

Dumbarton Oaks

Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies

Grant number 11400622

Narrative Report, 2016-17

In 2016 – 2017, the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks completed its second full year and its third year overall. The initiative pursued its aim of bringing together urban landscape scholars and practitioners in pursuit of a better understanding of the histories and future trajectories of urban landscapes in several related ways: by funding four Mellon fellows (**Megan Osaka, Burak Erdim, Sara Jensen Carr, and Peter Ekman**), a Senior Practitioner Resident (**Udo Weilacher**), and a visiting scholar (**Elizabeth Meyer**); by organizing numerous events, among them a **symposium** on “Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities,” a **colloquium** titled “Landscapes of Housing;” and a robust weekly **Midday Dialogue** series; and through **film screening and discussion; teen outreach; an exhibition** on urban water landscapes; participation in the **Smithsonian Earth Optimism Summit**; and a **Summer Graduate Workshop**.

Our one-semester **Mellon fellows** pursued interdisciplinary and geographically diverse research; fellows came both from the design professions and the humanities. In fall 2016, historian Megan Osaka explored how migrant communities shaped Seattle’s urban landscape in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, while architect and architectural historian Burak Erdim investigated the international collaboration behind the planning and design of Middle East Technical University in Turkey during the Cold War. In spring 2017, landscape architect and environmental planner Sara Jensen Carr expanded her work into the relationships among landscape, architecture, and public health in the early-twentieth-century United States, while cultural geographer Peter Ekman furthered his history of industrial suburbs in Northern California between 1880 and 1940. Senior Practitioner Resident Udo Weilacher, a German landscape architect, author, and professor of landscape architecture at the Technical University, Munich and visiting scholar Elizabeth Meyer from the University of Virginia, each trained both in history and practice, contributed their synthetic perspectives to program discussions and presentations. Jeanne Haffner continued to serve as Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies, helping to plan and organize program events. For more on our 2016 – 2017 fellows, see

www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/current-fellows and www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/senior-practitioner-residents

The annual spring **symposium** in Garden and Landscape Studies, held May 5-6, 2017, and organized by John Beardsley and Dumbarton Oaks Senior Fellow Georges Farhat, coincided with the Mellon Initiative and focused on “Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities.” Speakers included archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, art historians, landscape architects, and planners. The large city as commonly experienced in the world today is often understood as an outcome of the industrial revolution; it is certainly dependent on a range of recent (or quite recent) breakthroughs in construction technology, climate control, communication, and transportation. Yet, features associated with contemporary urban landscapes—most notably the extensive reshaping and ecological transformation of the sites where cities develop and expand—can also be found in pre-industrial contexts in different time periods and across the globe, from South and Southeast Asia to West Africa and the Amazon. Like their industrial counterparts, pre-industrial urban settlements involved complex and dynamic relationships with the management of topography, climate, and natural resources, especially food and water. Ancient cities are traditionally studied as the centers of commerce, trade, and artisan production as well as the seats of secular and religious authorities; by comparison, this symposium brought attention to questions of how clusters of agrarian communities evolved into urban formations, their specific landscape characteristics, how they were spatially organized, and how their environments expressed both political and cultural ambitions. The complete program, as well as speaker biographies and abstracts, can be found at www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities/landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities Postings on the symposium can be found on “The Dirt,” an on-line publication of the American Society of Landscape Architects: <https://dirt.asla.org/2017/05/18/the-landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities-part-1/>; <https://dirt.asla.org/2017/05/18/the-landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities-part-2/>. A book based on the symposium proceedings is being assembled.

In October 2016, the Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Initiative collaborated with the **Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative** on the colloquium “Landscapes of Housing,” which was held at the Graduate School of Design in Cambridge. Organized by Jeanne Haffner and Erik Ghenoïu, Harvard-Mellon manager, the event brought together landscape scholars and practitioners to examine the role of landscape—broadly defined to include ecology, landscape design, infrastructure and environmental thought—in ecological

housing designs from the late-nineteenth-century to the present. The one-day colloquium featured eight speakers (**Daniel Bluestone**, **Sophie Hochhäusl**, **Thomas Nybo Rasmussen**, **Cristina Crawford**, **Christoph Bernhardt**, **Vyjayanthi Rao**, **Bruno Carvalho**, and **Christian Werthmann**) and seven moderators and respondents (**John Beardsley**, **Anita Berrizbeitia**, **Jeanne Haffner**, **Henriette Steiner**, **Ellen Braae**, **Eve Blau**, and **Markus Keller**). Selected papers will be published in a volume that is tentatively titled *The Environment Built: Dwelling as Landscape in Twentieth-Century Urbanism* (Routledge Press, forthcoming), edited by Jeanne Haffner. For more information, see www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/landscapes-of-housing.

The Mellon Initiative continued its weekly **Midday Dialogues** series in 2016 – 2017 (www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/midday-dialogues-with-urban-landscape-fellows), intended to create synergies among Mellon fellows and other Dumbarton Oaks fellows and staff. Presenters included landscape practitioners and scholars who are leading the field of urban landscape studies in new directions. Contributors to the series included **Meredith Miller** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), whose work focuses on the use of new design materials, a combination of rock and plastic that she calls “post rock,” both to further sustainable design and to challenge the notion that climate change is abstract and separate from material experience; **Gareth Doherty** (Harvard Graduate School of Design), a landscape architect who uses ethnographic methods to understand urban “greening” programs in the Middle East; and **Amanda Rodewald** (Cornell), who explored what birds can teach us about the health of urban ecosystems. Talks were supplemented by field trips and film screenings. When **Sonja Dümpelmann** (Harvard Graduate School of Design) discussed her current research on street tree planting initiatives in twentieth-century Europe and the United States, for instance, her talk was followed by a screening and discussion of the documentary “City of Trees,” which follows the successes and failures of the non-profit organization Washington Parks & People as they employ former inmates to plant trees in a public park in southeast Washington, D.C.

Teen outreach in the Mellon program thrived during the 2016 – 2017 academic year, with the goal of fostering urban environmental awareness and introducing students to potential careers in urban landscape design and management. We focused chiefly on developing the relationships formed the previous year with Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School and the Design Apprenticeship Program the National Building Museum. Collaborations with Phelps landscape and architecture students in fall 2016 included a workshop on hydrology (storm water management,

irrigation, and fountains) in the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks. This was followed in spring 2017 by a fieldtrip to the National Zoo to meet Jennifer Daniels, a landscape architect responsible for designing public areas at the Zoo; and a site visit to Kingman Park Community Garden. From March – May 2017 we worked with Phelps students to redesign this community garden, participating in mid-term and final reviews for the class. We also worked with Design Apprenticeship students at the Building Museum on a series of weekly landscape architecture workshops in spring 2107, which resulted in the design and construction of three gardens at the Boys & Girls Club on Benning Road in southeast Washington, D.C. Mellon outreach was profiled in the Dumbarton Oaks newsletter:

<http://www.doaks.org/newsletter/building-the-invisible>

In May 2017, Dumbarton Oaks, with the support of the Mellon initiative, opened an **exhibition** in its Rare Book Room titled “City Water/City Life.” Focusing on Florence, Paris, and Amsterdam, the exhibition showcased the shifting role of urban waterfronts since the seventeenth century by juxtaposing historical images from our rare book and manuscript collection with contemporary photographs. The show was conceptualized by Jeanne Haffner and curated by John Wang (Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellow) and Anatole Tchikine (Assistant Director of Garden & Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks). The exhibition was open to the public, thus extending the reach of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies. Meanwhile, we advanced **publications** projects generated by the Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Initiative. Most notably, the volume of proceedings of the 2015 symposium “River Cities/City Rivers” is now in final proofs; the book should appear in early 2018.

In addition to the exhibition and publication projects, the Mellon Initiative engaged in public outreach through participation in the **Smithsonian Earth Optimism Summit** (April 21st – 23rd, 2017 <https://earthoptimism.si.edu/>). John Beardsley and Jeanne Haffner co-chaired the panel “Success in the City: Social and Environmental Design for the Twenty-First Century” (<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/success-in-the-city>). The purpose of the summit was to shift the discourse of environmentalism from gloom to hope by presenting stories of what is working in conservation around the globe. Our panel focused on stories of environmental success in cities, now home to over half the world’s population and thus one of the key battlegrounds in the effort to create a more sustainable and equitable future. **Damon Rich** (Hector Urban Design, Planning & Civic Arts) discussed the transformation of the Newark Waterfront from 2008 – 2015; **David Auerbach** (Sanergy: Sustainable Solutions for Growing Cities) recalled his experience in managing sanitation in informal settlements in Kenya; **Murray Fisher** (New York Harbor Foundation)

highlighted the role of pedagogy in sustainable design in his discussion of the New York Harbor School's Billion Oyster Project; and **Timothy Beatley** (University of Virginia) concluded the panel with an overview of the importance of designing "biophilic cities," or urban environments that offer everyday opportunities for inhabitants to reconnect with nature.

In an effort to nurture the urban landscape interests of emerging scholars and designers, Dumbarton Oaks hosted a **Summer Graduate Workshop** from June 5th – 23rd, 2017. Organized by Anatole Tchikine, participants included both Ph.D. and MLA candidates and recent graduates. The workshop, which was co-sponsored with the **Humanities Institute at the New York Botanical Garden**, aimed to develop the field of garden and landscape studies across different disciplines and to promote the depth and breadth of future landscape scholarship. Bringing together early-career scholars and practitioners who are pursuing cross-disciplinary research on landscape-related topics, the workshop focused on the historical evolution of landscape as an idea, investigating theoretical underpinnings and methodological implications of such concepts as nature, ecology, sustainability, and design, with special emphasis on urban landscape issues. Seminars and workshops were supplemented by site visits and field trips, including two days in New York visiting NYBG and recent urban landscape design projects. For more information, see <https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/summer-graduate-workshop>.

At the end of its second full year and its third overall, we might begin to measure the impact of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies. Within Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, we have had the most immediate effect: going forward, it will be almost impossible to speak of landscape without including the city, and to speak of the city without including landscape. We have also strengthened the attention on the city in other humanities programs at Dumbarton Oaks: our most recent symposium on "Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities," for instance, included four papers on urbanism in the Pre-Columbian Americas and two on the Byzantine and Medieval Mediterranean. Within the larger field of landscape studies, we have fostered broadly interdisciplinary urban research that bridges design practice and scholarship, especially through our fellowships, our practitioner residencies, and our series of midday dialogues. We have tried to capture new talent for the field, particularly through our summer graduate workshop; we have tried to expose a wide range of high school students to the urban environment and to potential careers in landscape design and management. At the same time, we have tried to bring an awareness of urban landscape issues to the public through publications, an exhibition, and programs; perhaps most visible was our panel for the

Smithsonian's "Earth Optimism" summit, which was attended by several hundred people, was live-streamed, and is still available to viewers at <https://earthoptimism.si.edu/calendar/summit/events/success-city/>. We established partnerships with two other participants in the Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities initiative: the Harvard-Mellon Urban Initiative and the New York Botanical Garden.

Anticipated activities over the coming year should extend these impacts. Two areas need development: we have experienced difficulty getting senior designers to take time away from busy practices to come to Dumbarton Oaks for extended periods. Although we have had one practitioner resident each year, and will have Laurie Olin in residence for a short term next year, we had planned we planned for two; we hope to make up some of this deficit in the coming year. Meanwhile, we are planning to strengthen the presence of practitioners at Dumbarton Oaks in other ways next year by hosting a colloquium on "How Designers Think." Designers 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 anthropogenic climate change and the social transformations that accompany an increasingly urbanized population. We will assemble a group of six to eight mid-career 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. We also need to develop more international partnerships, and have begun discussions with the University of Sydney to collaborate on a project that will foster site-based research in three cities in South East Asia, a relatively understudied region of the world. We will have one staff change over the coming year: Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow Jeanne Haffner will leave in September to take a position at the New York Historical Society; her responsibilities can be divided among Garden and Landscape Studies staff for the time being, as much of our programming for next year is already in place. We continue to be truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the "Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities" initiative; we are looking forward to another productive year of urban landscape studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

Appendix 1: Mellon Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and Senior Practitioner Residents, 2016 – 2017

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/current-fellows>

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/senior-practitioner-residents>

2016 – 2017: Jeanne Haffner, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies

Fall 2016

Megan Asaka, “The Unsettled City: Migration, Race, and the Making of Seattle’s Urban Landscape”

Megan Asaka is an assistant professor of history at the University of California, Riverside, where she specializes in Asian American history, urban history, and public humanities. Trained as an interdisciplinary scholar and public historian, her work seeks to develop new methodologies and frameworks of analysis for understanding the urban past and present. Her current project, “Unsettled City: Migration, Race, and the Making of Seattle’s Urban Landscape,” explores the role of mobile populations in shaping urban regions through a case study of early twentieth-century Seattle. It links the historical erasure of migrant sites and spaces, including lodging houses, labor camps, and shantytowns, to their absence in the contemporary memory of the city. The dissertation on which this project is based won awards from the American Historical Association (Pacific Coast Branch) and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. She received her PhD in American Studies from Yale in 2014.

Burak Erdim, “The Academy and the State: Situating Land Economics and Development Planning in the Cold War Middle East”

Burak Erdim is an Assistant Professor of Architectural History and Architecture in the College of Design at North Carolina State University where he teaches lecture and seminar courses on the history of modern architecture and urbanism with a focus on the post–World War II period. His current work explores the operations of transnational planning cultures and the conceptualization of architecture and community planning as the central component of social and economic development projects during this period. He has recently been awarded a Mellon Fellowship in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks (Fall 2016) and a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture at MIT (Spring 2017) in support of the work on his book manuscript. His book examines the establishment of

the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey in 1956 as one of the most ambitious and comprehensive projects of postwar planning cultures. Dr. Erdim contributes regularly to publications and symposia on Transnational Modernisms and his recent essay on METU appeared in, *Mid-Century Modernism in Turkey: Architecture Across Cultures in the 1950s and 1960s*, edited by Meltem Ö. Gürel (Routledge, 2015). He received his Ph.D. in December 2012 in the History of Art and Architecture from the University of Virginia where he also completed a Master's degree in Architecture.

Elizabeth Meyer (visiting scholar), “Landscape Entanglements. Aesthetic Practices in a Networked World”

Elizabeth Meyer is the Merrill D. Peterson Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. Professor Meyer is widely recognized for her theoretical writings about the intersection of modern conceptions and experiences of nature, environmental ethics, and contemporary landscape design. Her recent publications include “Sustaining Beauty. The Performance of Appearance,” “Slow Landscape. A New Erotics of Sustainability,” “Grafting, splicing, hybridizing: Strange beauties of the Australian Garden” and “Beyond Sustaining Beauty: Musings on a Manifesto.” During a 2016-17 sabbatical, she is completing a book manuscript, *The Margins of Modernity. Theories and Practices of Landscape Architecture*.

In 2015, Meyer founded the UVA Center for Cultural Landscapes, a transdisciplinary initiative. Since Meyer's graduate studies in landscape architecture and historic preservation, she has been fascinated by the thick description of landscapes—places replete with cultural memories and biophysical processes. This perspective has afforded her opportunities to research, interpret, plan and design significant cultural landscapes such as the UVA Academical Village (EDAW 1980s), Bryant Park in NYC (Laurie Olin 1980s), the Wellesley College campus outside of Boston (MVVA 1990s), the St. Louis Gateway Arch Grounds, a modernist memorial landscape designed by Saarinen and Kiley (MVVA 2000s), and the White House Kitchen Garden (NPS 2016).

Meyer is a registered landscape architect who has worked for EDAW, Hanna/Olin, and Michael Vergason. She taught at Cornell University and Harvard GSD before joining the UVA faculty in 1993 where she teaches design studios and theory courses. She has served as the School of Architecture's Dean as well as the Department of Landscape Architecture Chair. Meyer currently holds a Presidential appointment to the US Commission of Fine Arts, a seven member design review board responsible for Washington, DC's monumental core and significant public spaces.

Spring 2017

Sara Jensen Carr, “The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape”

Sara Jensen Carr is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the School of Architecture and Office of Public Health Studies at University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. Her teaching and research focuses on the connections between landscape and wellness, urban ecology and design. Her current book project, *The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape*, examines landscape responses to six historical urban epidemics and the implication for current and future practice.

Sara holds a Master of Architecture from Tulane University, and a Master of Landscape Architecture and PhD in Environmental Planning from University of California Berkeley, where she was the co-founding editor of the ASLA Award-winning *GROUND UP Journal*. She is a licensed architect who has worked professionally in New Orleans and the San Francisco Bay Area. Her research and representational work has been exhibited at San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR) gallery, the National Building Museum in Washington D.C., and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Peter Ekman, “Suburbs of Last Resort: Landscape, Life, and Ruin on the Edges of San Francisco Bay”

Peter Ekman is a cultural and historical geographer who received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2016. He maintains broad-based interests in urban form and urban life during America’s long twentieth century, in the intellectual histories of planning and urbanism, in theories of materiality and material culture, and in questions of ruination. Articles of his have appeared in the *Journal of Urban History* and the *Journal of Planning History*. His research has been supported by long-term fellowships from the Bancroft Library and the Huntington Library. At Dumbarton Oaks, as Mellon Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies, he will be adapting his dissertation manuscript, “Suburbs of Last Resort: Landscape, Life, and Ruin on the Edges of San Francisco Bay,” for publication as a book.

Udo Weilacher (Senior Practitioner Resident), “Between Land Art and Landscape Architecture”

Udo Weilacher is professor of Landscape Architecture at the Technical University of Munich TUM. He was professionally trained as a gardener, studied landscape architecture in Munich and at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. He graduated from TUM and holds a PhD from the ETH Zurich. He is the author of numerous books on contemporary art and design, including *Between Landscape*

Architecture and Land Art (second edition, 1999), Visionary Gardens – Modern Landscapes by Ernst Cramer (2001), In Gardens. Profiles of Contemporary European Landscape Architecture and Syntax of Landscape (2005) and The Landscape Architecture of Peter Latz and Partners (2008), which was awarded the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize 2011 by the Foundation of Landscape Studies.

Udo has taught at the universities of Karlsruhe, Hannover, and Munich and the ETH in Zurich, lecturing worldwide and organizing international symposia and exhibitions on environmental art and landscape architecture. Since 2007, he is a member of the International Doctoral College “Spatial Research Lab” — an interdisciplinary initiative involving five European Universities—and, since 2009, is a member of the advisory board of the Centre of Garden Art and Landscape Architecture (CGL) at the Leibniz University in Hannover. In 2013, he joined the advisory board of the European Land and Art Network (ELAN), an initiative that brings together organizations, artists, academics, experts, and students of several European countries.

Udo served as the dean of the Department of Architecture and Landscape Sciences at the Leibniz University in Hannover from 2006 to 2008, before joining the TUM in Munich 2009. He is teaching design studios as well as courses on landscape research and writing. He also lectures on contemporary landscape design, landscape architectural history and theory. While at the TUM, he co-organized exhibitions "Self-Construction" (2013), which examined the development of sustainable design strategies in the 1980s, and “60 Years of Landscape Architecture at TU Munich” (2016), celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Planning at the TUM.

Appendix 2: 2017 Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium, “Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities”

May 5-6, 2017

<http://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities/landscapes-of-pre-industrial-cities>

Speakers

- **Suzanne Preston Blier** (Harvard University), “Walls That Speak: Landscape Factors in Early West African Urban Centers”
- **J. B. Chevance** (Archaeology & Development Foundation, Phnom Kulen Program, Siem Reap/Cambodia), “The Phnom Kulen’s Capital: A Singular and Early Case of Urban Planning in Ancient Cambodia”
- **Hendrik Dey** (Hunter College, CUNY), “Landscape Change and Ceremonial Praxis in Medieval Rome: From the *Via Triumphalis* to the *Via Papalis*”
- **Michael Heckenberger** (University of Florida), “Xingu Garden Cities: Domesticated Forests of the Southern Amazon”
- **Alan L. Kolata** (University of Chicago), “The Autopoietic City: Landscape, Science, and Society in the Pre-Industrial World”
- **J. Cameron Monroe** (University of California, Santa Cruz), “Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Cities and Their Hinterlands in Tropical West Africa”
- **Tim Murtha** (The Pennsylvania State University), “Landscape and City in the Ancient Maya Lowlands: Regionalism, Settlement, and Ecology”
- **Timothy R. Pauketat** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), “What Constituted Cahokian Urbanism?”
- **Jordan Pickett** (University of Michigan), “Hydraulic Landscapes of Roman and Byzantine Cities”
- **Christophe Pottier** (Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient, Paris), “Uncovering Ancient Landscapes in Angkor”
- **Priyaleen Singh** (School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi), “The Weave of Natural and Cultural Ecology: Ekamrakshetra—The Historic Temple Town of Bhubaneswar, India”
- **Monica L. Smith** (University of California, Los Angeles), “Monsoon Landscapes and Flexible Provisioning in the Early Historic Cities of the Indian Subcontinent”
- **Jason Ur** (Harvard University), “Space and Structure in Early Mesopotamian Cities”

Appendix 3: Mellon Midday Dialogues, 2016 – 2017

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/mellon-initiative-in-urban-landscape-studies/midday-dialogues-with-urban-landscape-fellows>

Rebecca Krinke (University of Minnesota), “Places to Share Beauty and Fear” (April 25, 2017)

John Pinto (Princeton University), “Rus in Urbe: The Urban Landscape of Rome in the Age of the Grand Tour” (April 18, 2017)

Amanda Rodewald (Cornell University), “How a Bird’s Eye View of the City Teaches Us about Urban Ecology” (April 12, 2017)

Margot Lystra (Cornell University), “‘A Great Functioning Whole’: Urban Design and Emergent Environmentalism in San Francisco’s Panhandle Freeway Debates, 1959 – 1966 (March 15, 2017)

Gareth Doherty (Harvard GSD), “‘It’s Like Scotland, Minus the Weather’: An Ethnographic Account of Landscape in Bahrain” (March 7, 2017)

Peter Ekman (Mellon Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks), “Middling Landscapes: Animating Life and Work on the Carquinez Strait” (March 1, 2017)

Sara Carr (Mellon Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks), “The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape” (February 8, 2017)

Saskia de Wit (TU-Delft), “The Metropolitan Garden as a Sensorial Expression of Place in the Metropolitan Context” (February 1, 2017)

Jeanne Haffner & John Davis (Dumbarton Oaks), “Shape the Earth: Landscape Architecture in the Anthropocene” (November 29, 2016)

Megan Asaka (Mellon Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks), “Unsettled City: Migration, Race, and the Making of Seattle’s Urban Landscape” (November 22, 2016)

Elizabeth Meyer (University of Virginia), “Landscape Entanglements. Aesthetic Practices in a Networked World” (November 8, 2016)

Burak Erdim (Mellon Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks), “Landed Internationals: Planning Cultures in the Cold War Middle East” (October 26, 2016)

Sonja Dümpelmann (Harvard GSD), “Street Tree Stories: On the Politics of Nature in the City” (October 19, 2016). Accompanied with evening **film screening and discussion** of “City of Trees” with directors and Steve Coleman of Washington Parks & People.

Jeremy Foster (Cornell University), “Dancing on the Grave of Industry: Wenders, Bausch & the Affective Re-performance of Environmental History” (October 11, 2016)

Meredith Miller (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), “Making Post Rock: Material Research through Design” (October 5, 2016)

Appendix 4: Mellon Colloquium, “Landscapes of Housing” (October 14, 2016)

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/landscapes-of-housing>

Housing programs lie at the very center of socio-spatial relations and the politics of space. Landscape—broadly defined to include ecology, topography, energy infrastructures, aesthetics and ideology—is part of this complex but its role has largely been ignored in housing studies. The aim of this one-day colloquium, jointly organized by the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks and the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, is to explore how housing shapes landscape and is, in turn, shaped by it.

Landscape has at times been used as the basis for social reform and the creation of “communities of dwelling.” It has also been utilized as a referent for particular housing forms, especially single-family housing, and has been seen as an answer to the perceived social problems associated with mass-produced modernist housing. More recently, housing has been the site of experimentation in ecological design, urban food production, building technology, and improved health.

Bringing together scholars and practitioners, this colloquium will pose questions such as the following: How have conceptions and practices with respect to landscape shaped novel designs for dwelling over time and in different parts of the world? What meanings are evoked today by established patterns of housing in post-Socialist cities and informal settings? In what ways have the material aspects of landscape, from concerns over stormwater and flooding to energy infrastructure and topography, shaped these discussions in different ways? Finally, what possibilities exist for scholars and practitioners to work together to develop new ways of thinking about the intersection of housing and landscape, and of implementing such ideas in practice?

Speakers:

Daniel Bluestone (Director of Preservation Studies and Professor of Art and Architecture, Boston University), “Landscapes Framed by Housing: Chicago Courtyard Apartments”

Sophie Hochhäusl (Assistant Professor of Modern Architecture, Boston University), “Making Community in Crisis: Cookbooks, War Produce Gardens & the Modern House, 1914 – 1919”

Thomas Nybo Rasmussen (Landscape Director, Vandkunsten Architects), “Working with Landscape: Integrating Buildings and Landscape in the Work of Vandkunsten Architects”

Christoph Bernhardt (Senior Researcher and Head of the Department for Historical Research at the Leibniz-Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning; Lecturer, Center for Metropolitan Studies in Berlin), “The Rise and Persistence of the Socialist *Wohnkomplex* in East Germany: A Special Type of Urban Landscape, 1950 – 2000”

Christina Crawford (Assistant Professor of Art History, Emory University), “The Afterlife of a Model Socialist Settlement”

Bruno Carvalho (Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures; Co-director of the Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities), “Urbanism without Urbanists: Domesticating Landscapes in the Anthropocene”

Christian Werthmann (Professor of Landscape Architecture and Design, Leibniz University), “The Right to Create: Observations on the Desirability of Co-Production of Housing and Landscape in the Rapid Urbanization of the Planet”

Vyjayanthi Rao (Director, Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research), “Beneath the ‘Tent of the Horizonless Sky’”

Moderators/Commentators: John Beardsley (Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks), Jeanne Haffner (Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks), Eve Blau (Adjunct Professor of the History and Theory of Urban Form and Design and Principal Investigator, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative), Márkus Keller, (Research Fellow, Eötvös Loránd University), Anita Berrizbeitia (Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design), Ellen Braae (Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen), and Henriette Steiner (Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen)

Appendix 5: Mellon Outreach and Partnerships

<https://www.doaks.org/news-events/newsletter/building-the-invisible>

Garden Hydrology – workshop with landscape students from Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School (September 20, 2016)

Fieldtrip to the Smithsonian National Zoological Park – Fieldtrip with landscape and architecture students from Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School. Tour of the park with landscape architect Jennifer Daniels of the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (February 28, 2017)

Kingman Park Community Garden, Site analysis – Participation in site analysis of Kingman Park Community Garden (NE) with landscape and architecture students from Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School (February 16, 2017)

Phelps mid-term design review – Review of student landscape designs for Kingman Park Community Garden at Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School (April 11, 2017)

Phelps final design review – Final review of student landscape designs for Kingman Park Community Garden at Phelps Architecture Construction, and Engineering High School (May 23, 2017)

National Building Museum, Design Apprenticeship Program – Weekly participation in landscape architecture workshops with 30 high school students from around the District, including site analysis and design reviews (March – May 2017)

“Designs for Anacostia” – Jeanne Haffner presented a paper at Oehme, van Sweden, & Associates on landscape architect Lawrence Halprin’s unbuilt designs for the Anacostia riverfront (1966 – 1970) and its relevance to contemporary waterfront planning in Washington, D.C. (May 10, 2017)

Appendix 6: City Water/City Life (May – December 2017)

<https://www.doaks.org/news-events/newsletter/city-water-city-life>

City Water/City Life, an exhibition in the Rare Book Gallery, explored the changing uses and representations of waterfronts from the seventeenth century to the present in Florence, Paris, and Amsterdam. The exhibit was conceptualized by Mellon postdoctoral fellow Jeanne Haffner and curated by Humanities Fellow John Wang and Anatole Tchikine. Through historical material from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book collection and contemporary photographs, it showed the impact of water on urban form and urban life – and vice versa.

Appendix 7: Smithsonian Earth Optimism Summit (April 21st – 23rd, 2017)

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/success-in-the-city>

Modern cities have long been considered adversaries of environmental health. In the late nineteenth century, the poet Émile Verhaeren described the poisonous advance of urban sprawl; the social reformer Ebenezer Howard personified cities as “smoke fiends” to promote his Garden Cities movement in the early twentieth century; and plans for suburban development in the early- to mid-twentieth-century United States were bolstered by images of dark cities plagued by pollution and refuse. It is all the more astonishing, then, that twenty-first-century cities have become sites for environmental remediation, stewardship, and pedagogy. This transformation not only marks a change in cultural attitudes, but also demonstrates the success of environmentally oriented programs of all kinds, from school-based efforts and citizen participation to plans devised by designers and government officials.

Organized by the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, one of the few programs in the world dedicated to bringing together landscape scholars and practitioners, this panel assembled figures from diverse fields to present their own stories of environmental success in the city.

Between Superfund & Superstorm: The Riverfront That Newark Wants, 2008–2015

Damon Rich, Partner at Hector Urban Design, Planning & Civic Arts

Solving the Sanitation Crisis in Kenya’s Urban Informal Settlements

David Auerbach, Co-Founder, Sanergy: Sustainable Solutions for Growing Cities

The Billion Oyster Project: Engaging Youth in Restoring the New York Harbor

Murray Fisher, Executive Director, New York Harbor Foundation

Biophilic Cities

Timothy Beatley, Theresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, University of Virginia

Appendix 8: Summer Graduate Workshop (June 5th – 23rd, 2017)

<https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/summer-graduate-workshop>

To develop the field of garden and landscape studies across different disciplines and to promote the depth and breadth of future landscape scholarship, Dumbarton Oaks, with the support of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies and in collaboration with New York Botanical Garden, offered an intensive three-week Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop, June 5–23, 2017.

Bringing together early-career scholars and practitioners who are pursuing cross-disciplinary research on landscape-related topics, the workshop focused on key sites, figures, and texts in garden and landscape design, theory, and history. It examined the historical evolution of landscape as an idea, investigating theoretical underpinnings and methodological implications of such concepts as nature, ecology, sustainability, and design; special emphasis was placed on urban landscape issues. Participants, typically doctoral candidates in early or advanced stages of writing dissertations and current MLA candidates or recent recipients of MLA degrees, were invited to share among themselves and with Dumbarton Oaks staff and invited scholars selected aspects of their work. These presentations and seminar sessions were supplemented by access to the library resources and gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, site visits in the Washington metropolitan area, and a two-day stay in New York.

Participants:

Kasie Alt, University of Texas at Austin

Reba Juetten, University of Minnesota

Ryosuke Kondo, University of Tokyo

Divya Kumar-Dumas, University of Pennsylvania

Charlotte Leib, Harvard University

Nicholas Robbins, Yale University

Ben Scott, University of Virginia

Jennifer Thomas, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign