

Landscapes of Conflict and Memory

Saturday, October 20 2:30PM - 4:00PM

SAT-B06

Landscapes and memory are inextricably connected, often with great emotional resonance. Conflict, from ancient times to the present, is written on the land. Although a palimpsest, sometimes what remains on the land is, in today's parlance, an "alternative fact." This presentation examines the phenomena of conflict, landscape, and memory.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how landscapes serve to remediate, reinforce, or alter histories.
- Appreciate the narrative aspect of landscape, its potential to support or deny culturally-significant sites.
- Become familiar with ancient and modern landscapes representing narratives of conflict.
- Appreciate how landscape is an overview of political and culturally-symbolic landscape identifiers.

Introduction / David Rubin

- a. "Landscape" and the panoramic view.
- b. The contemporary context of landscape embraces the broad view. It physically and metaphorically represents the connective tissue in which we live.
- c. Landscape as an overview of political and culturally-symbolic landscape identifiers.

Part 1:

Landscapes of Violence in the Modern Middle East / C. Brian Rose

- a. Contemporary conflicts that conflate Modern History with Ancient History.
 - i. Parallels between current and ancient conflicts.
 - ii. The Breaking of idols in ancient Egypt, Rome, and Byzantium as enacted in the acts of the Taliban and ISIS.
 - iii. Similar questions then and now: what to Preserve? What to Destroy? What to leave half-destroyed as a warning to local residents?
 - iv. Witnessing the heavy-editing of the cultural landscape.
- b. When Wars are Over, What Then?
 - i. What treatment of landscape is most conducive to memory, and whose memory should dominate?
 - ii. Should ruined buildings and scars in the fabric of the landscape be fixed in place as memorials, as was done in 5th c. BC Athens and 1st c. Jerusalem? Or should monumental texts alone tell the story of conflict, as on the Battle of Marathon memorial (490 BC) or the Vietnam Memorial on the National Mall?

Part 2:

Conflicted Histories: Narratives of Violence in Landscape / Thaisa Way

- a. Design Informed by History – Even the Stories We Do Not Like to Hear.
 - i. Research and Teaching lies between Practice and Scholarship.
- b. Histories are Inherently Complicated, Complex, and Conflicted.
 - i. To Design Places with Harder Stories – those we don't care to remember – to tell the conflicted histories in ways that catalyze questions and discussions.

c. Painful Histories of Violence

i. Case Studies:

1. Lake Tenaya, Yosemite

d. Neglected Histories of Violence

i. Case Studies:

1. Seattle and Urban Renewal

e. Ignoring Histories of Violence

i. Case Studies:

1. Slave Forts in Ghana

f. A Collective Response and Responsibility

- i. What we are hearing in the present political landscape is not new, it is deeply grounded in history.
- ii. The built environment is the space of the public realm and it is where we meet to either build democracy or to tear it down, piece by piece.

Part 3:

Panel and Audience Discussion, and Q&A

ASLA
PHL2018

Annual Meeting
and EXPO
October 19-22
Philadelphia

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Moderator



David A. Rubin, ASLA, FAAR - Principal / DAVID RUBIN Land Collective

David Rubin is the founding principal of Land Collective and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. His current commissions include the Columbus, Indiana Strategic Development Plan; the Cummins Corporate Office Building landscape renovation, also in Columbus; and the Wilmington, Delaware Waterfront Masterplan. He recently completed the Indianapolis Museum of Art Master Plan (now Newfields). Rubin's built works include: Cummins Distribution Headquarters, Indianapolis; The University of Pennsylvania's Pennovation Works campus; The Commonground at Eskenazi Health Hospital, Indianapolis; Canal Park, and the Potomac Park Levee on the National Mall, both in Washington, DC. David is Design Critic at Harvard University.

Panelists



Thaisa Way, ASLA - Professor / University of Washington

Thaisa Way FAAR16, PhD is an urban landscape historian teaching and researching history, theory, and design at the University of Washington. Her books include *Unbounded Practices: Women, Landscape Architecture, and Early Twentieth Century Design* and *From Modern Space to Urban Ecological Design: the Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag*. She served as a Senior Fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Garden & Landscape Studies and as the 2015-2016 Garden Club of America Fellow in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome. She is the founding director of Urban@UW, a coalition of researchers addressing complex urban challenges.



C. Brian Rose, AIA - Professor / University of Pennsylvania

C. Brian Rose is the Pritchard Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania in the Classical Studies Department. He is also Peter C. Ferry Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section of the Penn Museum, and was the museum's Deputy Director from 2008-2011. Rose served as President of the Archaeological Institute of America (2007-2011) and currently serves as director for the Gordion (Turkey) excavations. He has been a Trustee of the American Academy in Rome since 2001, and received the Gold Medal from the Archaeological Institute of America in 2015.

SESSION NOTES:

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