Showcase Your Firm, Green Practices and Experiences

ASLA San Diego Chapter is looking for articles by members for the Summer (July) quarterly newsletter. With this year’s focus on sustainability, we are asking if your office is doing something to become greener? We’d like to invite you to share your practices and ideas with other members. Are you recycling more? Changing light-bulbs? Printing less? Other member ideas include highlighting recently completed projects, either those you’ve won awards for or any you feel are particularly successful. What were the challenges and opportunities? How did these direct your design? Or did you recently learn about new green techniques or products?

ASLA San Diego Chapter Grant, the garden club, ASLASDAL members, La Paloma Elementary School staff and students will dedicate their new La Paloma International Grove on Monday, April 6 at 1:15 pm. The school is located at 300 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028 and refreshments will be provided.

Attendees are encouraged to park on Heald Lane.

Each year, ASLASD raises $5,000 or more in Community Grant funds to support local community group projects that enhance our local neighborhoods. Past grants have supported the San Ysidro Business Improvement District street tree project, the redesign of the Point Loma High School entryway landscape, the Scripps Park Project community charrette, Azalea Park street improvement project, Casa Familiar Casitas de las Florecitas street improvement project, Euclid Avenue Revitalization Committee community gateway charrette and Euclid Avenue Triangle gateway tree planting as well as many other community workshops and programs.

The 2010 Community Grant application will be available on at www.asla-sandiego.org. If you haven’t had a chance to learn about the ASLA San Diego Community Grant, join us on Wednesday, April 15, at the NewSchool of Architecture & Design (1249 F Street, downtown) for an overview of SSI, presented by Ruth Stafford, of Wallace Roberts & Todd. The event is co-sponsored by the ASLA San Diego Chapter and the NewSchool Arts Foundation, and is one of SDASLA’s Landscape Architecture Month activities. In addition to landscape architects and designers, our colleagues in architecture, other allied professions are invited to attend this free event. The April 15 event begins with refreshments and networking at 5:30 pm followed by the presentation at 6:30 pm. RSVP to ASLASD@sdglobal.net by Tuesday, April 14. For more information, contact Marian Marum, ASLASD Stewardship Committee Chair, at 619-881-9533 or Ruth Stafford with WRT at RStafford@sd.wrtdesign.com.
It’s Time to Make Our Voices Heard

Here we are in the second quarter of 2009 and we are all seeing the world rapidly change in some very historically significant ways. We have all seen friends getting laid off, stores closing around the country, our investments in decline, and everyone hoping for a bailout from someone else. Everyone is cautiously waiting and hoping we have seen the worst of a decline.

Well, maybe it is time to turn it all off and look at the brighter side. We now have a bit more free time to get involved, perhaps. We are being forced to slow down; we are learning to live modestly. We are all becoming much more efficient. This is a beautiful thing and rather than complain about the current state, I believe the greatness of the world is now talking our language, and this is an exciting thing. The world is looking for “green” solutions. The world is now talking our language, and this is an exciting thing!

The world is now talking in a crowded room of professionals who all think they understand and we are whispering. Why? Because talk is not something we celebrate. In my last newsletter address, I mentioned that we as landscape architects are at the forefront of a renaissance of sorts. The world is looking for “green” solutions. The world is now talking our language, and this is an exciting thing!

We are talking in a crowded room of professionals who all think they understand and we are whispering. Why? Because talk is not something we have known for a long time, and probably one reason we ended up in this profession. Here’s the problem as I see it. Our voice is too soft! We need to raise our voices and get active. We have a membership vice president Darren Solano who needs help, a stewardship committee that is extremely active and vocal (chaired by Marian Marum), and a water conservation/quality subcommittee (chaired by Glen Schmidt) that is also very mobilized. And, it is my goal to have other subcommittees form based on proactive issues. If you personally want to discuss and share issues, ideas, and gain support from your peers in a supportive group setting?

The ASLA San Diego Chapter is forming an Independent Practitioners Committee (IPC) to combine resources (i.e. experience, expertise and physical resources) that will benefit the individual group members. The IPC will meet or connect via email/conference call to cover topics such as business development (marketing), technical issues, design, client issues, insurance, employees and project issues. Depending on the group interests, the group could be used as a “pooling of resources”. These shared resources would be available to each group member upon agreement of each member.

The committee is open to ASLA members that are practicing as individuals or up to a three person firm. The IPC committee will be structured with a chairperson to schedule and start the meetings. Committee members will provide topics of interest and the Chairperson will schedule topics into the committee calendar. The committee will determine the actual structure of meetings that best fits its members. Meetings could be structured as round table or workshops and coordinated to not conflict with ASLA Chapter events/programs.

An initial meeting and greet was held on March 27 to discuss the formation guidelines and gauge member interest. If you are interested in joining the IPC send your contact information to John H. McGee, Jr. ASLA IPC Committee Chairman at john@mcgeela.com or call 619.540.0897 for more information.

By John McGee, ASLA

Chapter Forms Independent Practitioners Committee

Working on your own? Need to bounce an idea off someone besides your pet or spouse? Need a book on something special, but don’t want to spend the money on it right now? Have an issue with your practice that you need some advice on? Want to discuss and share issues, ideas, and gain support from your peers in a supportive group setting?

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By John McGee, ASLA
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ASLA National Trustee Report
Glen Schmidt, FASLA Chapter Trustee

The ASLA Board of Trustees (BOT) will meet in Washington, DC for their annual mid-year meeting on April 30. Nancy Sommerville, ASLA’s Executive Vice President, has reported, not surprisingly, that ASLA revenues are continuing to be negatively affected by the national economy and budget cuts in FY 2009 will be discussed. If there are issues SDASLA Chapter members would like raised at this meeting, please email your recommendations to me at gschmidt@schmidtdesign.com.

CC/ASLA State Report
David Allan Taylor, Jr., ASLA, CC/ASLA President

CC/ASLA would like to extend a big THANK YOU and JOB WELL DONE to everyone who showed their support of our profession by sending and faxing letters to their state legislators and the Governor’s office in opposition to the Governor’s latest efforts to reorganize and eliminate the Landscape Architects Technical Committee. According to CCASLA’s Lobbyist, the LATC is safe for now!

Over the next few months, CC/ASLA will review new state legislation introduced for the new 2009-2010 legislative session. We are tracking bills and state regulations ranging from the state’s proposed model water conservation standards, the Governor’s declaration of the state drought, water recycling, use by CIDs to regulation and sunsetting of state licensee boards and commissions. Please keep an eye out in the July Chapter newsletter with details of CCASLA’s bill tracking or visit CCASLA’s website at www.asla-california/cccasl.org for more information on bill numbers and subjects being monitored. Contact our Chapter’s CCASLA representatives (DJ Taylor dj.taylor@cox.net or Jon Wreschinsky jon_wreschinsky@qempl.com) for more information.

Water Conservation Committee Developing Local Policy Statements

The SDASLA Water Conservation Committee has been hard at work developing a series of policy statements. Three statements on Regionally Appropriate Landscape for San Diego County, Use of Turf Grass in the San Diego Region and Vegetative Erosion Control were approved by our Executive Committee in February and will be posted on the Chapter website at www.asla-sandiego.org at the Education link. Members are encouraged to review and comment on the statements as they will be circulated to local decision makers in the coming months to encourage their adoption.

Other statements are being developed to address the following areas: Golf Course Water Conservation, Reclaimed, Recycled, Repurified Water; The Value of Native Plants; HOA Water Conservation; and the Value of Trees are being reviewed for approval by SDASLA’s Executive Committee in February and will be posted on the Chapter website at www.asla-sandiego.org at the Education link. Members are encouraged to review and comment on the statements as they will be circulated to local decision makers in the coming months to encourage their adoption.

The ‘Appropriate Landscape for San Diego County’ draft statement was reviewed with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and subject to local decision makers in the coming months to encourage their adoption.

S&D Seed Syndicate

The S&D Seed Syndicate is a quarterly newsletter, published by and for members, in February, May, August, and November.

Articles: All articles, including editorial, announcements, and local news, are supposed to be submitted to the Vice President of Chapter Visibility by the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Advertising: Contact Jerrie Beard and Associates for all advertising rates, deadlines and artwork requirements.

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2009 San Diego Chapter Design Awards planning is now underway. The awards program, to be held in early December at the Chapter’s Annual Meeting, will focus on celebrating the vital accomplishments of our Chapter members and the profession at large. Now more than ever, it will be important to participate in this event and take advantage of the opportunity to showcase the works that help distinguish our abilities as designers and practitioners.

In the coming weeks, more the awards application, criteria and information will be forthcoming and will be posted at www.asla-sandiego.org. As in the past, design categories will include general works, residential/garden design, planning and analysis, professional research, and communications. The Chapter is also considering adding a category for Unbuilt Works. In addition, the Chapter is considering instituting for the first time several Recognition Awards to include a Lifetime Achievement Award which will recognize the extraordinary professional contributions of a Fellow or Member whose lifetime contributions to the profession exemplifies the values, sensibility and spirit of the Society. Other considerations include the recognition of individuals or organizations for their Service to the Chapter and Service to the Community.

A possible award for Outstanding Client, recognizing their commitment to the principles and values of landscape architecture and sustainable design, construction, and maintenance practices is also being considered. Each of these awards will focus on the concepts of sustainability and stewardship, which our Chapter has committed to as a primary focus of our advocacy work.

For further information or to inquire about helping with this event, please contact Jon Wreschinsky, ASLA, Past-President and Awards Committee Chair, 619-916-6956 jon_wreschinsky@johnsgallup.com.

The annual ASLA Golf Tournament Committee is looking for volunteers and sponsors for this year’s event. The Golf Tournament is one of our Chapter’s primary fund raising events. The proceeds fund our community Grant Program which provides a $5,000 grant to worthy, non-profit community groups. As with previous Golf Tournaments, this promises to be a fun time for all levels of golfers and is a great way to meet other ASLA members and our many great sponsors.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the planning of the event or if you would like to be a sponsor of the tournament, please contact Jim Taylor at jim@highfootpg.com, 760.692.1924 or Chapter manager at aslasd@bboxglobal.net, 619.225.8135. We look forward to all of you joining us at the tournament in late September.

It is with much excitement that we announce that the San Diego Chapter of ASLA is inviting the following 2009 ASLA Lecture Series speakers for our fall lecture series!

• James Corner is an internationally known Landscape Architect and theorist with works exploring the meaning and depth of contemporary landscape architecture. His focus is on “developing innovative approaches toward landscape architectural design and urbanism” and he is recognized for his modern designs and theories. Designs of notable significance are those of Fresh Kills Park on Staten Island and the High Line design in New York.

• Susan Van Atta is a recipient of the ASLA National Honor Award for design of Lagoon Park at the UC, Santa Barbara. Her designs were applauded as economy of means, “proof that you don’t have to have a huge budget to do fabulous things.” Her belief is that concerns over the environment have place landscape architects in positions as leaders, as they often have a broader view of the project than the other design professionals.

• Third Lecture and Speaker is planned to be incorporated into this year’s 2009 Design Awards – Speaker recommendations are being received and will be announced this summer. Send your recommendations to Jon Wreschinsky at jon_wreschinsky@johnsgallup.com.

The ASLA Lecture Series is one of the most significant ways we can offer education and inspiration to ourselves and to design professionals throughout the region. The sponsor form is posted on the website at www.asla-sandiego.org. Although it requests replies by March 30, please fax the form as soon as possible to let us know you’re considering a sponsorship. Contact either of us and you’d like to recommend a great speaker or have questions regarding the lectures.

• Brooke Pietz, ASLA - VP Programs and Education brooke@ETUA.com - 619.294.4477

• Navid Mostatabi, ASLA - VP of Social Activities nmmostatab@gmail.com - 646.943.2793

Kick-off Event Was Smokin’

At the ASLA San Diego 2009 Kickoff event, held at reproHAUS’s high tech reprographics headquarters adjacent to Petco Park, we introduced 2009 board members and new committees and events for 2009 including the Stewardship and Water Conservation Committees, the unveiling of national ASLA’s Sustainable Site Initiative, the revamped lecture series and new interactive Hike and Bike events that will be held throughout the year.

The Kickoff was filled with food, music, plenty of conversation, and a collection of door prizes worth over $500. Special thanks to all of our sponsors for making this event possible, especially to Tito Taing, President of reproHAUS for donating the event venue. For information on future events email Navid Mostatabi at nmmostatab@gmail.com or go to www.asla-sandiego.org.

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San Diego Landscape Architecture

April 2009