



Reflecting on literature of founding members of ILASA and from *ad hoc* discussions with the generation of Landscape Architects who followed them I believe we are entering a new phase in how the professional identity in South Africa develops over the next couple of decades, and how it should be promoted. To contextualise this it is necessary to dip into the history of ILASA. The Institute for Landscape Architecture in South Africa (ILASA) was founded in 1962 by a small group who motivated for the recognition of the profession. This year 2018 marks 56 years of its existence.

The initial promotional phase was about convincing government and the large corporates *of the need* for landscape planning and design, beyond ornamental design of gardens and parks. Joane Pim a founding member of ILASA wrote a book in 1971, titled "*Beauty is Necessary - Preservation or Creation of the Landscape*", that demonstrates this effort. The success of this phase is noted by statutory recognition of landscape architecture as a profession, through the formation of the *Board of Control for Landscape Architects* which was legislated through an amendment of the Architects Act, Act 35 of 1970.

The following generations of a steadily growing body of landscape architects, working through ILASA, focussed on promoting the profession as widely as possible within government, other built environment professionals, property developers and the general public. This second phase encompassed defining the identity of landscape architecture and *differentiating* the role of landscape architects from that of architects, civil engineers and ornamental garden designers. This differentiation was marked in the year 2000 when six new built environment statutory councils, including a landscape architectural council, were enacted. The South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP) was thereby established.

After more than 30 years the role of the landscape architect is well understood in the private sector among property developers. However, within a transformed government, awareness of the profession is limited to non-existent and a new effort is required to promote the profession. This leads to the next phase in the evolution of promoting and preparing the profession of landscape architecture. It necessitates two areas of focus, one of collaboration with allied disciplines and secondly of internal transformation.

Instead of differentiating its role, the profession must now promote to its peers in the built environment and green industry how it forms an essential part of an *integrated design approach*. One of working of with other professionals and allied landscape practitioners; from contracting, maintenance, irrigation, plant cultivation, ecological sciences and land rehabilitation disciplines. Opportunities are starting to emerge where the landscape architect is the project leader of these integrated design teams. As an example, with the growing understanding among government departments of the benefits of green infrastructure, a window of opportunity is opening for landscape architects to lead these projects. To capitalise on this opportunity landscape architects need to acquire new skills and form new partnerships with allied built environment and green industry professionals.



This Month IFLA-Africa News comes from



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Next IFLA-AFRICA Issue from Nigeria



<http://iflaonline.org/event/55th-ifla-world-congress-2018/>



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About Landscape Architecture

After almost a quarter of century into our new democracy the profession of landscape architecture recognises that it still largely operates within and aspires to the paradigm of modern, northern hemisphere concepts of landscape use and design. With the majority of the population in South Africa unaware of and unable to afford the services of landscape architects, and a new government largely unaware of the role of landscape architecture, the profession must adjust to maintain relevance.

It's within this context that ILASA find its new mandate to promote the profession through exploring opportunities for dialogue with government. ILASA's successes to date include being invited to and actively contributing to government policy and guideline development; particularly with regards to spatial planning, open space planning & design, and built environment standards.

ILASA was recently invited to participate in the development of a new national "Guideline on the establishment and management of Open Spaces" to assist municipalities across the country to comply with the "Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act No 16 of 2013". ILASA representatives offered meaningful insights and suggested critical statements that were included in the final draft. ILASA was also invited to participate in a technical working group to revise the national human settlements guide, referred to as the "Red Book". The *Red Book* was a reference guide for local government and professionals for the planning and design of human settlements and has been revised and expanded with the titled "Creating Sustainable Human Settlements: A Neighbourhood Planning and Design Guide". ILASA contributed to three key chapters dealing with "Neighbourhood layout and structure", "Open Space", and a review of the chapter on "Storm water".

The **internal transformation** of the profession requires new members with a fresh understanding of what *landscape* means. How the landscape should contribute to fulfilling the aspirations of the broader South African populace, and what it might mean in decades to come. The professional identity may need to evolve for its members to become *architects* skilled and suitably informed to interpret and implement the new expectations of *landscape*.

To attract new students with fresh ideas ILASA strives to promote the profession to as large a group of scholars as possible. ILASA works with government initiatives and school career exhibitions. ILASA rallies landscape architects to support the National Department of Public Works' schools programme, to expose and encourage scholars to study towards a built environment profession, including landscape architecture. ILASA will be exhibiting at a regional Career Expo in Cape Town in July where between four and five thousand scholars are expected to attend. With the goal of transforming the profession, ILASA explores opportunities to establish bursaries to support aspirant students of landscape architecture who experience financial constraints.


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 World Events : <http://iflaonline.org/events/>

"Food for thought"

"Places matter. Their rules, their scale, their design include or exclude civil society, pedestrianism, equality, diversity (economic and otherwise), understanding of where water comes from and garbage goes, consumption or conservation. They map our lives."

— **Rebecca Solnit, Storming the Gates of Paradise: Landscapes for Politics**

"A path is a prior interpretation of the best way to traverse a landscape."

— **Rebecca Solnit, Wanderlust: A History of Walking**

"It is the soul that sees; the outward eyes Present the object, but the Mind descries. We see nothing till we truly understand it."

— **John Constable**



TALAE will organize in
 2019
 the 6th IFLA-African
 Symposium

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In the spirit of collaboration ILASA actively seeks out opportunities to co-host events with our peers in the built environment profession and the Green Industry. ILASA became a member of the South African Green Industries Council (SAGIC) in 2017 and participated in a successful SAGIC Convention in June this year. SAGIC is an umbrella organisation for; nursery, landscape contracting & maintenance, irrigation and outdoor equipment associations.

ILASA's biannual Conference being held on the 13th and 14th of August this year, in the majestic Drakensberg, includes a day of collaboration and cross pollination with the Land Rehabilitation Society of South Africa (LaRSSA). Delegates from both conference will be encouraged to move between sessions of both conferences and network at social functions. At a regional level the ILASA Gauteng branch have plans for two collaboration events with the Pretoria Institute for Architects and the Urban Design Institute of South Africa. While the Cape ILASA branch members plan co-host events with the Cape Institute for Architects.

ILASA looks forward to welcoming IFLA Africa President, Carey Duncan, and IFLA Africa executive members in August to the ILASA 2018 Conference. We look forward also to enjoying positive discussions on how the Landscape Architectural profession might develop cross the African continent to reflect the unique tapestry of the African landscapes.

Mr Eamonn O'Rourke

ProLandscape Africa Features IFLA Africa Article in on page 9

https://issuu.com/eljays44/docs/prolandscaper_july2018_issuu.july

LILA - Landezine International Landscape Award 2018 winners

See Winners at

<http://landezine-award.com/>

2018 Special Mention

Entrant name: The Landscape Studio

Project: SALAAM HOUSE

Award category: Garden

Location: Kenya

<http://landezine-award.com/the-landscape-studio/>



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NEWS FROM EXCO

IFLA Africa is about to ratify the African Landscape Charter. The Charter is IFLA Africa's declaration of a set of principles that support the active stewardship of, advocacy for, and enhancement of African landscapes. It also serves as a frame of reference to inform decision-makers about the broad scope of landscape matters across the continent.

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IFLA Africa will shortly publish the IFLA Africa Education Policy, Standards and Accreditation Procedure, which will provide a framework for IFLA Africa to advocate and evaluate the quality of Landscape Architecture education in tertiary programmes in our region through the definition and verification of required standards and core competencies. It will also outline the requirements for professional recognition of tertiary Landscape Architecture programmes based upon the IFLA/UNESCO Charter for Landscape Architectural Education and the IFLA Guidance Document for Recognition or Accreditation. The document will serve as a guide for landscape architectural schools to benchmark their programmes and if appropriate to apply for approved status.

Carey Duncan, IFLA Africa President, along with Carolyn Wanza for Kenya will be representing ExCo at the IFLA World Congress in Singapore in a few weeks' time. Carey along with Graham Young (Secretary General – IFLA Africa) will also be attending the ILASA Conference, *Landscape, Medium for Connectivity*, 13 – 14 August 2018, where they will both be presenting papers.

A focus of ExCo is to increase the number of member nations. It is hoped that within the next year, Ethiopia, Botswana, Malawi and Ghana will join the ranks. IFLA Africa is encouraging landscape architects in these countries to either join as individuals or as full associations. During the upcoming World Congress, a number of individuals from across the continent will be ratified as individual members of IFLA.

Finally, we look forward to next year's IFLA Africa Congress (6th), which will take place in October in Tunisia. As and when details emerge we will publish them in the newsletter.



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2018 Winner in Project Category:
Renaturation of the river Aire,
Geneva by Atelier Descombes
Rampini, Group Superpositions.
Location: Switzerland



<http://landezine-award.com/renaturation-of-the-river-aire-geneva/>

<http://landezine-award.com/atelier-descombes-rampini/>