
- Water resources.

Approximately **77 percent of the profession is in the private sector, 20 percent in the public sector, and 3 percent in academia.**

Average annual salary and bonuses for landscape architects total **\$85,100** (2008-09 National Salary and Business Indicators Survey).

Some **55.2 percent** of respondents to the **2008-09 Business Indicators Survey** reported revenues in 2008 of less than \$1 million, while **32 percent** indicated greater than \$1 million; **12 percent** did not respond to the question.

Residential design is the largest market sector (approximately 32 percent of billing hours). Most of that work consists of single-family homes but also includes multi-family and retirement communities.

Three largest client groups, descending order:

- Developers
- Private-home owners
- Cities/municipalities.

For smaller firms (up to three employees):

- Private-home owners.

In a July 2008 survey, *Landscape Architecture* magazine readers confirmed the profession's continued commitment to developing and sharing knowledge related to **sustainability**. Stories on **ecology** headed the list of information deemed most applicable to practice. Some **68.7 percent** of readers asked for increased coverage of **sustainable/regenerative design**, topping the list, and **55.5 percent** requested increased coverage of **water management issues**.

Top Resources for Professional Information (2006 ASLA Member Survey)

Other Professionals:	92%
Websites:	76%
Journals:	72%
ASLA:	59%
Other Associations:	47%

education

Landscape architects are **licensed in 49 states** (less Vermont and the District of Columbia).

There are two different types of **licensure laws**:

- States with **practice acts (45)** require a license to practice **landscape architecture**.
- States with **title acts (4)** allow anyone to practice **landscape architecture**, regardless of their qualifications, but **only those with a license may use the title "landscape architect" or advertise for "landscape architectural" services.**

Each state sets its own requirements for licensure, but **all require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE.**

Sixty-one universities currently offer at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB.

There are two undergraduate professional degrees. These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).

There are two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

- The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for persons who hold an undergraduate degree in a field **other than landscape architecture** and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who **do not have an undergraduate degree.**

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture **for persons who want to conduct research** in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals, programs by **schools that are candidates for accreditation, and certificate programs.**

green since 1899