

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4 **MICHIGAN** CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



## DETROIT DESIGN

Detroit Shapes Design.

1. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA  
2. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA  
3. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA  
4. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA  
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9. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA  
10. CHURCH STREET CORNER PLAZA

# MiSITES



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow landscape architects and colleagues!

These last few issues have been coming fast-and-furious, and I'm happy to report that we are now back on track for our 2019 editorial schedule! Again, a huge thank you to Meghan Diecchio and Devyn Quick for getting us back on track.

The awards issues of MiSITES are always my favorite. It provides an opportunity for our members to take a deeper look into some of the great work coming out of our state in a variety of different categories. The projects in the following pages are inspiring, thought-provoking, functional, and well-deserved of the honor they have received. These projects also provide an opportunity to showcase the great work coming out of Michigan to other states and National ASLA. Our awards issues are often used during lobbying events with our state and federal congresspeople as well, to help communicate the wide range of necessary and essential work our profession is responsible for creating and leading.

I think that is why these professional and student awards are so important. In many ways they give our profession a voice and open us up to new audiences. In an era when it's difficult to get people to read more than a headline, landscape architects have the distinct advantage of being able to communicate in dynamic and intriguing images, drawings, and related media to capture the attention and imagination of our audience. From the ultra-realistic computer rendering, to the interpretive

character sketch, the images we create help our clients, colleagues, and the public visualize a place and 'see' landscape architecture. These awards are a celebration of our profession and what it can produce, but they're also advocacy, making a case for why the leadership of landscape architects is critically-important in our changing world.

As you move forward this year, try and think if there are projects that you have worked on which could be submitted for a professional award with Michigan ASLA, or even National ASLA. We want to celebrate great works of all shapes and sizes to help our readers and the public explore the dynamic and awesome field of landscape architecture.

I hope 2019 is off to an incredible start for all of you! Shoot for the stars and enjoy this great issue of MiSITES!

**Wes Landon, ASLA**  
President, Michigan Chapter of ASLA

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## SHARE AN IDEA!

If you would like to contribute to MiSITES, or suggest a topic or project to cover, please email [SITESpublications@michiganasla.org](mailto:SITESpublications@michiganasla.org).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/23 MiASLA Golf Classic - South Lyon
- 10/23-24 MiASLA Conference - Plymouth

## STUDYING FOR THE LARE?

If you would like to sign up for LARE study groups, please email Dana at [education@michiganasla.org](mailto:education@michiganasla.org).



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### ON THE COVER:

Detroit Design 139, recipient of the 2018 Honor Award for Research & Communication. (image credit: Bedrock)



## PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

### Emerging Professional of the Year



**MEGHAN DIECCHIO**

Meghan Sharp Diecchio is a Landscape Architect at Hamilton Anderson Associates in Detroit. She returned to Michigan in 2017 from California, where she practiced for six years after receiving her MLA from the University of California, Berkeley. She is particularly interested in urban, civic and cultural spaces, and design as a tool for community development. She loves solving complex problems and working with multi-disciplinary teams.

Meghan is the dedicated Editor of MiSITES. She also enjoys spending time with her family; camping, hiking, and beach-going; making music; and contemporary craft.

### Distinguished Member of the Year



**BEN BAKER**

Ben is a Landscape Architect at Wightman practicing in Southwest Michigan. His work is wide ranging with passions in green infrastructure, parks and recreation, and historic landscapes. While not working, he enjoys playing music, watching the sunset over Lake Michigan with his family, and working with his kids as urban chicken farmers.

In addition to his role as President of MiASLA, Ben is a member of the National ASLA Leadership Development Committee. He's also a member of his local planning commission, leads the office's Green Team, and is active in the community.

### Honor Award



**AMANDA NAWARA**

The Honor Award goes to an individual or organization that is not in the field of landscape architecture but has otherwise made a contribution to the profession or our chapter. Amanda Nawara is a long-time supporter of Michigan ASLA. A member of the LandscapeForms team since 2012, Amanda has worked closely with the chapter, often serving on multiple MiASLA committees and going above-and-beyond to help our chapter succeed.

Amanda is passionate about the outdoor space and design. She has the privilege of working with some of the most talented, creative, and fun clients in the industry.

## Firm of the Year



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SmithGroup is an integrated design firm of 1,300 professionals across 13 offices. In Ann Arbor, Michigan 70 site-focused professionals work alongside clients, partners, and colleagues to successfully deliver projects across scales and markets with emphasis on people-centric design, comprehensive planning, and protecting our resources.

They are deeply invested in their people and in the future of the landscape architecture profession. As such, SmithGroup Ann Arbor actively supports employee involvement in ASLA and other professional societies and has pioneered two programs over the past year aimed at increasing diversity in our profession and increasing opportunities for career advancement. Both have been so successful that SmithGroup offices across the country have followed suit. *Pictured above is a multi-disciplinary design charrette at SmithGroup's Ann Arbor office.*



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(all images: Justin Maconochie)

Honor Award [General Design]

## LITTLE CAESARS ARENA PLAZA

Detroit, Michigan

SMITHGROUP

The City of Detroit is undergoing a renaissance, particularly through the new District Detroit, an entertainment district that connects Midtown to Downtown. Olympia Development of Michigan (ODM) sought to transform a 50-block area characterized by abandoned buildings, vacant lots, broken sidewalks, gravel surfaces, and sparse vegetation. To kickstart such a powerful transformation, ODM worked with the landscape architect to integrate a new entertainment venue, the Little Caesar's Arena, into the heart of the district.

The design harmonizes many layers of strategies that respond to the challenges of urban design. Extensive planning for events and programming result in a series of spaces that include the infrastructure to render them highly flexible. The spaces create a range of experiences: vibrant streetscapes that support festivals, cafes, and large trees; entry plazas and a flexible piazza with unique paving designs that are appreciated at every scale; and a biergarten to handle intimate parties and informal gathering.

The design elements and details ensure the destination is a year-round attraction by evoking the crystalline winter landscape of northern Michigan with faceted stone, blue/gray hardscape, and an 'up north' inspired plant palette. Security features around the entire perimeter are integrated into the landscape seamlessly for a welcoming atmosphere. The design produced is the first to meet Homeland Security's most stringent SAFETY Act certification. The newly opened Little Caesars Arena is celebrated as one of the most urban stadiums, creating scalable public spaces that are appropriate for large masses of people, but intentionally breaks down barriers between events to actively engage the city edge and enliven the surrounding neighborhoods.







(all images: Rachel Kramer)



Honor Award [General Design]

## FRED MEIJER MILLENNIUM TRAIL NETWORK

Kent County, Michigan

**VIRIDIS DESIGN GROUP AND  
O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK AND ASSOCIATES**

One of the greatest assets of Millennium Park is the diversity of the natural features and relationship within the Grand River floodplain. Those assets presented tremendous experiential opportunities as well as considerable challenges when envisioning and designing the non-motorized trail network. Significant attention and careful consideration were given to the trail alignment as it related to soils, slopes, regulated wetlands, floodplain and floodway limits, former mining haul roads, view sheds, and utilities including electric lines and active oil wells. Design and construction of the trail system spanned a three-year period. Special attention and coordination were required to construct sections of the trail, during different seasons due to fluctuations in river flow, lake elevations, and overall access to the natural areas of the park.

The completed project includes: sixteen miles of 12-foot-wide paved shared-use trails, two miles of 6-foot-wide nature trails, over seven hundred feet of elevated boardwalk, adaptive re-use of a former train trestle bridge, five new clear-span bridges, four elevated fishing & wildlife observation decks, trail head parking with restroom and picnic area, and over sixty acres of constructed native prairie and wetlands.

The Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network is the result of a holistic approach to non-motorized transportation planning. It embodies the true role of landscape architecture in implementing the vision through detailed design, emphasis on the human experience, respect for natural features and site context, and promotion of equitable access and environmental stewardship.



## Merit Award [General Design]

# MONUMENT PARK

Grand Rapids, Michigan

**O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK AND ASSOCIATES**

In 1843 Grand Rapids set aside a triangular piece of property for its first public park. In 1885 it became home to the first Civil War monument in the nation to recognize both women and men. The park remained a triangular island surrounded by streets until 1977. OCBA was retained in 2012 to study Monument Park's history and evolution and to develop a plan to enhance public use while honoring the service of Veterans and their families.

Because of Monument Park's long history as a central feature in downtown Grand Rapids there was great interest in the project. Encouraged by the Grand Rapids Historical Society, a cultural landscape approach adhering to federal standards was undertaken. OCBA retained Quinn Evans, cultural landscape assessment experts, to assist with the process.

Over its history Monument Park underwent minor changes, but retained integrity of location, design, setting, and association from 1885 through 1977. However, a major change to the landscape occurred in 1977 when the park was redesigned. Through the cultural landscape assessment process, it was recommended that a rehabilitation approach be utilized.

The design challenge was to respectfully honor the history and purpose of the Soldier's Monument, while encouraging active use of a wide streetscape corridor along the business storefronts. The result is a defined circular plaza with a raised pool in the center that reflects the original spatial organization of the park and maintains the Soldier's Monument as the main focal point. The paved circular plaza has circulation maintained around all sides in keeping with the spatial organization that has existed in the park for 128 years.





## Merit Award [General Design]

# PENROSE MARKET GARDEN

Detroit, Michigan

HAGENBUCH WEIKAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Penrose Market Garden is a market garden facility and community space at Penrose Village, a 72-unit affordable housing infill development located in a low-income neighborhood in north Detroit. Set in a post-industrial environment of decline and neglect, 76% of the 1,298 single-family lots are vacant, and a majority of the remaining properties are either derelict or in very poor condition.

The project focuses on the following design objectives:

1. *A Viable Market Garden Demonstration Project.* A self-sustaining market garden business is key to maintaining this community amenity over time, eliminating the need to seek outside funding each year.
2. *Informed Sustainable Urbanism.* Penrose infill housing units are clustered in a defined area within walking distance of the Market Garden, the local school, and the 7 Mile Road commercial corridor, planting the first seeds of a new coherent neighborhood system into this post-industrial landscape.
3. *Civic Space for Community Engagement.* Civic Spaces are designed into the Penrose Market Garden in ways that facilitate community engagement.
4. *Build and Support Fair Food Systems.* Affordable, convenient access to fresh produce for residents and a fair market income for the entrepreneurial market gardener.

The Penrose Market Garden design employs low budget small-scale strategies to reintroduce the adjacencies and urban form crucial to resilient communities. The site includes a half-acre market garden business, housing in the Farmhouse for a Grower-In-Residence, multiple community spaces indoors and out, and a green space network to create a vibrant multi-functional neighborhood center for Penrose Village residents and the wider community.



(all images: Hagenbuch Weikal Landscape Architecture)



Merit Award [General Design]

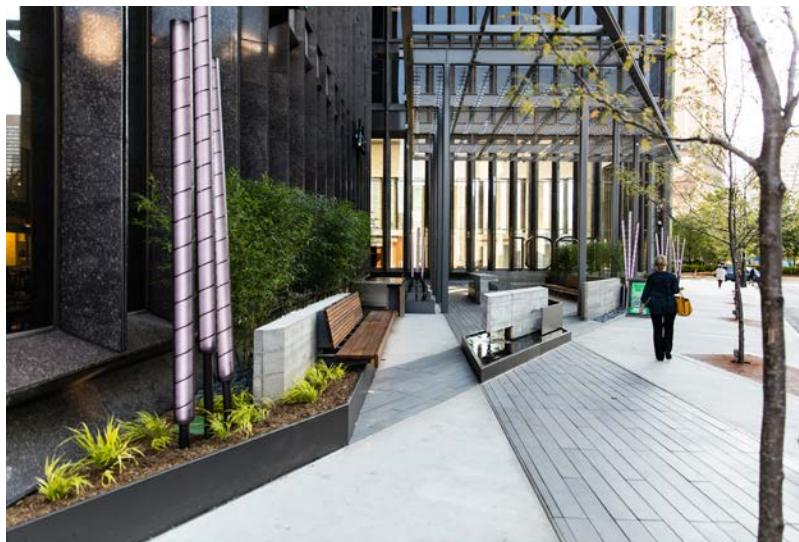
# 1001 WOODWARD PUBLIC SPACE

Detroit, Michigan

SMITHGROUP

Occupying an important corner near the pedestrian core, 1001 Woodward Avenue is a vibrant public space within a network of new open spaces that are rebuilding the life and fabric of downtown Detroit. Once an ambiguous entrance to the 25-story building, the redesigned plaza opens a privately-owned space to public use, supporting activity within the greater community context. While still achieving the client's objectives for a stronger identity, the plaza leverages smaller, incremental placemaking projects as joint catalysts for transformative large-scale change in the heart of a revitalized downtown Detroit. Activated by design-centered programming and adjacent to a growing number of similar micro-urban nodes, the site is perfectly positioned to engage in vital, continuous dialogue with the City of Detroit at the height of its design renaissance.

Reflecting the City's culture of design excellence, the design carves the acutely triangular-shaped plaza into various exterior rooms, using a highly customized palette of steel and concrete elements with raised planting beds and teak slat benches to add color and warmth. To organize the space, a cascading water fountain and river rock-filled reflecting pool add movement and noise. The blackened stainless-steel planter walls and board-formed concrete insert a moment of ambience and calming acoustics into the urban environment, creating both a backdrop for the plaza and enhancing the street-edge experience. A gas fireplace creates a focal point, extending the warmth and social interaction of the plaza. The design team creatively sought to insert functional, yet playful moments along two new circulation avenues from entry to threshold — enriching the user experience and crafting a new character for the plaza.





Student Merit Award [General Design]

# ZUG ISLAND: DETROIT'S POST-INDUSTRIAL PORTAL

Detroit, Michigan

CURTIS SCHALDACH, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Since Zug Island's development over a century ago, the island has served as an industrial riverfront metropolis, producing steel and metallurgical coal for manufacturing in the city of Detroit and Great Lakes Region. This project treats the active industrial island as a brownfield to serve as a prototype in adaptive reuse of manufactured landscapes along the Detroit and Rouge Rivers. The design approach is to transform the site into an international arts and entertainment destination that would showcase music, art, festivals, recreation, and educational programming throughout the year.

Although the Rouge and Detroit rivers have become significantly cleaner in the past 40 years, both rivers remain classified as "environmental areas of concern," meaning they are among the most polluted in the Great Lakes Basin. The design seeks to improve and expand riparian habitats for Michigan wildlife native to the area.

In addition to the already high levels of industrial pollution in the region, the planned construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge would further add an increase in exhaust pollution, including the removal of an estimated 4,700 trees for construction of an American customs plaza. The design of Zug serves as a well-deserved green buffer for residents living in nearby River Rouge and Delray communities. The future of Zug Island serves as an exploration of a localized model for waterfront landmark revitalization. Reviving the waterfront with a restored ecological environment while maintaining the historical and cultural conscience of the landscape.





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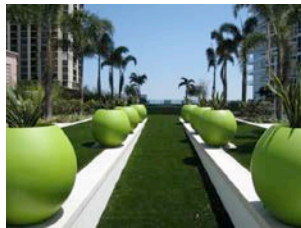
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(all images: Design Workshop/Mannik Smith Group)



## Honor Award [Planning & Analysis]

# GRAND RIVER NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD FRAMEWORK PLAN

Detroit, Michigan

DESIGN WORKSHOP AND MANNIK SMITH GROUP

The Grand River Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Framework Plan collaborates with City officials and residents to address two pressing City challenges – large swaths of vacant land and flooding from large rain events. This plan gives residents a voice in transforming surplus lands into assets to manage stormwater and build vibrant, memorable places that provide new community amenities. This plan tackles disinvestment through a process that prioritizes community engagement and develops a comprehensive strategy to manage more than 500 million gallons of runoff generated from a 100-year storm and combat flooding, combined sewer overflows and basement backups. Near-term concepts ensure that strategies can be implemented within a short time frame to provide immediate support and revitalize the neighborhood.

The team seized on the opportunity to tackle the stormwater challenge by developing a framework that prioritized investments in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) integrated with new open space amenities, redevelopment, placemaking and mobility opportunities. The magnitude of the stormwater challenge was too great to solve by a lot-by-lot approach focused on individual rain gardens. As a result, the team created a first-of-its-kind stormwater budget to provide an accounting of how much water falls on the site, how much water could be stored within GSI and how much each of these interventions would cost to install and maintain. This budget helped create an overall framework and approach for locating investments. These strategies can be used to develop a citywide stormwater plan and are applicable to other Legacy cities that are challenged by both vacant land and flooding.



## Merit Award [Planning & Analysis]

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Champaign, Illinois

SMITHGROUP

In the midst of the cornfields of central Illinois, sits the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a world-renowned public research institution with an annual enrollment of nearly 45,000 students from over 110 different countries. As the University of Illinois embarked upon its 150th anniversary as an institution and as a place, it turned to the SmithGroup-led design team to help shape an innovative approach to the Master Plan for its flagship campus to help guide future growth, identify beautification initiatives, and advance efforts to transform the campus into a model of sustainable development.

This Campus Master Plan serves as the first one in the University's history to address the 2015 Climate Action Plan (iCAP) – the Urbana-Champaign campus' road map for sustainability and achieving carbon neutrality. The central challenge of this effort was focused on the University's commitment to "Net Zero Growth" as outlined in the iCAP plan. To put it in simpler terms, every square foot of new space has to be offset by removing a square foot of existing space from somewhere on campus, all while increasing future campus enrollment by 10 percent. While addressing the iCAP plan, the design team was careful not to lose sight of the larger sense of place and student experience. Design strategies focused both on the activation of student spaces and the integration of principles of sustainability were identified across the University of Illinois to enrich the overall campus environment. The completed Campus Master Plan provides a unique balance of placemaking strategies combined with proposals focused on meeting carbon neutrality goals.





## Merit Award [Planning & Analysis]

# SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

Two Harbors, Minnesota

QUINN EVANS ARCHITECTS

This Cultural Landscape Report proposes the rehabilitation of the Split Rock Lighthouse Historic Site, a 25-acre landscape including the lighthouse, associated landscape features and outbuildings perched on a high bluff above Lake Superior on Minnesota's "North Shore." Now a National Historic Landmark, it served as an active navigational aid along a particularly treacherous section of shoreline from 1909 until 1961. Today, it is Minnesota's most visited historic site, welcoming over 150,000 tourists every year. The report sets the framework for landscape rehabilitation through documentation of the site's historical development, evaluation of the existing condition, and analysis of landscape integrity. Treatment recommendations provide guidance to preserve the historic light station, clarify understanding of the historic landscape, and enhance visitor experience. Critically, the report proposes a successful strategy to increase access for all visitors while highlighting the importance of the landscape to the operation of the historic light station. Topography, weather, and other barriers limit accessibility for many visitors. Over the past 40 years many concepts for accessibility have been proposed; however, those would dramatically and irreversibly alter historic character. The report identified the value of the historic landscape and recommended against constructing a new walkway to the observation deck. The proposed design instead enhances the full experience for all visitors by reestablishing historic routes as the primary circulation system, providing a new boardwalk, and establishing a new observation point overlooking Lake Superior. The design provides a vision for creating an engaging, inspiring, and transformative experience that conveys the full complexity of the site's evolution.



(all images: Quinn Evans Architects)



## Merit Award [Planning & Analysis]

# MIXTAPE ZONING

Detroit, Michigan

SMITHGROUP

Mixtape is designed to reduce red tape and replace outdated and static zoning codes, injecting new small-scale businesses, walkability and resilience into neglected enclaves and commercial corridors in Detroit.

Led by SmithGroup, Mixtape's team of elected officials, thinkers, scholars, business leaders, philanthropic and historic preservation organizations, and grassroots and neighborhood-based groups collaborated to frame innovative ideas and actionable plans to drive regulatory change in the city.

Mixtape emphasizes the need for equitable, affordable and incremental urban development. It starts with a design-led rethinking of zoning codes and process to encourage new development in key neighborhoods, maximizing the potential of Detroit's grand radial boulevards and unique grid. With pedestrian-first and place-based solutions, Mixtape navigates Detroit's arcane and cumbersome municipal structure to ensure thoughtful, accessible and inspired design, all with an eye toward sustained recovery that responds to changing needs.

Mixtape focuses on three case study areas designated to rapidly test a new, forward-thinking playlist of innovations and regulations, providing a model that can be applied to cities across the post-industrial Midwest, United States and world.





## Merit Award [Planning & Analysis]

# EASTSIDE GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

Cleveland, Ohio

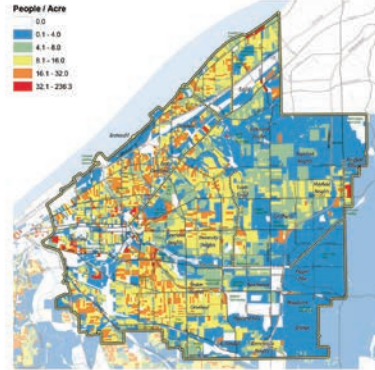
SMITHGROUP

The Eastside Greenway Master Plan will increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within 20 municipalities in the eastern portion of Cuyahoga County, and create a unified network to serve as an alternative mode of transportation, connecting neighborhoods to employment centers, transit, and existing green spaces. With a diversity in social, economic, and racial makeup of the communities, the Eastside Greenway was designed to meet different needs in various parts of the network. In areas where a significant percentage of households are without vehicles, the Eastside Greenway provides safe commuting options where cyclists or pedestrians can more easily connect to public transit. In areas without sidewalks, the Eastside Greenway provides safe paths for recreation or commuting.

This project used a data driven, community led process to identify the preferred greenway corridors within the study area. Extensive GIS analysis was used to develop weighted corridor scores for numerous criteria. The technical route evaluation was a critical step for making data-informed decisions and prioritizing the many routes according to how well each might contribute to achieving the project goals. The results were combined with community input from a regional survey and several community meetings to prioritize corridors as transformative, near-term, or future projects.

The Eastside Greenway will help to create a more sustainable region that is competitive by improving the quality of life, encouraging development, protecting the environment, and promoting alternative modes of transportation.

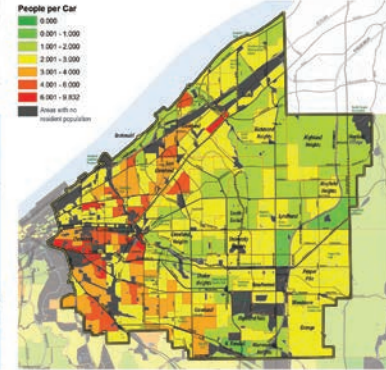
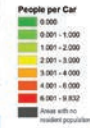
MAP 2.1C - POPULATION DENSITY (PEOPLE PER ACRE)



Population Density

Greenways should be located where they can serve as many users as possible across the community. Population density was mapped in terms of people per acre at the census block level. Population density highlights locations where greater concentrations of people might be served by greenways.

MAP 2.1D - CAR OWNERSHIP



Car Ownership Rates

Car ownership (or lack thereof) can be a good indicator of where populations may face transportation challenges. Many areas of Cleveland and East Cleveland have relatively lower rates of car ownership (higher numbers of people per vehicle). Greenways can provide people without cars expanded access to jobs, commercial centers, and services.



## Student Merit Award [Planning & Analysis]

# GREENING THE MEDICAL MILE

Grand Rapids, Michigan

ARIANNA ZANNETI, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

While cities are increasingly looking at implementing smart growth strategies, it is important to investigate how to deal with development that is already in place and not serving the community to its fullest potential. Greening the Medical Mile aims to explore the question: How can landscape architects and urban planners reclaim overdeveloped space to benefit community members and complement existing use? This question seeks to connect sustainable urbanization with community-driven and pedestrian-friendly environments.

The project focuses on the Medical Mile district in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Medical Mile encompasses about one square mile of medical development including hospitals, outpatient treatment centers, medical offices, and research facilities. When traveling along Michigan Avenue, the main bisector of the medical mile, it is apparent that it was designed with vehicles in mind over pedestrians. The project focuses on the intersection of Michigan and Coit Avenues. The two main facilities at this intersection are The Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion, which provides a variety of services and therapies to patients to manage their illness and the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

The implementation of a healing garden and complete streets put the focus of the space back on the patient and pedestrian. Studies have shown creating comfortable and therapeutic green spaces for patients can aide in their healing and overall well-being. Complete streets increase the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular users by creating dedicated spaces for each use and reduce the risk of those interfering. Overall, the design creates a more unified identity and comfortable, relaxed feel throughout the corridor making it enjoyable for all users.







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## Honor Award [Research & Communication]

# DETROIT DESIGN 139

Detroit, Michigan

**BEDROCK**

In December 2015, Detroit was awarded the first UNESCO City of Design designation in the United States. Thus, it joined a network of cities committed to valuing design as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion, and cultural vibrancy. To support this goal, a collaboration of public and private entities within the city joined to define a universal vision for the future of Detroit's built and natural environment. As a result, the inaugural Detroit Design 139 exhibition was established and set a high design standard for all future projects within the city's 139 square miles.

Ten design principles were established to evaluate design excellence in Detroit, as well as to set a standard for designing the city's future. These principles focused on the importance of engagement, urbanity, diversity, and inclusion within the public realm, while also celebrating Detroit's design legacy and the value of contemporary design in the 21st century. In September 2017, the first Detroit Design 139 exhibition launched, showcasing 41 Detroit projects that embodied these design principles. To continue the discussion, a catalogue was designed to document the inaugural biannual exhibition. This is the first volume in a series of future Detroit Design 139 publications.

Detroit Design 139 aims to illustrate the future of Detroit – an urban environment full of thoughtful design. These works simultaneously honor Detroit's design legacy strengthening its leadership in world-class design excellence. Detroit Design 139 will continue to evolve, serving as a forum for city residents to express their ideas, opinions, and beliefs on how Detroit should grow, and furthermore, celebrating the role of design in shaping the city's future.



(all images: Bedrock)





Merit Award [Research & Communication]

## LANDSCAPE BASED PLANNING AND DESIGN RESEARCH: 2015-2018

DR. JON BRYAN BURLEY, FASLA

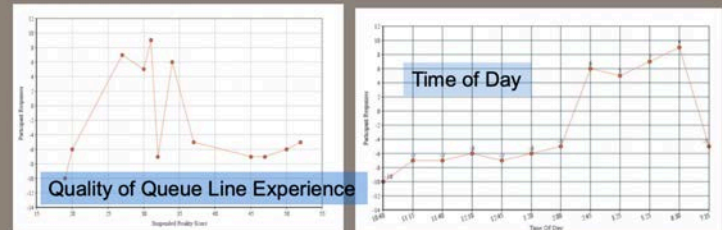
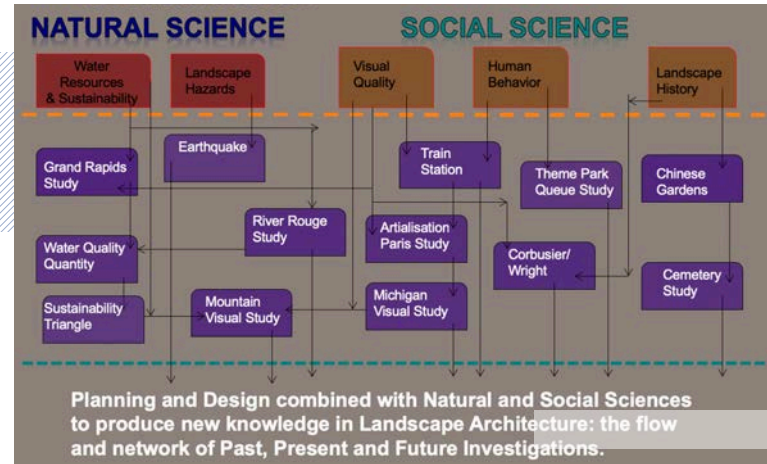
I have been lucky, or maybe head-strong, as I have won 13 ASLA Chapter or National Awards over my career, which means that I have entered many times and lost.

This submission combined research conducted in Michigan, Minnesota, Florida, Colorado, People's Republic of China, Philippines, and Paris, France, with colleagues from the United States, the Philippines, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Turkey, and Portugal — 29 co-authors in total from professions such as interior design, urban planning, construction management, horticulture, landscape architecture, and natural resources.

The submission contained an anthology of 13 published papers, ranging from natural science issues such as earthquake preventative planning and design to social science topics such as queue-line fatigue at theme parks and landscape history.

Every year, I work with a lot of people from around the world, often working 80 hours a week, conducting statistical analysis, and writing papers. I appreciate that once in a while, I am recognized for my activities in my chosen profession. But the true reward is the discovery of new information. The day that I have significant statistical results from a study is like "Christmas" for me. I get happy, with a big smile.

(all images: Jon Burley)



**Theme Park Queue Line Perception.** Site design in theme parks is of interest to planners and designers. Designers have explored investigating efforts to enhance the queue line experience. This study provided evidence that queue line satisfaction is most strongly associated with the time of day and fatigue. The study illustrates how an existing normative theory can be refuted and a new hypothesis can be discovered and reported.

## Student Merit Award [Research & Communication]

# SIMPLICITY, TRANQUILITY, HARMONY

Tipton, Michigan

DEXIN CHEN, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This project proposes a traditional Japanese-style garden inside the Harper dwarf and rare conifer collection at Hidden Lake Gardens that respects the traditional Japanese garden design principles and preserves the existing rare conifer species for educational purposes. The major design idea is shifting the turf surface to a pebble area to create a 'dry landscape', which best represents the sense of Zen. In addition, the existing land contours would remain to enrich viewpoints, and as a result, enhance the site visiting experience.

The three major design principles of traditional Japanese gardens, 'simplicity, tranquility, and harmony', come from the author's previous cluster analysis and literature review of ancient oriental gardens. Those principles are found strongly related to a series of acts of Zen Buddhism and a group of authentic design elements, such as stone arrangement, dry landscape, bamboo-made water structure (shishi-odoshi), and clipped azalea bushes.

The previous cluster analysis aims to test the differences and similarities between traditional oriental gardens in Kyoto, Japan, and Suzhou, China, by comparing the design elements and design principles of the gardens. The original thesis 'A Cluster Analysis Comparison of Selected Traditional Japanese Gardens, Classical Chinese Gardens and Modern Chinese Gardens' has been published on Proquest in 2018.

Searching for the appropriate design elements to create an authentic Japanese garden in modern era might help one to understand the ancient design process of the traditional gardens in Kyoto.







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**Kyle Verseman, ASLA, PLA**

Eastern/Northern Michigan  
800.430.6206 x1318  
kylev@landscapeforms.com

**Amanda Nawara**

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800.430.6206 x1320  
amandan@landscapeforms.com

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Michigan ASLA  
629 W. Hillside Street  
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