

DUMBARTON OAKS
GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES
PUBLIC LECTURE

“BEFORE THE MEMORIAL”

PETER WALKER
PRINCIPAL, PWP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 5:30 P.M.
(REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5:00 P.M.)



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For many years, Peter Walker and his firm, PWP Landscape Architecture, have been exploring the artistic issue of flatness or horizontality as a metaphor for the earth, an abstraction of the way we perceive the landscape. The talk will describe some of these explorations and their relation to the World Trade Center Memorial recently dedicated in New York City, for which PWP were the landscape architects. Mr. Walker's talk will address some of the contexts for the project within his own firm's work and within the recent history of memorials, as well the complexities of reconciling his vision with the architectural and urbanist ambitions of this particular project. A high-profile process fraught with political and emotional challenges, the World Trade Center Memorial required making a place from absence, from a void, or, as Mr. Walker says, making "something from nothing."

Peter Walker is the co-founder of the firm Sasaki, Walker and Associates established in 1957. Walker opened its West Coast office, which became The SWA Group in 1976. In 1983, he formed Peter Walker and Partners, now known as PWP Landscape Architecture. Walker has served as consultant and advisor to numerous public agencies and institutions: the Sydney 2000 Olympic Coordination Authority; the Redevelopment Agency of San Francisco; the Port Authority of San Diego; Stanford University; the University of California; the University of Washington; and the American Academy in Rome. He played an essential role in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University as both the chairman of the Landscape Architecture Department and the acting director of the Urban Design Program. He was head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1997 to 1999. A Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Institute for Urban Design, Walker has been granted the Honor Award of the American Institute of Architects, Harvard's Centennial Medal, the University of Virginia's Thomas Jefferson Medal, the ASLA Medal, and the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Gold Medal.

Reservations are required and are first come, first serve. Please RSVP to: Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460.

The lecture will be held in the **Music Room** at Dumbarton Oaks's Main House located at 1703 32nd Street, NW, Washington DC.
The lecture is open to the public without charge. A light reception to follow. Parking not provided.