Site, Campus, Watershed: Integrating and Evaluating Green Infrastructure at Cornell University

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ABSTRACT

This team presentation explores the planning, design, and evaluation of high-visibility green infrastructure at Cornell University. Speakers will describe campus-wide strategies; diverse site-specific implementations; a Landscape Architecture Foundation CSI case study documenting the environmental, educational, and social performance of green infrastructure at Cornell Plantations; and the case study's relevance for designers. Green infrastructure systems are decentralized and site specific, often utilizing landscape practices to achieve reductions in runoff and cleansing of stormwater. The success of Cornell University’s green infrastructure systems at the campus and regional scale relies on its site-specific implementation within the campus’s varied site conditions. This presentation will describe Cornell’s planning and design methods for green infrastructure and its peer-reviewed research on the ecological, economic, and social benefits of the Nevin Welcome Center project at Cornell Plantations, which earned SCUP’s 2013 Honor Award for landscape architecture.

BIOGRAPHIES

David Cutter ASLA, University Landscape Architect for Cornell, is involved in most aspects of planning, design, construction and stewardship of the landscape on the historic Ithaca campus. He embraces the premise of the campus landscape as a living classroom and collaborates regularly with instructors and researchers to incorporate real sites, issues and questions into the student experience such as achieving SITES certification for a student-designed landscape on campus.

Michele Palmer PLA, a practicing landscape architect for over twenty years, is owner of Templeton Landscape Architects. Well versed in green infrastructure and site design, she is LEED accredited and as an educator, taught site engineering at Cornell University for six years. As Vice President of the Upstate New York Chapter of ASLA she has planned professional learning events.