## DUMBARTON OAKS GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES

## VASLEF PUBLIC LECTURE

## Ken Smith Principal, Ken Smith Landscape Architect

## biglittleskipthemiddle

Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at Dumbarton Oaks in the Music Room at the Main House (Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.)



MOMA Roof Garden, 2005, New York City, New York. Images © Peter Mauss/Esto.

**Ken Smith** is one of the most accomplished and provocative designers of his generation. Equally at home in the worlds of art, landscape architecture, and urbanism, he has worked on an astonishing array of projects in the past decade, from public parks in Toronto, Santa Fe, and Orange County, California, to installations of glowing topiary, artificial stone, and plastic flowers; from private residential gardens to a colorful public schoolyard in Queens and a community garden in Brooklyn. Trained in both design and art, he is a graduate of Iowa State University and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His practice, Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architect was established in 1992 and is based in New York City with an office in Irvine, California.

Smith's lecture at Dumbarton Oaks, titled "biglittleskipthemiddle," will present his current work in the context of his conviction that the best design results from a big concept finished with good detail. The title also suggests his aversion to the middle of the professional road, in a quest for a practice informed by diverse cultural practices and the patterns of contemporary urban life.

<u>Reservations are required. Please **RSVP** by **Monday, September 28th** to: Landscape@doaks.org 202-339-6460.</u>

The lecture will be held in the **Music Room** at Dumbarton Oaks's Main House located at 1703 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, NW, Washington DC. The lecture is open to the public without charge. A light reception to follow. Parking not provided.