

Military Landscapes
Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium
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Abstracts

John Dean Davis, Harvard Graduate School of Design

“Olmsted in the South, Olmsted at War”

Frederick Law Olmsted’s superintendence over the creation of Central Park, followed closely by the American Civil War, mark the main inflection points in both Olmsted’s career and the history of the United States. Much has been written about Olmsted’s travels in the antebellum South, his involvement with free-soil politics in Kansas and West Texas, and his harrowing experiences with the U.S. Sanitary Commission on the battlefields of the Virginia Tidewater in informing the worldview and social mission of the founder of landscape architecture in the United States. Less attention has been paid to how Olmsted, an astute observer of landscape and society, spent his time in the slave states and in war charting the American landscape undergoing vast structural change.

This paper examines Olmsted’s literary output of the time of impending crisis and civil war as a means of understanding how power was exerted over people and landscapes under the militarized regimes of slavery and war. Using the concept of “irregularity,” or informal and casual militarization, I consider how Olmsted saw the order of violent and precarious society in the landscapes of the Cotton Kingdom, how he came to be disappointed in the order enforced by the formal military power of the state, and how these problematic structures persist today.

Astrid M. Eckert, Emory University

“Transboundary Natures: The Consequences of the Iron Curtain for Landscape”

This talk investigates the ecological footprint of the Iron Curtain and the consequences of the border regime for landscape and wildlife. It moves beyond the quotidian claim that the Iron Curtain divided ecosystems and landscapes by arguing that the fortifications and all activities that kept them functional became causal—in direct or in mitigated fashion—to changes in the natural environment adjacent to the border. Not the fact that a border runs through a landscape but the consequences for landscape stand at the center of attention. The talk’s vanishing point is the Green Belt conservation project that materialized on the heels of the GDR’s (East Germany’s) collapse and that this talk seeks to historicize. It makes clear that the Iron Curtain was first and foremost a military installation with a political function that was placed into Central European landscapes that had themselves been shaped by human interference for centuries. The border’s effect was neither purely detrimental nor exclusively beneficial for nature and wildlife, hence neither a declensionist nor a creationist narrative captures the dynamic influence of the border regime.

Gert Gröning, Berlin University of the Arts, and **Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn**, Leibniz University, Hannover

"On the Defense Landscape ("Wehrlandschaft") Concept in National Socialist Landscape Planning"

This paper highlights the role of National Socialist landscape planning and the concept of “defense landscape” (*Wehrlandschaft*) during World War II, explaining how it was meant to contribute to the upgrading of damaged landscapes of Poland and large parts of the Soviet Union. Major representatives of German landscape architecture and landscape planning, such as Alwin Seifert and Heinrich Friedrich Wiepking-Jürgensmann, were eager supporters of National Socialism and its military goals. Led by Heinrich Himmler, Reichsführer SS and Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germandom (*Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums*) in the so-called “incorporated Eastern territories” (*eingegliederte Ostgebiete*), landscape architects, architects, and urban and spatial planners actively contributed to National Socialist occupation policies. Lands conquered during war were supposed to be incorporated into the territory of the German Reich, being redesigned for the German nation and becoming a “bulwark” against Soviet Russia. Wiepking-Jürgensmann, the only professor of Landscape Design in Germany at the time, was the leading ideologist in this field. His “defense landscape” (*Wehrlandschaft*) was based on the idea of the National Socialist defense economy (*Wehrwirtschaft*). In the conquered East European territories, settlements as well as areas for agricultural and silvicultural production were to be repurposed and replanted on a large scale in accordance with military principles. By ideological recourse to two thousand years of Germanic history, Wiepking-Jürgensmann attached special importance to the forest; for him, “future landscape planning” was “an outspoken measure of defense.”

Kenneth Helphand, University of Oregon, and **Henk Wildschut**, Amsterdam

"Displaced Persons' Gardens"

One consequence of warfare is a contemporary landscape that is the home to millions of refugees and migrants. Propelled to an unknown destination, an uncertain future, and with minimal hope of returning home, they are relocated to camps and housed in tents or makeshift shelters. Under strange and harsh conditions, some of these refugees turn to garden making.

This is a joint presentation by the landscape scholar Kenneth Helphand and the Dutch photographer Henk Wildschut. In refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, and France, Wildschut has documented these garden creations most dramatically in his book *Ville de Calais*, his visual record of the so-called "Jungle" refugee and migrant encampment. These gardens are examples of what Helphand has described in his book *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime*. The presentation expands upon themes explored in *Defiant Gardens*. Gardens are alive, they are a connection to home, they embody hope, and they are places of work and the sites of beauty and artistry. These commonplace themes are magnified by the garden's defiant response to conditions confronting the refugees. The presentation also includes testimonies of gardeners. These are all desert gardens, a response to the environment as well as a political situation. They demonstrate ingenuous and creative actions, profound reminders that the urge to transform one's surroundings is a basic human aspiration. They demonstrate resilience and simple dignity, displaying an understated and modest beauty amidst the desolation and often squalor of the camps.

John Dixon Hunt, University of Pennsylvania

"The Fortifications of Uncle Toby & Other Peaceful Uses of Military Landscapes"

This paper will proceed, not chronologically, but thematically: to explore some peaceful invocations of military fortifications. It begins with Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* (1759 et seq.), where Uncle Toby is enamored of the Widow Wadman. Knowing that he had been injured in William III's wars, she wishes to know *where*—her concern is anatomical, desirous of a full relationship with Uncle Toby after marriage. He misunderstands, for whatever reason, that she means *where in Europe*, so he constructs a model of the siege of Naumur, borrowing from Chamber's *Cyclopaedia* of 1738 to command a full repertoire of fortification constructions in order to show the location where he was injured—in the groin! This Shandian play with language is, perhaps surprisingly, also at play in landscape terms that developed during the eighteenth century, as indeed it continues to be in play ever since. Where exactly is "where" in landscape design? And why do fortifications play such an important role in the design of English landscapes? Does this mean more than the involvement of a cluster of designers (Temple at Stowe, Vanbrugh at Castle Howard) with military experience? But then there is Grimsthorpe, and Stukeley's drawings of its bastions. The earliest use of ha-has in landscape dates from 1695, and then at Castle Howard and at Stowe in the 1710s: the ha-ha sought to distinguish the garden from the non-garden, but gradually worked to confuse the status and significance of each. It is taken up by John James and by Stephen Switzer, the latter of whom was particularly influential in early landscape design. The ha-has were used to separate garden from field (at Rousham, for example), or small properties from large and usurped estates, as noted by Sir Henry Wotton. In *Mansfield Park*, Fanny Price is appalled at the disregard of this social and territorial demarcation. It continues to be a sign, sometimes modest (Dan Kiley), at others emphatic (Olin at Washington Monument), among other examples to be cited and explained: maybe peaceful, but also a hint of the forms that landscape took to isolate its spaces and keep them safe and perfect.

Patrick R. Jennings, National Museum of the United States Army

"Smashed to the Earth: Documenting, Remembering & Returning to the 9/11 World Trade Center Attack Site"

The 9/11/2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City changed American culture in ways we still do not fully grasp; and the process of layering commercial and memorial structures over that battlefield is a clear reflection of how place and remembrance resonate throughout our society. The battlefield, flowing from an epicenter located at 180 Greenwich Street in Manhattan, is still referred to as "Ground Zero," a term itself fraught with nuclear-age Cold War meaning, which has been used as a backdrop for military, political, commercial, protest, and memorial movements.

This paper offers a first-person point of view. The author, an army historian at the time, was ordered to the attack site in September 2001 to document what happened and what was being done in the recovery. His war would soon take him from New York City across the battlefields of Afghanistan, Iraq and other places. Eventually, in 2016, a job brought him back to New York City and reservations made by someone else placed him in a hotel directly across the street from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. In a single night he was forced to reconcile his memories with history, myth, and the physical reality of on-going construction and modernity on a battlefield landscape that seemed, at once, beautifully preserved yet commercially overwhelmed.

Pamela McElwee, Rutgers University

“An Environmental History of the Ho Chi Minh Trail”

One of the most important and least understood aspects of the Vietnam War is the role of the so-called Ho Chi Minh Trail, by which the North provided material and supplies to fight against the Americans in the South. Although often envisioned as a single jungle path, in fact the Ho Chi Minh trail was a complicated network of supply chains, some on land, some on sea, some of which moved trucks and large-scale personnel, while other trails moved petroleum through bamboo pipelines. The full scale of the Trail, and the landscapes that made such networks possible, has not been fully examined from an environmental history perspective. Military histories of the Trail have usually focused on the human sacrifice and foreign support from the Soviet Union and China that made such an effort possible, without delving into how the physical environment of mountainous Vietnam and the plants and animals found there shaped, and were in turn re-shaped, by the Trail. In this paper, I will draw on North Vietnamese oral histories and military archives to sketch an environmental history of the landscapes of the Ho Chi Minh trail, and conclude by examining the contemporary memorialization of the trail in unified Vietnam.

Chandra Mukerji, University of California, San Diego

“The Wars of Religion and the Canal du Midi”

The Canal du Midi, cut through the province of Languedoc in the late seventeenth century, was too complex to construct with the formal engineering of the time. So, its success was due to peasant and artisanal traditions of engineering honed during the Wars of Religion. In Languedoc, Huguenots and Catholics had been equally powerful, so cities and towns were repeatedly taken and retaken. The fighting destroyed fortresses, houses, farm buildings, town walls, water supplies, and mills, and displaced populations, too, forcing peasant to reestablish old ways of life in new settings. During and after the wars, military engineers, experts on local estates, artisans, and peasants rebuilt or demolished damaged fortresses, local infrastructures, and the remnants of towns. So, when Pierre-Paul Riquet in the 1660s–1670s looked for workers to construct a canal across Languedoc, he found them in communities of skilled civil and hydraulic engineers. Locals with knowledge of the local hydrology and geology worked with the military engineers assigned by the state, embedding their collective intelligence in the landscape—indirectly establishing a monument to war and the ingenuity required to survive it.

Finola O’Kane

“Military Landscapes at the Edge of Empire; Design Strategies for the Irish Borderlands”

As the one and only time that Ireland was an arena of European war, the Battle of the Boyne saw the definitive victory of the Protestant Successor King William III over the Catholic James II. In its aftermath, the families who built their houses along the river Boyne's banks chose to represent the battle in various artistic practices, the overarching one being landscape design. Demesnes such as Beaulieu, Oldbridge, and Dowth were linked by a succession of landscape foci, of which the Boyne Obelisk was the most dominant. The extraordinary prehistoric landscape of the Bend of the Boyne with its passage graves, barrows, and standing stones could also be judiciously employed to suggest a preordained aspect to this history. 'Druidic' monuments, when imported into the landscape garden, finessed an imperfectly understood past into a triumphalist present. The battle's many paintings also attempted to transcend and manipulate, through landscape, the overt expression of political victory, with Dutch, French, British and Irish identities invoked to create a smoother transnational narrative.

Edge territories are places where land ownership remains perceptually contested. Court landscapes at the center of empire have little need of the contorted spatial transfers from battle site to obelisk, military road to winding river, garden to landscape painting, reality to representation that this history describes. At the edge, past events, and the memory of those events, have to be carefully controlled and often manipulated. Changing and altering how land is perceived, both by the conquered and the conquerors, is essential for any imperial project. As the long-standing laboratory for British military landscape design, the Irish borderlands, thanks to Brexit, are again placed on the European stage. The Irish landscape, site of many contorted design maneuvers, has always sabotaged any smooth separation of Irish, European, and British identity into a borderline. A line connects two points, history connects many more.

Antoine Picon, Harvard Graduate School of Design

“Military Landscapes: Landscapes of Events”

Christine Ruane, University of Tulsa

"The Home Front as a Military Landscape: Imperial Russia, 1914–1917"

For most Americans and Europeans, the trenches along the Western front have become the quintessential military landscape of World War I. In texts, wartime photographs, and film, these corridors of dirt and mud set in a landscape with only a few blasted trees to suggest the lush forests, meadows, and farmlands that existed before 1914 represent the horrors of "modern" warfare. And yet, given the global reach of World War I, this narrow focus on the Western front does not do justice to the totality of the Great War and its impact on the European continent.

To widen our understanding of World War I, I will explore how the Great War changed the landscape of St. Petersburg, Russia. As Russia's capital, Petersburg or Petrograd as it was known after 1914 was renowned for the magnificence of palaces and mansions and its elegantly manicured parks and parade grounds. From the very first days of the war, the city had to respond to the government's call to feed, clothe, and manufacture armaments for the army on an unprecedented scale. At the same time, city officials had to care for the sick and wounded as well as civilian refugees fleeing from the front lines. This paper will analyze how the wartime mobilization transformed Petrograd's urban landscape: The Department of Agriculture ordered city parks and eventually all empty land planted with vegetables to feed the army, and public buildings and private mansions became hospitals and infirmaries for the wounded soldiers. As this paper will argue, these physical changes to the urban environment helped facilitate the social and gender transformation that the war effort required and that would ultimately lead to revolution in the winter of 1917.

Daniel Volmar, Harvard University

"Enemies, Foreign and Domestic: Command, Control, and the Creation of the Nuclear Battlefield"

The academic literature tends to consider nuclear warfare as an abstract problem, one rooted in strategic policy, game theory, and simulation. Nevertheless, America's nuclear ambitions have protruded across the continent for decades, with airfields, command posts, missile silos, and surveillance stations all built in anticipation of an armed conflict that would rise from beneath the oceans to exceed the outermost reaches of the atmosphere. Suffused throughout this unprecedented volume of mostly empty space, where whole nations are nonetheless held at risk, are the forces of *control*—the human construction of sense and order—which subjugate virtually every measurable quality of the physical environment to the designs of the nuclear-armed state.

This paper will argue that the state *itself* represents America's nuclear battlefield, because it is bureaucracy that has disciplined the entire northern hemisphere into a landscape suitable for strategic-nuclear conflict. But with their navigational gimbals locked on the geographic centers of military-political authority, nuclear weapons draw the state onto the military landscape as well. During the Cold War, American defense officials did not balk at the scale of the potential devastation as much as the possibility that it might serve *no rational end*. If the instruments of government were themselves vulnerable, then the battlefield might become a mere killing field, where the hand of authority would be powerless to guide the violence toward calculated strategic objectives.

Zhang Jie, Tsinghua University

"The Ancient Regional Defense System in Fenghuang, China"

Xiangxi, the region in the west of Hunan province, was historically a borderline region in China, which saw long-term conflicts and exchanges among the central government and the local population, especially during the period from the Yuan to Qing Dynasties. A series of military settlements and infrastructure were developed at a regional scale, including long walls on the ridge of mountains and hills, forts and garrisons, barbicans, and watchtowers. Over centuries, much land adjacent to this system of forts was utilized by the *tuntian* station farm system, with garrison troops developing wasteland to grow food. This regional defense system has left rich cultural heritage, with many old settlements across the region forming a unique regional landscape, a testimony to the ancient Chinese military thinking, practices, and history that provides a valuable case study of the military traditions of China. Today, much of this system remains, with its key features having been listed as places of historical interest by the regional governments and even put onto the tentative list of world cultural heritage by the state commission for cultural preservation in China.

Speaker Biographies

John Dean Davis is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, where he has recently completed his dissertation, entitled "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Reconstruction of the American Landscape, 1865-1885." His research broadly concerns engineering, technology, and landscape in the modern era, and his work has been supported by a Tyler Fellowship from Dumbarton Oaks, and a grant from the Charles Warren Center for the Study of American History at Harvard University.

Astrid M. Eckert is Associate Professor of Modern European History and Winship Distinguished Research Professor (2015-18) at Emory University in Atlanta. (M.A., University of Michigan; M.A. Free University Berlin; Dr. phil. Free University Berlin). Before moving to Emory, she was a Research Fellow at the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D. C. She published *The Struggle for the Files. The Western Allies and the Return of German Archives after the Second World War* with Cambridge University Press (2012, Pb. 2014), which had previously appeared in German with Steiner Verlag Stuttgart. She held several prestigious fellowships, including at the American Academy Berlin and a Humboldt Research Fellowship. Her current book project explores the meaning and consequences of the Iron Curtain for West Germany in economic, environmental, and political terms, thereby re-reading the history of the Federal Republic from its Cold War periphery.

Gert Groening, Prof., Dr.rer.hort., Dr.rer.hort.habil., has been professor of garden culture and open space development at the Berlin University of the Arts (1985-2009), where he is still active in research at the Institute for History and Theory of Design. He is guest professor at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China (2017-2020). He served as chairman of the Commission for Landscape and Urban Horticulture (2008-2014). He was chairman of the Association German Horticultural Library, Berlin, and supports the activities of the Center for Garden Art and Landscape Architecture (CGL) at Leibniz University Hanover, Germany. Prof. Groening served as senior fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks (2010-2017). He is a member of the editorial advisory boards for the journals 'Landscape Research' (UK), 'Die Gartenkunst' (Germany), and 'Ri-vista, Ricerche per la progettazione del paesaggio' (Italy).

Kenneth I. Helphand is Knight Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon, where he has taught courses in landscape history, theory, and design since 1974. He is the author of *Colorado: Visions of an American Landscape* (1991), *Yard Street Park: The Design of Suburban Open Space* (with Cynthia Girling, 1994), *Dreaming Gardens: Landscape Architecture & the Making of Modern Israel* (2002), and *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime* (2006). He is the former chair of senior fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

John Dixon Hunt joined the faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in 1994 and served as department chair through June 2000. He was Director of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks in 1988-91 and a Senior Fellow in 1985-1992. He is the author of *The Picturesque Garden in Europe* (2002), *The Afterlife of Gardens* (2004), and *A World of Gardens* (2012). He edited the journal *Word & Image* from 1985-2010 and currently edits [Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes](#). Current interests focus upon landscape architectural theory, the development of garden design in the city of Venice, 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.

Patrick Jennings is the Chief of Programs and Education at the National Museum of the United States Army. He has professional experience as a soldier, museum specialist, historian, and college professor. Immediately following the 9/11 attacks Dr. Jennings was called upon to document the tragic recovery effort at "Ground Zero" in New York City. Within months he was in Afghanistan working as a combat historian for the US Army Special Operations Command, a duty he also did in Iraq during the 2003 invasion. He continued to serve multiple tours as the war continued. His work is included in the official studies of those wars, *Weapon of Choice* and *All Roads Lead to Baghdad*. Dr. Jennings also worked as a historian with the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service where he assisted local, state, and federal organizations develop in-depth studies to support the preservations of conflict sites in the United States.

Pamela McElwee is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers. Her research focuses on the human dimensions of global environmental problems, particularly in the fields of biodiversity and forest conservation and climate change. Her research bridges the social science disciplines of anthropology, geography, and public policy, as well as the natural science disciplines of forestry and conservation biology. Her work aims to identify why people conduct certain resource use practices in different ecosystems, particularly in the context of rapid environmental change, and the ways in which these global environmental changes may in turn render some communities more vulnerable or impoverished. She is the author of *Forests are Gold: Trees, People and Environmental Rule in Vietnam* (2016), winner of the best social science book on Southeast Asia from the European Association of Southeast Asianists (EUROSEAS). She is currently working on an environmental history of the Vietnam War.

Chandra Mukerji is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Communication and Science Studies at the University of California, San Diego and Chercheuse Correspondante, Institut Marcel Mauss, Paris. She has written extensively on French history and theories of culture, focusing on materiality and culture. She is currently studying artisans and the state under Louis XIV, publishing her first essay on this material in Genevieve Zubrzycki's *National Matters* (Stanford 2017). Many of her books have won awards. She was co-Recipient in

2012 of the Distinguished Book Award for *Impossible Engineering*, the highest award given a book by the American Sociological Association. She also received the Mary Douglas Prize in 1998 for *Territorial Ambitions and the Gardens of Versailles*, and the Robert K. Merton Award in 1991 for *A Fragile Power*. Her latest book, *Reimagining Modernity*, was published in 2017 by Taylor and Francis/Routledge.

Finola O’Kane is a professor of architecture at University College Dublin's School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. Her books include *Landscape Design in Eighteenth-century Ireland: Mixing Foreign Trees with the Natives* (Cork, 2004); *William Ashford's Mount Merrion*; *The Absent Point of View* (Tralee, 2012) and *Ireland and the Picturesque; Design, Landscape Painting and Tourism in Ireland 1700-1830* (Yale, 2013). She has also published widely on Georgian Dublin, Irish urban history, and Irish-owned Jamaican plantations. Appointed a fellow of Dumbarton Oaks in 2013, she embarked on her ongoing research project 'Landscape and Revolution; Ireland, France and America 1770–1810'. In 2017, she was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Antoine Picon is the G. Ware Travelstead Professor of the History of Architecture and Technology and Director of Research at the GSD. Trained as an engineer, architect, and historian, Picon works on the history of architectural and urban technologies from the eighteenth century to the present. He has published extensively on this subject. He is amongst others the author of *French Architects and Engineers in the Age of Enlightenment* (1988, English translation 1992), *Claude Perrault (1613-1688)* (1988), *L'Invention de L'ingénieur moderne* (1992), *La Ville territoire des cyborgs* (1998), *Les Saint-Simoniens* (2002), *Digital Culture in Architecture* (2010), *Ornament: The Politics of Architecture and Subjectivity* (2013), and *Smart Cities: A Spatialised Intelligence* (2015). He has edited many other volumes, in particular *L'Art de l'ingénieur* (1997), and *La Ville et la Guerre* (1998). He is also Chairman of the Fondation Le Corbusier, and a member of the French Academy of Architecture and the French Academy of Technology.

Christine Ruane is Professor Emerita of History at the University of Tulsa. She received her BS in Russian language from Georgetown University, a MA in Russian history at Binghamton University, and her Ph.D. in European and Russian history from the University of California, Berkeley. Her most recent book published by Yale University Press in 2009 is entitled *The Empire's New Clothes: A History of the Russian Fashion Industry, 1700-1917*. The book was chosen as one of the Best 100 Books of 2009 by the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, and it has been awarded the 2009 Heldt Prize for best book in Eurasian women's studies and received an honorable mention for the Zelnik Prize in Russian History in 2010. A Russian translation of the book was published in 2011 by Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie in Moscow. Her current research project is a social and cultural history of kitchen gardening in Imperial Russia.

Daniel Volmar is a PhD candidate in the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University. He specializes in the history of nuclear weapons, computing, telecommunications, and the development of the American administrative state. His dissertation, "The Power of the Atom: Command, Control, and the Creation of Nuclear Authority, 1940–1960," follows the evolution of systems and organizations intended to keep nuclear warfare rational and responsive to political authority amid the threat of total physical destruction. He has previously held fellowships with the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, as well as the Center for American Political Studies, at Harvard University. His other research interests include organizational sociology, the history of aerospace and information technologies, and science and defense policy in the United States. In addition, he obtained a degree in mathematics and physics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Henk Wildschut studied photography at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. His work is exhibited around the world. Characteristic of Wildschut's work is a contemplative and often distant view of people and situations he photographs, which lends a balanced and monumental quality to his photographs that incite the viewer further to reflect on the subject. In 2005, Wildschut started a long-term project focused on European illegal immigration. This resulted in 2010 in the book *Shelter*, the film *4.57 Minutes Back Home* and the book *Ville de Calais* in 2017. In 2011, Wildschut was commissioned by the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam to work on the topic of food. Two years of research into this new topic resulted in his book *Food* and a solo exhibition at the Rijksmuseum. His books have received prestigious awards including the Arles, Prix du Livre 2017, and the Dutch doc. Award 2010.

Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn is professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape, Leibniz University of Hanover. He got his Ph.D. from the Berlin University of the Fine Arts, Department of Architecture (1989). From 1991 to 1996 he was Director of Studies in Landscape Architecture, Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University. Since 1996, he has been professor of the history of open space planning and landscape architecture, Leibniz University of Hannover. He is a founding member of the Centre of Garden Art and Landscape Architecture, one of Leibniz University Hanover's research centers, and its chairman since 2003. Since 2017, he has been a member of the Senate of Leibniz University. He has published widely on various aspects of garden history and recent history of the landscape architecture profession.

Zhang Jie, is a professor at the School of Architecture, and the deputy director of the Centre for Heritage Conservation, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University. Born in China, he has received his degree in architecture from Tianjin University, and his doctoral degree from York University, UK, in 1991, sponsored by the Sino-British Scholarship. Zhang Jie has concentrated his research and practices on cultural heritage conservation and urban design. He has also been involved in many important conservation projects commissioned by local authorities in China in Beijing, Nanjing, Guangdong, Xi'an among others. He has received several international and national awards in architectural design and planning in heritage conservation, including the 2015, 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. As a studio instructor, Zhang Jie has conducted international urban design studios in Beijing jointly with MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania.