LAND 392_Seminar-Designed Landscapes–Theory and Criticism fall 2017
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-9:50am Shepardson 102

Landscape Architecture Foundation - Survey

1. Since taking this course, how familiar are you with the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF)?
   - ☐ Never heard of it before 13%
   - ☐ Have heard of it but can't explain details 22%
   - ☐ Have heard of it and can recall specific research, scholarship, and leadership opportunities 65%

2. What was your opinion on LAF when you first learned of it?

- I think that this website is a good foundation for scientific research and learning about ecological/sustainable systems.
- I first learned of it at the beginning of college, thinking it was great that there was an organization dedicated to LA. I believed it to be like ASLA.
- I thought it was a great direction that landscape architecture was heading. It is a subject that needs to be promoted and talked about more.
- I had never hear of it before so I was interested see what it was.
- I was surprised that it is not more well-known. The case studies and the toolkit are very useful resources and should be more utilized in the profession.
- I thought it was a great site for information on different projects.
- I did not know much about it at first. My fist opinion was that it was a great site for students to use.
- Good way to share ideas.
- I didn't have much of an opinion because I didn't know much about it.
- I thought this was a great educational course on the topic.
- When I first learned about LAF, I thought it was interesting but didn't realize that it could be used as a resource to help with my designs.
- A valuable organization for the profession.
- Interactive website that teaches about landscape design.
- It seems like a great resource for measuring landscapes.
- I didn't know what is was specifically but had a general idea of what it might entail.
- When I first learned about LAF I thought it was a good research tool.
- I can find useful resources on this website.
- It's an amazing tool to help us quantify the benefits of a project.
- The case studies in LAF can help me.

- I think it holds excellent resources to study. I'm still learning it.
- It seemed to be a helpful series for evaluating landscapes and gave standards to how the profession is being viewed.

3. How familiar are you with the *landscape performance series*?
   - ☐ I now know what it is and can explain the basics 22%
   - ☐ I now know what it is and know how it may be used in studio or future professional employment 78%

4. My first impressions of landscape performance were:

- Good idea. Nice way to critically think about how we can improve our designs and landscapes.
- Learning about the case studies helps me and others how to look at other projects, learn from mistakes and successes from others. It's very educational.
- I was surprised it was not more well-known. I am impressed with how well it is organized and how easy it is to navigate.
- Amazed that there were tools so accessible to everyone.
- I really liked the learning performance series. It is cool to see a more in-depth look at designs.
- This looks interesting.
- I was wildly impressed and excited about this kind of practice.
- My first impression was it was a complicated analysis of the landscape. However I then learned it is a great, easily accessible resource.
- It's a nice tool with a lot of potential.
- It's a great tool for not only students, but also firms.
- Curiosity but sometimes confusion.
- Very interesting idea with a lot of potential. Needs serious refinement. Great for marketing.
- Seems like a useful tool.
- It could be a useful asset in the future once I had a better understanding.
- Never heard of it before but it is very interesting.
- Good set of Case Studies to show benefits of landscape architecture projects.
- Good idea but seems a little bias.
- Very academic and professional.

5. Have you used landscape performance in other coursework outside of this course?
   - ☐ Yes 26%
   - ☐ No 74%

6. Do you plan to use landscape performance in your final capstone studio project?
   - Yes 96%
   - No 4%

7. In what ways could landscape performance be utilized in your studio projects?

- Calculating the metrics of the space before and after.
- I could use many of the benefits toolkits resources such as the tree calculator for my project to help measure the sustainability and benefits of my design.
- They provide great examples for what to strive for when I am designing.
- Add depth and breadth, add environmental, economic, and social considerations to designs.
- Previous information regarding similar studio projects.
- It could be used to measure the social performance of the site, such as traffic.
- Being able to understand your site and its potential is a useful skill in designing.
- Could use it to figure out environmental benefits like carbon sequestration and storm water.
- The case studies are good examples for guiding the direction of the design process.
- Helps me understand how effective and how beneficial the ways of designing a space will be.
- Using some of the technologies (iTree calculator), and providing metrics.
- Searching ecological methods for application in my own projects.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of design decisions.
- It's going to be helpful while looking at precedents.
- It can be used to theoretically analyze a site for ecological improvements.
- Learning about budgeting and sustainable stormwater methods.
- Has precedent examples and tools for research.
- Good way to see what works and doesn't. And useful for getting a better sense in how a landscape will perform.
- Benefits calculator for benefit predictions.
- It can help with testing my site I design and to do site analysis. It will help me measure things to make the site better.
- I can use the case studies for sites similar to mine and see what did and did not work in those sites, and consider that in my design.

8. Did your review and research on the Case Studies provide guidance on "measuring" the landscape?
   - ☐ Yes 100%
   - ☐ No 0%

9. Provide examples from your Case Study research that you may be able to replicate or utilize in the future?

- Measuring sounds, soils, traffic flow, sunlight, tree count, etc. Studying how designers design and improve a site that is contaminated.
- Tree benefits, water conservation, soil quality, shade/sun/shadow.
- This provides more ideas on how to do things. What works and what doesn't?
- The impact of canopy cover.
- UT Dallas project, using vegetation and planting schemes to make behavioral changes in people and physical changes to the site.
- I would love to replicate the social improvements made by PWP to UT Dallas.
- Measuring unwanted views.
- The tree calculator and the design processes.
- The idea of a "complete street" was used in my urban design course this semester.
- Carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff calculations, noise levels, heat, humidity (relative atmospheric conditions), water use (irrigation) needs.
- Sustainable practices.
- Measuring economic performance.
- Understanding the client you are trying to attract and what their needs are and if you successfully accomplished that in your design.
- Although perhaps less "scientific", I really liked the attention paid to observations.
- Effective planting types.
- I really liked the cascade gardens projects. As it is the scale and type of design I would like to do.

10. Was the Benefits Toolkit helpful in providing opportunities for obtaining landscape metrics?
    - ☐ Yes 87%
    - ☐ No 13%

11. If Yes, how? Provide examples. If no, why? Explain further.

- It explained how different methods can be on a site to improve social, environmental and economic problems.
- Using the iTree calculator to measure benefits for the site. Need to learn more though.

- Provides tools that could be useful maybe not fully right now, but in the future on projects outside of school.
- How trees, in a measured way, can effect/improve our landscape. iTree.
- Measuring sounds, solids, traffic flow, shade, sunlight, tree count, etc.
- I used the tree benefits calculator to evaluate the benefits that a specific tree would bring on a project.
- We haven't had the opportunity to use the tools like that before so that was neat.
- It wasn't very straight forward – hard to comprehend. A lot of steps.
- Can determine the amounts of carbon sequestration and determined water saving amounts.
- iTree, Stormwater runoff calculator.
- I was able to use it in things like figuring out shadows, tree calipers, and temperature.
- I had no idea what landscape metrics could entail, and the toolkit helped my basic understanding.
- iTree to calculate shade and carbon sequestration, land value.
- I need more time to explore these toolkits.
- Helped to measure the benefits of our design.

12. List any suggestions you have regarding, 1) Including landscape performance in the additional landscape architecture curriculum, 2) Suggestions for course assignments, additional readings or tools to help you understand and use landscape performance.

- Our undergraduate program should make it required to integrate the landscape performance into studio projects.
- More emphasis on how offices look and operate around standards.
- The Benefits Toolkit would be so much more beneficial if it was organized and straight forward and useable in our own projects. It was quite complicated to understand.
- Maybe utilize the tool benefits kit on a small project during this course.
- I think landscape performance is a very important aspect of landscape architecture and should be one of the first things we learn about in the program. It's important to know how a design actually functions and how it performs services economically and environmentally.
- We should have more assignments that make us explore the benefits toolkits so that we become more familiar with it.
- Studies should be conducted for longer periods of time to really understand what happens with a site.
- It would be great to have a project where it was required to use all of the calculators.
- I feel like my main concern for landscape performance is that it is not rigorous or critical. For example, when evaluating the effectiveness of a site, in what way will our bias's as

landscape architects get in the way of how effective a landscape is. The accuracy of evaluations.

- Should also include a lesson's learned section that also provides information on projects that were unsuccessful and allows for better design in the future.
- Design a landscape using the benefits toolkit and provide a design proposal and research of why it's a good design artistically and scientifically.
- Incorporate a student section that shows how students used LAF in their studio projects or research papers.