



**specifics**

HCU / Hamburg 22-25/09/2013  
**ECLAS Conference**

## **call for papers**

### **ECLAS CONFERENCE 2013 - HAMBURG**

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools will hold its annual Conference 2013 in Hamburg. It will be hosted by the HafenCity University Hamburg and is curated and coordinated by the Department of Landscape Architecture, Prof. Christiane Sørensen.

ECLAS represents the interests of the academic community of landscape architects and landscape planners within the wider European social and institutional context. ECLAS provides an internationally recognized forum for academic exchange and

international cooperation between universities working in the field of landscape architecture, and represents a key platform for discussion of specific issues currently of concern within the discipline.

We are seeking proposals for papers for presentation at the conference. In addition to the refereed papers and posters, the conference will feature eminent keynote speakers enriching the conference with their specific perspectives.

### **CONFERENCE SCOPE - SPECIFICS**

A fundamental task of Landscape architecture is to examine the typical characteristics and potential of a place, to uncover its genius loci and thus extract the specificity of the location. And so projects with a tangible relationship with one place arise, their context embedded in the existing relational systems.

The shaping of cultural landscapes owes much to regional experiences and individual interpretations alike. Research and teaching methods also shape the thinking of future generations of landscape and environment planners. The immediate task is

to emphasize differences of quality and to concentrate on significant strategies for research and teaching against the backdrop of globalization,. How can we learn from the widespread international network of specific experiences and draw inspiration from them?

The Conference scope will be approached by five topics raising questions that serve as a frame of reference and orientation for the authors.



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## SESSION TOPICS

### NATURE HAPPEND YESTERDAY TRIAL REFLECTION ON THE SPECIFIC ROLE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The process of bringing Nature under control makes further progress and research has reached civilization's most distant places. The research methods used in natural science, especially the life sciences, serve to increasingly relativize the dividing line between humans and nature. As a discipline, landscape architecture has always, more than most, been concerned with the link between scientific and artistic practice and its role is to understand nature in all her complexity and to make our interactive embeddedness in nature visible.

What are the after-effects of events such as the nuclear meltdown in Fukushima or the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? To look at the global issues of the environment demands a level of sensitivity that transcends political borders and calls for ways to make joint action possible.

Sometimes familiar cultural landscapes are subject to irreversible changes. Now that the relationship between culture/technology and nature has become fragile, how will the profession continue to do justice to its task of reconciling them? The consequences of these developments require a new basic under-

standing of the sphere in which landscape architecture operates. Therefore, reaching agreement on the necessary research and teaching topics is worth the effort:

What value is attached to nature in societies whose value systems are continually altering?

Nature as an expression of yearning: how are perceptions of "Nature" changing? How close to Nature are we, how far alienated? What future-oriented aesthetic practices are needed? Are people waking up to the environment?

Nature as differentiated from the concept of culture: does this differentiation still make sense? What visions guide us when we seek to preserve and cherish natural and cultural landscapes? Are trends towards a new understanding of landscape apparent?

What approaches to teaching exist to convey an understanding of nature to future generation of landscape architects and planners?

### WHO OWNS THE LANDSCAPE? COLLECTIVE APPROPRIATIONS AND LANDSCAPE PLANNING

This session is dedicated to the gradual emergence of a new collective awareness of the daily environment. There are two levels on which this may be approached:

One is to look at current forms of private individual and collective engagement, as expressed in projects such as garden collectives, urban agriculture etc. What reasons underlie this yearning for community and what social or community-building influence do they have on shaping and developing the environment.

What new forms of ownership for the landscape's future are being trialled?

And in view of this, another approach is to spotlight and critically appraise the instruments available to landscape and environmental planners. In what way does community engagement actually lead to fresh scope for action and to a new quality of public involvement which thus requires more advanced planning instruments?

What role does the profession of Landscape architecture play within these processes? Do we need to extend the landscape architecture education?



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## BEST PRACTICE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Examples of landscape architecture and environmental design are all around us; likewise, we move about in the virtual sphere of a set of unbuilt ideas, seeking orientation among a range of appealing models with their specific attitudes and intentions. The critical examination of "good professional practice", both past and present, is tied up with design schools and the history of their influence in landscape architecture. The search for inspirational teaching institutes, for role models whose personality and attitudes impress others - sometimes entire generations of landscape architects. The aim is to encourage people to regard critical contemplation of specific schools of landscape architecture as a topic for research.

What continuities and traditions define the classic repertoire of landscape architecture? What aspects reveal differences, where do innovative styles emerge? What fundamental changes in design teaching may be observed?

What new developments are emerging or call for our attention?

What aesthetic practices are necessary for the use and implementation of technical developments?

## LANDSCAPE AND STRUCTURES

Landscape and environmental planning are part of engineering sciences and conversely, a cultural landscape would be impossible without engineers. Technical innovations are often complements of inventions in the landscape architecture field. How we deal with infrastructure is an important issue when it comes to the specific characteristics of a region. Infrastructure is an integral part of cultural landscapes; it determines their look and feel and is responsible for providing the means of using and developing the area.

What forms of open space are now generated by hybrid infrastructure constructions? What landscape images do they create and how do they determine perceptions and understanding of landscape?

How can the involvement of landscape planners help in the design of functional constructions?

What interdisciplinary knowledge and learning experiences are necessary to find satisfactory methods of dealing with these structures and their possible alteration - in technical, environmental and design terms?

## EVENTS AND CONVERSION

Rare events should serve to release energy to drive positive developments in towns and regions: Olympic Games, football world cups, world expos or - as in Hamburg in 2013 - the International Garden Show and the International Building Exhibition. However, the trend towards festivalization is not just limited to major events, but applies to all scales and sizes. Despite all the preparation the event entails, it would seem that by far the greater challenge is to link the capital expenditure and changes in the landscape space with long-term visions for its legacy use. Because, unlike the exceptional event, these legacy plans will sustainably determine the character of the sites that still need to be utilized and maintained after the spotlight has been turned off.

The festivalization of spaces means a deliberate staging of exceptional situations. How can the experiments and innovative potential the events bring be sustainably integrated into everyday life?

What is the relationship between event and subsequent use? Is the initiating event actually in the background and its legacy use the true focus of attention, or the other way round? Which priorities have which consequences?

How do planners treat what is left behind? What planning methods are also suitable for long-term processes?

How are the understanding of long term planning processes and process related designs implemented in the curriculum of landscape architecture education?



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## ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are invited for oral presentations, poster presentations and Pecha Kucha presentations. Thus the abstract should clearly communicate the objective of the work, the results and their significance. Time and effort spent constructing a clear, concise, and well-written abstract will maximize the chances of paper acceptance. New and significant work is a prerequisite for paper acceptance. The abstract will be used by reviewers as the basis for acceptance of the paper. Authors of accepted papers are

subsequently asked to submit Full Papers, Posters and Pecha Kucha Lectures.

Abstracts may only be submitted online at:

**WWW.ECLAS2013.DE**

by the deadline: 28th February 2013

## GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

The homepage [www.eclas2013.de](http://www.eclas2013.de) provides all guidelines and information concerning the paper types and abstract requirements. Furthermore it supplies guidelines regarding the format of the Full Papers, Posters and Pecha Kucha Lectures and information explaining the Submission of abstracts and full papers.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Submission deadline:	28 th February, 2013
Notification of acceptance:	30 th April, 2013
Full Paper Submission deadline:	15 th August, 2013
Conference:	22-25th September, 2013

## CONTACT

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