



DUMBARTON OAKS
RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

Landscape Matters: News from GLS, Fall 2011

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to share with you the following announcements regarding 2011-12 fellows, fellowship applications, new programs, forthcoming lectures and symposium, and new publications.



GLS 2010-11 fellows in “Easy Rider,” the installation by contemporary artist Patrick Dougherty in the Ellipse. Image courtesy Nathaniel P. VanValkenburgh.

Survey of Former Fellows

First, we would like to thank all the former fellows, project grant recipients, and senior fellows who took the time to complete the survey we circulated in anticipation of the 40th anniversary of the Garden and Landscape Studies program. We are now considering how best to share this information among all of you. Meanwhile, you might be interested in a few general observations. Nearly all respondents expressed appreciation for the time, space, and resources that Dumbarton Oaks provides for scholars in garden history and landscape studies. Many of you remarked on the uniqueness of our program, offering residential facilities in the context of a fabulous garden and an extraordinary library. Quite a few of you noted that the program covers virtually limitless chronological, geographical, and disciplinary fields, and is addressed to academics and design

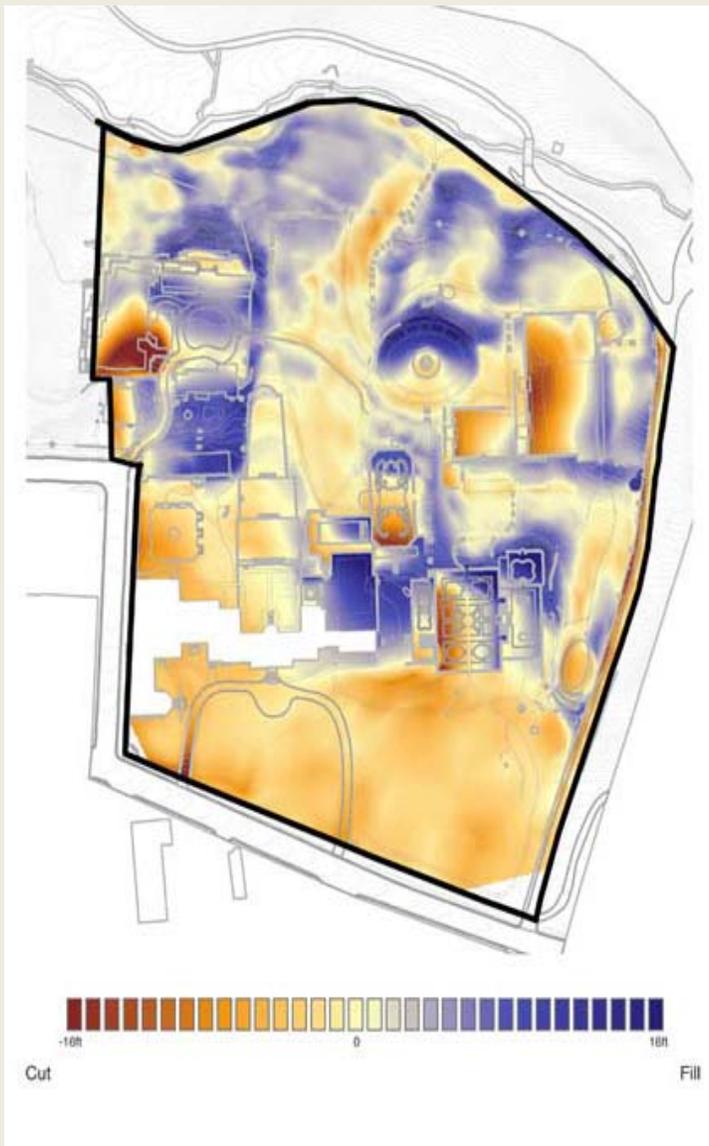
professionals alike. For some of you, this breadth exposes a fault line in the program—as in the larger field—between history and practice. Some of you thought GLS ought to be more attentive to one or the other, while others insisted the distinctive mission of the program was to provide a bridge between the two.

The origins of this fault line lie deep in the history of program. As former director of studies Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn noted in his 1996 publication *Twenty-Five Years of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks*, the Garden and Landscape Studies program originated in several fellowships first offered in 1956 to design students and professionals. A Senior Research Fellowship in Landscape Architecture was created for “a mature professional landscape architect,” while a Junior Research Fellowship was established for “a recent graduate of a school of landscape architecture.” A Garden Scholarship was created for current students of landscape architecture to gain hands-on experience in the maintenance of a historic garden. As John Thatcher, then director of Dumbarton Oaks, wrote at the time, “It might be good idea...to be sure that the Summer Garden Fellows realize that they are supposed to do some actual work in the gardens.”

Over the years, the program of studies in Landscape Architecture, now the Garden and Landscape Studies Program, has migrated away from professional practice and away from the garden as a laboratory for study, and is now focused predominantly on historical scholarship in an increasingly global and interdisciplinary field. But we still try to remain true to the original intentions of the program. We have reinstated the garden scholarships as summer internships for landscape architecture students, and some of our public programs are directed toward current practice and practitioners and toward a better understanding of the relevance of history in contemporary design. We are too small a program to do everything perfectly, especially all at the same time. But Dumbarton Oaks is one of the few institutions in the world with a program devoted to garden and landscape studies, so it seems essential that we continue to honor the founding vision for the program, in which both history and practice had a place.



2010-11 Fellows and staff playing croquet on the North Vista. Image courtesy M. Lee.



Cut and Fill analysis of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens comparing present conditions with a 1922 survey. Created by Charlie Howe during his 2011 summer internship.

2010-11 in review

The 2010-11 academic year was a particularly lively one for GLS at Dumbarton Oaks, with four fellows (Sonja Duempelmann, University of Maryland; Nurit Lissovsky, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology; James Nisbet, California State University at Longbeach, now Cornell University; and Anatole Tchikine, University of Dublin, Trinity College) and one junior fellow (James Schissel, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). We also hosted visiting scholars John Dixon Hunt (University of Pennsylvania) and Duncan Campbell (Australian National University), who came to resume work on the long-planned Dumbarton Oaks anthology of Chinese garden literature. Other visitors included seven pre-doctoral residents, two one-month research-stipend recipients, and three summer interns: Melissa Elliott (University of Virginia), Charlie Howe (Harvard University GSD), and Anna Lawrence (University of Minnesota).



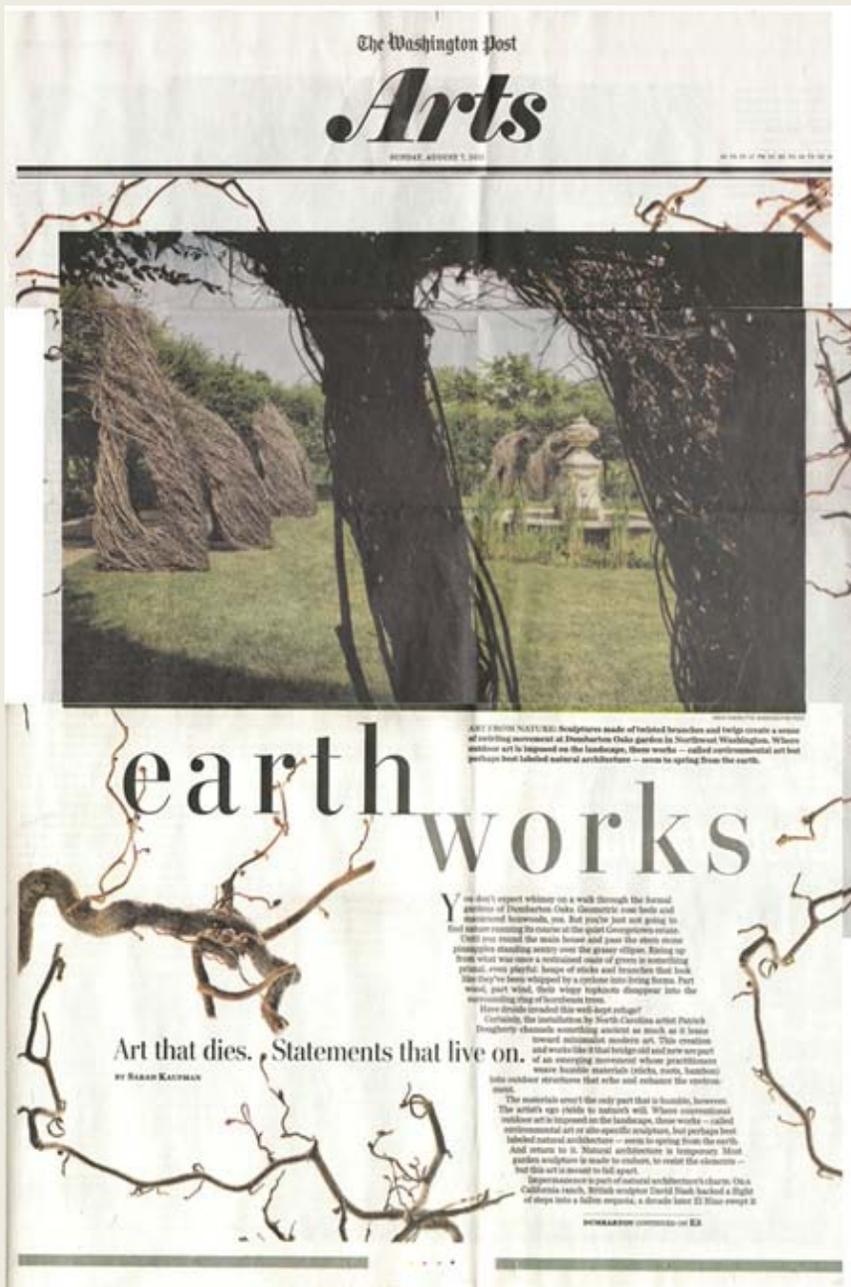
Mock-up for the entrance gate to the Rose Garden. Found in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives by summer intern Melissa Elliott who visualized Beatrix Farrand's Plant Book for Dumbarton Oaks © 1980.

GLS hosted lectures by John Dixon Hunt on “The Role of History in Modern Landscape Architecture” on March 3, 2011, and Peter Galison on “Wastelands and Wilderness” on March 15, 2011, in conjunction with the Environmental Film Festival. Raja Shehadeh, Palestinian author and human-rights activist, gave an informal talk on cartography on April 27, 2011, based in part on material collected for his books *Palestinian Walks* and *A Rift in Time*. Other informal talks were given by visiting scholar Duncan Campbell; former fellow Betsey Robinson from Vanderbilt University; 2010-11 Graduate School of Design Loeb Fellows Herbert Dreiseitl and Andy Cao; current Senior Fellow D. Fairchild Ruggles; and Akin Ogundiran from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, who came to present a preview of his “Archaeological Investigations and Survey of the Sacred Arts in Osun Grove, Nigeria,” for which he received a project grant. On December 11, 2010, Dumbarton Oaks hosted a day-long colloquium on the work of Lawrence Halprin, one of the most important 20th-century landscape designers in America, in anticipation of a special issue of *Landscape Journal* that will be jointly edited by Dumbarton Oaks.



“Technology and the Garden” symposium speakers, May 2011. Image courtesy J. Mills.

The annual symposium for the academic year was held on May 6 and 7, 2011. Titled “Technology and the Garden,” the symposium expanded upon existing research in the history of technology to address such questions as the impact of mechanization on gardens, the role of informal or artisanal knowledge in the continuity of working methods, and the links between technological innovation and design change. Scholars have long recognized the impact of technology on our understanding of nature and geography, but have rarely analyzed its relation to gardens and other designed landscapes. The symposium was intended to redress this significant gap in scholarship. Organized by Senior Fellows Kenneth Helphand, Diana Balmori, and Mark Laird with program Post-Doctoral Associate Michael Lee, the symposium was accompanied by an exhibition of related material from the Rare Book Room selected by Michael Lee and Linda Lott.



The Washington Post article on Patrick Dougherty's installation at Dumbarton Oaks. Printed August 7, 2011.

Easy Rider, Patrick Dougherty's wonderful installation of woven saplings—fifteen “running figures” or twisted architectural elements that rise into the aerial hedge and pursue each other actively and gracefully around the Ellipse—has now survived a full year in the gardens, and continues to look good and attract positive comment from visitors and the press. Most recently, it was featured in a front-page story in *The Washington Post* Style Section on Sunday, August 7, 2011, with a related story posted to the paper's blog. See “Nature meets art: Modern outlook, primal impact at Dumbarton Oaks,”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/nature-meets-art-modern-outlook-primal-impact-at-dumbarton-oaks/2011/07/27/gIQAvYYkwl_story.html and “Easy Rider” sculptor Patrick Dougherty explains natural architecture,” http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/arts-post/post/easy-rider-sculptor-patrick-dougherty-explains-natural-architecture/2011/08/05/gIQAgOhxwI_blog.html

2011-12 Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies

The following 2011-12 academic year **summer fellows** were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the summer term, 2011:

Velma Love, *Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University*
 “From Swamp Land to Sacred Landscape”

Jyoti Pandey Sharma, *Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology*
 “Spatializing Gentility: The Public Park and Civic Pride in the Colonial Indian Landscape”

Rebecca Williamson, *University of Cincinnati*

“The Stuff of Cities: Resources and Waste in the Urban Landscape”

Sevin Yildiz, *New Jersey Institute of Technology*

“New Jersey Meadowlands: Planning the Ecology of Disappearance, 1929–2004”

The following **academic year fellows** are in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in 2011-12:

Fellows

Louis Cellauro, LARHRA (Laboratoire de Recherche Historique Rhône-Alpes)

“Varro's Aviary at Casinum: Reconstructions from the Renaissance to the Present”

Robin Veder, Pennsylvania State University

“‘Natural’ Performances: Early Twentieth Century Body Cultures in American Gardens”

Junior Fellows

Michael Herchenbach, Universität Bonn

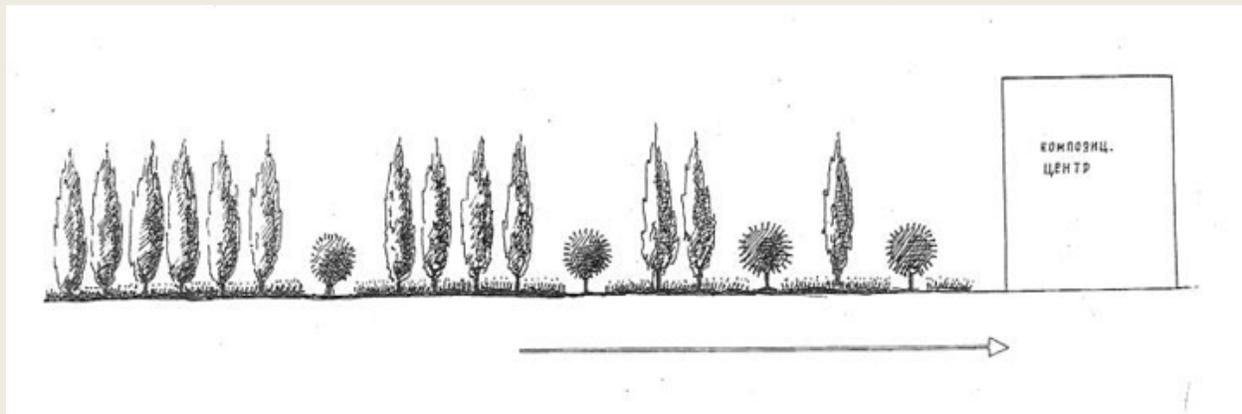
“Planting the Seeds of Rome: Garden Plants in the Northwestern Roman Empire”

Miranda Mollendorf, Harvard University (spring)

“The World in a Book: Robert John Thornton's *Temple of Flora* (1799–1812)”

Alla Vronskaya, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (fall)

“Scientific Modernism: Psychophysiology and Rationalist Architecture in Soviet Russia, 1919–1941”



Victor Kalmykov, *Examples of simple rhythmical groupings of trees*, 1937. Russian State Archive of Scientific and Technical Documentation, Samara.

Visiting Scholar

Duncan Campbell, Australian National University (spring)

Dumbarton Oaks Anthology of Chinese Garden Literature

Project Grant recipient

Akin Ogundiran, University of North Carolina, Charlotte,

“Archaeological Investigations and Survey of the Sacred Arts in Osun Grove, Nigeria”

Changes among the Senior Fellows

Kenny Helphand and Diana Balmori both finished their second three-year terms as Senior Fellows and rotated off the committee. Both finished with a flourish, as they were among the organizers of the “Technology and the Garden” symposium; in addition, Kenny had served as chair of the committee for the past three years. Both will be missed, not the least for their connections to the education of designers and the practice of landscape architecture. Gert Gröning (Institute for History and Theory of Design, Berlin University of the Arts, Germany) has been named as a replacement for one of them.



Senior Fellows Diana Balmori and Kenny Helphand with the Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, John Beardsley.

Forthcoming lectures and symposium

The academic-year **lecture series** begins on September 22, 2011 with a presentation by Suzanne Preston Blier, Professor of Fine Arts and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University, who will speak on “Landscapes of Enchantment: Cosmology, Ritual, and Ideas of Place in the Ancient Yoruba City-State” Other lectures will be announced.

Lectures are at 5:30 in the Music Room; a separate announcement will go out for each event. Reservations are required. For reservations or information contact: Landscape@doaks.org or call 202-339-6460.

The **annual symposium** for the 2011-12 academic year will be held at Dumbarton Oaks on Friday and Saturday **May 4-5, 2012**. Organized by Senior Fellow Dorothée Imbert (Washington University, St. Louis) and titled **“Food and the City,”** it will focus on the intricate interrelationships among landscape, urban context, and food production, which are central to the current debate on sustainability. The symposium will explore the links between culture and cultivation, with particular respect to the modern era and urbanization schemes that engaged the production of food, either as a means to achieve self-sufficiency, or as part of a ruralist perspective. As the city displaced food production further from its center, the relationship between living, working, and eating became more abstract. Today, this relationship is tested across planning and community design schemes: American suburban developments include agricultural land as a conservation measure and a nostalgic nod to a pre-agribusiness countryside; European designers focus on the suburban-rural interface to develop a new type of productive landscape, one performing simultaneously as an open space system and an agricultural laboratory; and in cities like Kampala, Uganda, or Rosario, Argentina, urban agriculture is part of a participatory design process that integrates housing programs. This symposium will provide a critical historical framework for today’s urban agriculture by discussing the multiple scales, ideologies, and contexts of productive landscapes from allotment gardens to regional plans, with a particular focus on the efforts of modern and early-modern landscape architects, garden designers, and architects/planners to reconcile the demands of food production and urbanization.

For further information, please contact Jane Padelford at Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460



Image © Nouvelles Images S.A. et Elise Hardy-Eyedea
2009, Lombreuil, France.

Fellowship applications and deadlines

Dumbarton Oaks continues to offer residential fellowships in three areas of study: Byzantine Studies, Pre-Columbian Studies, and Garden and Landscape Studies; opportunities include Academic Year Fellowships, Academic Year Junior Fellowships, and Summer Fellowships. Application deadlines are November 1.

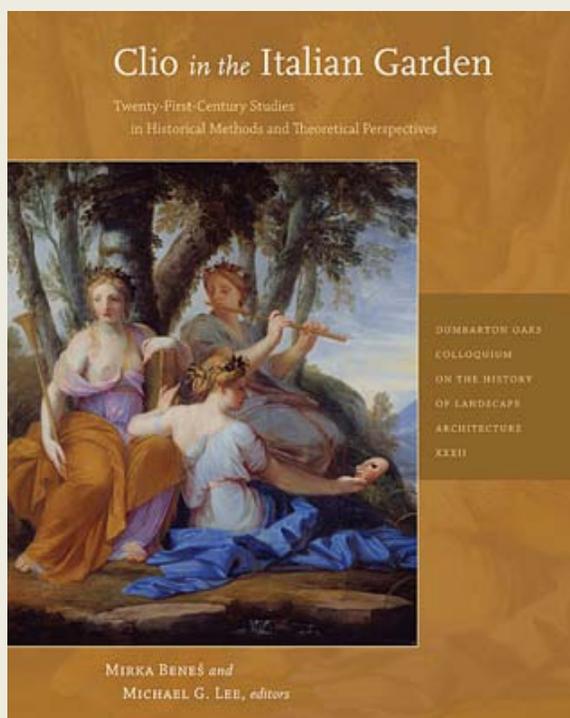
This year, Dumbarton Oaks is again offering a new research opportunity: One-Month Research Stipends; deadlines are rolling. Short-term Pre-Doctoral Residencies are now available for up to four weeks; deadlines for these residencies are also rolling. Complete details on research opportunities and application procedures for fellowships, residencies, and stipends are available at <http://www.doaks.org/research/>.

In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks seeks a balance between historical research and investigations of current practice, between inquiries at the scale of the garden and those addressing larger landscapes. The program invites consideration of all aspects of this interdisciplinary and international field; applicants are encouraged to consider topics from a variety of perspectives. Additional information for applicants in garden and landscape studies is available at http://www.doaks.org/research/info_gal_fellowship.html.

New procedures for submitting applications online have been instituted; please check the Dumbarton Oaks website at http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowship_application.html.

Current Publications

The proceedings of the 2007-08 symposium on recent studies in the history of Italian gardens was published in the spring of 2011. Titled *Clio in the Italian Garden: Twenty-First-Century Studies in Methods and Theoretical Perspectives*, it was edited by Mirka Beneš, an associate professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin and one of the participants in the symposium, and Michael Lee, a landscape historian who is currently a post-doctoral associate in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks. *Landscape/Body/Dwelling: Charles Simonds at Dumbarton Oaks*, edited by John Beardsley, is currently at the printer and will be available in late October; it records the artist's multi-faceted 2009 installation project in the gardens, the museum, and the Rare Book Room.



Proceedings of the 2009 symposium, “The Interlacing of Words and Things in Gardens and Landscapes: Beyond Nature and Culture,” organized by Stephen Bann, are in advanced stages of preparation, and the volume from the 2010 symposium, “Designing Wildlife Habitats,” organized by John Beardsley and Alex Felson, has gone to the copy editor and designer. Forthcoming projects include *The Dumbarton Oaks Anthology of Chinese Garden Literature*; its editor, Duncan Campbell, will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the spring of 2012 to complete editing the volume.

For a full list of Garden and Landscape titles from Dumbarton Oaks and for information on ordering the books, go to

http://www.doaks.org/research/garden_landscape/doaks_gal_publications.html.

