Why Cultural Landscapes Matter
Our Global Culture / Nature Commonwealth

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Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners
Presentation has three components:
1. World Heritage Cultural Landscape Definitions, Progress & Relevance
2. Global Trends that Engage Cultural Landscapes
3. Tools Landscape Architects & Cultural Landscape Stewards Can Use

Cultural Landscapes are Diverse Authentic Places
Recognition of Value is Increasing Worldwide
Enter the Anthropocene — Age of Humanity

A new name for a new Geologic Epoch—one defined by our own massive impact on the planet. That mark will endure in the geologic record long after our cities have crumbled.
World Heritage Cultural Landscapes

- 1992 Cultural Landscapes added to WH Categories
- Types: 1 Designed, 2a Evolved Relict, 2b Evolved Continuing, 3 Associative
- 66 Cultural Landscapes Inscribed for *Outstanding Universal Value* 1993-2009
- In Cultural Landscapes Culture and Nature Integration
- Greatest Heritage Preservation Challenges: Evolved Continuing Landscapes Where People Live & Continue to Interact with the Landscape

Courtesy UNESCO World Heritage
World Heritage Criteria & Cultural Landscapes

Key Concept: Outstanding Universal Value

Key Words: Masterpiece, Tradition, Interchange, Beauty, Earth, Ecology, Diversity

i. A masterpiece of human creative genius

ii. Interchange of human values in architecture, technology, monumental arts, town-planning, landscape design

iii. Cultural tradition living or lost

iv. Traditional, architectural, technological ensemble illustrating stages in human history

v. Traditional human settlement, cultural representative

vi. Place associated with events, living traditions, ideas, beliefs, artistic and literary works

vii. Natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty, aesthetic importance

viii. Earth history, record of life, geological, geomorphic, physiographic features/processes

ix. Ecological and biological processes terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals

x. Natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity for conservation

For cultural landscapes both cultural and natural criteria can be relevant.

Surya Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat
Cultural Landscapes in Asia

Asia Definition: People are a part of nature within a humanistic philosophy.

“Eastern cultures express a traditional relationship where people and nature are not separate. All landscape is cultural in the eastern mind.”

Quote Professor Ken Taylor, Australia

Champaner Pavagadh Hill Sacred Sites
Courtesy Amita Sinha
Global Trends Relevant to Cultural Landscapes

- Culture- Nature Continuum
- Urban Dwellers
- Earth Justice
- Health, Food, Agriculture
- Climate Change, Disasters
- Green Sustainability
- Sustainable Energy
- Tourism, Heritage Experience Economy

Fatehpur Sikri Festival
Culture Nature Continuum & Cultural Landscapes

Culture & Nature are Intertwined in Landscapes

Human Influence is Pervasive

No Pure Nature, No Pure Culture, Some of Each, a Continuum

Trends Demand Attention to Wasted, Degraded Land

Need to Steward and Cultivate all of the Global Landscape

Kenrokuen-Stroll Garden, Kanwansa, Japan
Culture Nature Continuum & Cultural Landscapes

- Ahmedabad Aerial depicts Urban Nature/Culture
- Dispersed City Green Spaces, Small Field Agriculture at Edges
Urban Dwellers & Cultural Landscapes

- Global Population 50% Urban and Growing
- Cities are a Defining Phenomenon of the 21st Century
- Urban Growth Strong, ½ Reside in Cities under ½ M
- Cultural Heritage Assets Promote Local Economic Development
- World Bank 117 Projects $1.8bn in Urban Cultural Heritage
- Quality of Daily Experiences = Urban Cultural Landscapes

Overlook, Valparaiso, Chile
Historic Urban Landscapes = ½ Urban Space

Historic Core of San Jose, Costa Rica

- 2003-2010 Intensive Global HUL Discussions to Address Global Urban Trends:
  - Rapid Urbanization Threatening Sense of Place & Identity of Communities
  - Uncontrolled, Poorly Conceived and/or Badly Implemented Urban Development
  - Intensity & Speed of Changes, Including Climate Change
  - Unsustainable Consumption of Resources
  - Need for Updated, Holistic Tools for Urban Conservation

ISOLA Conference, Ahmedabad, India

Keynote Patricia O’Donnell, Global Chair, IFLA CLC
“The Historic Urban Landscape approach aims at preserving the quality of the human environment and enhancing the productivity of urban spaces. It integrates the goals of urban heritage conservation with the goals of social and economic development. It is rooted in a balanced and sustainable relationship between the built and natural environment.”

http://whc.unesco.org
Earth Justice & Cultural Landscapes

- Value of Public Landscapes
- Rights to & of Landscape & Seascape
- Dominant versus Diverse Cultures and Role of Indigenous Peoples
- Wealth & Poverty, Favelas of Rio
- Degraded & Neglected Urban Landscapes
- Global Appetite for Prosperity but Resource Limitations

Response: IFLA Landscape Convention & National Charters Initiative
Earth Justice: Greening Areas of Poverty

http://www.miparque.cl/

ISOLA Conference, Ahmedabad, India

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Santiago, Chile
Earth Justice: Diana Wiesner, IFLA. Bogota, Columbia, Regenerative Design
Health, Food, Agriculture & Cultural Landscapes

- Human Health & Landscape
- Reconnect to Nature, Place & Agriculture
- No Farms = No Food
- Locavor, Foodshed, Slow Food
- Unique Local Cuisine
- Local Sustainable Agriculture
- Health & Local Economy Benefits

Peach & Plum Harvest, Charlotte, Vermont USA
Agri - cultural Landscapes

- Agricultural Heritage Systems, Evolved Over Millennia
- A Global Inheritance to Preserve & Continue to Evolve
- Philippine Rice Terraces Heritage At Risk Issues:
  - Economics, Breakdown of Traditions, Population Migration to Cities
  - Changing Life Ways, Need People to Inhabit & Farm
- Global Crisis in Loss of Farmers & Sustainable Traditional Practices

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras
WH Listed 1995  iii iv v
Shelburne Farms - Health, Food & Agriculture

- USA Historic Landmark
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Environmental Education
- Market Garden & Inn Restaurant
- Swiss Brown Cows
- Cheddar Cheese

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Climate Change, Disasters & Cultural Landscapes

- Climate Change Diverse Impacts
- Ozone Depletion, Drought, Earthquakes, Arctic Melt, Tropical Cyclones
- Natural Disasters - Planning for Preparedness, Response, Recovery
- Healthy Cultural Landscapes & Seascapes are Part of the Solution

Rano Kau Caldera, Rain Water Cistern Rapa Nui
Climate Change Resilience at Community Scale

- "Green" Communities Respect Place & Heritage, Culture & Nature
- More Cultural Landscapes as Interstitial Urban Fabric
- More Natural Landscapes Woodlands & Fields as Broader Setting
- Italian Lakes, Applied Community Land-Town-Lake Values
Climate Change Resilience: Needs Cultural Landscapes

Dada Harir Vav Stepwell, Built in 1500
Expresses Innovation in Response to Climate
Cultural Landscapes Often Demonstrate Sustainable Traditional Practices to Study and Use

ISOLA Conference, Ahmedabad, India
Keynote Patricia O’Donnell, Global Chair, IFLA CLC
Green Sustainability & Cultural Landscapes

- Heritage is “Green”, Especially Cultural Landscapes (new & old)
- Balance Human Needs & Earth Imperatives
- Move Toward Shared Values & Survival
- Stewardship: Good Planets are Hard to Find
- Preservation & Conservation Retain Carbon Inputs
- Revitalize Urban Heritage with Limited Energy Inputs
- Values Culture, Traditions & Retains Sense of Place
Green Sustainability & Cultural Landscapes

- Preserving Historic Places is Compatible with Contemporary Best Practices
- Thoughtful Detailing of Interventions for Sustainability
- Example Lincoln Cottage & Smith Visitor Center:
  - Limit Disturbance
  - Waste Minimize & Recycle
  - Soil Manage Excavation & Reuse
  - Drainage Divert from City Storm Drain Pipes
  - Absorb Rainwater on Site, in Dry Wells, Infiltration Areas

Lincoln Cottage, Washington DC
LEED Gold Project

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Green Sustainability & Cultural Landscapes

Mellon Square Restoration 2011

- Preserve--Reuse, Recycle, Revitalize
- Restore & Adapt Modern Masterpiece
- Apply Current Best Practices
- Materials, Waste, Soils, Water, Drainage, Green Roof

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Sustainable Energy & Cultural Landscapes

- Fossil Fuels, Impacts of Oil & Coal
- Green Energy Sources & Impacts of Wind & Solar
- Wind Energy Potential Mapping, 10% USA Capacity
- Jordanville Rural Escarpment Central New York
- Extensive Agricultural Landscape Impacts
- Local Voice: “We are victims of this project.”
Sustainable Energy & Cultural Landscapes at Shelburne Farms

- Zero Carbon Footprint Goal
- Fossil & Nuclear Fuels Environmental Impacts
- Multiple Green Energy Sources
- Solar, Wind, BioChar, Grass Pellet Heat
- Effective Siting within Historic Landscape

Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, Vermont USA
Tourism, Heritage Experience Economy & Cultural Landscapes

- Tourism focus on Short Term Visitor & Specific Place
- Authenticity is the Magnet, Unique Culture is the Draw
- Choices Link to Cultural Landscapes
- Integrate Resident & Visitor Needs
- Quality of Place & Quality of Life
- Travel is a Global Engine
- Experience Economy
Pilgrimage Tourism Landscape

Issues at Champaner Pavagadh Hill, World Heritage Site, Gujarat

- Worship, Religious Importance
- Pilgrimage, Heritage Tourism
- Historic Features
- Local People
- Farming & Grazing Communities
- Intense Use
- Soil Erosion
- Water Scarcity

Landscape Architecture solutions-
- respect heritage resources, address land degradation, increase comfort, enhance sustainability
Cultural Landscape Stewardship Tool Kit

- Advisory Tools, Plans & Guidelines
- Educational & Community Involvement Tools
- Financial Tools, Public & Private Investments
- Legal Tools, Laws, Statutes, Regulations
Advisory Tools

- Cultural Landscape Reports: Example US Capitol Grounds
- Research, Documentation, Publication
- Heritage Preservation & Management Plans
- Conservation Plans Cultural & Natural Resources
- Viewscape contour Map for Building Siting, Height
- Holistic Planning Processes, Integrating Urban Heritage & Values
- Plans for Parks, Open Space, Transportation, Trees, Public Facilities
- Climate Resilience & Disaster Response Plans Valuing Heritage
- International & Regional Charters, Declarations & Conventions
Cultural Landscape: Document Tangible Heritage

Character-Defining Processes & Features, Through Time

- Natural Systems
- Land Uses, Patterns, Clusters
- Spatial Organization
- Visual Relationships
- Topography, Surface Drainage
- Vegetation, Full Range
- Circulation Systems
- Water Features, Natural & Constructed
- Habitable Structures Spatial Character, Form, Scale
- Landscape Structures, Pavilions, Bridges, Walls
- Vocabulary of Site Furnishings & Objects
Documenting Intangible Heritage of Cultural Landscapes

- Worship, Pilgrimage, Ritual, Festival
- Ephmeral Commemoration of Past Events, People, Places
- Harvesting Plants, Craft Materials
- Traditional Music, Dance
- Local Craft Skills
- Cuisine, Local Foods
- Reference UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage 2003

San Juan Chamula, Mayan Village, Mexico
Educational & Community Involvement Tools

- Publicity In Local Media
- Local Tourism Council
- Oral History Recording
- Informational Meetings
- Celebrations, Remembrances
- Heritage Exhibitions & Lectures
- Key Person Interviews
- Skill Development Workshops
- Community Landscape Tours
- Volunteering at Local Historic Places
- Influencing of Neighbors with Peer Discussion
Financial Tools

- Capital Funds for Appropriate, Compatible New Design
- Public Capital Improvements - Current ARRA Funding National Mall Project
- Conservation Easements
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Public Maintenance Funding
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Taxation Laws Favoring Preservation
- Funding for Research & Scholarship
- Long-term Lease of Heritage Properties
- Outright Purchase of Key Properties
- Purchase & Resale with Conservation Restrictions
- Donations of Heritage Property to Reliable Stewards
- Funding for Urban Heritage Conservation Agencies
- Public Private Partnerships
- Asia Example- The Aga Kahn Cultural Trust
USA National Mall Restoration of Turf & Soils

- Iconic Landscape
- Current Capital Project
- Free Speech Assembly
- 3,000 Permit Events per Year
- 25,000,000 Pairs of Feet per Year
- Patriotic Gatherings, Demonstrations
- Compacted Soils & Struggling Turf
- Understanding Historic Design Intent
- Continuous Tapis Vert, Domed Profile

National Mall, Washington DC

ISOLA Conference, Ahmedabad, India

Keynote Patricia O’Donnell, Global Chair, IFLA CLC
Mall Research & Mapping to Document Ground Disturbance
Financial Tools—Protected Lands

- Small Town Land Trust
- Purchase, Resale, Easements
- Partner with State Land Trust
- Citizens Vote Conservation Tax Fund
- Shared Values: Scenic & Agricultural Landscape

Charlotte Vermont Community Conservation Map
Legal Tools: Local & National

- Heritage Property Inscriptions & Related Approved Plans
- Design Review & Historic Commission
- National & Local Protections
- Conservation Easements
- Urban Visual Controls
- Overlay Districts
- Land Use Zoning
- Tree Protection

Cityscape - Oporto, Portugal
Underpinning: Charters, Declarations & Conventions

1962 Rec. Concerning the Safeguarding of the Beauty & Character of Landscapes & Sites
1964 ICOMOS International Charter for the Conservation & Restoration of Monuments & Sites
1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural & Natural Heritage
1982 ICOMOS International Charter for Historic Gardens
1987 ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas
1992 UNESCO Convention on Biological Diversity
1992 WH Cultural Landscapes Add to Operational Guidelines
1994 UNESCO-ICOMOS Nara Document on Authenticity
2000 European Landscape Convention
2003 UNESCO Convention on Intangible Heritage
2004 UNESCO Merging of the Cultural & Natural Heritage Criteria
2004 US ICOMOS Natchitoches Declaration on Culture & Nature
2005 UNESCO Vienna Memorandum Architecture & Urban Landscape
2005 ICOMOS Xi’an Declaration on the Conservation of Settings
2005 ICOMOS Hoi An Declaration on Conservation of Historic Districts of Asia
2008 ICOMOS Quebec Declaration on Preservation of the Spirit of Place

900-1100 AD Mayan Ruins of Edzna, Mexico
“There is a convergence of natural and cultural values in the landscape, and a growing recognition that the traditional separation of nature and culture is a hindrance to protection and is no longer sustainable.

Further heritage landscape protection is required at the local, national and global levels in order to transmit these universally valuable heritage landscapes to future generations.”  

US ICOMOS International Symposium 2004
IFLA Cultural Landscapes Committee Open to All IFLA Members

- Work within IFLA, Meetings, Symposia, Workshops
- Work with International Partners
  - ICOMOS, UNESCO World Heritage
- Continually Upgrade iflacllc.org Website
  - Request & Post Global Project Examples, Inventories, Charters
- Work at Regional Level
  - Americas- Regional Inventories
  - Asia Pacific- Korea Symposia, China Project Examples
- Respond to Inquiries & Engage Individuals
In Conclusion: Cultural Landscapes Matter to Us All

21st Century Cultural Landscapes = Survival, Quality of Life, Habitat
Culture Nature Continuum Shifting toward Culture
Landscapes at the Nature/Culture Intersection
Landscape Architects Lead the Way Through Education, Research, Projects, Collaboration

Thank you
Questions?

Black Taj Garden, Agra
Heritage Landscapes LLC
Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners
A vibrant future for heritage places through holistic planning & design

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