

Landscape Matters: News from GLS, Fall 2012

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year, and announcements regarding 2012-13 fellows, fellowship applications, new programs, forthcoming lectures and symposium, and new publications.



“Cloud Terrace,” installed in April, 2012 by artists Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot on the Arbor Terrace.
Image courtesy **cao | perrot studio**.

2011-12 in review

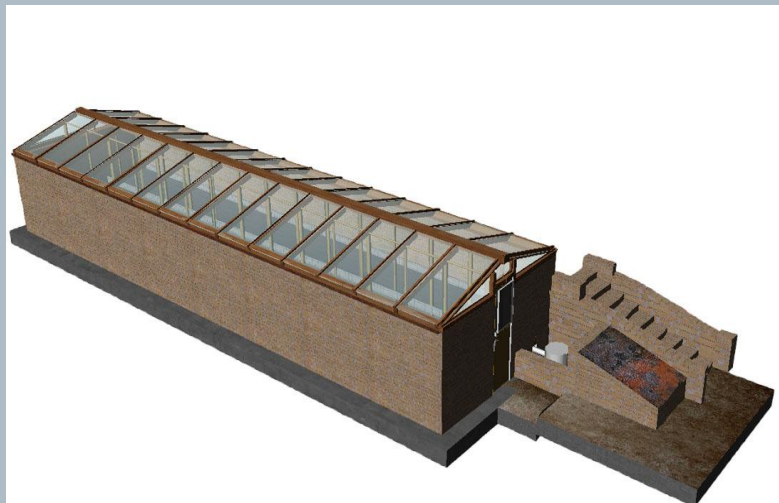
The community of fellows in 2011-12 included three fellows, three junior fellows, and four summer fellows. They came to Dumbarton Oaks from Australia, France, Germany, India, and the United States to research topics ranging from Chinese garden literature to Roman plants in ancient Germany; from colonial era parks in Delhi to kinesthetic experiences in modern American gardens.



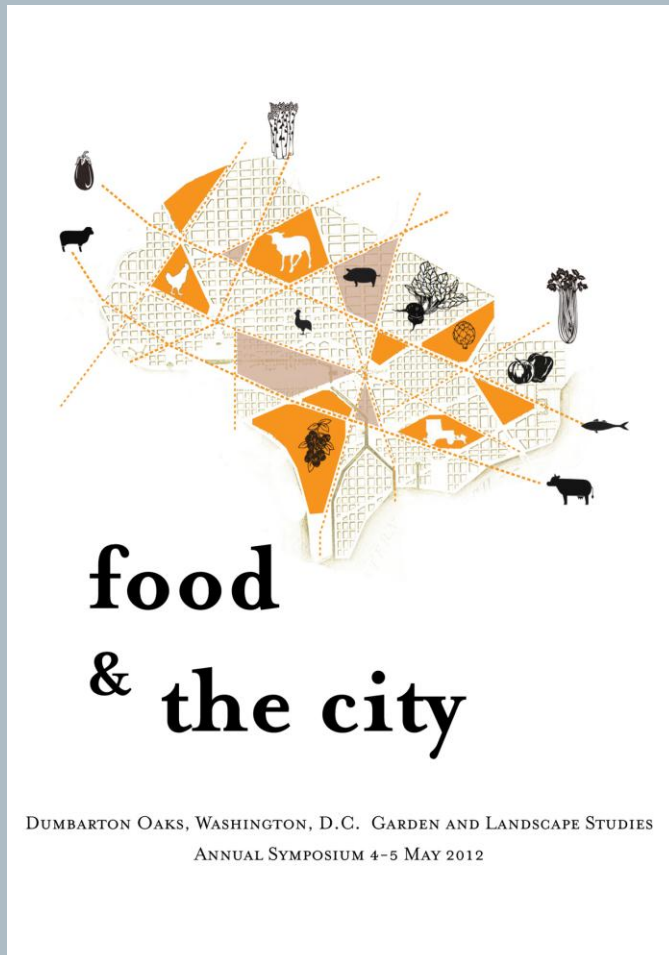
Scholars and the Director of Studies visiting Great Falls, Maryland in May.

In the same interval, Garden and Landscape Studies hosted a dozen other academic visitors from Australia, Canada, England, Poland, and South Africa, as visiting scholars, pre-doctoral residents, one-month research stipend recipients, and summer landscape architecture interns. Visiting scholars included Duncan Campbell of the Australian National University, who is editing a forthcoming Dumbarton Oaks anthology of translations of Chinese garden literature, and Allen Grieco from the Villa I Tatti in Florence, who is researching the Villa's garden designer, Cecil Pinsent.

The 2012 summer interns, who were jointly sponsored by Garden and Landscape Studies and the Department of Gardens, divided their time between work in the gardens and research projects; they included Alexis del Vecchio and Siobhan Aitchison from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and Robin Abad Ocubillo from The University of Southern California. Siobhan Aitchison created this 3-D model of the demolished pit house in the frame yard at Dumbarton Oaks.



The program's annual symposium was held on May 4-5, 2012. Organized by Dorothée Imbert and titled "Food and the City," the symposium examined the intricate interrelationships between urban context and food production central to the current debate on sustainability. Focused especially on the modern era, the symposium explored the links between culture and cultivation, with particular respect to urbanization schemes that engaged the production of food. As the city displaced food production further from its center, the relationship between living, working, and eating became more abstract.



Today, this relationship is tested across planning and community design schemes: American suburban developments include agricultural land as a conservation measure and a nostalgic nod to a pre-agribusiness countryside; European designers focus on the suburban-rural interface to develop a new type of productive landscape, one performing simultaneously as an open space system and an agricultural laboratory. The symposium provided a critical historical framework for today's urban agriculture by discussing the multiple scales, ideologies, and contexts of productive landscapes, from allotment gardens to regional plans. Speakers addressed the production and distribution of food in relation to human settlement and urban form, from German *Siedlungen* to Italian Fascist new towns, and Israeli *kibbutzim* to contemporary Tokyo. The particular focus was on the efforts of modern and early-modern landscape architects, garden designers, and architects/planners to reconcile the demands of feeding cities and regions with the exigencies of urban expansion.

In addition to the annual symposium, other public events made the resources and expertise of Dumbarton Oaks available to a wider constituency. Suzanne Blier, Allen Whitehill Clowes Professor of Fine Arts and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard, lectured in September, 2011, on "Landscapes of Enchantment: Cosmology, Ritual, and Ideas of Place in the Ancient Yoruba City-State," inaugurating a commitment on the part of the garden and landscape studies program to the study of cultural landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa that will lead to a symposium in May, 2013. Pete Walker of PWP Landscape Architecture spoke in February 2012 on his role in the design of the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center in New York. An installation by **cao | perrot studio** opened with a public lecture by the artists on April 5, 2012. Informal talks included presentations by Eric "I" Fleisher of the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy; Allen Grieco from Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies; and Anthony Wain of Planning Partners, Cape Town, South Africa.

New Garden Art Installation

The third project in the occasional series of contemporary art installations, *Cloud Terrace*, was fabricated on the Arbor Terrace over a period of four weeks in March and April, 2012. The creation of artists Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot of **cao | perrot studio**, Los Angeles and Paris, in collaboration with J.P. Paull of Bodega Architecture, *Cloud Terrace* takes the form of a hand-sculpted wire mesh cloud embellished with 10,000 genuine SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS water-drop crystals suspended over a reflecting pool. The Arbor Terrace is one of the most modified spaces in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens. Originally designed by Beatrix Farrand in the early 1930s as a simple rectangular herb garden bordered on the west by a wisteria-covered arbor and on the east and north by a hedge of Kieffer pears, it was refashioned by Farrand's former associate Ruth Havey in the late 1950s as a pot garden centered on a Rococo-style parterre with low, Doria stone parapet walls. The space can be hot and bright; **cao | perrot's** installation is a response to these conditions, extending the shade of the arbor across the terrace and animating the space inside the parterre with an oval pool surrounded by bluestone and green glass pebbles.



"Cloud Terrace" was featured in the June issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*.

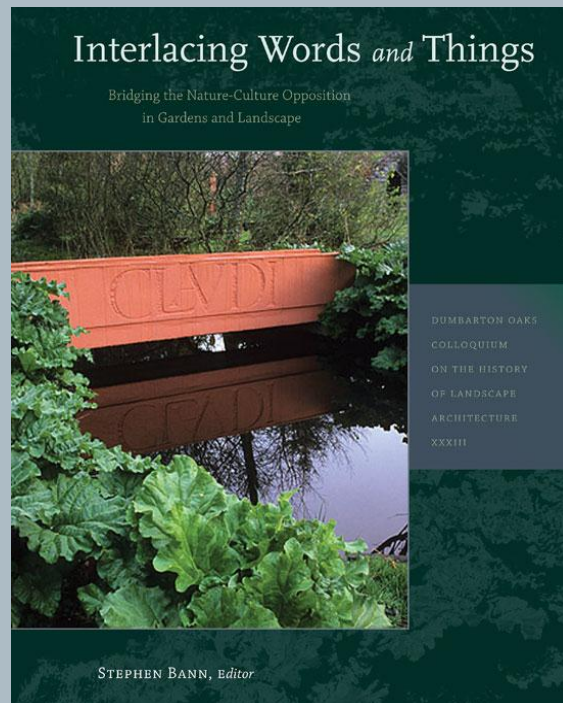
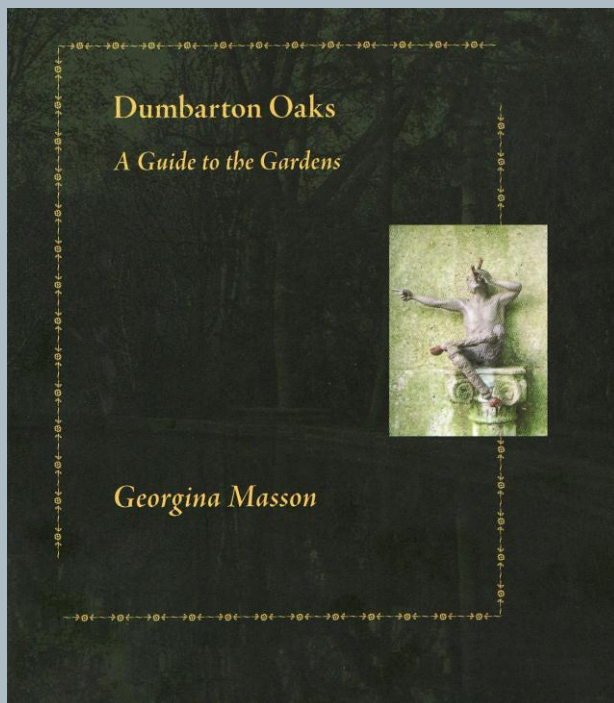
cao | perrot studio have a stunning list of projects to their credit, including temporary site-specific installations at the American Academy in Rome; the Potager du Roi, Versailles; the Tuileries, Paris; the Medici Fountain in the Luxembourg Gardens; and at many of the world's leading garden festivals. The project was supported by SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS, who provided the crystals used for the installation. It was organized by John Beardsley, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, and Gail Griffin, Director of Gardens, with the particular assistance of staff members Jane Padelford and Walter Howell. It follows installation projects by Charles Simonds in 2009 and Patrick Dougherty in 2010. The series is intended to provide fresh interpretations and experiences of the historic gardens and collections of Dumbarton Oaks.

The installation received extensive enthusiastic coverage, including a six-page spread in the June issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine* and a segment with Susan Stamberg on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* on June 26. You can hear the latter at

<http://www.npr.org/2012/06/26/155719513/reflective-art-brings-light-color-to-historic-spaces>

New Publications

The pace and output of the department publications increased significantly in 2011-12, thanks especially to the efforts of post-doctoral associate Michael Lee. The proceedings of the 2009 symposium appeared as *Interlacing Words and Things: Bridging the Nature-Culture Opposition in Gardens and Landscape*. A volume on the Charles Simonds installation, edited by John Beardsley, was also published, with the title *LandscapeBodyDwelling: Charles Simonds at Dumbarton Oaks*. Georgina Masson's *Dumbarton Oaks: A Guide to the Gardens* (1968) was reprinted with a new introduction by John Beardsley on the occasion of the centenary of Masson's birth. Proceedings of the 2010 symposium, "Designing Wildlife Habitats," edited by John Beardsley, and the 2011 symposium, "Technology and the Garden," edited by Kenneth Helphand and Michael Lee, are now in preparation. In addition, work is in progress on an ambitious series of translations of significant texts in the histories of gardens and landscape architecture. Titles include the forthcoming anthology of Chinese garden literature, a decade in the works and encompassing 1,500 years of texts; the Kangxi emperor's prose descriptions and poems on the thirty-six views of the Bishu shanzhuang, the mountain estate for escaping the summer heat, in Chengde, China; the travel journal of the 19th century German gardener Hans Jancke; and the early modernist book, *Garden Culture of the 20th Century*, by German landscape architect Leberecht Migge.



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/resources/publications>

2012-13 Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies

The following 2012-13 academic year **summer fellows** were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the summer term, 2012:

Duncan Campbell, Australian National University
"The Dumbarton Oaks Anthology of Chinese Garden Literature"

Naama Meishar, The Hebrew University

“Politics and Ethics in Landscape Architecture: Spacing, Expression and Representation in Jaffa's Slope Park”

Miranda Mollendorf, Harvard University

“The World in a Book: Robert John Thornton's *Temple of Flora* (1799–1812)”

Katherine Rinne, California College of the Arts

“The Source of the Soul: Water for Villa Waterworks in Renaissance Rome”

Terre Ryan, Loyola University Maryland

“Setting Liberty's Table”

Xiangpin Zhou, Tongji University

“An Imagination of the Chinese Shangri-La in a Western Way: Zhang Garden in Shanghai (1882-1918)”



The following **academic year fellows** will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in 2012-13:

Mirka Beneš, University of Texas, Austin

“Landscape, Architecture and Experience in the Villa Culture of Seventeenth-Century Rome”

Maggie Cao, Harvard University (Junior Fellow)

“Refiguring Landscape: Zoological Agency and Nineteenth-Century American Painting”

Finola O’Kane Crimmins, University College Dublin

“Revolutionary Landscapes: Ireland, France and America from 1700-1810”

Bianca Maria Rinaldi, University of Camerino

“Landscapes on Paper: Western Accounts of Chinese Gardens from the Thirteenth to the Eighteenth Century”

Christine Ruane, University of Tulsa

“Fruits of Our Labor: A Social and Cultural History of Kitchen Gardening in Imperial Russia”

Aleksandar Sopov is the first **William R. Tyler Fellow** in Garden and Landscape Studies and will be researching “Ottoman Horticultural Science and Practice, 1453-1669.”

Changes among Staff and Senior Fellows

Staff: Michael Lee, Post-Doctoral Associate in Garden and Landscape Studies, left Dumbarton Oaks on August 15, 2012, to take a position as Reuben McCorkle Rainey Professor in the History of Landscape Architecture and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. In addition to overseeing department publications, Michael helped organize the 2011 symposium Technology and the Garden and a related exhibition, and delivered an excellent paper at the symposium. He's been an invaluable sounding board for the program, particularly with respect to publications, exhibition ideas, and interdepartmental relations. But perhaps his most significant contribution has been to the unofficial life of the program--mentoring fellows, helping them deal with both personal and academic issues, providing insightful but gracious critiques of their work, and orchestrating amazing lunchtime conversations that ranged from plants to philosophy. He could talk about Kant without being intimidating or arrogant: no small accomplishment! Moreover, he's a great birder: he helped identify 86 species in the Dumbarton Oaks gardens over the past three years. He will be missed by us all!



Anatole Tchikine and Michael Lee

Happily, we have found a worthy replacement for Michael in Anatole Tchikine, a rising star in Italian Renaissance and Baroque art-historical studies, especially as they pertain to garden design and landscape architecture. In just a few short years, he has amassed a distinguished record of publications, including a series of published and forthcoming articles on the Medici Court, fountains, horticulture, and botanical gardens. He was a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks in 2010-11, working on a fascinating and previously unpublished early 17th century treatise on the appearance and function of fountains by the Neapolitan designer Giovanni Antonio Nigrone. He received his PhD from the University of Dublin, Trinity College, where he has also taught; most recently, he has been a Visiting Adjunct Professor at the International Studies Institute, Florence. We look forward to having Anatole back at Dumbarton Oaks.

Senior Fellows: We welcome two new members to the committee of Senior Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies. Gert Groening (Institute for History and Theory of Design, Berlin University of the Arts, Germany) and Thaisa Way (Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington) have been appointed to replace Kenneth Helphand and Diana Balmori, whose terms expired last year. Dorothee Imbert (Washington University) is the new Chair of the committee.

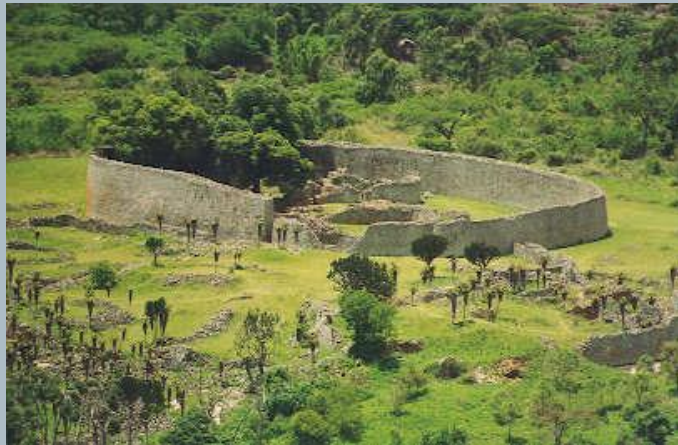
Forthcoming lectures and symposium

The academic-year **lecture series** begins on December 5, 2012 with a lecture by Stephen H. Whiteman, A. W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, who will speak on "History and Memory in the Manchu Imperial Garden of Bishu shanzhuang." Other lectures will 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.

The **annual symposium** for the 2012-13 academic year will be held at Dumbarton Oaks on Friday and Saturday May 10-11, 2013. The focus will be on cultural landscape heritage of sub-Saharan Africa.

In 40 years of symposia, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks has addressed a nearly global range of cultures, epochs, and subjects. But one region is conspicuously absent: sub-Saharan Africa. This omission is particularly glaring, given that the subcontinent is one of the oldest inhabited landscapes on earth, with a staggering range of geographies, cultures, histories, and patterns of settlement.



Great Zimbabwe, one of the sites to be discussed in the May 2013 symposium on cultural landscape heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The 2013 symposium will begin to address this gap in scholarship. As the study of designed landscapes in sub-Saharan Africa is a field still in formation, the symposium might begin by framing some basic questions. What are the designed, curated, or constructed spaces of significance in the region? Are they civic, religious, commercial, agricultural, political? Are they comparable to the kinds of landscapes celebrated on other continents? Are they collectively or individually produced? How have their uses and meanings survived the transitions from pre-colonial to colonial to post-colonial regimes? What are their specific physical attributes—topography, plant material, circulation, tectonics? The subcontinent offers a rich array of places for study by landscape scholars and designers: World Heritage sites such as Great Zimbabwe, or Djenné and Timbuktu in Mali; massive earthworks and palace grounds in Benin; anthropogenic forests and forest shrines; contested wildlife parks and ecological reserves; village compounds based on non-Euclidian mathematical principles; seemingly chaotic contemporary urban settlements; official and unofficial memorials to the struggles against colonialism. The characteristics and complexities of such sites are only now beginning to be understood in the context of landscape studies. The symposium will aim to approach topics and sites diachronically and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, bridging the ethnographic, archaeological, sociological, and art historical; the pre-colonial and the postcolonial. The particular goal of the symposium will be to provide foundations for understanding the histories of designed landscapes in the region, and to explore the ways that localized practices—traditional settlement patterns, ritual, or specialized environmental knowledge, for instance—are framed and reframed in historical and contemporary cultural discourses. The intention is to focus more on the landscape as shaped and inhabited by Africans than on the spaces of the colonial era; to the extent that landscapes in the region have been studied, they are generally the parks, botanical gardens, urban modernization and rural development schemes of colonial governments. That said, contemporary sites can only be understood as the expression of complex histories that include colonialism. The hope is that the symposium might both advance sub-Saharan Africa as a subject of landscape studies and challenge some of the cultural assumptions that have excluded the region thus far, and that it might present work in progress and serve as an impetus to new research in the field. Among the participants will be Suzanne Blier from Harvard, Joost Fontein from Edinburgh, Jeremy Foster from Cornell, Grey Gundaker from William and Mary, Akin Ogundiran from U. N.C.

Charlotte, Ikem Okoye from the University of Delaware, Innocent Pikirayi from Pretoria, and Gemma Rodriguez from UCLA.

For further information, please contact Jane Padelford at Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460

New Research Opportunities

Changes are in the works for two of our research programs. The category of **project grants** is being expanded in Garden and Landscape Studies; we will now accept applications for a broad array of projects in heritage conservation, including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. Watch for new language on the website soon: <http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants/info-project-grants>. As before, applicants must contact the Director of Studies at Landscape@doaks.org no later than October 1, 2012, to determine if the project is within the purview of Dumbarton Oaks.



Akin Ogundiran, from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, received the 2011-12 project grant to survey the sacred landscape of Osun Grove, Nigeria. To the left are sculptures depicting Yoruba myths in Osun Grove.

Applications for **one-month research stipends**, which used to be accepted on a rolling basis, are now accepted according to the following deadlines prior to the applicant's preferred period of residency:

- June 1 for residencies commencing September 1 or later
- October 1 for residencies commencing January 1 or later
- March 1 for residencies commencing June 1 or later

Details on the stipends are available at <http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants/info-research-stipends>

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, and Summer Fellowships. Application deadlines are November 1.

Short-term **Pre-Doctoral Residencies** are available for periods up to four weeks; deadlines for these residencies are rolling. Complete details on research opportunities and application procedures for fellowships, residencies, and stipends are available at <http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants>.

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/fellowships-and-grants/info-gal-fellowship>.