



# DUMBARTON OAKS

RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

## Landscape Matters: News from GLS @ Dumbarton Oaks

In the 2016-2017 academic year, Garden and Landscape Studies continued to operate at nearly the pace established during the previous 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We continued to host the fellowships, residencies, public programs, and academic events that are the core missions of the program, while expanding our activities in urban landscape studies, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through their initiative “Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities.” We are pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year and announcements regarding 2017-18 fellows, fellowship applications, forthcoming events, and new publications.

### *2016-17 in review*

#### **Academic Events and Public Programs**

Garden and Landscape Studies hosted a strong contingent of **scholars in residence** this year. The community included two full-year fellows and two one-term fellows, in addition to four one-term Mellon fellows and three William R. Tyler fellows, Harvard graduate students who divide their time between their own dissertation research and an institutional project. We also hosted our first Humanities Fellow, a newly-created opportunity for recent Harvard graduates interested in exploring

careers in the humanities, who come to Washington to spend one term working at Dumbarton Oaks and another at a partner institution in the city. We were especially fortunate this year to have an extended stay from visiting scholar Elizabeth Meyer from the University of Virginia, who had recently completed her term as Dean of the School of Architecture and came to Dumbarton Oaks to re-engage with her own research and share some of the fruits of her scholarship with our community. We also had numerous shorter-term academic visitors, including recipients of pre-doctoral residencies and one-month research stipends.



*Site of the ancient city of Pagan (9th–13th c.), Myanmar. © G. Farhat, 2016.*

The **annual spring symposium**, held May 5-6, 2017, and organized by Garden and Landscape Studies director John Beardsley and Dumbarton Oaks Senior Fellow Georges Farhat, was linked to the Mellon initiative and focused on "[Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities](#)." 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. 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.



Speakers: "Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities" Symposium

The **fall colloquium** was a collaboration with the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art, and was held in conjunction with the National Gallery's exhibition "[Hubert Robert, 1733-1808](#)," on the French painter and landscape designer. The colloquium opened with a tour of the exhibition for speakers and other invited participants on September 26, 2016, followed by a lecture by Nina Dubin of the University of Illinois, Chicago. The next day, six additional speakers presented papers at Dumbarton Oaks, addressing Robert's work in its artistic and cultural contexts. They highlighted in particular Robert's contributions to landscape architecture and garden design in the second half of the eighteenth century, important aspects of his activities often overlooked in discussions of his other artistic output.



Speakers: "Hubert Robert and French Garden Culture" Colloquium

Additional **academic events** during the year included a lecture on November 9, 2016, "[Glorifying the City in Counter-Reformation Italy: Girolamo Righettino Rediscovered](#)," by Denis Ribouillault of the University of Montreal. Righettino, a fascinating character largely forgotten by modern historians, lived in Venice in the mid-sixteenth century, where, for his own amusement, he started to draw city views with elaborate ornaments and learned allegories. His city views constitute an important case study that demonstrates the intricate relationships among religious and territorial power, politics and urban space, and allegory and topography in Counter-Reformation



Italy. On March 30, 2017, Udo Weilacher, a landscape architect and professor at the University of Munich, joined John Beardsley in a dialogue "[Between Land Art and Landscape Architecture](#)." Both Beardsley and Weilacher have written extensively on land art; this was an opportunity for them to share their perspectives on the origins of the phenomenon and its impact on the contemporary practice of landscape architecture. Jane Padelford, program coordinator, continued in her role of skillfully managing all the department's academic events and public programs, as well as its many short-term academic visitors.

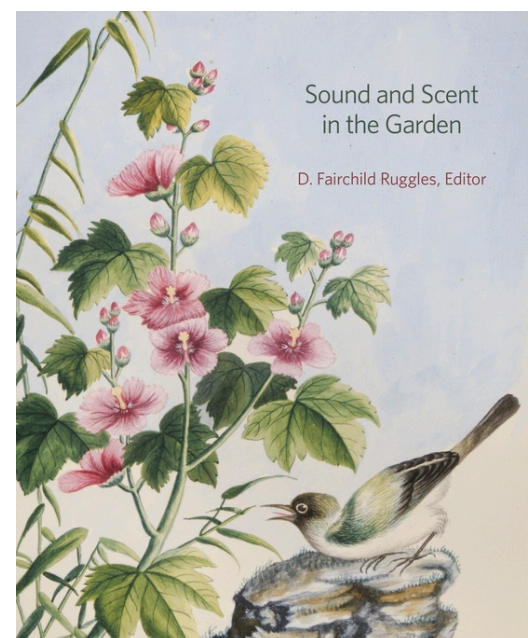


In an effort to nurture the urban landscape interests of emerging scholars and designers, Dumbarton Oaks hosted a [Summer Graduate Workshop](#) from June 5<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, in place of summer fellowships. Organized by Anatole Tchikine, participants included both Ph.D. and MLA candidates and recent graduates. The workshop, which was co-sponsored with the **Humanities Institute at the New York Botanical Garden** and partially supported by the Mellon Initiative, 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.

*Summer Graduate Workshop. Top: John Dixon Hunt leading a discussion in the Rare Book Room. Bottom: Visit to Governors Island, NY.*

## Publications

Newly published in 2017 was [Sound and Scent in the Garden](#), the proceedings of the 2014 symposium of the same name, edited by D. Fairchild Ruggles. While we often approach gardens as things to be seen—thus engaging the rational, intellectual part of the human brain—*Sound and Scent in the Garden* explores the more elusive experiences of sound and smell. These senses are important dimensions of garden design and performance and often have a powerful effect on the human body, yet they may also be ephemeral and difficult to study. The volume demonstrates a wide variety of approaches to the study of sensory history and illuminates this important dimension of the experience of gardens—past and present, East and West.



## Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies

2016-17 was the second full year of the [Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies](#), which aims to bring together landscape architects and historians to explore how urban environments have developed and how best to manage them today. The initiative was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, one of seventeen grants they have made so far to major institutions of higher education and research, which are aimed to foster the joint contributions that the humanities and the design and planning disciplines may make to understanding of the processes and effects of burgeoning urbanization. To this end, the Mellon Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks hosts two fellows each semester, one designer and one scholar, and encourages them to work together and with other fellows in the Dumbarton Oaks community. It also invites distinguished practitioners to reside at Dumbarton Oaks for briefer terms. In 2016-17, the Mellon senior practitioner resident was Udo Weilacher, a German landscape architect, author, and professor of landscape architecture at the Technical University, Munich. Both the annual symposium and the summer graduate workshop coincided this past year with the aims of the Mellon Initiative.



*Street Tree Pruning in the Bronx, New York City, ca 1913. New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Sonja Dümpelmann presented a Midday Dialogue on Street Tree Stories.*

Synergies between Mellon fellows and other fellows at Dumbarton Oaks are fostered through weekly “[Midday Dialogues](#)” with invited speakers, including both landscape practitioners and scholars who are leading the field of urban landscape studies in new directions. Talks are supplemented by field trips and film screenings: When Sonja Dümpelmann from Harvard Graduate School of Design discussed her current research on street tree planting initiatives in twentieth-century Europe and the United States, her talk was followed by a screening and discussion of “City of Trees,” which follows the non-profit organization Washington Parks & People as they employ former inmates to plant trees in a public park in southeast Washington, D.C.

In addition to fellowships, an important dimension of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies is providing [outreach](#) to underserved high school students in the District, both to foster urban environmental awareness and to introduce students to potential careers in urban landscape design and management. Led by Mellon post-doctoral fellow Jeanne Haffner, we focused 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



*Students from Phelps High School during a site visit to a community garden.*



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.

In May 2017, we opened a **public exhibition** in the Rare Books Gallery entitled “[City Water/City Life](#),” which showcased the shifting character and uses of urban waterfronts since the seventeenth century. Curated by Humanities Fellow John Wang, the exhibition included both rare historical images and contemporary photographs of Florence, Paris, and Amsterdam.

As part of the exhibition, we launched a new digital resource, the [DC Water Atlas](#), created by Dumbarton Oaks Tyler Fellow John Davis, a PhD candidate at Harvard working on the history of engineering and infrastructure. The Atlas reveals the development of the city’s water infrastructure over time, from aqueducts and canals to the sewer grid and water treatment facilities; it is intended to be of use not only to scholars but to anyone interested in where their water comes from—and where it goes.

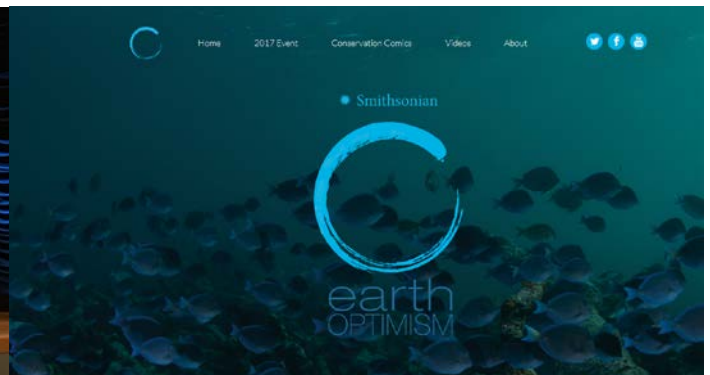


*Engraving of eighteenth-century Florence by Giuseppe Zocchi. Courtesy Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Room.*

In addition to the exhibition, the Mellon Initiative engaged in outreach through **public events**. In the fall term, we jointly organized the colloquium “[Landscapes of Housing](#)” with the Harvard Mellon Initiative. Held in Cambridge on October 14, 2016, 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. In the spring, we participated in the Smithsonian Earth Optimism Summit (April 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017). John Beardsley and Jeanne Haffner co-chaired the panel “[Success in the City: Social and Environmental Design for the Twenty-First Century](#).” 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.



*Panel at the Smithsonian Earth Optimism Summit*



## 2017-18 Scholars in residence

The following Garden and Landscape Studies, Mellon, Tyler Fellows and Visiting Scholar will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the 2017-18 academic year.

### Fellows

- Romy Hecht (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), “Botanical Practices and Urban Reform in Postcolonial Santiago, Chile”
- Michael Lee (University of Virginia, Spring), “German Landscape and the Aesthetics of Administration: Peter Joseph Lenné and His Circle, 1815–1848”
- Kelly Presutti (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), “Terroir after the Terror: Landscape and Representation in Nineteenth-Century France”
- Denis Ribouillault (Université de Montréal, Fall), “Gardens of the Heavens: Astronomy and the Science of Time in the Gardens of Papal Rome”



*Midday Dialogue speaker Everett Fly and Anacostia Museum curator Alcione Amos with staff and fellows.*

### Junior Fellows

- Thalia Allington-Wood (University College London, Spring), “Garden Politics: Italian Renaissance Gardens in Postwar Italy”
- Nicholas Serrano (North Carolina State University), “Ideologies of Nature in the Landscape Architecture and Urban Development of the Postwar American South, 1955–1975”
- Kaja Tally-Schumacher (Cornell University, Fall), “Cultivating Empire: Transplanting and Translating Rome”

### William R. Tyler Fellows

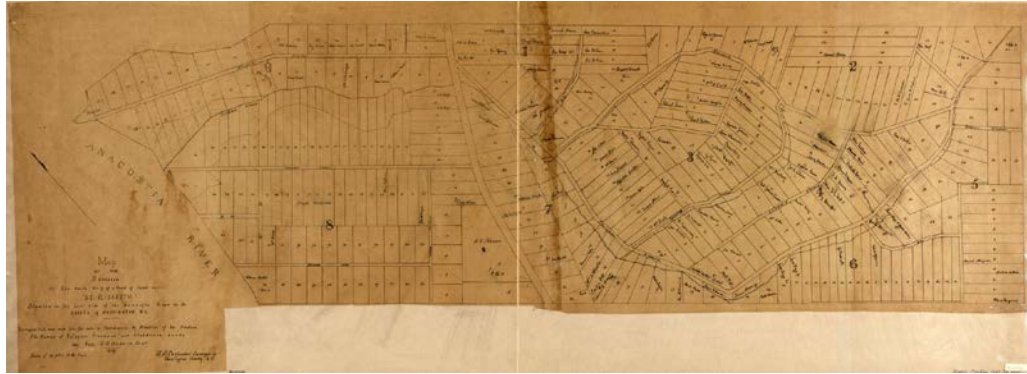
- Philip Gant, “Temple Litigation and Korea’s Long Nineteenth Century”
- Abbey Stockstill, “Crafting an Identity: Landscape and Urbanism in Almohad Marrakech”

### Mellon Fellows in Urban Landscape Studies

- Basak Durgun (George Mason University), “Cultural Politics of Urban Green Spaces: The Production and Reorganization of Istanbul’s Parks and Gardens”
- Jacob Boswell (Ohio State University), “Changing Climates: Social Imaginaries of Climate Modification in the United States”
- John King (*San Francisco Chronicle*), “New Forms of Urban Public Space and the Publics That They Serve”
- Maria Taylor (University of Michigan), “Between Town and Country: The Soviet City-Landscape Nexus in Global Perspective”

## Looking Ahead to 2017-18

The academic year began with a visit by 2014 National Humanities Medalist Everett Fly, a designer and historic preservationist from San Antonio who has been instrumental in researching and protecting the cultural landscapes of historic African American settlements across the South. He presented his work in a Mellon Midday Dialogue on September 20, and the same evening participated in a program jointly sponsored by Dumbarton Oaks and the Anacostia Community Museum on the [disappearing history of Barry Farm](#), a community originally created by the Freedmen's Bureau on the east side of the Anacostia River after the Civil War.



Map circa 1867, of Barry Farm, on the east side of the Anacostia River, Washington, D.C. Courtesy Library of Congress.

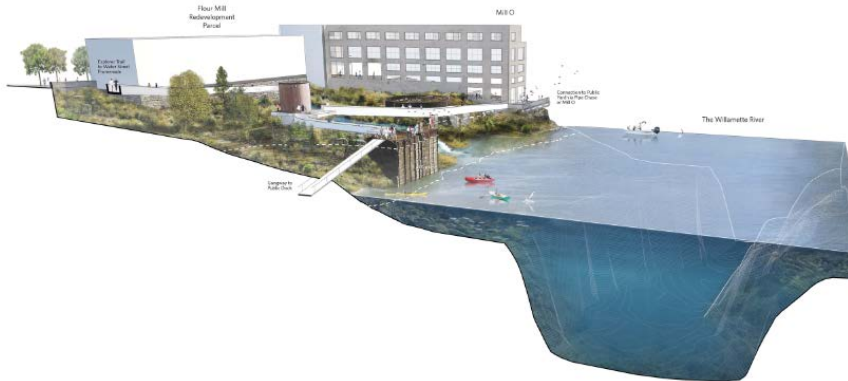
Academic events will continue with a colloquium on November 3, 2017, "[How Designers Think](#)."

In the past generation, humanity has crossed a number of significant thresholds: over half the world's population now lives in cities, a percentage that is sure to grow, and we are living in an age characterized by significant and potentially irreversible anthropogenic climate and ecological transformations. 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 warming temperatures, rising oceans, and changing weather patterns. We will assemble a group of six to eight midcareer 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.

The colloquium is part of our Mellon program in Urban Landscape Studies. It will provide the opportunity for our scholarly community to hear from a range of contemporary designers who are active in imagining better futures for our cities, and for the designers to engage with a historically

informed audience. The goal for the colloquium overall, as well as within individual presentations, is to bridge design and the humanities: to suggest the ways that humanities research and practice can inform each other in service of better understandings of cities past and present.

Speakers include Gina Ford (Sasaki, Boston) on flood management and coastal resilience; Aki Omi (Office MA, San Francisco) on working in a globalizing context, especially China; Sara Zewde (Gustafson, Guthrie, Nichol, Seattle) on community, race, and



Design proposal for the Willamette Falls Riverwalk, Oregon City, OR, courtesy Snøhetta.



commemoration; Jose Castillo (Architecture 911, Mexico City), on the ways food and cooking transform cities; Michelle Delk (Snohetta, New York) on her firm's interdisciplinary approach, using the Willamette River project as an example; Bas Smets (Brussels), on his explorations of the links between landscape design and film; Jennifer Bolstad and Walter Meyer (Local Office Landscape Architecture, New York) on historical ecology and urban resilience; and Antje Stokman (HafenCity Universität Hamburg ) on water infrastructure and community engagement in low-income communities, with a focus on Lima, Peru.

*Registration will open in October.*

### Awards for Students

Garden and Landscape Studies sponsors two awards—the Bliss Award and the Mellon Colloquium Award—for currently enrolled graduate students and undergraduate juniors and seniors wishing to attend the annual spring symposium and the fall colloquium at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C. The awards offer reimbursement up to \$500 for the cost of travel to Washington D.C., local accommodation, and other approved expenses related to symposium attendance.

- [Mellon Colloquium Award](#): for graduate and undergraduate students
- [Bliss Award](#): for Harvard University students

### Call for Papers

[Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium, "Military Landscapes"](#)



*View of the Gettysburg Battlefield, 2015.*

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks is planning a symposium, to be held on May 4–5, 2018, which aims to reevaluate the role of war as a fundamental form of human interaction with land and a decisive factor in the ongoing transformation of the natural environment. What are the challenges and theoretical implications of understanding military infrastructure as landscape from the disciplinary perspectives of cultural geography, architectural history, and environmental studies? And what is the role of the practice of landscape architecture in shaping, curating, and giving meaning to such landscapes?

Among various human interventions in landscape, war has left one of the most lasting and eloquent records, literally inscribed in the face of the earth. Military landscapes can assume different forms and functions: vertical, as the Great Wall of China, or horizontal, as the Federal Interstate Highway System; overground and geometrically controlled, as the earthworks of the Renaissance *trace italienne*, or sunken and disguised by local topography, as the trenches of World War I. They could be high-

security sites, as the Pentagon, or tourist attractions, as Himeji Castle in Japan; curated, as the Gettysburg Battlefield, or neglected, as the outskirts of the Savannah River nuclear reservation site. In their most familiar form, they are national memorials as sites of remembrance and commemoration, which—as places where historical memory becomes translated into myth—continue to have powerful emotional, political, and cultural resonance. Please send a 200-word abstract and a short two-page CV, by **September 30, 2017**, to Anatole Tchikine ([tchikinea@doaks.org](mailto:tchikinea@doaks.org)) and John Davis ([jdavis@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jdavis@fas.harvard.edu)).



## Fellowship and Project Grant 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. The deadline for all residential fellowships is **November 1, 2017**. 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.

[Mellon Fellowships in Urban Landscape Studies](#) are offered by the Garden and Landscape Studies program, and are intended for scholars and designers to pursue research on the history and current conditions of urban landscapes. Fellowships will be awarded for either the fall term (September 10, 2018, to January 4, 2019,) or spring term (January 22 to May 10, 2019). Applications must be submitted electronically by **January 4, 2018**.

Dumbarton Oaks also offers a limited number of [project grants](#). Garden and Landscape Studies grants are intended to support primary research of a specific site. Project grants may be used for a broad array of projects including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, heritage conservation and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. If applicants have any questions about the suitability of their projects, they may send queries to [Garden and Landscape Studies](#) no later than **October 9, 2017**. The application deadline is **November 1, 2017**.



*Left: Native plant pollinator swale, with Solidago and Monarda planted with local seed, designed by Tyler Fellow Deidre Moore, Dumbarton Oaks, 2017.*

*Right: Monarch on Aster tataricus in the Herbaceous Border.*