

DUMBARTON OAKS, GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES
PUBLIC LECTURE

THE ROLE OF HISTORY IN CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

JOHN DIXON HUNT
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011 AT 5:30 PM



Cardada, Cimetta, Switzerland, designed by Paolo Bürgi (2000)

Photo: John Dixon Hunt

To what extent and in what way does contemporary landscape architecture invoke history? The lecture reviews a few earlier examples of how the past of a site has determined its present and then proceeds to suggest - with a range of current sites - how the past has been invoked and may be used. It also proposes that the "invention" of history can be a legitimate device in the creation of new gardens and landscapes and examines the success of different attempts to do so.

A former Director of Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, John Dixon Hunt is Emeritus Professor of the History and Theory of Landscape at the University of Pennsylvania, where he joined the faculty in 1994 and served as chair in the department of Landscape Architecture through June 2000. He is the author of numerous articles and books on garden history and theory, including a catalogue of the landscape drawings of William Kent, *Gardens and the Picturesque* (1994), *The Picturesque Garden in Europe* (2002), *The Afterlife of Gardens* (2004), and *The Venetian City Garden* (2009). He edits the journal *Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes* and was, until recently, editor of *Word & Image*. Current interests focus upon landscape architectural theory, modern(ist) garden design, and ekphrasis. He is the inaugural series editor of the *Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture* (University of Pennsylvania Press), in which was published his own theoretic study of landscape architecture, *Greater Perfections: the Practice of Garden Theory* (1999). In May 2000 he was named Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture, and he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Bristol (UK) in 2006. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at King's College, Cambridge, and a Ph.D., from the University of Bristol.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP by **Monday, February 28** to: Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460.

We cannot guarantee a seat for late arrivals, even those with a reservation.

Please arrive by 5:20 to confirm your reservation.

The lecture will be held in the Music Room at Dumbarton Oaks's Main House located at 1703 32nd Street, NW. Parking not provided.