

An Inquiry Into the Use of Plants in Today's Landscape

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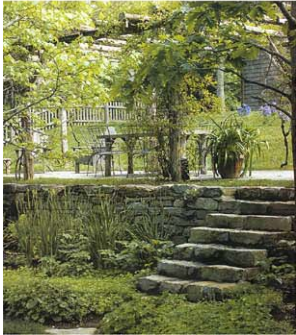
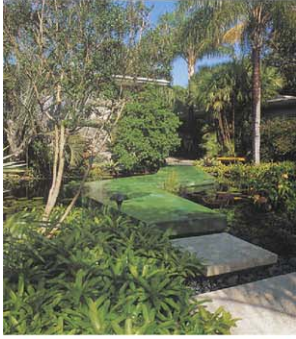
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Capstone Project Proposal
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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Profiled Landscape Architects/Firms	5
Summary of Pertinent Literature	6
Introduction/Background Review.....	6
Literature Pertaining to Major Trends Since WWII.....	6
Literature Pertaining to Recent Discourse on Plant Use in the Profession of Landscape Architecture.....	8
Review of the Last Fifteen Years of ASLA Awards.....	9
Review of Articles in Landscape Journal Pertaining to Plant Use.....	9
Review of the Work of the Landscape Architects in the Study.....	9
Michael Van Valkenburgh, Associates, Inc.....	9
Oehme, van Sweden, Inc.....	10
Olin Partnership.....	10
Raymond Jungles, Inc.....	11
Reed Hilderbrand, Inc.....	12
Research Design	12
Purpose Statement.....	12
Goals and Objectives.....	12
Methods.....	13
Goal One.....	13
Written Document.....	13
Timeline.....	14
Goal Two.....	14
Initial Contact.....	14
Survey.....	14
Interview.....	16
Site Visits.....	17
Goal Three.....	17
Influence Mapping.....	17
Goal Four.....	18
Vignettes.....	18
Documentation Format	18
Research Schedule	19
Conclusion	21
Bibliography	22

Appendices..... 26
Appendix A: Article – “Are Landscape Architects Divorced From Plants?”
and the letters that responded to the article..... 26
Appendix B: Letters Regarding Initial Contact..... 33

Introduction

The purpose of this capstone will be to research landscape architects/firms who highly emphasize the use of plants in their design work. The capstone will focus on the influences that inspired their plant use, and through these landscape architects it will attempt to gain insights into the contemporary use of plants in the landscape architecture profession.

The topic of plants in the profession of landscape architecture has been a source of debate for the past century, and it is a debate that continues today. Fletcher Steele (1885 – 1971) criticized both his predecessors as well as some of the emerging modernists in regards to their use of plants in the landscape. To his predecessors working at the turn of the century, Steele felt that they had become too focused on the individual plant itself, and in doing so lost sight of the overall design of the garden. In writings from the mid – late 1920s, Steele pronounced, “It is first necessary to get rid of the enemies of beauty. I mean the horticulturalists per se, the tree butchers, the endless specimen hunters” (Karson 2003, 56). He claimed that “One seeks more than combinations of flowers, more than pattern beds, more than the trees and shrubs that enclose, more than any one part that goes to make up the whole garden” (Karson 2003, 56-57). Yet to the modernists, Steele found the opposite to be true and yet equally troubling. Quoting from an article Steele wrote in 1937, Marc Treib writes:

Regarded their reliance on architectonic rather than vegetal elements as a shortcoming pervading both their concepts and realized efforts, however... ‘Their work shows an utter lack of interest or understanding of plant life and the myriad ways it might reinforce their ideas and lend them a charm now usually lacking.’ (Treib 1992, 39)

Following Fletcher Steele came a number of prominent landscape architects whose emphasis on plants varied as greatly as their opinions on the use of them in the landscape. James Rose (1913-1991) expressed that “It is perfectly possible to use plants with the same knowledge and efficiency with which we use lumber, brick, steel, or concrete in building” (Rose 1939/1992, 77). Yet another debate relating to plants came about due to the need to legitimize the profession. Peter Walker, in discussing Hideo Sasaki’s unpublished paper, “The Inferiority Complex of Landscape Architects” (written while a student between 1944 – 1946), writes that “Changing one’s title to ‘site planner’ and deemphasizing the role of horticulture (to avoid the epithet of ‘bush planter’) were among the tactics adopted in practice” (Walker and Simo 1994, 211). As the profession progressed through the century, so too did the ever-evolving debate on plant use.

In June of 2004, William Thompson, in the Editor’s Letter of Landscape Architecture Magazine, posed the question, “Has the landscape architecture profession filed for divorce from the plant kingdom?” He went on to add:

Too few landscape architects seem truly passionate about plants to the point that plants are the center of their professional lives. Too many design offices use the same limited plant palette in the same halfhearted and formulaic way on project after project. (Thompson, 15)

The remainder of the letter asks further questions, attempting to pinpoint the source of the problem. Does it lie in the educational process? Or is it that the individuals attracted to the profession are concerned more with other aspects such as design and not so much with the plants themselves? Maybe it simply has to do with the technical aspects of availability, maintenance, and overall cost? Finally, does a problem even exist? Regardless of the reasons or lack thereof, Thompson's letter sparked an outpouring of responses from the readers of the magazine. While many agreed with Thompson's viewpoint, others did not. Again, the debate had surfaced, but no conclusions were drawn.

However, within the last two decades a number of practicing landscape architects have emerged who certainly utilize, comprehend, and embrace the use of plants as a primary mode of their design expression. A recent example can be found in Battery Park in New York City. While five different landscape architectural firms worked on different parts of the park, an emphasis on plants is evident in all of the designs. The questions of why, how, or even if, this is true is the basis for this capstone. In fact, many of the questions raised by Thompson will be brought up in the survey and interview process.

In an attempt to answer this question, the capstone will first develop a brief overview of the primary trends in landscape architecture since World War II. While the overview will cover all of the major trends, it will focus on those most related to plants. The timeframe was chosen because of the time constraints associated with the capstone process and because WWII created a distinct break with the past and therefore offers a clear point from which to begin this study. The overview will then focus on the current state of the profession in regards to plants through a study of selected landscape architects/firms to gain a better understanding of their philosophies, influences, and inspirations. Through the combination of primary and secondary research, surveys, and interviews, a series of *vignettes* or small case studies will be created for each of the study participants.

Once these individual vignettes have been compiled, the opportunity will exist to find possible similarities and insights into how these landscape architects utilize plants. While they were chosen precisely because of their emphasis on plants and most likely would not have been part of the group that Thompson was speaking about in his editorial, their thoughts, opinions, and ideas may very well offer some answers to the continuous debate on plants in the profession of landscape architecture.

Profiled Landscape Architects/Firms

The list of landscape architects/firms were chosen for the study through both a review of the American Society of Landscape Architect's (ASLA) annual awards for the last fifteen

years as well as from discussions with the capstone advisory committee. Considering that in many respects recipients of the ASLA awards are *self selected* due to the cost and time commitment required to submit an entry, the selection process depended more on the discussions with the capstone advisory committee. In total, approximately 25 landscape architects/firms were selected. From this list, five firms were chosen based on their prominence, location, and size of firm. The goal was to generate a selection of prominent firms that varied in size and location along the eastern coast. Due to time and travel costs, the selection of firms was limited to the east coast. For the same reasons, the list was limited to five participants. The profiled landscape architects/firms are as follows:

- Firm: Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.
 - Contact: Jason Siebenmorgen
 - Location: Cambridge, MA (with an office in New York, NY)
 - Approximate Number of Employees: 40

- Firm: Oehme, van Sweden, Inc.
 - Contact: Wolfgang Oehme
 - Location: Washington DC
 - Approximate Number of Employees: 25

- Firm: Olin Partnership
 - Contact: Dennis McGlade
 - Location: Philadelphia, PA
 - Approximate Number of Employees: 60

- Firm: Raymond Jungles, Inc.
 - Contact: Raymond Jungles
 - Location: Miami, FL
 - Approximate Number of Employees: 10

- Firm: Reed Hilderbrand, Inc.
 - Contact: Douglas Reed
 - Location: Watertown, MA
 - Approximate Number of Employees: 15

Summary of Pertinent Literature

The literature review is divided into two parts. The first section focuses on literature pertaining to the brief overview of the major trends of landscape architecture. The brief overview will be included in the introduction to the final capstone project. The second section focuses on the individual landscape architects/firms. While there were many works reviewed, the following are the most pertinent to the study.

Introduction/Background Literature Review

Literature Pertaining to Major Trends Since WWII:

Mann, William A. 1993. *Landscape Architecture: An Illustrated History in Timelines, Site Plans, and Biography*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

This document summarizes the major trends in landscape architecture and provides a detailed timeline. It will be utilized to develop a brief overview of the primary events that occurred in the profession from WWII – 1990s. It will also aid in the development of a timeline.

Rogers, Elizabeth Barlow. 2001. *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Roger's work provides a more detailed review of the recent history of landscape architecture. It will be used in conjunction with Mann's outlines to further develop the overview of the major trends and events that occurred between WWII and the present.

Treib, Marc, editor. 1992. *Modern Landscape Architecture: A Critical Review*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Modern Landscape Architecture: A Critical Review is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium on the modern landscape (held in 1989, at the University of California at Berkeley) as well as historically pertinent essays from James C. Rose, Garrett Eckbo, Daniel U. Kiley, Fletcher Steele, and Christopher Tunnard. The capstone will rely on both the primary and secondary sources in the development of the modernist period for the brief overview.

Walker, Peter and Melanie Simo. 1994. *Invisible Gardens: The Search for Modernism in the American Landscape*. Boston: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This work states in its introduction that "The main purpose of this book is to make visible the work of American landscape architects since World War II" (Walker 1994, 2). In particular, it will be used to gather information on specific landscape architects such as Hideo Sasaki as well as the major trend surrounding the corporate office parks.

Waymark, Janet. 2003. *Modern Garden Design: Innovation Since 1900*. London: Thames & Hudson Ltd.

Waymark's work provides a detailed review of individual landscape architects and designers as well as a general review of the major movements in landscape architecture during the 20th Century. It will be utilized to cite specific designers and projects that most clearly exhibit the characteristics shaping the profession at the time being discussed.

Literature Pertaining to Recent Discourse on Plant Use in the Profession of Landscape Architecture:

Thompson, William J. 2004. Are Landscape Architects Divorced From Plants? *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. (94/6): 18.

Thompson's article on the issues of plant use in the profession of landscape architecture, and the seventeen letters that responded to it (the letters appeared in the July, August, and September issues of LAM), provides a recent example of the ongoing plant debate in landscape architecture. The letters, most of which support Thompson's argument that landscape architects for the most part have become distanced from the use of plants in their design work, offer varying degrees of opinions on why, how, and what needs to be done to correct the current situation. The discourse created by the article will be included in the capstone as part of the overview of the current state of plant use in the profession.

Cantor, Steven L. 1997. *Contemporary Trends in Landscape Architecture*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Cantor's work provides an overview of new trends that are taking place in the profession of landscape architecture. It emphasizes trends related to scientific research, historic preservation as well as international practice. While the trends may or may not relate directly to plant use, it will offer an insight into where else the profession's priorities may have shifted in the contemporary landscape.

Van Valkenburgh, Michael. 1981. Planting design: why be shy? *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. September: 555 – 556.

Van Valkenburgh's short essay on the current use and understanding, or lack thereof, of plants by landscape architects, offers insights into the state of the profession at the beginning of the 1980s. The essay is critical of the profession's use and understanding of plants, and in many ways is a precursor to the argument posed by Thompson in 2004. Again, this article will be used to shape the overview on the contemporary use of plants in the profession.

Frampton, Kenneth. 1991. In Search of the Modern Landscape. In *Denatured Landscapes*, Stuart Wrede and William Howard Adams, eds. New York: The Museum of Modern Art.

This essay offers a critique on how the modernist period affected the profession of landscape architecture, and will be used to offer insights into

a possible reason as to why or if plants became less of a focus within the profession.

Review of the Last Fifteen Years of ASLA Awards:

The purpose for reviewing the recipients of the ASLA awards will be to look for an increasing emphasis of plant use in the award-winning designs. If necessary, the review may go back further in order to provide a better comparison base.

Review of Articles in Landscape Journal Pertaining to Plant Use:

The purpose for reviewing *Landscape Journal* is to gain a better understanding of the emphasis on plant use from an academic perspective.

**Literature pertaining to the profiled landscape architects (Grouped by Firm)
*Michael Van Valkenburg Associates, Inc.***

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. 2004. <http://www.mvvainc.com/>. [November]

The firm's website will be used to gather basic information (location of firm, number of employees, mission statement, etc.) which will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

Ravner, Anne. 2003. Nature; Rusticating the City with Ice, Rock and Seed. *The New York Times*.

This article focuses on Van Valkenburgh's opinions on the use of plants in the designed landscape. Similar to his own article "Planting Design: Why Be Shy?," this article is a general critique on the profession's use of plants. The article will be used in the development of the firm overview.

Van Valkenburgh, Michael. 1994. *Design With the Land: Landscape Architecture of Michael Van Valkenburgh*, Brooke Hodge, editor, New York : Princeton Architectural Press.

Design with the Land covers some of the well known and earlier projects of Michael Van Valkenburgh, including Mill Race Park (Columbus, OH), Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Expansion, General Mills Corporate Headquarters (Minneapolis, MN), and a number of private residential projects. In addition, the work also includes essays on Van Valkenburgh written from the perspective of other landscape architects as well as from

the client's viewpoint. This will be used in the development of the firm overview for the vignette on Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.

In addition to the above, a number of articles on Michael Van Valkenburgh and his firm have appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Land Forum*, and *Garden Design*. Depending on their pertinence, these articles will be referenced and incorporated into the final capstone project.

Oehme van Sweden, Inc.

Oehme, van Sweden Associates, Inc. 2003. <http://www.ovsla.com>. [November].

The firm's website will be used to gather basic information (location of firm, number of employees, mission statement, etc.) which will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

van Sweden, James. 1997. *Gardening With Nature*. New York: Random House, Inc.

Gardening With Nature provides a review of multiple projects, both public and residential, that have been completed by the firm. It also includes a chapter on the influences that have impacted both James van Sweden and Wolfgang Oehme. The information in this chapter will be used in the development of the vignette on both the firm as well as Wolfgang Oehme, and will also aid in the interview process.

van Sweden, James and Wolfgang Oehme. 1998. *Bold Romantic Gardens: The New World Landscapes of Oehme and van Sweden*. Washington DC: Spacemaker Press.

This work reviews multiple design projects of the firm as well as offering insights into the working theories that have been incorporated into the designs. The projects and theories will be utilized in the firm overview section of the vignettes.

In addition to the above, a number of articles on Oehme and van Sweden, Inc. have appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, and *Garden Design*. Depending on their pertinence, these articles will be referenced and incorporated into the final capstone project.

Olin Partnership

Olin Partnership. 2004. <http://www.olinptr.com/thefirm.html>. [November].

The firm's website will be used to gather basic information (location of firm, number of employees, mission statement, etc.) which will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

Olin, Laurie. 1996. *Transforming the Common/Place: Selections from Laurie Olin's Sketchbooks*. Cambridge: Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

This work is a compilation of sketches from Olin's notebook, and it includes sketches focused on the design of Bryant Park. Also included are short essays that discuss the work of Laurie Olin and his firm. This information will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

Thompson, William J. 1997. *The Rebirth of New York City's Bryant Park*. Washington DC: Spacemaker Press.

This work focuses on the redesign of Bryant Park in New York City. It includes many photographs of the project that display the variety and abundant use of plants in the design. This information will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

In addition to the above, a number of articles on the Olin Partnership have appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Land Forum*, *Places*, *World Architecture*, and *Garden Design*. Depending on their pertinence, these articles will be referenced and incorporated into the final capstone project.

Raymond Jungles, Inc.

Raymond Jungles, Inc. 2002. Project Work. <http://www.raymondjungles.com/> [November].

The firm's website will be used to gather basic information (location of firm, number of employees, mission statement, etc.) which will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

Jungles, Raymond. 1999. *Ten Landscapes*. James Grayson Trulove, ed. Gloucester, MA: Rockport Publishers, Inc.

Jungles's book highlights ten of his design projects and also includes an essay on his influences, particularly as they relate to his mentor, Roberto Burle Marx. Throughout the book, the emphasis on plant materials is evident. This work will be utilized in the development of both the firm overview as well as the overview of Raymond Jungles himself.

In addition to the above, a number of articles on Raymond Jungles have appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Garden Design*, and a number

of local publications from the Southern Florida area. Depending on their pertinence, these articles will be referenced and incorporated into the final capstone project.

Reed Hilderbrand, Inc.

Reed Hilderbrand. 2004. Project work.

<http://www.reedhilderbrand.com/reedhilderbrand.htm>. [November].

The firm's website will be used to gather basic information (location of firm, number of employees, mission statement, etc.) which will be incorporated into the firm overview section of the vignettes.

In addition to the above, a number of articles on Reed Hilderbrand, Inc. have appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Land Forum*, and *Garden Design*. Depending on their pertinence, these articles will be referenced and incorporated into the final capstone project.

Research Design

Purpose

The purpose of the capstone is to research these five landscape architects/firms and develop an in depth understanding into the use of plants in their design work. Further, It seeks to discover insights into the influences, ideas, and theories of the profiled landscape architects. In doing so, an attempt will also be made to gather general insights into the contemporary role of plants in the profession of landscape architecture (again, as determined by these five landscape architects).

Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Develop a brief overview of the major trends of landscape architecture from World War II – present, particularly as they relate to plants.

Objectives:

1. Document the major aspects of landscape architecture during the post WWII timeframe.
2. Document the major trends of landscape architecture that relate to plant use.
3. Construct a timeline that highlights these major trends.
4. Document the existence of a renewed emphasis on plants in the current work of practicing landscape architects.

Goal Two: Discover the influences and theories, as they relate to plants, of the five landscape architects profiled in the study.

Objectives:

1. Develop background information on the five landscape architects and/or their firms.
2. Document the influences of the five landscape architects.

Goal Three: Determine whether similarities exist within the influences, ideas, and theories of the five landscape architects profiled in the study.

Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast the results of the surveys and interviews of the five landscape architects.
2. Map the influences of the five landscape architects involved in the study. Develop individual maps.
3. Develop a comprehensive map that incorporates all of the influences of the profiled landscape architects.

Goal Four: Record the influences, ideas and theories of the five landscape architects/firms profiled in the study into a single study.

Objectives:

1. Create individual vignettes, or case studies, on the five landscape architects/firms profiled in the study.
2. Include an analysis section that compares the five profiled landscape architects/firms to each other.
3. Include an analysis section that compares the five profiled landscape architects/firms to the present state of the profession (as determined through the brief overview phase of Goal One).

Methods

Goal One: The brief overview will consist of two parts; a written document that covers the timeframe from WWII – present and a timeline that graphically displays the major trends and movements that occurred during the timeframe.

Written Document

Upon completion of the literature review, a brief overview will be created. The overview will be in the form of an essay, and it will briefly cover the main aspects of the profession in terms of trends, movements, and individual landscape architects that had a key impact. This essay will become the introduction to the final capstone project.

Timeline

A timeline will be created to provide a graphic representation of the information provided in the written document. The timeline will also document the key aspects and individuals that shaped the profession from WWII – present.

Goal Two: The following methods deal with the participation of the profiled landscape architects. The methods include initial contact, survey, interview, and site visits. The purpose of these methods is to gain the primary research necessary to fulfill the capstone project.

Initial Contact

Initial contact with the profiled landscape architects was made during September and October. Contact was achieved through both email as well as a formal letter that outlined the capstone project (copies of the letters can be found in the appendix). In particular, the letter proposed that a renewed emphasis on plant use in the profession of landscape architect appeared to be evident, and that the five landscape architects/firms were chosen precisely because their work were prime examples of this trend. The letter included a list of all five firms, and it stated up front what would be expected in terms of participation. It also expressed that the goal of the project was to “understand the landscape architects’ influences, theories, and opinions on the use of plant materials in the designed landscape.” To this date, all landscape architecture firms contacted have agreed to participate.

Survey

A survey will be conducted to gather the background information as well as to offer insights into the most effective direction to take during the interview process. The survey will be mailed to the profiled landscape architects prior to the interview. Following are the questions that will be included within the survey:

Pre-Education:

- Where were you born?
- Where did you spend the majority of your childhood?
 - Would you classify it as urban___ inner urban suburb___ suburban___ rural___
- Did you engage in ‘gardening’ of any sort prior to entering a BLA or MLA program? How and to what extent?

- Was anyone in your family involved with plants? If so, in what capacity?

Education:

- What degrees do you have, and where and when did you receive them?
- Would you classify your professional degree's focus on plants as poor, adequate, or excellent (both undergraduate and/or graduate)?
- While in school, did you seek out course-work related to plants or only take the mandatory courses?
- Were there other influences that related to plants (internships, independent studies, etc.)?

Professional Experience:

- What is your current title/position, and how long have you been there?
- What is your past professional and/or academic experience?
- How would you compare your firm's use of plants to other peer landscape architecture firms?

Personal Experience:

- Do you participate in any volunteer groups that deal with plants and/or the landscape?
- Where did you live now?
 - Would you classify it as urban___ inner urban suburb___ suburban___ rural___
- Do you have a garden that you personally tend?
 - Did you design it?
 - How big is it?
 - To what extent do you engage your garden?
 - How much time do you spend in it?
 - In what ways do you engage it?

Final Question:

- What has influenced/inspired you most in regards to the use of plants, both professionally and personally?

Interview

Once the survey has been completed and returned, interviews will be scheduled with the landscape architects. The interview will be used to gather information regarding personal ideas, theories, and influences. It is anticipated that each interview will last for approximately one hour. It will also be requested that the landscape architects participate in a follow-up review process so that key points can be both clarified and expanded. A tape recorder will be used to capture the interview as long as the participant approves of it. If not, the interview will be hand-recorded through notation (in which case, the follow-up and review process will become more of a necessity). Following are the questions that will be asked during the interview process:

Plant Influences:

- According to the survey, _____ has influenced you the most in regards to plants. Could you expand upon this?
- Historically speaking, has any specific period of landscape architecture influenced you more (or less) than other periods?
 - Outside the landscape architecture profession, who or what have you been influenced by in regards to plants?
 - Within the landscape architecture profession, who or what have you been influenced by in regards to plants?
 - Who are some landscape architects (both past and present) that you feel have influenced you in regards to your own use of plants?

Plants and the Profession of Landscape Architecture:

- What is your philosophy on plants and planting design to your work?
- In the years that you have worked as a landscape architect, have you witnessed a shift in the use of plants in the profession? If so, in what ways?
- Do you believe that practicing landscape architects today are/are not fully utilizing plants to their fullest capacity? If not, what do you see as the reasons (initial cost, maintenance, climate, availability, plant knowledge, lack of

imagination, etc.)?

- Have you developed different relationships with different suppliers to provide for a more unique palette of plants?
- When interviewing potential new employees, is the individual's knowledge and use of plants important?

Plants and Client Interaction:

- Do you find that clients place a high level of importance on the use of plants?
- Does the planting palette change depending on the client?
- Do you try to instill a sense of inspiration and knowledge of plants in your clients?
- Are your clients generally not concerned with this level of detail?

Other:

- Has travel influenced your use of plants? If so, how and in what ways?
- What are your favorite 3 – 4 plants?

Site Visits

Where possible and permitted, site visits will be conducted to study the actual use of plants in the designed landscape. The site visits will also document the use of plants by recording on a digital camera from which original graphics may be developed.

Goal 3: Once the primary research has been obtained, it will be refined and edited. Information pertaining to the landscape architect's influences will be used to construct the influence maps. These maps will then be compared to one another.

Influence Mapping

The purpose for the creation of these maps will be to answer the following questions:

- Do the landscape architects list similar or different influences from each other?
- Are the influences coming from the profession, from education, or do they come from non-professional influences?

- Can any clear *paths* or *directions* of influences be determined?

Goal 4: The final method for the capstone study will be to develop a series of *vignettes*, or brief case studies, on the profiled landscape architects. The vignettes will be a synthesis of the landscape architects' theories, ideas, opinions, and influences in regards to the use of plants in today's landscape.

Vignettes

The vignettes will be set up in the following manner:

- Landscape Architecture Firm Overview
 - Location
 - Size of Firm (Number of Employees)
 - Mission Statement / Firm Philosophies
 - Typical Office Projects
- Introduction of landscape architect representing firm
- Survey Results
- Interview Results
- Influence Map
- Inclusion of Graphics Illustrating the Firm's Work
 - Graphics Provided by Firm
 - Graphics Created from Site Visits (Where Applicable)

Documentation Format

The documentation format for this project will be comprised of both written and graphic content. It will also be developed into a computer presentation format as well as an electronic version (pdf). Following is an outline of the proposed product:

- Introduction
 - Overview of the current state of the profession in regards to the use of plants.
 - A brief overview of the use of plants in landscape architecture since post-WWII.
 - Introduction to the work of the landscape architects/firms profiled in the study.

- Vignette One: Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.
- Vignette Two: Oehme, van Sweden, Inc.
- Vignette Three: Olin Partnership
- Vignette Four: Raymond Jungles, Inc.
- Vignette Five: Reed Hilderbrand, Inc.
- Analysis
 - Comparison of the similarities of the profiled landscape architects.
 - Influence maps combining all five of the profiled landscape architects.
- Conclusion

Schedule

Capstone Studio schedule: Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00pm – 6:00pm.

Project Development

Fall Semester

Weeks 1-3	August 29 – September 18	Meet with committee members to identify research problem and purpose of proposal. Discuss and finalize list of landscape architects to request participation in study.
Weeks 4-9	September 19 – October 30	Develop letter of request and send to landscape architects requesting participation. Start research for literature review.
Weeks 10-13	October 31 – November 27	Refine problem statement, goals and objectives. Develop survey and interview questions.
Weeks 14-17	November 28 – End of semester	Prepare Proposal

Spring Semester

Week 1	January 16 – January 22	Send out surveys to participants (send by January 10). Review literature and proposal. Conduct test interview with Kellie Connelly, and finalize survey and interview questions and process. Prepare for interviews with participating landscape architects.
Weeks 2-4	January 23 – February 12	Conduct interviews with participating landscape architects. Conduct site visits where possible and applicable. Finish research for brief overview of major trends, and begin writing introduction piece.
Week 5	February 13 - 19	Finish up interview process. Begin construction of trends timeline and complete introduction piece.
Week 6	February 20 - 26	February 15 interim review. Conduct follow-up with participants. Send transcripts to gain approval. Complete trends timeline.
Week 7	February 27 – March 5	Begin construction of vignettes. Complete follow-up with participants.
Week 8	March 6 – March 12	Continue construction of vignettes.
Week 9	March 13 – March 19	Continue construction of vignettes.
Week 10	March 20 – March 26	March 22 interim review.
Week 11	March 27 – April 2	Continue construction of vignettes. Make sure that all participants are satisfied with vignettes.
Week 12	April 3 – April 9	Finalize vignettes. Begin preparation for capstone presentation. Hand in first draft to committee members for review.
Week 13	April 10 – April 16	Prepare for capstone presentation.
Week 14	April 17 – April 23	Finalize capstone presentation. April 20/21 final presentation.
Week 15-17	April 17 – May 3	Prepare <i>final document</i> . May 3 rd submittal deadline.

Conclusion

As stated, the purpose of this capstone is to gain an insight into the contemporary use of plants by five prominent landscape architects/firms. When this capstone and the series of vignettes are completed, the goal is that they will offer an inspired view of the role that plants can play in the landscape; one that is different from the current negative role that Thompson claimed in his editorial. Considering the fact that the landscape architects/firms have been chosen for the study precisely because of their emphasis on plants, their combined voice may very well offer a new argument to be added to the ever-evolving debate on the use of plants in today's landscape.

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Appendix

Appendix A:

Article “Are Landscape Architect’s Divorced From Plants?” and the response letters: