



# DUMBARTON OAKS

RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

## Landscape Matters: News from GLS @ Dumbarton Oaks

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 2018-19 fellows, fellowship applications, forthcoming events, and new publications.

### *2017-18 in review*

#### **Academic Events and Public Programs**

Garden and Landscape Studies continued to host its regular program of fellowships, residencies, public lectures, and academic events, while also pursuing a program in Urban Landscape Studies funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through their initiative in "Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities."

[Scholars in residence](#) this year included three full-year fellows and four one-term fellows, in addition to four one-term Mellon fellows and two William R. Tyler fellows, Harvard graduate students who divide their time between their own dissertation research and an institutional project. We also hosted a Humanities Fellow, a newly-created opportunity for recent Harvard graduates interested in exploring careers in the humanities, who come to Washington to spend one term working at Dumbarton Oaks and another at a partner institution in the city. In addition, we had numerous short-term academic visitors, including recipients of pre-doctoral residencies and one-month research stipends.



[Spring 2018 Fellows with Program Director John Beardsley](#)

The **annual spring symposium**, organized by Garden and Landscape Studies assistant director Anatole Tchikine and former Tyler Fellow John Davis, was held on May 4-5, 2018, and focused on [Military Landscapes](#). Among various human interventions in the landscape, war has left one of the

most lasting and eloquent records, literally inscribed in the face of the earth. Military landscapes can assume different forms and functions: vertical, as the Great Wall of China, or horizontal, as the Federal Interstate Highway System; overground and geometrically controlled, as the earthworks of the Renaissance *trace italienne*, or sunken and disguised by local topography, as the trenches of the First World War. They can be high-security sites, as the Pentagon, or tourist attractions, as Himeji Castle in Japan; curated, as the Gettysburg Battlefield, or secretive and neglected, as at the Savannah River nuclear reservation. In their most familiar form, they are national memorials as sites of remembrance and commemoration, which continue to have powerful emotional, political, and cultural resonance as places where historical memory is translated into myth. The symposium aimed to reevaluate the role of war as a fundamental form of human interaction with the land and a decisive factor in the ongoing transformation of the natural environment.



Military Landscapes Symposium in the Music Room, May 2018

We also presented an installation of mixed media sculpture and works on paper, all inspired by natural forms and materials, by noted Washington artist [Martha Jackson Jarvis](#). The project, which



L to r: Jonathan Kavalier, *Director of Gardens*, John Beardsley, Martha Jackson Jarvis, and Bonsai Fine Arts crew, during the installation of *Umbilicus I* on the East Lawn, Sept. 2018

continued a program of occasional [installations of contemporary art](#) organized by Garden and Landscape Studies since 2009 in cooperation with garden and museum staff, opened in stages in February and April, 2018. It bridged the institution's historic gardens and museum collections, and featured works in stone, wood, and mosaic; assemblages made of sticks and vines; and paintings on paper combining plant imagery with gestural abstraction. The title, *Outside/IN*, referred to the fact that the exhibition spanned both outdoor and indoor spaces, and suggested how the artist, like many before her, brings together in the studio materials and images often initially encountered and collected outdoors. The exhibition



featured two installations made specifically for Dumbarton Oaks: a group of concrete and mosaic sculptures inspired by Pre-Columbian ear plugs in the Museum collection, and a group of sentinel-like towers made of bamboo harvested from the gardens. The project opened April 13, 2018, with a public presentation by the artist, who spoke in dialogue with John Beardsley; the garden installation will be open through December 16, 2018.

Other activities over the past year included a session organized by Anatole Tchikine for the [Society of Architectural Historians](#) annual meeting in St. Paul in April on contemporaneous understandings and modern interpretations of the “sacro bosco” at Bomarzo, at which John Beardsley was also a speaker. Several tours were organized to provide fellows with guided access to the resources of Washington D.C., including visits to the White House Gardens on October 21, 2017, and the production facilities of the United States Botanic Garden on February 13, 2018. Humanities Fellow Andrés Álvarez Dávila organized an exhibition entitled [Seeing Cherries](#), which drew from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book and Ephemera Collections, and featured historic pictures of the Tidal Basin, Japanese depictions of cultural practices surrounding cherries, and a sketchbook by landscape architect and Dumbarton Oaks Senior Fellow Ron Henderson, who recorded his experiences following the blossoming of cherry trees across Japan.



*Drosera capensis*, Sundew,  
United States Botanic Garden

In May 2018, in place of summer fellowships, Garden and Landscape Studies hosted an intensive three-week [graduate workshop](#) for advanced design students and PhD candidates. Intended to develop the field of garden and landscape studies across different disciplines and to promote the depth and breadth of future landscape scholarship, the workshop assembled eight early-career scholars pursuing cross-disciplinary research on landscape-related topics. Organized by Anatole Tchikine, the workshop included seminar presentations on key sites, figures, and texts in garden and landscape architecture, investigating the historical evolution of landscape as an idea and placing special emphasis on theoretical underpinnings and methodological implications of such concepts as nature, ecology, sustainability, and design. Participants were invited to share among themselves and with Dumbarton Oaks staff and invited scholars selected aspects of their research. The workshop concluded with a multi-day exploration of the racial geographies of Virginia, from the tobacco warehouses and munitions factories of Shockoe Bottom in Richmond to the plantation landscapes of James Madison’s Montpelier and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello. Organized in collaboration with the Center for Cultural Landscapes at the University of Virginia, the site visits also included a look at the legacies of slavery and segregation in the landscapes of Charlottesville and the central campus of UVA. Jane Padelford, program coordinator, continued in her role of skillfully managing all the department’s academic events and public programs, as well as its many short-term academic visitors.

## **Publications**

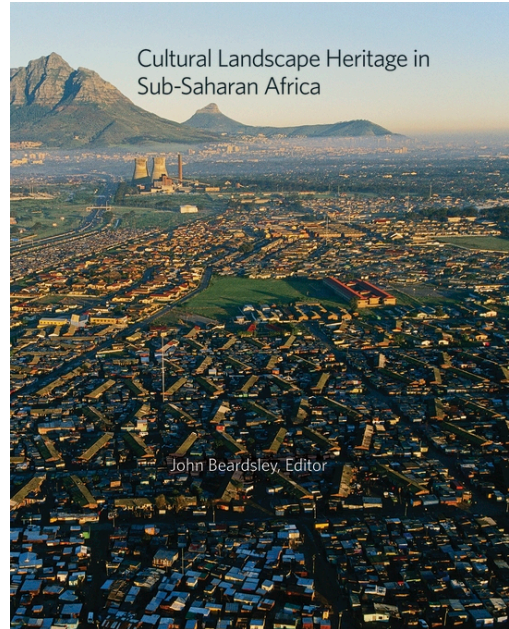
Newly published in 2018 was [River Cities/City Rivers](#), the proceedings of the 2015 annual symposium. Exploring the reciprocal relationship between cities and their rivers, the publication reveals the ways that rivers can shape a city’s success or cause its destruction, even as city-building reshapes river landscapes and their ecosystems. Building on emerging interest in the resilience and adaptability of cities, this book considers river cities and city rivers to suggest how riparian environments have shaped urban histories and how the urban/river interface might inform our visions of the future. Meanwhile, a recent publication, [Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), edited by John Beardsley, received the 2018 Elisabeth Blair MacDougall Award, given by the Society of Architectural Historians “to recognize annually the most distinguished work of

scholarship in the history of landscape architecture or garden design.” The book also received an extensive and thought-provoking review in the October 2018 issue of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*.

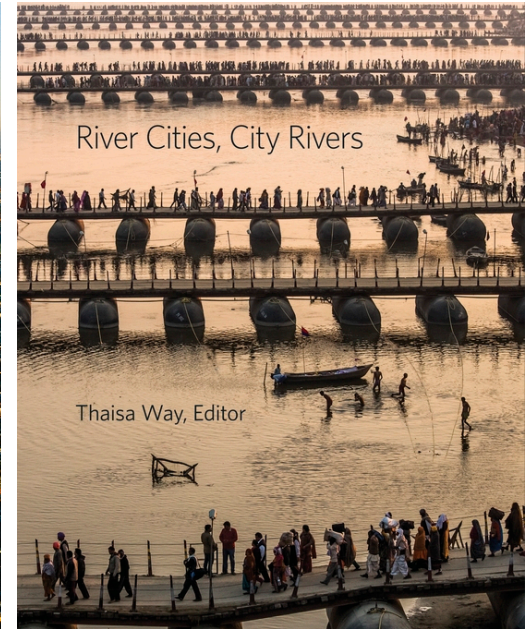
### Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies

2017-18 was the third full year of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, funded by the Mellon Foundation as part of a broader project to foster the joint contributions that the humanities and the design and planning disciplines may make to understanding of the

processes and effects of burgeoning urbanization. To this end, the Mellon Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks hosts two **fellows** each semester, typically one designer and one scholar, and encourages them to work together and with other fellows in the Dumbarton Oaks community. The program also hosts a **designer in residence** for several weeks each year to encourage interaction between scholars and practitioners. We were especially fortunate this year to have distinguished landscape architect Laurie Olin in residence for two weeks as the Mellon Senior Practitioner resident; he gave a series of talks and led fellows on visits to several of his firm’s projects in Washington.



Recent symposia volumes: *Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2016) and *River Cities, City Rivers* (2018)



Laurie Olin, the 2018 Mellon Senior Practitioner Resident, sketching in the Ellipse, April 2018

The Fall **colloquium**, “[How Designers Think](#),” was organized in conjunction with the [Mellon Initiative](#). Landscape architects now in the middle of their careers are the first generation to have come of age with the challenge of imagining landscapes that might achieve long-term sustainability, resilience, and adaptability in the face of warming temperatures, rising oceans, and changing weather patterns. For this event, held November 13, 2017, we assembled a group of eight midcareer landscape designers to present how they think about a range of topics from urbanization and globalization to cultural and biological diversity, ecosystem services, and environmental justice in the city, in an effort to explore the conceptual contours of contemporary practice. The colloquium, organized by John Beardsley, provided the opportunity for our scholarly community and invited guests to hear from a range of contemporary designers who are



active in imagining better futures for our cities, and for the designers to engage with a historically informed audience.

The program also included a **public lecture** on September 20, 2017, jointly sponsored with and held at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum. Entitled “[The Power of Place: Preserving the Legacies of African American Settlements](#),” the event featured landscape architect, preservationist, and national Humanities Medalist Everett Fly and Museum curator Alcione Amos. Focusing on Barry Farm, a community created in southeast Washington, DC, by the Freedmen’s Bureau after the Civil War, they explored why some settlements are preserved while others are not, and what the ramifications of this difference are for contemporary African American communities. Synergies between Mellon fellows and other fellows at Dumbarton Oaks are fostered through weekly [Midday Dialogues](#) with invited speakers, including both landscape practitioners and scholars who are leading the field of urban landscape studies in new directions. In addition to fellowships, academic events, and public programs, an important dimension of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies is providing [outreach](#) to underserved high school students in the



Public Programming and Outreach Fellow Nathalie Miraval with a Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School student

District, both to foster urban environmental awareness and to introduce students to potential careers in urban landscape design and management. We focused this year on a continuing collaboration with Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School, working closely with a landscape architecture class project to learn about greenhouse practices and create herb and pollinator gardens. We brought the class to Dumbarton Oaks to tour our greenhouse, pollinator garden, and green roof; we took them to the University of the District of Columbia to see the green roof, hydroponic, and aquaponic installations there; we provided supplies for use in the Phelps green house; and we participated in final project reviews at the school.

## Looking Ahead to 2018-19

### Scholars in Residence

The following Garden and Landscape Studies, Mellon, and Tyler Fellows will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the 2018-19 academic year.

#### Fellows

- Rosa Ficek (Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey), “The Pan-American Highway: Mobility and Encounter in Landscapes of Difference”
- Heidi Hohmann (Iowa State University, Spring), “Civic Ecology: The Evolution of the Minneapolis Park System”
- Katherine Rinne (California College of the Arts, Fall), “Experiments with Beauty: Hydraulic Investigations in Rome and Lazio and the Genesis of Baroque Architecture (1550–1585)”

- Yingzhi Zhao (City University of Hong Kong), “Fragments, Ruins, and Dreamscape: Spatial Discourse and Spatial Imagination in Early Qing Literature and Culture”

#### Junior Fellows

- Christine Griffiths (Bard Graduate Center and The Metropolitan Museum of Art), “From Garden to Toilette: Cultivating Perfume in Early Modern England”
- Sarah Leonard (University of Delaware), “‘The beauty of the bough-hung banks’: William Morris in the Thames Landscape”

#### William R. Tyler Fellow

- Philip Gant, “Temple Litigation and Korea’s Long Nineteenth Century”

#### Mellon Fellows in Urban Landscape Studies

- Sheila Crane (University of Virginia, Spring), “Inventing Informality”
- Sahar Hosseini (Rutgers University–Newark, Fall), “The Zayandehrud River Speaks: Reading the Riverine Landscapes of Seventeenth-Century Isfahan”
- Sarah Klassen (Arizona State University, Fall), “Agro-Urban Environments and Implications for Resilience in Medieval Cambodia”
- Sara Zewde (Independent Scholar, Spring), “Cotton Kingdom, Now”



2018/19 Fellows at the CASVA reception, National Gallery of Art, October 2018

#### 2018-19 Events

The fall **colloquium**, [“Botanical Gardens and the Urban Future,”](#) will bring together a group of historians, landscape designers, and scientists to discuss the changing role of botanical gardens (including arboreta) in the urban context as both landscapes and as research and public institutions. Held on November 2 and organized with the cooperation of the Humanities Research Program at the New York Botanical Garden, the colloquium is part of the Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies. Of particular interest is the role of design in helping botanical gardens meet the challenge of operating as educational and community resources while maintaining their traditional focus on the preservation and study of plants. Historically, botanical gardens proved to be a very adaptable for plant acclimatization in the context of colonial botany. What are the likely scenarios for their development in the future? What are the most effective ways in which they could communicate ideas about nature to city dwellers at the age of advanced urbanization and climate change? What role could historical scholarship of botanical gardens play in this regard? *This event is fully booked.*

The Spring **symposium**, to be held May 3-4, 2019, will focus on [“Landscape, Sport, Environment: The Spaces of Sport from the Early Modern Period to Today.”](#) Organized by Dumbarton Oaks Senior

Fellow Sonja Dümpelmann, the symposium will explore this new territory of landscape history and environmental studies by gathering together presentations by scholars who will address the intersections of landscape, body, and movement cultures in the period ranging from early modern times to today. An announcement will be sent out for the symposium; additional events are in the planning stages. Visit our [website](#) for current information.



Bliss and Mellon Symposium Award students,  
How Designers Think colloquium, Nov. 2017

### Awards for Students

Garden and Landscape Studies sponsors two awards—the Bliss Symposium Award and the Mellon Symposium Award—for currently enrolled graduate students and undergraduate juniors and seniors wishing to attend the annual spring symposium and the fall colloquium at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C. The awards offer reimbursement up to \$500 for the cost of travel to Washington D.C., local accommodation, and other approved expenses related to symposium attendance.

[Mellon Symposium Award](#): for graduate and undergraduate students

[Bliss Symposium Award](#): for Harvard University students

### Fellowship and Project Grant 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, to scholars from around the

world. In addition, Dumbarton Oaks offers [one-month non-residential awards](#) to researchers and [short-term predoctoral residencies](#) to advanced graduate students. The deadline for all residential fellowships is November 1, 2018. In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program 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.

Dumbarton Oaks also offers a limited number of [project grants](#), intended to support primary research of a specific site. Project grants may be used for a broad array of initiatives, including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, heritage conservation and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. If applicants have any questions about the suitability of their projects, they may send queries via email to [Garden and Landscape Studies](#) no later than October 19, 2018. The application deadline is November 1, 2018.

### Plant Humanities Initiative and fellowship deadline

Dumbarton Oaks and JSTOR, the digital library for research and teaching that is part of the nonprofit ITHAKA, are launching, with the support of [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#), the Plant Humanities Initiative: a digital tool with related research and scholarly programming to advance the field of Plant Humanities. To this end, the Foundation has awarded JSTOR a grant of \$750,000 for developing a digital tool, with a parallel grant of \$700,000 to Dumbarton Oaks for the research and programming over three years.



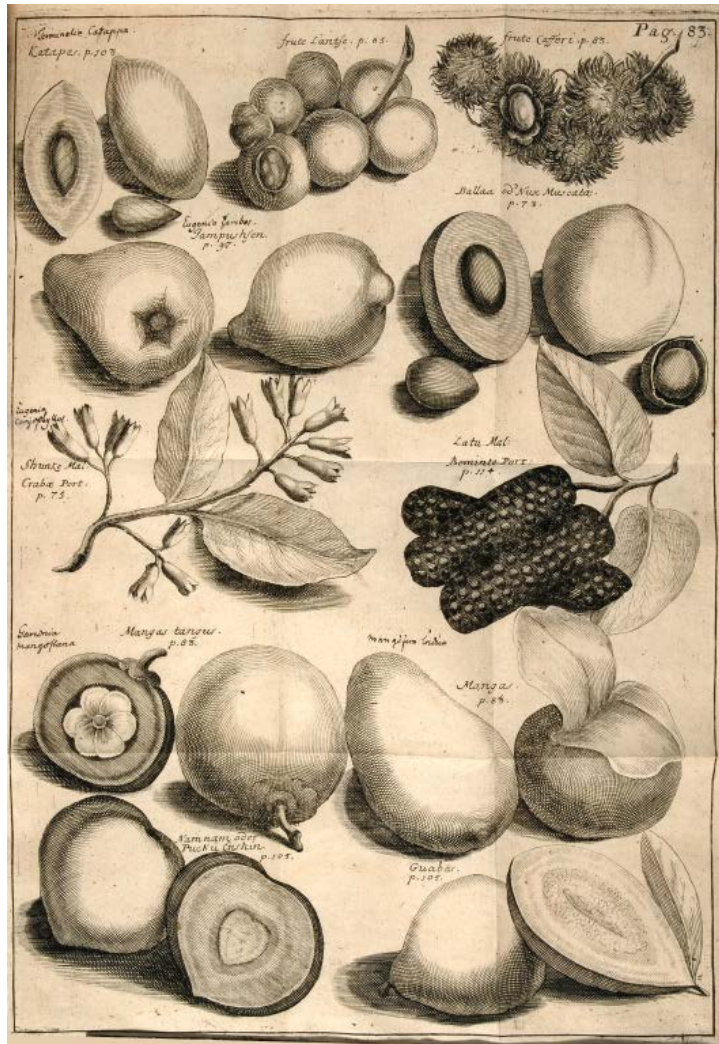


Image from George Meiser, *Der orientlich-indianische Kunst- und Lust-Gärtner*. (Dresden, 1692).  
Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection.

Building on the [Global Plants](#) Initiative, and working in close collaboration, Dumbarton Oaks and JSTOR propose a new model of integrating digital humanities with scholarly programming that has three main goals: to provide innovative research and professional development opportunities for early-career humanists; to create a digital tool informed by the insights and needs of teachers and students as well as librarians and technical experts; and to supplement existing digitized resources with new primary source material, contextualize them, and disseminate them.

The ultimate focus of the digital tool will be determined in the first year of the project in consultation with the advisory committee. Content for the digital tool will then be developed by intergenerational teams of students and scholars who will come to Dumbarton Oaks to receive training and conduct research in the research institute's special collections during a four-week summer school and [nine-month academic year fellowships](#). Plant Humanities Fellowships provide research and professional development opportunities for advanced graduate students (post-graduates or third-year MLA), recent PhD graduates (PhD conferred on or after June 30, 2016),

and recent Master of Landscape Architecture graduates (MLA conferred on or after June 30, 2016). The deadline for the Plant Humanities fellowship is December 1, 2018. Inquiries about the fellowship may be directed via email to the [Fellowship Program](#).

For more information please view the [Press Release](#).