

THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION

Landscape architecture is a spatial design and planning profession that operates across all scales of the built and natural environments. It addresses a wide range of social, cultural, economic, technological, and ecological concerns including climate change; social equity; urban and rural development; sustainable infrastructure; water management; and food production. Landscape architects engage these concerns through unique technical expertise in designing with water, soils, vegetation, climate, and built structures to create spatial experiences that sustain all life. Much of their work is conducted in collaborative, interdisciplinary settings.

MLA PROGRAM MISSION

We aim to advance the professional practice of landscape architecture through spatial design teaching and research. Through the MLA program, we address the design and planning concerns of our northern continental climate and prairie region and in a global context. We emphasize the creation of places that respond to their climatic, ecological, economic, and social settings through the development of critical thinking and design excellence.

The broad disciplinary profile of landscape architecture requires constant adaptation and the highest standards of professional performance, whether in the education of young professionals in the conduct of research, in design practice, and in collaborations with other disciplines and the broader community.

Consequently, the program aims to:

- nurture and produce capable, reflective, socially and politically aware designers.
- engage and challenge students while preparing them for professional life.
- foster a creative, enjoyable academic environment that encourages rigour, design excellence and independent learning
- engage in innovative teaching and learning practices including Indigenous principles.
- be at the forefront of research, design innovation, and critical debates in the discipline.
- promote awareness of landscape architecture through community advocacy and outreach.
- pursue the integration of design practice and research.
- be an integral part of a multidisciplinary, design-oriented Faculty.

- collaborate with non-design disciplines, including ecology and other natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, and fine arts.

PROGRAM VALUES

To fulfill the program's purpose and achieve its aims faculty members, sessional instructors, and students share a common set of values:

RESPECT: Cultivate a meaningful and reciprocal engagement with communities and the environment.

RECONCILIATION: Promote integration of Indigenous values and perspectives in all facets of design research and teaching

ETHICS: Develop an understanding of the ethical implications of our actions on people and the environment.

COLLABORATION: Recognize that landscape-related actions extend across multiple geographical, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries.

CREATIVE THINKING: Foster thinking that enables creative and critical judgments of our landscape-related actions.

EXCELLENCE: Promote and advance the science, art, and profession of landscape architecture.

SUSTAINABILITY: Ensure the long-term welfare of communities and environmental systems.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, and INCLUSION: Encourage an inclusive culture in the department, Faculty, and University and promote an all-embracing approach to design.

Approved by the Council of Landscape Architecture on April 14, 2023