

DUMBARTON OAKS

ART • NATURE • SCHOLARSHIP

News from Garden and Landscape Studies

A message from Thaisa Way, Program Director of Garden and Landscape Studies

Greetings to all of our colleagues who we hope are healthy and in safe places. This continues to be a challenging year for us all, as well as our scholarship and research, as we face a lack of access to materials. Some of these challenges are having a positive influence, such as the call for racial justice that impacts the questions we ask and the approaches we take. Dumbarton Oaks, although often experienced as a lovely bubble of scholarship and deep thinking, was not immune to the pandemic. As you know, our Spring Fellows were able to remain on campus and stayed productive, even with the library closed. In addition to their own scholarly work, this community gathered together to help others, sewing over 150 masks (featuring fabric with flowers in honor of our gardens) that were given to those who need them, including homeless shelters. We have a generous and deeply caring community here at Dumbarton Oaks and more broadly in the academy. We hope you have found ways to engage and help build stronger communities during these hard times.



Fellows from Pre-Columbian, Garden and Landscape, and Byzantine Studies made masks that they provided to homeless shelters, March 2020.

Nor are we isolated from the social issues that have become more visible, at least for some, in our communities. The Black Lives Matters movement, the protests in our public realm, and the calls for universities to reconsider how and what they teach all inform how historians approach their research as

teachers, scholars, and colleagues. We have responded by seeking to make space for research and thinking that might contribute to a fuller understanding of our past, and thus a richer reading of our present situation. We remain committed to the essential role of history, specifically histories of place and land, in visions of a different, equitable, healthier, and more democratic future.

We are pleased to share with you the following news about recent scholarly events and announcements regarding fellowship applications and forthcoming events.

Academic Events and Public Programming

Garden and Landscape Studies and Dumbarton Oaks continue with academic programming and stewarding a community despite the geographic distances. All three programs at Dumbarton Oaks used the summer to develop virtual programs so that we might both continue to support our scholars and as an opportunity to reach out to new and broader audiences. For Garden and Landscape Studies, this began with the virtual **Graduate Workshop** we reported on in the Summer newsletter. The workshop continues to generate discussions as we are using the syllabus as a starting point for a reconsideration of how landscape history is taught in design schools undertaken by a small group of faculty members from across the country. This fall, we hosted a workshop on using digital archives entitled **Teaching Urban Landscape History and Democracy**. This initiative highlighted Dumbarton Oak's robust landscape-focused primary sources and documents, which are being made more accessible to local and nationwide communities, while simultaneously enabling students to learn document analysis skills. The workshop brought these resources into the public realm of high schools, as historians, local teachers, and curriculum creators were in attendance.

Screenshot from the Segregation and Resistance Symposium, June 2020.

The summer saw our launching of the first virtual symposium, **Segregation and Resistance in America's Urban Landscapes** in response to the challenges of COVID19. The segregation of urban communities through the construction of race and class-based policies and practices alongside those of resistance of



the same communities in North America dates to the first settlements and settler-colonialism. Understanding how the legacies of such practices shape urban landscapes is essential to a

deeper understanding of contemporary challenges and opportunities as well as potential futures of cities and their urban landscapes. The symposium considered how landscape historians grounded in multiple disciplines excavate layers of narratives and artifacts embedded in the thickness of place and land in the urban landscape understood broadly. Papers were pre-recorded and shared with over 350 registered participants and then followed by a curated discussion among the authors and invited discussants.

The series brought together cross disciplinary scholars to interrogate the means by which inequities, displacement, and spatial violence have informed the creation, development, and use of the public realm of urban landscapes as they extend into the suburban and rural communities. Equally important was the exploration of everyday spatial practices through which communities resisted such oppressions and constructed alternative or counter narratives and spaces. The papers centered on how to read the land as an environment, a place, and a landscape, that is simultaneously cultural and natural. Such a reading was pursued in the context of maps, stories, and practices that both reveal and shape the narratives that emerge. Urban farm markets and rural slums as well as Communal Gardens in Chinatown in Los Angeles were considered, as were the racial segregation of parks in Chicago, Blackness in Appalachia, and settler colonialism as a frame for development in Columbia in South America and Canada. Others followed the traces of policy in health and in zoning, while another scholar looked into the concrete supply chain.

The discussions were rich, as they both informed the development of the papers each of the authors will submit to the upcoming edited volume and outlined new areas of scholarship and inquiry. The project builds on our Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies Initiative seeking to expand scholarship in landscape history to tackle questions of race, identity, and difference in the context of democracy and place.



Symposium scheduled for May 2021 on [Land Back](#). Photo above is Garden River Bridge, Ketegaunseebee, Ontario, Canada. Image courtesy Stan Williams Photography.

The Symposium was well received and is a model for how our Spring 2021 Symposium, [Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom](#), will be organized. Altogether, while there are challenges, this

has also been a creative moment of expanding the ways we engage and reach out to scholars and community members.

Fellows 2020-2021

In September, we welcomed a new cohort of Fellows who are working virtually from their respective home offices.

GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES FELLOWS

[Katherine M. Bentz](#), Saint Anselm College, “Prelates, Health, and the Villa in Renaissance Rome”
Academic Year Fellow

[Marianna Davison](#), University of California-Irvine, “Places for People: Aesthetics and Ethics of Landscape Reclamation in the Pacific Northwest” Academic Year Junior Fellow

[Mika Natif](#), George Washington University, ““Mughal Women in Gardens: Patrons, Users, and Designer,” Spring Term Fellow

[Lizabeth Wardzinski](#), North Carolina State University, “Perpetuating the Status Quo: Race, the TVA, and Postwar Planning” Academic Year Junior Fellow

MELLON FELLOWS IN URBAN LANDSCAPE STUDIES

[Danika Cooper](#), University of California, Berkeley, “Strategic Invisibility: The Exploitative Histories of Desert Landscapes,” Fall Term

[Arijit Sen](#), University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Restorative Ligaments: Spaces of Everyday Resistance and Grassroots World-Making in Milwaukee’s Northside” Spring Term

[Alec Stewart](#), University of California-Berkeley, “From Swap Meet to Main Street: Orange County’s Multiethnic Commercial Landscapes,” Academic Year

Public Lectures

For the first public lecture of the fall term on October 1, 2020, Garden and Landscape Studies welcomed Dr. Christine DeLucia, an Assistant Professor of History at Williams College. Expanding on her book, *Memoryscapes of King Philip’s War: Revisiting Indigenous and Colonial Places, Histories, and Legacies*, DeLucia explored the significance of land and place for Indigenous nations and people of New England, specifically the Nipmucs, Narragansetts, and Wampanoags. DeLucia examined the ways that Native peoples and their past and present connection to their ancestral lands were impacted by colonial expansion in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and how those narratives, relationships, and conflicts were accordingly memorialized or erased in the land.

Island Memorial, Boston, Massachusetts, 2014. Image courtesy of Christine DeLucia.



Originally planned for last April, the rescheduling of the lecture due to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed for the current political moment, especially the recent destruction and removal of some of our Confederate monuments across the country, to cast DeLucia's work in an even more timely light. DeLucia's work reminds us to return to the monuments, historical markers, and land with

a critical eye and reckon with what and how history is selectively documented and memorialized into the American landscape. The virtual nature of the public lecture enabled us to engage with a much larger audience than would have been possible had the lecture been in person. The recording will be available on the public lecture [webpage](#) through the end of term, January 8, 2021.

Public Lecture on Barrio America by Dr. A.K. Sandoval-Strausz scheduled for November 12, 2020.

On November 12 at 4:00 pm EST, Dr. A. K. Sandoval-Strausz will give a talk on **Barrio America: How Latino Immigrants Saved the American City**. Registration is now open at [this link](#).

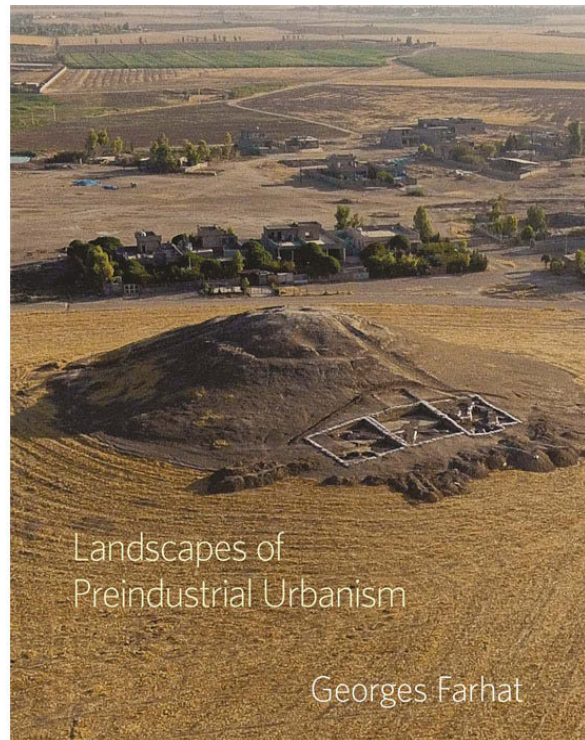


Publications

Landscapes of Preindustrial Urbanism, edited by Georges Farhat, was released on September 15, 2020. Georges Farhat is Associate Professor in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto. Professor Farhat is coeditor of *André Le Nôtre in Perspective*. He recently completed a 6-year term as a Senior Fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies.

As the world's population continues to urbanize, the extensive reshaping and ecological transformation of the regions where cities develop have become mainstream concerns. Even the phrase "urban landscape" has evolved from modernist paradox to commonsense category. Yet what exactly does it cover? When did the phenomenon it denotes emerge, and how did it evolve

across time and space? Could past dynamics of urban landscapes help reveal their present nature and anticipate future developments? Answers to such questions are far from evident. While industrial pasts and postindustrial transitions of cities and their landscapes seem to be well charted, preindustrial conditions are only starting to be explored in a few, rapidly expanding fields of archaeology, historical geography, and heritage studies. These areas of study have benefited, over the past three decades, from tremendous advances and renewal in technologies, research methods, and conceptual frameworks. As a result, a wealth of knowledge is unearthed and landscapes turn out to be the very stuff of preindustrial urbanism. In fact, a paradigm shift is underway, according to which, during preindustrial times, landscapes and urbanism were formed in reciprocal relation. *Landscapes of Preindustrial Urbanism* seeks to introduce such a paradigm shift to landscape scholars and designers while offering alternative visions to urban historians and planners.

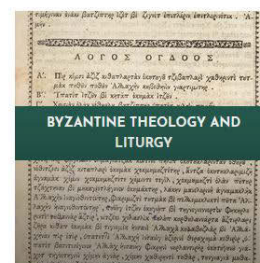
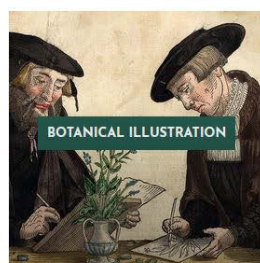
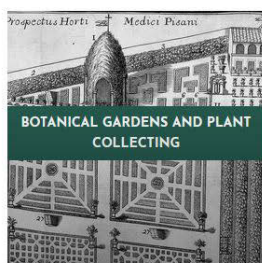


Rare Book Collection

Dumbarton Oaks is delighted to announce the launch of [Collection Strengths](#), the first online guide to the Rare Book Collection. This new descriptive tool offers a detailed overview of the collection's holdings in each of the three programs of study, Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape Studies.

COLLECTION STRENGTHS

This online guide offers a detailed overview of the areas of study that are most systematically represented within the collection, with links to other relevant institutional and external resources. It also provides structured access to the digitized holdings—comprising manuscripts or other unique materials and items of special significance for each of the study programs—that constitute a representative cross-section of the nature and scope of the collection.



It also allows researchers to explore connections across these three fields through broad thematic categories, such as travel, cartography, and technology. The goal of Collection Strengths is to create a single access point to link the institute's various resources, facilitating general access to the collection and consolidating the use of its digitized holdings. Each Collection Strength page provides a narrative overview of the specific area represented within the collection and includes search tips for locating the rare materials in the library catalog. It also creates structured access to digitized rare books with links to related online exhibits and archival and museum collections at Dumbarton Oaks. In addition, the guide includes links to the available external resources that might be of relevance to scholars.

Collection Strengths is conceived as an evolving tool, which will be augmented and updated as the collection expands. It currently highlights twelve distinct areas in the collection, among which "[Botanical Gardens and Plant Collecting](#)," "[Botanical Illustration](#)," "[East Asian Holdings](#)," and "[Garden Design and Horticulture](#)" should be of particular interest to garden and landscape scholars. Two other areas, "[City Monuments and Views](#)" and "[Maps and Plans](#)," reflect our growing concentration on urban landscape studies.

Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies

The [Mellon Urban Landscape Initiative](#) continues to expand and enrich our scholarship. With a robust list of [Midday Dialogues](#) including critical scholars on questions of democracy, race, and difference in the landscape we are thoughtfully listening, learning, and we hope, contributing to this essential research. We are also stewarding new partnerships including with LaDale Winling (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) on a NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant for our project "Connecting the Interstates Project." This is an opportunity to draw on our capacity to convene scholars and to strengthen the connections between urban and landscape history. Our collective efforts to steward ongoing research and catalyze new scholarship is at the core of our initiative. Thank you to all who have contributed and continue to help us shape this extraordinary moment.

Image from Ashton Sinamai's Mellon Midday Dialogue: "Landscape of Power: Mapping the Cultural Landscape at Great Zimbabwe through Narratives." Pictured: The Great Enclosure (Imbahuru) at Great Zimbabwe, 2016. Photo courtesy Ashton Sinamai.

To better promote and expand the necessary and timely work of the Mellon Initiative, we are actively expanding our targeted outreach within scholarly communities and departments not necessarily previously reached by Dumbarton Oaks. Even in the current virtual climate, we are continuing our work with students. The Mellon Initiative will collaborate with Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School by collaborating on multiple projects with the school's landscape architecture class and providing drawing and design materials for students to create



and meaningfully engage with landscape physically, as well as digitally. Additionally, the Mellon Initiative will continue our previous partnerships with the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Washington,

DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects by working on new projects, and hopefully reinventing some student events for the virtual landscape that were previously postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

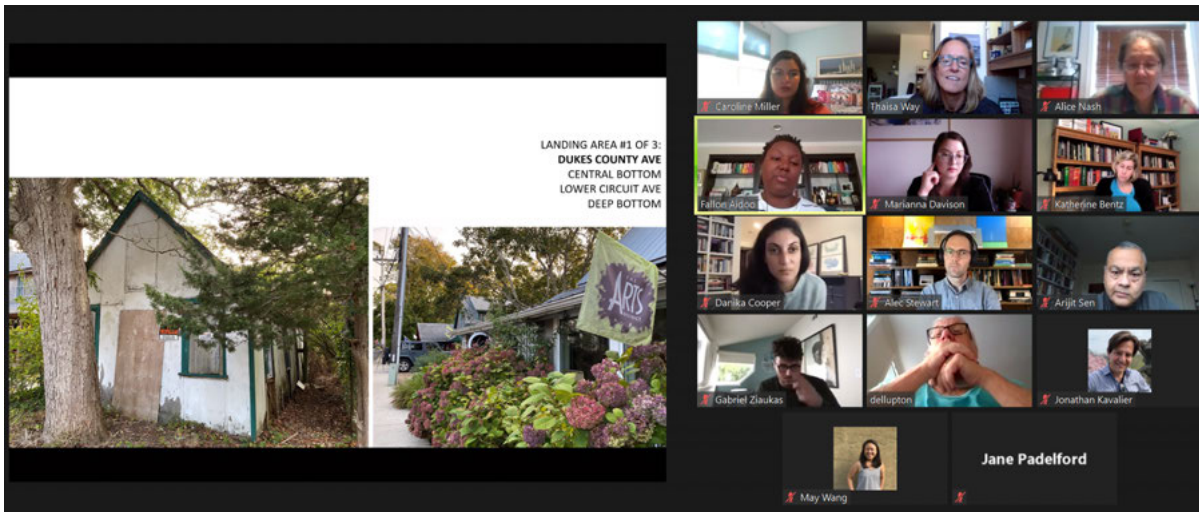


Image from Fallon Aidoo's Midday Dialogue: "Essential Businesses of Oak Bluffs: Black Heritage in the Highlands."

The Mellon Initiative will be growing our digital presence and resources this year on numerous fronts. We are working to create more digital content surrounding the themes of democracy, race and place, as well provide more in-depth recaps of events and scholarship done by the Initiative, the Mellon Advisory Board, the Mellon Fellows, and our other partners. We are prioritizing not only the production of our own scholarship at Dumbarton Oaks, but also, the promotion and amplification of other voices and significant work by scholars and practitioners in the field through our digital channels. Additionally, we aim to humanize the Mellon Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks by putting "faces" to the Initiative through our forthcoming videos of our interdisciplinary Mellon Advisory Board discussing the connections between the board members' respective work,

experiences, and relationships with Dumbarton Oaks, landscape, and democracy. Please be on the lookout on the Dumbarton Oaks social media pages and website for more regularly updated content during “Mellon Initiative Mondays.”

Mellon Fellowship Applications and Deadlines

Mellon Fellowships are intended to expand significantly the opportunities offered by the institution to study the history and future of urban landscapes through the lenses of democracy, race, identity, and difference. To further this work, Dumbarton Oaks is offering two categories of Fellowships: Urban Landscape Fellowships and History Teaching Fellowships. For both categories we seek candidates with a demonstrated capacity for cross-disciplinary scholarship and/or teaching. Preference will be given to candidates with final degrees such as a PhD or MLA. For the History Teaching Fellowship, applicants must currently hold a faculty position in a university or other secondary educational institution. **The deadline for Mellon Fellowship applications is December 1, 2020.**



OTHER SCHOLARLY OPPORTUNITIES

In addition, Dumbarton Oaks offers one-month non-residential awards to researchers holding a PhD or terminal degree such as an MLA, and short-term predoctoral residencies to advanced graduate students, the deadlines of which may be found on the website.

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
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