



Landscape Matters: News from GLS @ Dumbarton Oaks

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year, and announcements regarding 2013-14 fellows, fellowship applications, new programs, forthcoming lectures and symposium, and new publications.



Djenne, Mali, image courtesy Charlotte Joy from her presentation at the “Cultural Landscape Heritage in sub-Saharan Africa” symposium in May 2013

2012-13 in review

2012-13 was a year of firsts for Garden and Landscape Studies, even as we honored the histories that have made Dumbarton Oaks the remarkable institution it is. On the one hand, GLS hosted its first-ever symposium on landscape heritage in sub-Saharan Africa. On the other, we convened a colloquium to present new perspectives on Beatrix Farrand, the principal designer of our celebrated gardens. Bridging tradition and innovation, GLS is launching a new publication series, *ex horto*, translations of classic and rare texts on garden history and on the philosophy, art, and techniques of landscape architecture.

The **annual symposium**, organized by Director of Garden and Landscape Studies John Beardsley and held May 10-11, 2013, brought together a multi-disciplinary group of geographers, art historians, anthropologists, and archaeologists to discuss “**Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa.**” In over 40 years of symposia, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks has addressed a nearly global range of cultures, epochs, and

subjects. But one region has been conspicuous for its absence: Africa south of the Sahara. This omission is particularly glaring, given that the subcontinent is one of the oldest inhabited landscapes on earth, with a staggering range of geographies, cultures, histories, and patterns of

settlement. The symposium was intended to help address this gap in scholarship, with a particular focus on landscape heritage and management: what we know—or think we know—of pre-colonial landscapes; how they were read and misread in the colonial era; and how they are being reinterpreted in the present for various purposes, including conservation, economic development, education, and the creation of national identity. Topics included monumental



Speakers at the “Cultural Landscape Heritage in sub-Saharan Africa” symposium

sites such as Djenné and Great Zimbabwe; anthropogenic or “sacred” forests in both East and West Africa; nomadic landscapes in Kenya and South Africa; and iconic landscapes such as Table Mountain. The event was notable as much for the level of interdisciplinary discussion as it was for the range of presentations. As one of the participants, Akin Ogundiran, wrote, “By bringing Africa full force to Dumbarton Oaks, you took a risk, but it was a worthy intellectual risk that is true to the mission of Dumbarton Oaks. As you ponder the next steps in this encounter with Africa, I trust that you will be satisfied that Garden and Landscape Studies has helped open a new frontier in landscape scholarship.” The speakers included: Suzanne Blier, *Harvard University*; Joost Fontein, *University of Edinburgh*; Jeremy Foster, *Cornell University*; Grey Gundaker, *William and Mary*; Charlotte Joy, *University of London*; Paul Lane, *Uppsala University*; Neil Norman, *William and Mary*; Akin Ogundiran, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*; Ikem Stanley Okoye, *University of Delaware*; Innocent Pikirayi, *University of Pretoria*; Maano Ramutsindela, *University of Cape Town*; Gemma Rodrigues, *University of California Los Angeles*; Michael Sheridan, *Middlebury College*

The **colloquium**, entitled “**Working with Farrand/ Farrand at Work**,” was held on March 8, 2013. The event foregrounded the ways that Farrand thought and worked, and the efforts of current designers to work with surviving Farrand landscapes, adapting them to current conditions and purposes. The speakers included Michael Van Valkenburgh on his firm’s work at the Princeton campus; Thaisa Way on Farrand’s relation to emerging ecological practices in the early 20th century; Betsy Anderson on the entrance drive at Edith Wharton’s home the Mount and its anticipation of ideas about sustainable design and storm water management; Dennis Bracale on the relationship between Farrand and the Rockefellers at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden; Robin Veder on walking in the Dumbarton Oaks gardens; Patrick Chassé on lost Farrand landscapes; and Judith Tankard on Farrand’s later years and the move from Reef



Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, Mount Desert Island, Maine, discussed at the Farrand colloquium. Photo by Preston Manning



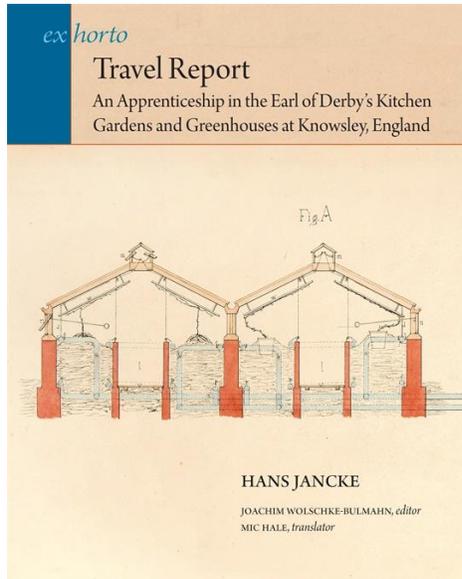
Leng Mei, *View of the Rehe Traveling Palace*. c. 1710, which was discussed in Stephen Whiteman's lecture in Dec. 2012

Point to Garland Farm. The goal of the colloquium was to introduce new and unpublished research, much of it by practitioners who are attentive to history and engaged in research. It was also meant to foster discussion of current stewardship of significant Farrand landscapes, including Dumbarton Oaks.

Other public events over the academic year were in a variety of formats and appealed to our diverse constituencies. Visiting Scholar Lawrence Buell, Powell M. Cabot Research Professor of American Literature at Harvard, spoke on April 11, 2013, on "Gardens and the Work of Environmental Memory." Professor Buell took note of some important ways in which gardens can embody or activate environmental memory, but asked if a passion for gardens or gardening correlates with an "ecological conscience," a sense of connectedness and accountability to the natural world. Stephen Whiteman, the 2012-2014 A. W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, delivered the fall 2012 public lecture, speaking on "History and Memory in the Manchu Imperial Park of Bishu Shanzhuang, one of the earliest and most important Qing dynasty landscapes. Also in the fall, Alberta Campitelli, Director of the City of Rome's Office of Historic Villas and Parks, gave an informal talk on "Management and Conservation in the Historic Villas and Gardens of Rome," with a particular focus on Villa Borghese. In the spring, in anticipation of the symposium, the program hosted a screening of Susan Vogel's film "The Future of Mud: A Tale of Houses and Lives in Djenne." Presented in collaboration with the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, the screening was followed by a discussion with the filmmaker. The consistent success of these events is a testament to the skill of Dumbarton Oaks staff, and especially to the efforts of GLS program coordinator Jane Padelford.

New Publications

Our publications program has been active on several fronts, with capable help from post-doctoral associate Anatole Tchikine. The new translation series, *ex horto*, will make available in English both works in manuscript that have never been published and books that have long been out of print. The volumes will cover a broad geographical and temporal range, from ancient Chinese poetry to twentieth-century gardening treatises, and will eventually constitute a library of historical sources that have defined the core of the field. By making these works more available, the series will help provide access to the foundational literature of garden and landscape studies.

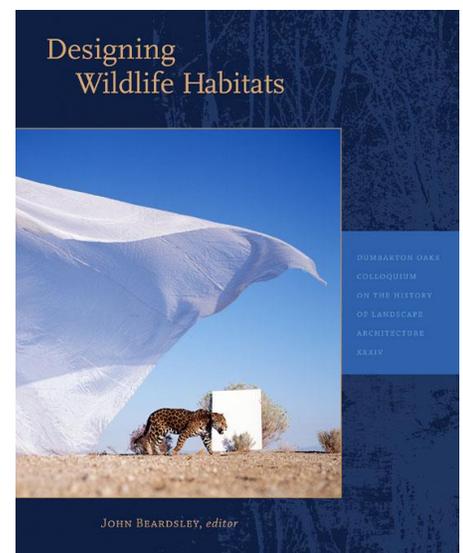
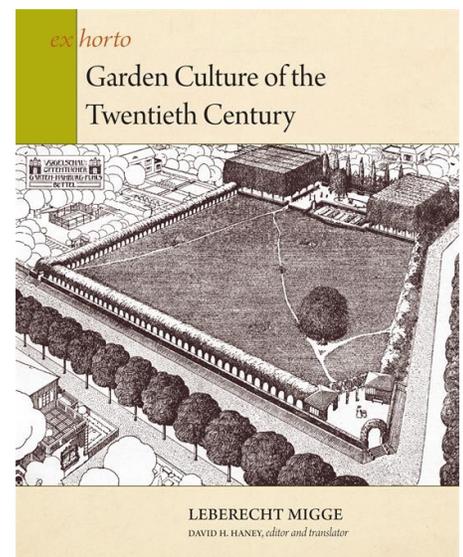


Production of the first two volumes in this series was completed this year. One is a travel report by the German court gardener Hans Jancke, “An Apprenticeship in the Earl of Derby's Kitchen Gardens and Greenhouses at Knowsley, England” (1874-75), the

manuscript of which is in the Rare Book Collection at Dumbarton Oaks. The publication is a joint project with the Center of Garden Art and Landscape Architecture at Leibniz University Hannover. The other is *Die Gartenkultur des 20. Jahrhunderts* by the German theoretician and designer Leberecht Migge, translated by David Haney, which will appear on the centenary of the book's original publication in 1913. We will follow these with an anthology of twelve hundred years of Chinese garden literature that has been over a decade in the making.

Other titles published this year include the proceedings of the 2010 symposium, *Designing Wildlife Habitats*, edited by John Beardsley. Proceedings of the 2011 symposium, “Technology and the Garden,” edited by Kenneth Helphand and Michael Lee, and the 2012 symposium, “Food and the City,” edited by Dorothee Imbert, are now in preparation. 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/garden-and-landscape-publications>.

We also continued revising our pages on the newly-redesigned Dumbarton Oaks website. New features include pages on the summer internship and contemporary art installation programs. Included in Resources for Scholars is a bibliography of writings by former fellows and project grant recipients that were produced or



substantially advanced while at Dumbarton Oaks. The bibliography testifies to the broad and deep impact that Garden and Landscape Studies has had on the field in the first 40 years of the program's existence.

Contemporary Art Installation



Cloud Terrace by cao | perrot studio. Photo by J. Padelford

The current project in the program's occasional series of contemporary art installations, *Cloud Terrace*, continued to draw visitors and attract media attention. The creation of artists Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot of **cao | perrot studio**, Los Angeles and Paris, in collaboration with J.P. Paull of Bodega Architecture, *Cloud Terrace* takes the form of a hand-sculpted wire mesh cloud embellished with 10,000 genuine SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS water-drop crystals suspended over a reflecting pool. *Cloud*

Terrace is the third in the series, following projects by Charles Simonds in 2009 and Patrick Dougherty in 2010. The series was the focus of an extended feature article by Adrian Higgins published in *The Washington Post* on March 1, 2013

(http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/cloud-terrace-and-other-works-put-dumbartons-gardens-in-a-new-light/2013/02/28/26a7608a-65ad-11e2-85f5-a8a9228e55e7_story.html). The installation has been extended through October 2013.

2013-14 Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies

The following 2013-14 academic year **summer fellows** were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the summer term, 2013:

- Abigail Dowling, University of California - Santa Barbara, Land and Natural Resource Management in Northern France, 1302-1329: The County of Artois Under Countess Mahaut
- Sandro Jung, Ghent University, Topographical Designs for British Illustrated Pocket Diaries, Changing Landscape, and the Nation
- Fei Mo, The University of Sheffield, Going Native - American Gardens and the Modernization of Residential Landscapes in Shanghai (1843 - 1949)



2013 summer fellows and interns with staff

The following **academic year fellows** will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in 2013-14:

Fellows

- Stephen Bending, *Spring*, University of Southampton, *Pleasure Gardens and the Use of Pleasure in eighteenth-century England, France and America*
- Daniel Bluestone, *Academic Year*, University of Virginia, *Dwelling in Landscape*
- Sarah Cantor, *Academic Year*, University of Maryland, *The World of the Senses: Gaspard Dughet and Seventeenth-Century Landscape Painting in Rome*
- Kristof Fatsar, *Academic Year*, Corvinus University of Budapest, *Professional Networking and Knowledge Transfer of Gardeners in Europe Using an Early 19th-century Example*
- Kathleen John-Alder, Rutgers University, *Fall*, *Purposeful Study, Meaningful Order and the Aesthetics of the Total Environment*

Junior Fellows

- Aline de Figueirôa Silva, University of Sao Paulo, *Fall*, *Public Gardens in the History of Landscape Design of Northern Brazil in the 19th and 20th Centuries*
- Rachel Koroloff, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, *Academic Year*, *Seeds of Exchange: Russia's Apothecary and Botanical Gardens in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century*



Matt O'Donnell with bees collected in the garden

2013 Summer Interns

The 2013 **summer interns**, who were jointly sponsored by Garden and Landscape Studies and the Department of Gardens, divided their time between work in the gardens and research projects; they included:

- Rosabella Alvarez-Calderon, Harvard University, who concluded an archaeological excavation of the frame yard in the kitchen garden and reviewed the current policies on conservation of cultural landscapes;
- Kate Hayes, University of Virginia, who explored “Wild Washington” with a focus on the Anacostia River and Rock Creek drainages; and
- Matthew O'Donnell, Northern Virginia Community College, who extended the GIS tree database for the non-public areas of Dumbarton Oaks and conducted a pollinator survey within the gardens.

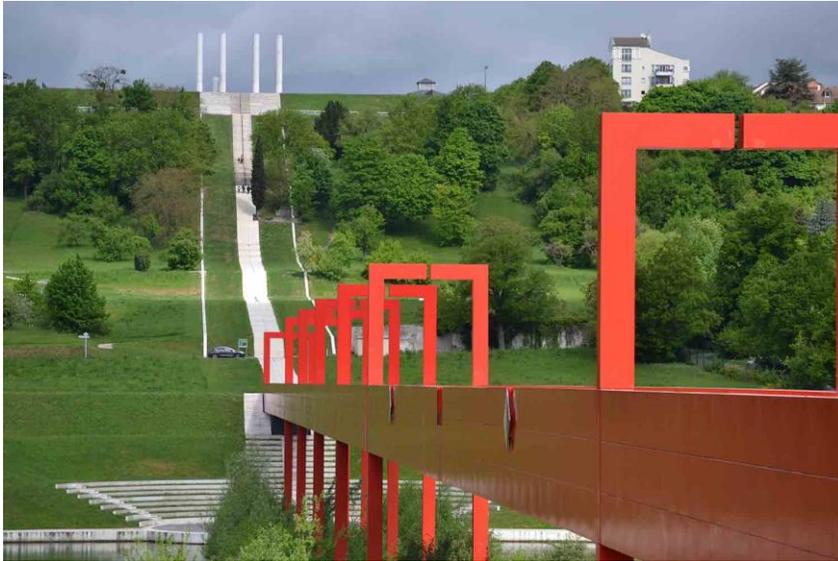
ASPECTS/CHARACTERISTICS OF THE URBAN WILD (these are the main aspects, and they occur at all scales)



Kate Hayes' exploration of "Wild Washington"

Forthcoming lecture, colloquium, and symposium

The academic-year **lecture series** begins on Monday, September 23, 2013, with a lecture on **Le Nôtre and Versailles in Modernity** by Georges Farhat, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design at the University of Toronto. In addition to editing the official Web site dedicated to André Le Nôtre (<http://www.lenotre.culture.gouv.fr>) [2001] and editing *André Le Nôtre. Fragments d'un paysage culturel. Institutions, arts, sciences et techniques* (Sceaux: Musée de l'Ile-de-France, 2006), Professor Farhat is co-curator of the forthcoming André Le Nôtre exhibition at the Chateau of Versailles, organized on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the designer's birth. Lectures are at 5:30 in the Music Room. To reserve a space email Landscape@doaks.org or call 202-339-6460.



Dani Karavan, *Axe Majeur*, Cergy-Pontoise, Paris, 2013, which will be discussed in Georges Farhat's forthcoming public lecture on September 23.

The **fall colloquium** will be held on Friday, November 1, 2103. As a way of launching the translation series, *ex horto*, the colloquium will focus on "**Travel and Translation.**" Its aim is to explore the ways that landscape design ideas are transmitted and exchanged, sometimes through literal travel and translation, and sometimes through study, absorption, and interpretation. Given that the first two titles in the translation series are German, the focus of the colloquium will be on

Germany and Central Europe, with comparative talks on Italy, England, Ireland, and the United States. Among the confirmed speakers are David Haney from the University of Kent, who translated *Garden Culture* and will speak on Migge's response to English and American ideas about metropolitan park design; Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn from Leibniz University Hannover, who will speak on Hans Jancke's travels in the context of the education of gardeners in the second half of the 19th century in Germany; and Hubertus Fischer, also from Leibniz University Hannover, who will speak on the travels and travel reports of German court gardeners in the early 19th century, with a focus on Heinrich Ludolph Wendland (1782-1869). Finola O'Kane Crimmins from University College Dublin will address the travels of Irish revolutionaries in France and the United States; Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto from the University of Pennsylvania will discuss the transmission (and translation) of Palladian villa garden forms from Italy to the United States via England; and Kristof Fatsar from Corvinus University Budapest will speak on professional networks and knowledge transfer among gardeners in Europe in the early 19th century, focused particularly on Hungary. Other speakers are under consideration.

The **annual symposium** for the 2013-14 academic year will be held at Dumbarton Oaks on Friday and Saturday May 9-10, 2014. The focus will be on "**Sound and Scent in the Garden;**" it is being organized by D. Fairchild Ruggles. She writes: "Sound and scent are temporary sensory experiences. The actual things perceived by the senses are often more permanent, because they are made of durable materials, because they have been renewed through cyclical practices, such as agricultural planting, or because they have been deliberately preserved, as in well-tended gardens and designed landscapes. The built structures themselves may endure, and the visual effect of a garden or building can be reproduced in pictures, even when the thing itself disappears into ruin. The pursuit of permanence is one of the reasons that designers and historians treat gardens and landscapes primarily as visual problems that can be represented on paper. But such visual representations do not express anything about the sound or scent of a garden. *That* must be supplied by the imagination, memory, or lived experience.

But how does the historian capture those sensations except through words which survive in manuscripts, itself a visual medium? Aside from stating that a flower is fragrant, how can the historian elucidate on its specific scent, beyond stating that it is sweet or pungent or that it smells like something else, incurring a circular pattern of description? Can the historic soundscape of a garden with running water and nightingales be recreated for ears that are accustomed to the loud hum of air conditioning and the roar of car engines?

The symposium explores the perception of gardens and landscape through sound and smell, and also taste (which is connected to smell). The ephemerality and temporality of both hearing and olfaction make them difficult to study: for a sound or a scent to be reexperienced, it must be reenacted, engaging the body repeatedly. The enactment is also spatial, because sonic resonance and the sniff of an odor occur in space. In gardens, the body must be in proximity to the plants or objects that emit the sound or scent, and the garden is often designed to enhance this, with enclosing walls and paths that lead towards flower beds and fountains. Thus, in addition to occurring in space, sound and smell can affect the design of spatial environments.”



The sound of water and music in the Safavid manuscript of *haft awrang* by Abdul Rahman Jami, 16th cent.

Dumbarton Oaks is inviting paper proposals for the 2014 symposium. Topics that may merit investigation:

- The iconography and semiotics of sound and scent. Must sound or scent be understood in phenomenological terms or can they have a semiotic function? If semiotic, is it in the sense of referring to other sounds and smells, or can it refer to ideas and things typically expressed by other senses?

- How the brain processes sound and smell; how this essentially physical process has determined the value of each sense in the academic hierarchy; and how this affects our analysis of gardens.

- The role of class in the senses: is sight equated with the intellect, education and therefore registering as higher class, while smell is associated with labor? Are sensory gardens “lower” than architecture?

· The problem of ephemerality: visual images can capture forms, but how can we discover the experiences of sound and scent which are as ephemeral as the garden's plants?

Topics from any period or culture are invited. Please send paper proposals as email attachments to D. Fairchild Ruggles (dfr1@illinois.edu). **Deadline: September 15.** For further information, please contact Jane Padelford at Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460

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.** 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.

Other research opportunities include project grants, one-month research stipends, and pre-doctoral residencies. The category of **project grants** has been expanded in Garden and Landscape Studies; we will now accept applications for a broad array of projects in heritage conservation, including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. Applicants must contact the Director of Studies at Landscape@doaks.org no later than October 1, 2013, to determine if the project is within the purview of Dumbarton Oaks. Application deadline November 1.



Project Grant recipient Scott Madry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Interdisciplinary History of Rural Water and Land Use in Southern Burgundy, France"

Applications for **one-month post-doctoral research stipends**, which used to be accepted on a rolling basis, are now accepted according to the following deadlines prior to the applicant's preferred period of residency: June 1 for residencies commencing September 1 or later; October 1 for residencies commencing January 1 or later; March 1 for residencies commencing June 1 or later. **Short-term pre-doctoral residencies** are also available, for periods up to four weeks; deadlines for these residencies are rolling. Complete details on research opportunities and application procedures for fellowships, residencies, and stipends are available at <http://www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants>.