



DUMBARTON OAKS

RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

Landscape Matters: News from GLS

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks

is pleased to share with you the following announcements regarding 2010-11 fellows, fellowship applications, new programs, forthcoming lectures and symposium, and new publications.

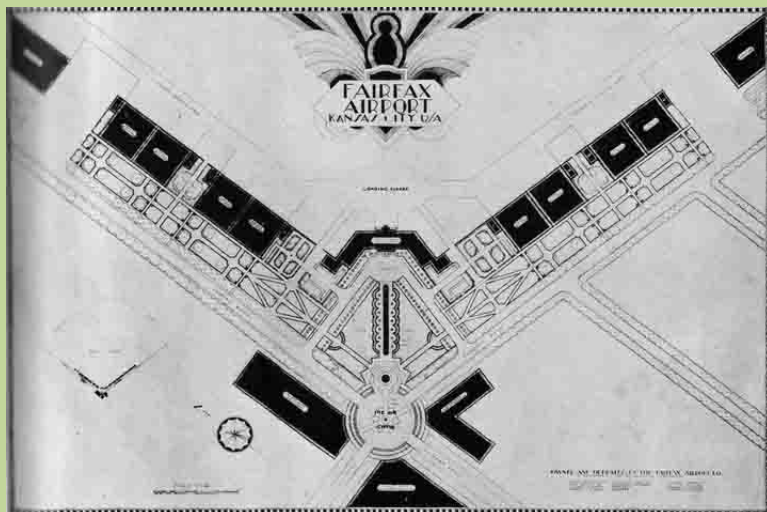


“Lost Walks” garden tour led by Summer Intern Sara Altman, July 2010. Left to right: Garden staff Donnie Mehlman and Robin Lollar, GLS Director John Beardsley, Intern Sara Altman, Director of Gardens Gail Griffin, GLS pre-doctoral resident Andrea Leonardi, GLS Fellow Natsumi Nonaka, garden staff Terri Harrison and Manuel Pineda. Image courtesy Jane Padelford.

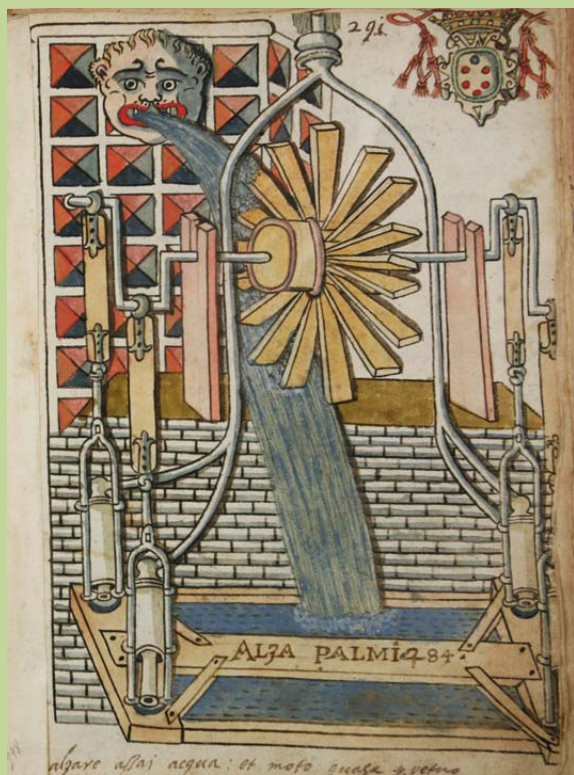
The 2009-10 academic year was another active one for GLS at Dumbarton Oaks, with three full-year fellows and two half-year fellows, along with numerous events, including a colloquium on the history and management of the National Mall with students from the landscape architecture programs at Harvard Graduate School of Design and the University of Virginia, and lectures by noted landscape architect Ken Smith; Professor Dianne Harris of the University of Illinois, who spoke on Pennsylvania Levittown; and historian Ratish Nanda, India Program officer for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in New Delhi, who lectured on the restoration of Humayun’s Tomb in Delhi and Babur’s Garden in Kabul. GLS also hosted a film screening and lecture by former Getty Museum director John Walsh on sculpture gardens, held in conjunction with the D.C. Environmental Film Festival. The annual symposium took place on May 14-15; titled *Designing Wildlife Habitats*, it was organized by GLS director of studies John Beardsley in collaboration with Alex Felson, who holds joint appointments in the Yale Schools of Forestry and Architecture. The pace was just as lively over the summer, with four summer fellows and three interns, along with two post-doctoral-stipend recipients and one pre-doctoral resident. Four new full-year fellows arrived in September, with a fifth joining for the spring term. In addition, GLS continues its program of temporary installations of contemporary art, with an installation by sculptor Patrick Dougherty created in the Ellipse in September. Details on current and future activities follow.

2010-11 Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies

To the right are the fellows who are in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the 2010-11 academic year and our 2010 Summer Fellows.



Ernst Hemminghaus. Plan for Fairfax Airport, Kansas City, 1930. Image courtesy *American Landscape Architect* (1930). Researched by Sonja Dümpelmann.



Neapolitan fountain designed by Giovanni Antonio Nigrone Circa 1609. Courtesy Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali. Researched by Anatole Tchikine.

Fellows

Sonja Dümpelmann, University of Maryland
“Flights of Imagination: Aviation and Innovation in Twentieth-Century Landscape Design and Planning”

Nurit Lisovsky, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology “‘We will spread for you carpets of gardens:’ Lipa Yahalom and Dan Zur, Designers of Israel's Landscape”

James Nisbet, California State University at Longbeach (spring term)
“Environment/Object/Ecosystem: Land Art after 1960”

Anatole Tchikine, University of Dublin, Trinity College
“Gardens, Fountains, and the Science of Waters: An Unpublished Treatise by Giovanni Antonio Nigrone (1609)”

Junior Fellow

James Schissel, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign “Home Grown: Thomas Affleck's Advocacy for Regional Identity in the American South, 1848-1868”

Summer Fellows

The following were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks for the summer 2010 term:

Jonathan Conlin, University of Southampton,
“Pleasure Gardens in Britain and North America, c.1660-1880”

Jessica Hurd, Indiana University
“Spatial Responses to Violence: Counter Monuments and Site Specific Installations in Post-Apartheid South Africa”

Ulrike Krippner, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna
“Over the Ocean: Women in Garden Architecture in the 1940s and 1950s”

Natsumi Nonaka, University of Texas at Austin “Pergolas and Pavilions in Italian Renaissance Gardens: A Study of the Printed Primary Sources”

Lectures and Colloquium

Sculptor Patrick Dougherty spoke on his work on September 21, 2010 at 5:30, in conjunction with an opening reception for his project in the gardens.

John Dixon Hunt, Professor of the History and Theory of Landscape, Emeritus, in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, will be in residence for two weeks in late February and early March, and will give a lecture on “The Role of History in Modern Landscape Architecture,” final date to be announced.

Lectures are at 5:30 in the Music Room; a separate announcement will go out for each event. Reservations are required. For reservations or information contact: Landscape@doaks.org or call 202-339-6460.

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, GLS will host a one-day colloquium on Lawrence Halprin in conjunction with *Landscape Journal*. Contributors to the Journal’s forthcoming special issue on Halprin will meet to discuss drafts of their essays for the publication. A very limited number of seats will be available to people with a particular interest in the topic. To inquire about attending, email Landscape@doaks.org



Speakers at the symposium, “Designing Wildlife Habitats,” May, 2010. Left to right: Harriet Ritvo, Stuart Green, Jane Carruthers, Kongjian Yu, Josh Ginsberg, Nina-Marie Lister, Alex Felson, Steven Handel, Kristina Hill, John Beardsley, Shahid Naem, Thomas Woltz, Jack Liu, Deniz Calis, and Shepard Krech. Image courtesy Joe Mills.

Contemporary Art Installation Program

GLS continues its occasional series of temporary installations of contemporary art under the direction of John Beardsley, with the collaboration of Garden director Gail Griffin and her staff. Following on the 2009 project by Charles Simonds, the current project features an improvised installation of woven saplings by the sculptor Patrick Dougherty, who worked in the Ellipse between September 1 and 21, supported by a small army of volunteers including staff, docents, neighbors, and area artists and students. The Ellipse, one of the most familiar features of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens, was originally designed by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand during the 1930s and surrounded by a sprawling boxwood hedge. It was transformed by architect Alden Hopkins in 1956 by the removal of the boxwood and the addition of a double row of pruned hornbeams that forms an aerial hedge. Responding to what he perceived as the monumentality and the static quality of this space, Dougherty added a series of what he describes as "running figures," or twisted architectural elements, that rise singly or in staggered groups into the hedge and pursue each other actively and gracefully around the Ellipse. The sculpture, titled *Easy Rider*, was fabricated from saplings—mostly maple—harvested from a state forest in Virginia, where such saplings are routinely harvested and discarded to promote the growth of oaks in the forest.

Combining his carpentry skills with his love of nature, Patrick Dougherty began to learn about primitive techniques of building and to experiment with tree saplings as construction material. Beginning about 1980 with small works fashioned in his backyard, he quickly moved from single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental site-specific installations that require sticks by the truckload. To date he has built over two hundred such massive sculptures all over the world. His work is the subject of a new monograph entitled "Stickwork," published by Princeton Architectural Press (August 2010 release). In the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, his sculpture is particularly evocative of the tradition of organic or rustic architecture that was a feature of 18th-century pattern books for arbors, pavilions, and furnishings.

Dougherty's home base is his handmade house of log in Chapel Hill, NC. The artist's website is <http://stickwork.net/>



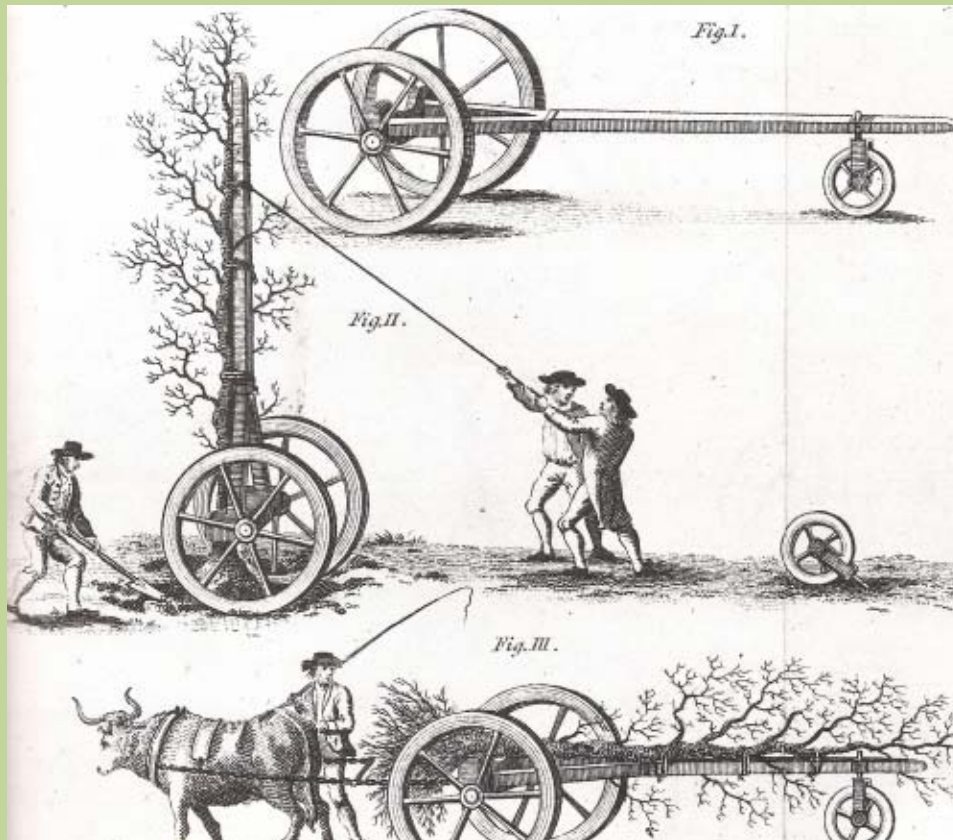
"Easy Rider" by Patrick Dougherty in the Ellipse. Image courtesy Alexandre Tokovinine.

Forthcoming GLS Spring Symposium, “Technology and the Garden,” May 6-7, 2011

In his classic work *The Machine in the Garden* (1964), Leo Marx posited that modernity came into being when the “machine”—a symbol of the forces of technology—entered the pastoral “garden” of the pre-industrial world. The machine was the “engine” of change and a profound disturbance to the garden, traditionally seen as a peaceful, static realm and the antithesis of the turbulent forces of technology and the nascent modern world. Yet gardens are products of technology, and this intimate connection invites further exploration. Scholars have long recognized the impact of technology on our understanding of nature and geography, but have rarely analyzed its relation to gardens and other designed landscapes. This is a significant gap in our scholarship that this symposium is intended to redress.

Drawing upon existing research in the history of technology, we will address framework issues including the impact of mechanization on gardens, the role of informal or artisanal knowledge in the continuity of working methods, and the links between technological innovation and design change. Through specific cases, we will build on areas where there has been substantial study, such as water systems and gardens, and explore topics that have received little attention, such as the history of earth-moving equipment. We will also highlight contemporary explorations of landscape both as a place and an idea and present new modes of representation and garden experience created by artists using film, video, and digital technologies. The technics of the garden can be hidden or revealed, disguised beneath the earth, or celebrated on the surface. Technology can be approached at the full range of scales of garden and landscape design, through all historical periods, and in a diversity of places and cultures; how designers have dealt with this issue is a central question in garden history, and this symposium will serve as a beginning foray into this increasingly vital topic.

The symposium will take place at Dumbarton Oaks, Friday and Saturday May 6-7, 2011. It is being organized by current GLS Senior Fellows Diana Balmori, Kenneth Helphand, and Mark Laird, in collaboration with GLS post-doctoral associate Michael Lee. For further information, please contact Jane Padelford at Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460.



Samuel Hayes. *A Practical Treatise on Planting; and the Management of Woods and Coppices*. Dublin: printed by Wm. Sleater; and sold by Allen & West, London, 1794

Fellowship applications and deadlines

Dumbarton Oaks continues to offer residential fellowships in three areas of study: Byzantine Studies, Pre-Columbian Studies, and Garden and Landscape Studies; opportunities include Academic Year Fellowships, Academic Year Junior Fellowships, Summer Fellowships, and Short-Term Pre-Doctoral Residencies. Application deadlines are November 1.

This year, Dumbarton Oaks is again offering a new research opportunity: One-Month Post-Doctoral Stipends; deadlines are rolling. Short-term Pre-Doctoral Residencies are now available for up to four weeks. Complete details on fellowship terms and application procedures are available at <http://www.doaks.org/research/>.

In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks seeks a balance between historical research and investigations of current practice, between inquiries at the scale of the garden and those addressing larger landscapes. The program invites consideration of all aspects of this interdisciplinary and international field; applicants are encouraged to consider topics from a variety of perspectives. Additional information for applicants in garden and landscape studies is available at http://www.doaks.org/research/info_gal_fellowship.html.

New procedures for submitting applications online have been instituted; please check the Dumbarton Oaks website at http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowship_application.html.

Museum News from Dumbarton Oaks?

The Dumbarton Oaks Museum is launching a Museum- and Shop-specific eNewsletter, containing information on special events such as openings and lectures, exhibitions, featured objects, shop events, and new publications. A Facebook page has been launched that will feature similar news and announcements, as well as a small photo archive of past and current exhibitions. The Museum is working to heighten interest and involvement in ongoing Museum and Shop activities, and eager to reach as many interested parties as they can.

If you would like to be added to our “Museum Friends” email list, contact Allison Mondel at mondela@doaks.org. The Museum eNews will typically be sent once a month, with the occasional special announcement. Anyone on the list can unsubscribe at any time with a simple click.

Current Publications

Two titles are currently in advanced stages of preparation: the proceedings of the 2007-08 symposium on recent studies in the history of Italian gardens, titled *Clio in the Italian Garden: Twenty-First-Century Studies in Methods and Theoretical Perspectives*, edited by Mirka Beneš, an associate professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin and one of the participants in the symposium, and Michael Lee, a landscape historian who is currently a post-doctoral associate in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks; and *Landscape/Body/Dwelling: Charles Simonds at Dumbarton Oaks* edited by John Beardsley. Proceedings of the 2009 symposium, “The Interlacing of Words and Things in Gardens and Landscapes: Beyond Nature and Culture,” organized by Stephen Bann, and the 2010 symposium, “Designing Wildlife Habitats,” organized by John Beardsley and Alex Felson, are in earlier stages of preparation.

The following books have recently been published by Dumbarton Oaks for the Garden and Landscape Studies program:

Xin Wu, *Patricia Johanson's House and Garden Commission: Re-construction of Modernity*, 2008

Michel Conan, ed., *Gardens and Imagination: Cultural History and Agency*, 2008

Michel Conan and Chen Wangheng, eds., *Gardens, City Life and Culture: A World Tour*, 2008

Michel Conan and Jeffrey Quilter, eds., *Gardens and Cultural Change: A Pan-American Perspective*, 2008

Michel Conan, ed., *Middle East Garden Traditions: Unity and Diversity; Questions, Methods and Resources in a Multicultural Perspective*, 2007

Michel Conan, ed., *Sacred Gardens and Landscapes: Ritual and Agency*, 2007

Michel Conan, ed., *Contemporary Garden Aesthetics: Creation and Interpretation*, 2007

Michel Conan and W. John Kress, eds., *Botanical Progress, Horticultural Innovation and Cultural Change*, 2007

Michel Conan, ed., *Performance and Appropriation: Profane Rituals in Gardens and Landscapes*, 2007

For a full list of Garden and Landscape titles from Dumbarton Oaks and for information on ordering the books, go to

http://www.doaks.org/research/garden_landscape/doaks_gal_publications.html.



Patrick Dougherty reception, September 21, 2010. Image courtesy Joe Mills.