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Important Chatham University News

In search of two students for tuition waiver work on Chatham University grounds.
Two out of four available tuition waivers available for summer 2008.
Inquire to Lisa Kunst Vavro, Director of Landscape Programs, Chatham University.

Register online for Fall, 2008 classes – Now through Friday, April 25
The Fall 2008 course schedule is now available on My Chatham and on the Chatham University website. To view the schedule on My Chatham go under CampusVue>Course Schedule, select the appropriate fall term, then hit View Schedule. From the University website go to Academics>Course Schedule, select the appropriate fall term, then hit View Schedule. For help, contact Jenna Godfrey, Asst. Registrar, jgodfrey@chatham.edu
### Landscape Course Offerings – Fall 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course no.</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAR509</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Media I: Graphic Communication</td>
<td>McCann, Michele</td>
<td>T: 6:30-8:30P</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Goldberg, David</td>
<td>R: 6:30-8:30P</td>
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<td>LAR522</td>
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<td>History of Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>Withey, Anne</td>
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<td>LAR535</td>
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<td>LAR541</td>
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<td>LAR570</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>Principles of Sustainability</td>
<td>Snow, Ryan</td>
<td>Hybrid Online</td>
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<td>LAR645</td>
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<td>Rauso, Richard</td>
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Please consult your advisor prior to registering. Thank you.
Friday, April 11 10 am – 4 pm  
**Student ASLA Annual Plant Sale**  
Help the Chatham Student ASLA Chapter meets its financial goals with this annual fundraising plant sale, taking place Friday, April 11 at the AFC Courtyard.

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**New Landscape Architecture books available at the Jennie King Mellon Library**
Dana Mastroianni, MLIS, Reference & Web Librarian, announced the following titles have arrived at Chatham’s Library:

- The Green Building Revolution
- Green Infrastructure: Linking Landscapes and Communities
- The Woodlands: The Inside Story of Creating a Better Hometown
- Sustainable Design: Ecology, Architecture, and Planning
- The Practice of Sustainable Development
- Developing Successful Infill Housing
- Urban Infill Housing Myth and Fact (multiple copies)
- Adaptive Reuse (InfoPacket)
- Remaking the Urban Waterfront
- Breaking the Development Logjam: New Strategies for Building Community Support
- Creating Walkable Places
- The Architectural Pattern Book: A Tool for Building Great Neighborhoods
- Skinny Streets and Green Neighborhoods: Design for Environment and Community

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**Graduate Student meeting will discuss constitution**
The Chatham University Graduate Student Council will be discussing its constitution at the next meeting, Thursday April 3, 4 – 5:30 pm. A social hour follows until 7 pm. A draft of the constitution has been completed and feedback is needed. To participate, go to the Blackboard, choose Student Groups, then scroll to Graduate Student Council. Click enroll and then view the constitution both under Assignments and Course Documents. Use the discussion board for comments or email President Douglas Dmitrzak, dougpgh@netscape.com; VP Campus Affairs, Julie Arnheim, jarnheim@chatham.edu; VP Graduate Student Life, Patrick Zbasnik, pzbasnik@chatham.edu; Advisor, Angie Lusk alusk@chatham.edu. The meeting takes place in the Mellon Board Room with the social following at the Gatehouse.
April is National Landscape Architecture Month –
See ASLA section for activities and details.

Conferences/Meetings/Events

Monday, April 7
Carnegie Mellon University
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm
John G. Craig, Jr. Former Editor, Pittsburgh Post Gazette AND
Paul O’Neill, Former Secretary of the Treasury and Former CEO, Alcoa
Will be speaking on “Benchmarking the Real Pittsburgh,” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series
in Environmental Science, Technology and Policy.

Monday April 7 – Tuesday April 8
Urban Land Institute Fourth Annual Conference
Charlotte, North Carolina Convention Center
Find out how sustainable development can lead to sustainable business growth. Learn from top
professionals in the fields of —
• Capital, financing and investing
• Commercial and residential sustainable development
• Marketing, risk management, and much more
Tour the Bank of America facilities to find out how new standards of environmental friendliness are
being achieved while boosting productivity. Visit the USGBC LEED-certified workspace of the Sherrill
Building which incorporates the bank’s new Corporate Interior Design Standards. Visit the Sanctuary,
a nature reserve community developed by Crescent Resources. This tour highlights the John James
Audubon Lodge (the first LEED certified recreational building in North Carolina) and the Green Leaf
Certification program for builders.
For more information, or to register, go to www.uli.org/conferences or call 800-321-5011.

Tuesday, April 8
Carnegie Mellon University
Rangos 1, University Center – 4:30 pm
John B. Carberry, Environmental Technology, E.I. DuPont, will speak on “Sustainable Industry in a
Changing Society,” Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer.

Wednesday April 9
Burnham in Pittsburgh
John Heinz History Center, 7pm-8:30pm
Please join the Heinz History Center, Preservation Pittsburgh and the Heinz Architectural Center to
see a preview of a new documentary film by Judith McBrien, Producer/Director/Writer Archimedia
Workshop. Judith Paine McBrien is a filmmaker and writer focusing on architecture, history and urban
design. For the past 15 years Judith Paine McBrien has been producing interviews on camera with
some of the best-known architects designing buildings in Chicago. Pittsburgh's Burnham Buildings to
will be filmed during her visit as they played a prominent role in the work of Burnham.

The Heinz History Center is located at 1212 Smallman Street. Please RSVP: lisa@pfaffmann.com or
412 471.2470.

Thursday, April 10 – Sunday April 13
45th Annual Empire Keystone Association Regional Conference
and ACI Home Performance Conference 2008
Pittsburgh Hilton
This year's Empire Keystone Association Regional Conference will feature over 20 hours of NATE
Recognized Training. The agenda will be highlighted by several industry leading nationally
recognized trainers who will provide a nice mix of relevant Commercial, Industrial and Residential
topics. There is an industry tour at Heinz Field, social and networking opportunities including a major league baseball game, awards lunch, and dinner and comedy night.  
http://www.affordablecomfort.org/event/aci_home_performance_conference_2008/

Friday, April 11 10 am – 4 pm  
Student ASLA Annual Plant Sale, AFC Courtyard  
See Important Chatham News for details.

Friday, April 11 10 am – 4 pm  
Buckets and Blossoms Day  
Students, staff and faculty are invited to Chatham’s twelfth annual Bucket & Blossom Day activities! Wear jeans with the student-designed, long-sleeve B&B Day T-shirt (for those who preregister) Assignments will be distributed between 10-10:30 am on the quad. Register by Monday, April 7. The first 275 people who register will receive t-shirts.

Schedule

- 10 a.m. Offices of participants close. Meet on the quad to pick up raffle tickets and form teams.
- 10:30 a.m. – Noon Simultaneous tasks around campus
- Noon Lunch in Anderson and prize raffle
- 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Spring Fling in the AFC

Saturday, April 12  
LAR Student Field Trip  
Old Economy Village  
Ambridge, PA  
Join LAR 527 Historic Preservation class for a field trip to Old Economy, Ambridge, with historic preservation landscape architect, Bill Menke, RLA, ASLA. Please notify Lisa Kunst Vavro of your interest in order for adequate transportation to be arranged. We will depart from the ADC parking lot at 12:15 p.m. following Pro Practice class.

Monday, April 14  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm  
Terry Collins, Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon, will be speaking on, “Living the Pursuit of a Sustainable Civilization.”

Tuesday, April 15  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm  
Bernard Amadei, University of Colorado, will address the “Role of Engineers in Poverty Reduction: Challenges and Opportunities,” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in Environmental Science, Technology and Policy.

Wednesday, April 16  
Rachael Carson Spirit and Nature Forum  
Chatham University, 6 pm – 8:30 pm  
Through a roundtable discussion with panelists representing Pittsburgh’s faith groups, participants can explore how earth stewardship is a matter of faith and how sustainable living, including conservation efforts, green building and using renewable energy, are practices that can be embraced by all.

Register online at www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org.
Rachel Carson Homestead will present a multi-faith gathering to discuss the reverence for nature contained in all world religions. Through this roundtable discussion, participants can explore how earth stewardship is a matter of faith and how sustainable living, including conservation efforts, green building and using renewable energy, are practices that can be embraced by all. In addition, there will be excerpts from Bill Moyers’ “Is God Green?” This PBS documentary that was first aired in 2006 focuses on the growing environmental activism of the National Evangelical Association and how this organization is making a difference.

Participants include Reverend David Carlisle, Springdale United Presbyterian Church; Nusrath Ainapore, Islamic Center of Pittsburgh; Sharon Pillar of Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future, biologist Dr. Kanak Iyer, Bryan Ritti of the Zen Buddhism Center of Pittsburgh, Dr. Elisa Beck, Founding Co-Chair of the United Jewish Federation Environmental Committee, Dr. Terry Collins of the Institute for Green Oxidation Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University, and Sister Mary Christopher of Felician Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province.

Tickets: (includes dinner) are $25 – Adults; $10 – Students. The conference will be held in Mellon Board Room. Register at www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org, or (724) 274-5459.

Friday April 18
Allegheny County Courthouse in Context
University of Pittsburgh Architectural Studies Symposium
Frick Fine Arts Building, 9 am – 6 pm
To commemorate the 120th anniversary of the dedication of the Allegheny County Courthouse, Professor Drew Armstrong, director of Architectural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh has organized a symposium. Speakers from across the country will address the history of the courthouse, its place in H. H. Richardson’s career, and its impact on public architecture.

**Schedule**

**Welcome**
Drew Armstrong, University of Pittsburgh [9:00-9:10]

**Session 1**
The Allegheny County Courthouse [9:10-10:40]
Arthur Ziegler, Jr., President of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and Chair of the Allegheny County Historic Properties Committee: Preserving the Allegheny County Courthouse; Franklin Toker, University of Pittsburgh: H. H. Richardson: One Fierce Competitor; Martin Aurand, Carnegie Mellon University: The Spectator and Pittsburgh’s Civic Mount

**Session 2**
Models and Competitors [11:00-1:00]
Tim Kelly, Saint Vincent College and Michael Cary, Seton Hill University: Things of Importance Will Happen Here: The American Renaissance and the Westmoreland County Courthouse; Mary Alice Molloy, Chicago: W.W. Boyington and the 1882 Competition for Chicago’s Board of Trade Building; Jeffrey Cohen, Bryn Mawr College: An Ambitious Scot, the Red Queen, Big Henry, and the Bigger Picture in the 1880s.

**Session 3**
H. H. Richardson, Architect [1:40-3:40]
Hope Mayo, Houghton Library, Harvard University: H. H. Richardson’s Archive at Harvard University; Kate Holliday, University of Texas at Arlington: ‘Mongrel’ Architecture: H. H. Richardson and Leopold Eidlitz at the New York State Capitol; Maureen Meister, Boston: H. H. Richardson and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston

**Session 4**
Richardsonian Romanesque in North America [4:00-6:00]
Jeffrey Ochsner, University of Washington: From Pittsburgh to the Pacific: The Allegheny Courthouse as Paradigm; Douglas Richardson, University of Toronto: How long, oh Lennox, how long: Toronto Municipal Building Competitions of 1885 and
1886, and the City Hall, 1887-1900; Kenneth Breisch, University of Southern California: Pittsburgh on the Plains: The Great Richardsonian Roundup in Texas.

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by April 11 to Emily Schantz 412-648-2400.

Friday April 18 – Sunday April 20
Green Apple Festival – multiple cities
Earth Day Celebration
The third annual Green Apple Festival, produced in partnership with Earth Day Network announces “America’s Largest Earth Day Celebration”– a weekend of music and environmental awareness culminating on Sunday, April 20 with eight free festivals occurring simultaneously at landmark locations across the U.S.

Approximately 500,000 people are expected to attend the all-inclusive, interactive and free public events in New York City (Central Park), Washington, DC (The National Mall), Chicago IL (Lincoln Park Zoo), Miami FL (Bicentennial Park), Denver CO (City Park), Dallas TX (Fair Park), San Francisco CA (Golden Gate Park) and Los Angeles CA (Santa Monica Pier).

Earth Day Network, the non-profit organization created by the original founders of Earth Day in 1970, and Green Apple Festival are proud to announce that the National Mall event in Washington, DC alone will bring together world environmental leaders, community activists, A-list talent and crowds in the hundreds of thousands to make this one of the largest Earth Day gatherings in U.S. history.

For more information go to http://www.greenapplefestival.com/

Thursday, April 24
Build Pittsburgh 2008
David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh
Build Pittsburgh, AIA Pittsburgh’s 7th Annual Continuing Education Conference, brings together the community of architects and built industry professionals to engage in institutional learning. This event also provides an opportunity to interact, network and connect with all aspects of the built industry.

For information go to AIA Pittsburgh, 945 Liberty Ave., Loft #3, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-471-9548, info@aiapgh.org.

Tuesday, April 29
Carnegie Mellon University
Connan Room, University Center – 5 pm
Judy Wicks, of The White Dog Café, Philadelphia, will be speaking on, “Local Living Economies: Green, Fair, and Fun.”

April 31 - May 2, 2008
Sixth Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference
Baltimore Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel and Baltimore Convention Center
See www.greenroofs.org/baltimore for details.

Saturday, May 3
LAR Native Plant Field Trip, Ohio Pyle, 10 am – 4 pm
Required for students registered for LAR 518. All other landscape students are welcome. Meet at the Primrose Path, 10 am. Bring brown bag lunch. For maps to Primrose Path see Lisa Kunst Vavro.

Saturday, May 3, 2008 through January 11, 2009
Life on Mars, the 2008 Carnegie International
This show at the Carnegie Museum of Art, 4400 Forbes Ave. in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, includes works by 40 emerging and established artists from 17 countries. As the pre-eminent international survey of contemporary art in North America, the 55th exhibition in the 112-years-old series will continue the historic legacy set forth by previous Carnegie Internationals in presenting new and compelling works by artists from around the world. Life on Mars, the 2008 Carnegie
International, explores the important, yet continually perplexing, question of what it means to be human in the world today. Each artist brings a unique outlook to the question of humanity’s response to a world in which global events challenge and seem to threaten our everyday existence.

For more information call 412.622.3131 or visit their website at www.cmoa.org.

Friday, May 16
8th Annual Southwestern Pennsylvania Smart Growth Conference
Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
"Revitalize the Region: Seize Market Interest to Redevelop Core Communities"
Keynote speaker: Christopher Leinberger, Metropolitan Land Strategist & Developer
Cost: Early Registration: $30. After May 1: $40 (free to elected officials); continental breakfast and lunch included. To register call (412) 258-6642 or info@sustainablepittsburgh.org.

Saturday May 17 – Sunday May 18
Queen Victoria's Birthday Celebration
Allegheny West, 2:30 p.m.
You are cordially invited to celebrate the birthday of Queen Victoria with the residents of Allegheny West – the City’s premiere restored Victorian neighborhood – on Saturday, May 17 or Sunday, May 18! The celebration will include English High Tea as the Queen herself would have enjoyed and a presentation entitled How to Create an English Garden. Both the tea and presentation will take place in restored Victorian homes in the neighborhood. The tea and garden presentation afford a rare opportunity to glimpse a by-gone era and experience the lifestyle of Queen Victoria on the commemoration of her 189th birthday. Tickets are $40 per person and seating is limited. Tickets are available by mail only, payable by check.

A ticket order form, menu and more information about the garden presentation can be found online at www.alleghenywest.net on the Tours & Events page.

Tuesday, May 20 – Thursday, May 21
Designing the Parks Conference
Omni Charlottesville and The University of Virginia
“The History of Park Planning and Design”
Keynote Speakers & Panel Moderator include:
• John Dixon Hunt
• Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
• Ethan Carr
• Daniel N. Wenk
Basic registration fee for the 2-day session is $150. Registration Deadline is May 2, 2008
The National Park Service is offering travel scholarships to support students.

For more information go to: http://www.designingtheparks.com/basics_partI.html

Wednesday, May 21
Green Roof Training Courses, Philadelphia
Green Roof Infrastructure Design & Installation 201
This second course in the forthcoming accreditation program is for those who have taken Green Roof Design 101 or who have basic green roof knowledge. You will learn the roles and responsibilities of a green roof team, and various issues and complexities involved in managing your green roof project and how to plan for success every time. Tuition: $399
For further information contact Anna Sergeyeva, at asergeyeva@greenroofs.org.

Ongoing through Sunday, May 25, 2008
“Ecology.Design.Synergy” Exhibit
Heinz Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art
Ecology.Design.Synergy, is an exhibit of the work of Behnisch Architekten and Transsolar ClimateEngineering.
Working collaboratively, these German architecture and engineering firms are setting a standard around the world for "green architecture." RiverParc, the team’s winning proposal for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, is on view along with the firm’s other designs that transform work environments and city spaces for contemporary life. See www.cmoa.org for more information.

For future consideration:

June 6-8, 2008
Native Plants in the Landscape Conference
Millersville University, Lancaster County, Millersville, PA 17551
A great way to learn about landscaping with native plants, this conference includes speakers on the 20th century native plant movement; garden design for children; the woods in your backyard; people and nature in the urban environment; operating a green business; biodiversity and landscape pests; controlling non-native invasives; woody natives; naturalistic gardening; deer control; organic landscapes; genetic integrity of native plants, as well as other topics, field trips, and a native plant sale. And there’s plenty of time for networking. The conference is for home gardeners and professionals who are interested in regionally appropriate plants and sustainable landscapes. Registration required. Accommodations are available. Contact: (717) 872-3030, npilc@yahoo.com
Website: www.millersvillenativeplants.org

Friday, June 6, 2008
Central PA Summit on Green Building Products
Penn College, Williamsport, PA 8 am – noon
Learn how Pennsylvania manufacturers are taking advantage of the fast-growing market for green buildings. With its close proximity to much of the eastern U.S. and Canada, Pennsylvania is an ideal location for architects seeking to specify “regionally sourced” materials for green projects. Plus, Pennsylvania consistently ranks among the national leaders in the number of certified green buildings, a sign of strong market interest.
To register or for more information, go to the Green Building Alliance, River Walk Corporate Centre, 333 East Carson Street, Suite 331 Pittsburgh, PA 15219, Phone: 412-431-0709 Fax: 412-431-1432, http://www.gbapgh.org/events.asp.

Sunday, June 29 – Friday, July 4, 2008
2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress
Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
This congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging program we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.
For an update of the program: http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/programme.html

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Green Roof Training Courses, Philadelphia
Green Roof Infrastructure Waterproofing and Drainage 301
This is GRHC’s third course in the Green Roof Accreditation Program. This new course will provide participants with an overview of waterproofing and drainage construction and maintenance for green roof assemblies. It lays out technical vocabulary and materials and presents detailed design solutions and implementation best management practices for waterproofing and drainage in green roofs. Tuition: $399.
For further information on our training courses, please contact Anna Sergeyeva, at 416-971-4494, ext. 228 a sergeyeva@greenroofs.org.

September 21 – 23, 2008
International Urban Parks Conference
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh for Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities. The biennial conference of the City Parks Alliance and the National Association for Olmsted Parks is the premier forum for professionals and parks advocates with a primary focus on urban and historic parks. The 2008 conference is presented in partnership with and produced by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. Registration is now open. For information go to www.urbanparks08.org.

News from ASLA

April is National Landscape Architecture Month
More than 35 ASLA chapters have plans to highlight various aspects of landscape architecture during National Landscape Architecture Month. The theme for the month, “Discover Landscape Architecture,” focuses on careers in the field. The month encompasses Earth Day on April 22 and the birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted on April 26, who founded the American landscape architecture profession. Across the country, landscape architects have scheduled events with schools, universities, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, as well as National Parks to explore all aspects of the profession. To keep members informed of these events and more, ASLA has compiled a list of chapter events on the 2008 NLAM web page.

The month also encompasses the “Each One, Reach One” Campaign by President Perry Howard, FASLA. The campaign charges all 18,000 members to reach out to at least one K-12 student about landscape architecture. Nationally, ASLA is working with former NFL pro-bowl running back and landscape architect Eddie George, ASLA, to highlight career opportunities.

Learn more about landscape architecture online at www.asla.org.

Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter to distribute information to Pennsylvania schools
Lisa Kunst Vavro, ASLA PA/DE Chapter President announced activities planned for the month. “In our effort for “Each One to Reach One”, we are to begin a campaign to distribute the Introduction to Schools of Landscape Architecture in Pennsylvania CD’s to local schools. We are looking forward to conducting these events and reaching out to our local communities,” she said.

The Western Section of PA/DE Chapter will also conduct a Landscape Architecture Merit Badge Education Session with local Boy Scout troops. They will organize and present a one-day course for scouts introducing them to the profession of landscape architecture. Through hands on work, this course will also teach scouts some of the daily tasks completed by landscape architects. This course will benefit the scouts in their mission to receive a Merit Badge of Landscape Architecture.

The Western Section of PA/DE Chapter will also host a free networking Social for members and prospective members.

For more information, contact Lisa Kunst Vavro at Chatham University Woodland Road Pittsburgh, PA 15232-2826; email, 412-365-1882; lvavro@chatham.edu.

Landscape Architects in high demand
The majority of landscape architects remain busy despite trouble in the housing market, according to a survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). More than six in ten firms reported steady or increased work, and nearly four in ten firms planned to hire in the upcoming quarter. The survey asked quarterly benchmarks on key statistics including billable hours, inquiries, and hiring plans, with 319 firms responding.

As with third quarter of 2007, the fourth quarter saw the majority of firms staying busy despite larger housing market troubles. Fifty-nine percent of respondents described their billable hours as either “well above average” (six percent), “slightly above average” (25 percent), or “average” (27 percent). Thirty percent said their hours were “slightly below average,” and 10 percent said “well below
average.” When asked to compare Q4 2007 with Q4 2006, 61 percent said their hours were either “higher” (31 percent) or “about the same” (30 percent); 36 percent said that compared to 2006 their hours were “lower.”

Firms shared their outlook and concerns in the survey as well. One small Midwestern firm said its outlook for billable hours is “improving significantly,” while a midsized Northeastern firm said it has “just started receiving much larger commissions.” A large national firm said, “The housing market had a major effect on our backlog of work. We are currently developing more relationships with commercial developers.” Other firms spoke of their experiences with seasonal construction slowdowns, concerns about inflation and energy costs effecting profit margins, and drought-related problems.

New inquiries in Q4 2007 were similarly positive: six percent reported well above average inquiries, 19 percent reported slightly above, 31 percent reported average, and 44 percent reported their inquiries were down this quarter. When asked to compare Q4 2007 with Q4 2006, 56 percent said that their new inquiries were either “higher” (19 percent) or “about the same” (37 percent), while 40 percent said that compared to 2006 their inquiries were “lower.” A midsized Southeastern firm summed up its experience: “Given the state of the economy, we have been surprised about the seeming strong amount of inquiries.”

The strong job market for landscape architects also remained steady. Fully 38 percent of firms planned to hire in the first quarter of 2008, representing little change from those who planned to hire in the fourth quarter of 2007 (40 percent).

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the number of landscape architects must grow by 16 percent by 2016 in order to meet growing demand for services. The survey asked firms how they are helping to grow the profession, and more than 40 percent reported they actively conduct outreach to school-aged children to promote careers in landscape architecture. The theme of National Landscape Architecture month in April will be “Discover Careers in Landscape Architecture.”

From LandscapeOnline.com; Source, ASLA.org

The National Landscape Conservation System Act passes the House

The House Natural Resources Committee passed H.R. 2016, the National Landscape Conservation System Act, on March 12. The legislation, introduced by Congressman Raúl Grijalva (AZ) would make the 26-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) a permanent entity of the Bureau of Land Management.

The NLCS was established by the Department of Interior in 2000 to protect more than 800 of the West’s most ecologically and historically significant landscapes including many national conservation areas, national monuments, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national historic and scenic trails. The Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument, the Lewis and Clark National Trail, the Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument, and the California National Historic Trail are just a few examples of these treasured lands and waters. NLCS units provide millions of Americans each year the opportunity for recreation and wildlife viewing and serve as an important tool for scientific research and ecological education. Preserving these areas provides a lasting legacy of the American West for future generations of Americans.
However, unlike the national parks and the national wildlife refuges, the NLCS could face long-term efforts to dissolve the system and its units under its current status. Although the NLCS has been administratively supported by both President Clinton and President George W. Bush, it has not yet received statutory recognition within Congress. H.R. 2016 would provide a congressional stamp of approval for the NLCS to ensure that it will exist in the future. Congressional authorization would also create more awareness of the NLCS and recognition of its units, which have been referred to as “crown jewels” within the Bureau of Land Management.

The bill does not provide additional funding for the system or its units and would not alter existing oil and gas or grazing leases or public access for recreation, fishing, and hunting. Under H.R. 2016, each NLCS unit would continue to be managed in accordance with its establishing legislation or proclamation.

The bill will now be scheduled for a vote by the full House of Representatives. In the Senate, a similar bill, S. 1139, sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM), was passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in June 2007 and awaits consideration on the Senate floor. The issue has received broad support from a bipartisan caucus of legislators along with the endorsement of the administration. ASLA strongly supports passage of legislation that would make the NLCS permanent and continues, along with a broad coalition of organizations and individuals across the country, to work with Congress on this important issue.

**Thanks to ASLA members for congressional advocacy efforts**

Dear ASLA Members:

Thanks to your advocacy efforts, 25 Members of the House of Representatives signed on to Congressman Russ Carnahan's letter requesting funding for HALS in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. ASLA members and other HALS supporters contacted nearly 200 different congressional offices with more than 430 letters and phone calls to generate support for HALS funding.

The success of this effort is a direct testament to the importance of your participation in advocacy. At least 75% of the Members who signed on to the HALS letter received one of your letters, phone calls or visits in their district offices. In addition, your letters reached many of the Members of the House Appropriations Committee, which sets funding for HALS and other historic preservation programs.

As you know, adequate funding is necessary for HALS to have dedicated staff, increased technical resources, and seed money that will enable HALS staff and other local groups to document historically and culturally significant landscapes. ASLA will continue to work with Congressman Carnahan and the Appropriations Committee to secure HALS funding and your support in this ongoing effort will be essential.

Perry Howard, FASLA
President

**Fourth Annual Student Chapter ASLA Plant Sale**

Volunteers needed for Friday, April 11, 2008. To volunteer, contact DougPgh@netscape.com or kelly.ogrodnik@gmail.com

**Professional Jury Chair shares winning strategies with students**

Students competing in the 2008 ASLA Student Awards should submit their entry forms and payments by Friday, May 9. ASLA will then send entrants the official submission binders to return no later than Friday, May 23. As students prepare their entry binders, they often have many questions, the most common being “What makes a winning entry presentation?”

ASLA posed this question to 2008 Professional Awards Jury Chair Warren T. Byrd, FASLA, who offered several suggestions on what students should consider when entering projects.
- Write clear, concise narratives and captions that relate directly to submitted images.
- Submit a few beautiful images, rather than many average ones.
- Follow the entry instructions and keep it simple.
- Organize and proofread submissions.
- Resubmit projects from previous years.
- Submit the entry forms and binder on time.

The complete award-winning strategies article offers detailed suggestions for improving awards entries. Students can also visit the 2007 Student Awards winners to review award-winning projects and juror comments, which may aid in the submission process for the following categories:

- General Design
- Residential Design, in partnership with Garden Design magazine
- Research, in partnership with CELA and Landscape Journal
- Communications
- Student Community Service Awards
- Student Collaboration.

ASLA will honor award recipients and their advisers at the awards presentation ceremony and a special champagne reception during the ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO in Philadelphia, October 3–7, 2008. Award recipients will receive a complimentary full registration to the 2008 annual meeting, and Award of Excellence recipients will receive complimentary travel and hotel accommodations.

For questions about the student awards, contact Carolyn Mitchell, ASLA Honors and Awards Coordinator, at 202-216-2331 or cmitchell@asla.org.

**May 9 is the entry deadline for the 2008 Student Awards**

**Register now for “Build Pittsburgh 2008”**

See calendar section for details

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**Project Watch: Pittsburgh’s Baum-Liberty to build “live-stay-work-play complex”**

by Tracy Ostroff, Contributing Editor

**How do you program a facility?**

**Summary:**

DOC-Economou is in the preliminary design phase of a mixed-use complex at the site of a former car dealership on two main arteries in Pittsburgh’s historic Bloomfield and Shadyside neighborhoods. The 1.2 million-square-foot project will feature upscale townhouses and condominiums; a multilevel interior arcade with offices, a medical facility, and retail space; and a high-quality hotel. It’s all part of a $230–$250 million development of a “live-stay-work-play” complex in the SouthSide Works.

As it stands now, the development will span seven acres on three city blocks and will include 350,000 square feet of boutique retail shopping, 58,000 square feet of street level commercial retail, and
300,000 square feet of space for office and medical facilities. Additionally, there will be a 120-room high-quality hotel with the upper levels including 150 condominiums and townhomes. The lower levels will offer underground parking.

The architects are carefully considering the massing and shading of the site, making sure it is pedestrian friendly and kind to its urban neighbors. They are planning on seeking a LEED® Silver certification, building by building, from the USGBC, says project architect Paul Grimes.

**Being contextual**

The project is the fruit of the relationship of DOC-Economou, a partnership between Development Opportunity Corporation and Economou Partners. The team handles each component of the process, from the initial planning and market research phases to design and construction, through leasing and managing the property. Economou Partners bring design, construction, and retail and office development experience, while DOC has full-service hotel development skills. The Baum-Liberty project is the firm’s largest to date, notes the Pittsburgh Business Journal.

The project, located near the Hillman Cancer Center, Shadyside Hospital, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and other medical and education facilities, is at the heart of what the team calls the “Ed-Med” area of Pittsburgh. The team is looking to capitalize on the area with development that is particularly attractive as medical offices and residences for doctors, students, educators, and researchers. It has easy access to public transportation and the downtown core.

The team will implement the plan in phases, says Thomas Economou, AIA, principal of Economou Partners, which is headquartered in Park Ridge, Ill. He, along with brother and principal Steve Economou, AIA, and the rest of the design and development team are in discussions with major retailers and a yet-to-be-named major luxury hotel.

The team believes this phased-in approach in this prime area for growth helps guard against market swings. Beyond that, they are optimistic that the higher-end design, with “super higher-end residential” is a long-term project that will generate interest for the community and profit for their bottom line. The team is also looking to the LEED rating to generate interest and to use it as a marketing tool.

“The Baum-Liberty site is located in two of Pittsburgh’s premier neighborhoods—Bloomfield and Shadyside—which boast bustling business districts, attractive architecture, and thriving communities, making it a perfect area for an upscale mixed-use development like this,” says Phil Hugh, a principal of DOC-Economou.

As a principal in the development, the architects wear different hats throughout the research, design, construction, and marketing process. As young architects, the firm took risks and did more up-front design work to help solidify financing and create a larger interest base, says Thomas Economou. They started off doing smaller developments and worked their way up. “It was a lot of time and sweat equity,” he recalls.

DOC-Economou now has a half-dozen other substantial mixed-use projects in the works from Florida to Milwaukee.

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**Call for Entries**

ASLA 2008 call for entries
The 2008 call for entries is available on line at www.asla.org/awards/2008/rules_entries/.

See related information above in Student ASLA section.

May 9 is the entry deadline for the 2008 Student Awards
Study Abroad and in the U.S. Opportunities

May 25-June 5, 2008
Arts and Crafts Gardens of Southern England and South Wales
This tour will be led by landscape historian and award winning author Judith B. Tankard of the Landscape Institute, Harvard University.

June 4 -12, 2008
The Great Edwardian Gardens of Harold Peto
This new tour, the third in our ‘Great Garden Designers of the 20th Century’ series, will be led by Robin Whalley, a leading authority on Victorian and early 20th century gardens and author of the highly acclaimed new book The Great Edwardian Gardens of Harold Peto (London: Aurum Press, 2007). Robin's book is reviewed in the current issue of the Landscape Architecture magazine.

Sunday, June 29 – Friday, July 4, 2008
2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress
Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
This congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging program we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.
For an update of the program: http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/programme.html

Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

Pittsburgh Rotary has scholarships available for 2008
The Pittsburgh Rotary district in partnership with Rotary International is looking to fill five to six slots as part of the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships program for 2008 and possibly 2009. The program is flexible and aimed specifically at non-Rotarians. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professionals seeking additional education should contact Richard Beck, (412) 343-9488 or Georgia Petropoulos, (412) 683-6243 ext. 18.
www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/index.html

Internships and Summer Job Opportunities

Internships offered through PA Downtown Center and Keep PA Beautiful
The Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) partnered with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to develop a service learning internship program for college students. The internship program offers college students the opportunity to partner with downtown communities to organize and implement community enhancement projects during the summer. Each community partner determines the focus of its project. Projects are completed in 10 weeks and can range from murals to community parks and gardens to environmental education programs.

This 11-week summer internship program will place eight to 12 teams of interns at different project sites across Pennsylvania. Intern teams will be made up of two to three students from a mix of academic disciplines. Interns will apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired in the classroom to a professional project.

Eligibility and Requirements
PDC internships are highly selective and will be awarded to students who have the potential to be excellent cultural travelers and community organizers. Preference will be given to students who are involved in extra-curricular activities and who have prior experience organizing community projects. Students studying art, landscape architecture, landscape contracting, architecture, horticulture, urban planning, environmental science, geography and education are encouraged to apply.
Applicants must meet the following program requirements to be considered for an internship: have a GPA of 3.00 or higher, be a sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student, commit to a four-day training session in Philadelphia held from May 27-30, commit to working for 10 weeks, from June 2 to August 8, 2008.

**Internship Details**
PDC expects to award no more than 30 competitive internships. Each intern will be given a $2,000 stipend to cover summer expenses. PDC will assist interns who desire help in securing independent studies or course credit. Interns will regularly report to PDC staff on the progress of their project and submit a final report at the conclusion of the project.

**Applying**
Interested students should complete the following application form and submit it with a copy of their resume and transcripts to PDC, Attn: Internship Program, 130 Locust Street, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17101, no later than April 15, 2008.

Visit PDC’s website, [www.padowntown.org](http://www.padowntown.org), or contact Stephanie Glecos, PDC Internship Program Manager, at (717) 233-4675 or via e-mail at stephanieglecos@padowntown.org for more information about the program.

**Internship for manufacturing initiative**
Green Building Alliance and Innovation Works have announced their partnership in *Interns for Manufacturing Initiative* that makes hiring summer interns easy and affordable.

GBA’s Green Building Products Initiative is designed to assist manufacturers in developing and marketing green building products in the rapidly expanding green building marketplace. Innovation Works helps local manufacturers succeed by assisting with product innovation, process improvement, and market development. Combined, the two organizations seek to help companies develop new products and deepen understanding of the green building market.

Employ top-caliber college students as summer interns to explore new green product ideas or expand the market for an existing green product. GBA will assist in finding qualified candidates and recruiting them, alleviating the administrative responsibilities involved in recruitment.

Innovation Works will reimburse each company for half of an intern’s salary for the summer (for up to 12 weeks and up to $3,000). Interns must work for a technology-focused green building product manufacturing company or must be working on a technical project in a non-technology-focused green building product manufacturing company. Companies must be located in one of the following counties: Armstrong, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington, or Westmoreland.

Participants will report back to Innovation Works and the Green Building Alliance as to the nature of the project.

The following Summer 2008 internships are being offered by Western Pennsylvania’s small green building product manufacturers:

**Recycled Content Internship (Forms + Surfaces)**
Forms + Surfaces designs, manufacture, and markets a wide range of high-end, high performance architectural products for public spaces. This intern will create a centrally located source of information to assist Forms + Surfaces’ sales force and engineers in answering questions from architects and contractors regarding recycled content of our materials.

**Green Business Internship (Iron Oxide Recovery)**
Iron Oxide Recovery (IOR) recovers and produces natural iron oxide pigments from wastes associated with abandoned coal mines in Western Pennsylvania. IOR is looking for an intern to help develop and execute a triple bottom line business plan to produce iron oxide-pigmented clothing.

**Green Product Design and Certification Internship (CENTRIA)**
CENTRIA is a leading manufacturer of building envelope systems, and has a keen interest in innovating, manufacturing and marketing wall and roof systems that provide numerous green advantages. CENTRIA’s summer intern will assist the Product Design and Marketing groups with various green building product listings and certifications, including Energy Star, Cool Roof Rating Council, Cradle to Cradle, LEED, and possibly some life cycle assessment work.

Efficient HVAC Systems Internship (Comfort Supply) Comfort Supply is a HVAC equipment manufacturers’ representative firm specializing in innovative super efficient systems for both commercial and residential projects. This intern will assist Comfort Supply sales force in marketing, case studies, and energy modeling high efficient HVAC systems and load calculations.

To apply for an internship, please submit your cover letter and resumes to the individual noted at the bottom of each job description: http://www.gbapgh.org/Get_Involved.asp

Green Building Alliance and Innovation Works have partnered with these four Western Pennsylvania small green building product manufacturers to help publicize and support these opportunities. GBA’s Green Building Products Initiative is designed to assist manufacturers in developing and marketing green building products in the rapidly expanding green building marketplace. Innovation Works helps local manufacturers succeed by assisting with product innovation, process improvement, and market development. Combined, the two organizations seek to help companies develop new products and deepen understanding of the green building market.

For more info contact Aurora Sharrard at (412) 431-0709 or products@gbapgh.org

Norris Design offers internship in Denver
Norris Design’s Theory 2 Practice Program is a paid internship located in their Denver, Colorado office. They are currently accepting applications for three and seven month internships.
For more information go to www.norris-design.com/internship.

Internships available at Sewickley-based e. k. smith landscape design
Engage in every facet from design to installation at e. k. smith landscape design, a boutique firm with a stellar reputation in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. We’re seeking interns who can do hand renderings as well as accurate sheets and vignettes. We design projects all around Pittsburgh, from intimate courtyard gardens to large hard-scape projects. Specializing in endemic plant species, we also design terraces and swimming pools. As a design/build firm, candidate will have the opportunity to learn site analyses, design, and installation, gaining much experience in plant selection and sustainable landscape practice. Travel costs will be compensated.
For further information, please visit www.eksmithlandscapedesign.com to get a better idea of the scope of what we do, or call Elise Keely, 412-741-6030.

Immediate need for Landscape Architecture intern
Landscape Design Studio, an expanding, professional design company located in Squirrel Hill, has an immediate need for a Landscape Architecture intern or recent graduate, on a sub-contract basis. Candidate must be able to draft and design using own CAD software and be proficient at on-site surveys. Attention to detail and accuracy a must. Artistic, 3-D rendering abilities would be a plus.
Contact: Phyllis Gricus, 412-654-8693.

Fellowship Opportunities
Enterprise Community Partners announces 2008 Rose Fellowship Opportunities
Rose Fellowship fosters a unique partnership between Fellows and their host organizations. Both parties make a commitment of three years. The Fellow contributes his or her time and energy to work as part of the host organization’s staff, building capacity and bringing fresh experience and ideas to the organization. The host provides mentorship and guidance, supporting the development of the Fellow’s career by providing meaningful experiences in design, development, financing, construction management and resident services.
Applications are now available for four new Rose Fellowship opportunities in diverse communities from San Francisco to East Biloxi, Mississippi, and Downtown Minneapolis to rural Minnesota:

**Community Housing Partnership - San Francisco, CA**
San Francisco attracts tourists, innovators and industry leaders from around the world. At the same time, more than 7,000 San Franciscans have no place to call home. But for many of these vulnerable people, the situation is changing. Community Housing Partnership (CHP) successfully provides housing for people who have been homeless, as well as support services, training and employment opportunities that help people become involved in their communities and secure in their homes.

**Gulf Coast Community Design Studio - East Biloxi, MS**
Hurricane Katrina may have washed away homes across Mississippi’s coast, but it could not wash away hope. Since that devastating storm in 2005, the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) has partnered with the East Biloxi community to plan, design, and build or rehabilitate more than 80 homes for low-income households. Now GCCDS is expanding its service area to all three coastal counties, multiplying its community partners and growing in scale to encompass much larger projects.

**Project for Pride in Living - Minneapolis, MN**
Must affordability mean less than quality design or barebones systems and maintenance? Project for Pride in Living (PPL) in Minneapolis answers this question with a resounding, No. For 25 years, PPL has focused on providing the City’s most in need with affordable, dignified, attractive housing that is well-maintained and well-managed. But five new projects will aim even higher, adopting Green design standards and a commitment to providing top-notch, consistently handsome buildings.

**Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership - Slayton, MN**
Every community has its unique needs. Urban, suburban, rural; new or established; mixed use, multi-generational, immigrant, and on and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP) embraces them all. A regional community development corporation with national standing, the SWMHP has a long list of projects in the planning, pre-development and conceptual stages. The rural Minnesota Fellow will also work in partnership with the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) on two Research & Development projects including testing the cost impacts of the installation of basic green product integration within in single-family home construction and providing data to revise the current Building Better Neighborhood manual. 

*Applications are due April 25, 2008; start date, September 2.*
Go to: [www.rosefellowship.org](http://www.rosefellowship.org)

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**Job Opportunities**

**Garden Greenhouse and Nursery**
A South New Jersey company for over 58 years dealing with all aspects of landscape construction, design, and maintenance seeks a talented Individual in the filed of design and management in hopes of enabling our company to offer more attention to our customers needs in these particular areas. This individual will be given the opportunity to work with the public and manage landscape projects from the design level to the completion of the project.

Skills required:
- Landscape Design
- Management
- Leadership
- Organization

**Respond to:** Garden Greenhouse and Nursery  
1919 Rt. 9 North Clermonth, NJ 08210  
609-624-3750 [gardengreenhouse@comcast.net](mailto:gardengreenhouse@comcast.net)
Volunteer Opportunities

Oakland Community Council seeks student input
From: Elan Strait
A program is underway in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh that will look at various green spaces and try to renovate them. Volunteers are needed as consultants and a team of student to help us rethink these green spaces.
Contact Lisa Kunst Vavro, lvavro@chatham.edu, if interested in community field work.

Design Opportunities

Southside Flats Urban Pocket Garden needs attention
Chatham Occupational Therapy Professor’s pocket garden presents challenges of a small shady urban site on the Southside flats. Ideas are needed. For more information contact Lisa Kunst Vavro at lvavro@chatham.edu

Fox Chapel resident seeks landscape consultation
Property situated across from Hartwood Acres near sloped woodland, design ideas wanted. For more information contact Lisa Kunst Vavro at lvavro@chatham.edu

News of Interest

New approaches in the beetle battle

Treating individual trees with insecticides is expensive and the results vary. And when officials declare a tree quarantine zone, all ash trees come down—treated or not. If proven effective, new treatments could work wonders across the Midwest and affected parts of Canada.

Michigan State University researchers say they’ve found a pesticide called EB that, when applied to a tree, kills all emerald ash borer adults and 99.7 percent of its larvae. If shown practical to apply, the new treatment could help save millions of ash trees across the U.S. and Canada.

Another Promising Result
Not only that, but the same team of researchers has found an apparently native wasp laying its eggs in ash borer larvae in Genesee County. It might be a local fluke, or it could be the natural enemy that could control this pest, which spread across Michigan like wildfire after its 2002 landing in Detroit in packing materials. Now, it looks like experts could soon have new tools to fight the ash emerald borer.

New Battle Fronts
Also in March, the city of Jackson, Mich. said it will lose about 300 ash trees by mid-April. The removal process, which started in December, is a little more than half-way finished with the 300 trees removal. More than 1,500 ash trees will have to be removed eventually because of the exotic beetle.
“The spread of the emerald ash borer across the state has happened rather quickly,” said Tom Steiger, superintendent of cemeteries and forestry for the city of Jackson. “It’s almost inevitable.”

Meanwhile, in Ontario, Canada, more than $25 million has been spent to stop the EAB from wiping out the province’s ash trees, but the infestation has spread anyway. The pest is moving eastward in Lambton County and is expected to travel about 10 kilometers a year, says a representative from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

From: http://www.landscapeonline.com/research/
Sources: The Bay City (Mich.) Times, The Jackson (Mich.) Citizen Patriot, The Sarnia (Ont.) Observer, The Quad-City (Ill.) Times

The Next Page: Shining a light on why zoning and planning matter
By Court Gould, Anne-Marie Lubenau and Anne Swager
Pittsburgh City Council is in the middle of a heated debate over a brightly lit sign.
Late last year, the city zoning administrator approved a 1,200-square-foot, LED billboard for the new Grant Street Transportation Center (which replaces the former bus station). The executive director of the Urban Redevelopment Authority approved it too, after negotiating with the advertising firm to remove six standard billboards nearby. The URA leader as well as Mayor Luke Ravenstahl say that legal procedures were followed, and that the end result is a win for the city. But after weeks of controversy, City Councilman Patrick Dowd filed an official appeal, which automatically requires a hearing of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Other council members have joined forces to call a temporary halt to all billboards in the city.

What's all the fuss over one blinking sign?

Three members of Pittsburgh’s design community offer a guided tour of the zoning process: how it works and why it matters. Planning and zoning are, simply put, essential to protecting the public interest. The matter of this large LED billboard provides a perfect case study of the process. It is serves as a reminder of the deliberate legal process in place to guide planning and decision-making.

The Zoning Code is a tool to implement and protect the community’s vision. It is not a barrier to development. The Zoning Code governs development, shields against nuisance and brokers how we live together for the better. Zoning protects property values -- which underpin our society -- and public health. No wonder Pittsburgh, as well as most municipalities, have a process in place to evaluate requests to build.

The Pittsburgh Zoning Code is a body of law passed by City Council and signed by the mayor. Based on extensive public process, the Code was enacted in 1998 and is continually updated.

Section 919.02(N)(2): "No structural alteration, enlargement, or extension shall be made of a nonconforming sign, except when the alteration is required by law or will eliminate the nonconforming condition"

As such, the Zoning Code would seem to cast questions as to the Zoning Department's conclusion that approval was in order.

Had the electronic billboard application to the Zoning Department been denied, and the applicant was not satisfied, the applicant would have the opportunity to appeal that decision -- thus initiating a clearly laid-out public process. This would begin with the applicant petitioning the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance from the code or a change of nonconforming use.

Here are basic steps carried out by public officials in reviewing building permit requests:
When someone wants to build something, they make an application to the Zoning Department for a permit. The zoning administrator reviews and approves or denies the application based on the Zoning Code. The code is a detailed document intended to address a wide array of uses and applications.
In the case of the new electronic billboard, the application was approved apparently based on judgment that it represented an allowable alteration of an existing billboard. The present code prohibits new billboards in Downtown -- but allows prior or nonconforming billboards to remain. The proposed electronic billboard will be much larger (and relocated) than that of the "nonconforming" billboard it is replacing.

**Path to a Variance or Change of Nonconforming Use**

When filing a petition to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the applicant provides names and addresses of adjacent property owners. They all receive a notice of a public hearing. Additionally, neon orange or green notice signs are posted on the property.

The hearing, being a legal proceeding, is open to the public. The applicant or any objectors are entitled to legal representation. Through the public hearing, the Zoning Board of Adjustments evaluates the application using criteria tied to adherence to the standard of the law and protection of the public interest.

It is not an arbitrary review. Variances from the Zoning Code are only granted where it is proven that the conditions of the site or property are creating a hardship and the proposal represents the only possible use for the site.

For example, in the case of the electronic billboard, it would have to be demonstrated to the Zoning Board of Adjustments that without the new billboard, the property could not be used. Similarly, for a change of nonconforming use, the Zoning Board of Adjustments must rule in step with the specific existing code criteria. If the Zoning Board of Adjustments says "no," the applicant may appeal to the courts.

**Path to Changing the Zoning Code**

But what if billboards might be a generally good idea? Then a public hearing process may be initiated that engages the whole community.

City Council, the Planning Department or any civic group can initiate a community conversation that includes everyone who has an interest. If prevailing sentiment indicates there is need for change in the Zoning Code, then the Planning Department may propose new zoning legislation language that goes to a public hearing (with public notice) at the City Planning Commission.

From there a recommendation is made to City Council, which in turn can proceed with its own public hearing. Council then votes yes or no to change the Zoning Code. If yes, the original applicant could now apply again to the Zoning Department for the billboard.

**This public process applies equally to all.**

No public official or developer is above the law; everyone must go through the same process. If this current electronic billboard case is litigated, taxing residents of the city of Pittsburgh will foot the bill. Avoidance of lawsuits is another way in which Zoning Codes and the permitting process are intended to protect public interest.

Pittsburgh City Council has scheduled a public hearing on the billboard controversy for March 20 at 1:30 p.m., City-County Building, fifth floor. (Call the City Clerk's office at 412-255-2138 to pre-register to speak.) While those with opinions about billboards will likely take notice, all citizens should be concerned with the integrity of the very processes in place to protect and enhance public interest.

Zoning Code is not the most exciting pastime. But its clear steps deliver checks and balances to safeguard the public trust. In Pittsburgh or any community, you are afforded a seat at the planning, design, and zoning table to sustain a just and prosperous community.

Court Gould is executive director of Sustainable Pittsburgh, Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA, is president and CEO of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh. Anne Swager, Hon. AIA, is executive director of the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

*Originally published in the Post Gazette, Sunday, March 16, 2008*

**Finalists for Shelby Farms Park design online**

**Winner to be announced April 9**

The Shelby Farms Park Conservancy in Memphis, TN, has released the designs of the three finalists for the redesign of the 4,500 acre park. The new park is to be, in the words of the Conservancy, "...an
urban forest, a civic playground, a model for health and sustainability. It can be a standard-setting prototype for parks around the world."

The three finalists are field operations, Hargreaves Associates, and Tom Leader Studio. The Conservancy website includes well-produced streaming video interviews of Jim Corner, ASLA, George Hargreaves, FASLA, and Tom Leader, Affiliate ASLA, each describing their vision for the park. Visit the site and complete the survey giving feedback on your favorite design. The winner of the competition will be announced April 9, 2008. http://www.shelbyfarmspark.org/sfpc/.

![Image](image.png)

TreeHugger’s Ten Tips for Home Buying

1. **Get good help** Not long ago, if you’d have told your realtor that you were looking for a green house, they’d have handed you a gallon or two of emerald-hued paint. Nowadays, with increased eco-awareness and energy prices going through the roof, it’s not just us TreeHuggers that are worried about things like indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

When screening potential realtors, ask them how much they know about home energy performance and other environmental issues that matter to you. Alternately, services like EcoBroker, Modern Green Living, and other green residential tips can help you seek out a green real estate pro. Learn more about what to look for in a green realtor in our post on Verdant Vocations: A Real Estate Agent?

2. **Conduct an energy audit** If your green realtor is on their game, this one will go without saying, but it’s not an automatic. You can tell a lot just by taking a careful look around. Check out the heating and cooling systems carefully and make sure they are in good working order and sized appropriately. Take a gander at the windows, and check if they’re single or double-paned, and at the doors, to see if you feel a draft coming through around the edges. Be on the lookout for missing or inadequate insulation, or signs of mold.

To get really good info, though, we recommend hiring a professional for your audit. They'll use things like infrared cameras and special fans to pressurize your house and determine how leaky it is; this will help you determine if your potential new house needs any big efficiency upgrades, and if something like new insulation will make sense. Sister site Planet Green has more info on the benefits of a home energy audit.

3. **Remember: location, location, location** New Yorkers have the some of the lowest ecological footprints in the United States, and it's not because they are all amazingly eco-conscientious. Rather, it’s because they tend to live close to shops, entertainment, and places of work. If they don’t live close to all those things, they live close to a subway or a bus line that will take them to these locations. The lesson here? Choose your location carefully. Even if the countryside is definitely for you, it's worth thinking about commuting distances, proximity of local facilities, and how you are going to get around. How to begin? Visit Walk Score to locate restaurants, parks, grocers and other businesses and amenities within walking distance of your possible future home.

4. **Buy small, live large** It's the closest thing TreeHugger has to a mantra: small really is the new big, and less is the new more. The smaller your living space, the less energy is needed to heat and light it, and the less you have to spend on utilities too. With some thoughtful, careful interior design, you can
create beautiful living environments out of some surprisingly small spaces; we recommend multi-functional and transformer furniture to help you get the most out of your space.

5. **Kick the tires** Unless you really luck out, your new home will almost certainly require a few aesthetic and maybe even a few structural changes. Slapping on a fresh coat of low-VOC paint is easy, affordable, and won't contribute to poor indoor air quality; ripping up old, off-gassing, difficult-to-recycle wall-to-wall carpeting to refinish the hardwood underneath is tougher on you and on the planet; replacing leaky, rusty, lead-leaching plumbing is a taller order yet, so be sure to "kick the tires" of the houses you're looking at, so you can get an idea of the changes you'll want or need to make to create a greener, healthier home.

6. **Reuse, renovate, recycle** If a LEED-certified, solar-powered penthouse downtown remains just out of reach, consider looking for place that will benefit from a upgraded green kitchen or bathroom -- the two rooms where you typically get the best return for your renovating dollar. As long as it doesn't need major structural repairs, or you don't have to gut the place to get the rooms and layout you want, you can renovate according to your ecological principles and get a double bonus: a greener, more efficient home and a higher resale value (market-willing) upon your departure. Just be aware of the work involved, prioritize to get the best bang for your buck, and don't get carried away with romantic notions of a grand marble staircase, an all-red billiard room with a giant stuffed camel and a disco room with your own disco dancers. Renovating is hard work -- get more tips on green renovation before you get going -- but the rewards can be substantial; you might even achieve LEED Proactinium.

7. **Research your renewable-energy potential** Until recently, generating your own power was out-of-the-question expensive for most of us. As the costs of alternative technologies like solar, wind, or geo-thermal power come down, they're becoming easier to find and easier to afford. If your dream home isn't already plugged in to off-grid technology, don't fret; you can discover your renewable energy potential to see if it makes sense to generate some or all of your own power, and then check in with DSIRE, the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency to see what sort of rebates and deals are available in your state.

8. **Certifiable!** LEED-H, or LEED for Homes, just released final guidelines for their residential green building certification in January, which means there aren't a ton out there right now (we spotted the first one in the western US), though about 400 builders representing 10,000 homes across the U.S. participated in the LEED for Homes pilot program (you can find your local LEED for Homes provider here). And, if you're looking in New England, Energy Star Homes certify that homes meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) performance guidelines for energy efficiency. They're two programs on the rise, so be on the lookout for more green homes from both of them (and read more below in the "Getting Techie" section). For now, there's lots of best practices to glean from both programs' guidelines and principles.

9. **Shade grown?** Trees are good for a lot more than hugging, so take a peek outside your potential new digs to check out the foliage the comes with the place. Big deciduous (leafy) trees are great natural climate controllers; in the summer, their leafy branches block the sun and can help keep your home cooler (reducing cooling costs), and, in the winter, the bare branches let more natural light and heat through to your home (reducing heating costs). Big old trees also offer potential homes for our fine feathered friends, who can be helpful in maintaining your organic garden. Your neighborhood's biodiversity will benefit, too.

10. **More great outdoors** Ask yourself a couple more questions: Is there is big lawn that requires care (and lots of water) to maintain? (Remember, this isn't always up to you; some neighborhoods have homeowners' association rules that requires a certain level of lawn manicuring.) Is there a good, sunny place for a garden, to grow your own food, or is there a good space for some good container gardening? Will you have room for a compost pile, or just a small compost bin?

http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/03/how-to-green-your-home-buying.php#top10

Another fertilizer ban approved
Graham Peaslee, a chemistry professor at Hope College, studies a water sample extracted from the Black River in Allegan County, Mich. The county, concerned about runoff, has approved a ban on phosphorus lawn fertilizer. Starting next year, phosphorus-based lawn fertilizer will be largely prohibited on residential lawns in Allegan County. Commercial violators in the Michigan county will pay $50 for the first violation in a 12-month period, $150 for the second, and $300 for each violation thereafter. Newly-established turf is sometimes exempt.

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners approved the ordinance, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2009 by an 8-2 vote. Algae and weeds fed by fertilizer have become a concern across the Midwest and Northeast. Minnesota has a statewide ban on phosphorus. Nitrogen-based fertilizer will soon be banned across much of Long Island, N.Y. The Canadian province of Manitoba will ban phosphorus starting in 2009. And the County of Suffolk, N.Y. has banned nitrogen-based fertilizer use between Nov. 1 and April 1, starting in 2009.

Jamie Cross, of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, said phosphorus promotes plant growth and can lead to algae blooms and weeds in lakes. “When those weeds die off, they can deplete oxygen and lead to fish kills,” Cross said. “The algae issue is becoming bigger and bigger in the state of Michigan.”

According to a letter from the Lake Allegan / Kalamazoo River Watershed Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee, one pound of phosphorus can support growth of 500 pounds of algae.

Some Opposition
Similar bans in other Great Lakes communities have run into opposition from landscape business owners and others. Board member Max Thiele opposed the ban, saying it wasn’t enforceable and that its implementation was a “mad rush to judgment.” “Let it be clear that I concur with my associates’ concern about the impact phosphorus authority to ban phosphorus fertilizer.” He and board member Don Black voted against the ordinance. “It’s not a complete prohibition,” board Chairman Steve McNeal said.

Source: Mlive.com

Gardenalia going out of business
Betty Cantalini, proprietor of Gardenalia has announced the store is going out of business: “I’ve been privileged to have had the opportunity to fulfill a dream. To talk about gardening, and work in many gardens. Thank you for your support and stop in to check out some of the bargains during our ‘Store Closing Sale.’ We should be done by mid-April. “ The store telephone number is 412-441-9611.
The Amazing Enviro Loo (Eloo)

Dry, zero-discharge, human, sanitation system featuring:

- Uses no water or chemicals
- Does not require power
- No odor and no flies
- Minimal maintenance – no dumping, no pumping
- Zero discharge – nothing goes into the ground
- Large capacity – 15 to 60 uses per day (depending on local evaporation)
- Stable and sturdy – made from polyethylene, does not wear out, crack, or leak (over 45,000 in use since 1993 and no problems)
- No effluent will flow out during flooding
- Economical and no more pumping fees!
- We accept Visa and MasterCard

*Clean Up America, Inc., P.O. Box 470888, Tulsa, OK 74147*
Tel: 918-640-9004 – Ask for Larry or 866-437-0672 – Ask for Ted; FAX: 918-250-5904;
Visit our website: www.ELOO.US; Email us at: ELOO@ELOO.US
**Green Building Alliance has moved**
The Green Building Alliance has been working hard to fit-out new office space at River Walk Corporate Centre to meet LEED® requirements. Please update your records to reflect the new address:

**River Walk Corporate Centre**  
333 East Carson Street, Suite 331, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone and fax remain the same: 412-431-0709 (phone) and 412-431-1432 (fax)

Our service capability will be significantly limited during the move, and GBA staff will be unavailable via regular phone or e-mail from March 25-27. For urgent matters only, please call (412) 977-8259.

Look for more information soon about an open house at GBA’s new office space in late Spring. Full details, news and events online at [www.gbapgh.org/events.asp](http://www.gbapgh.org/events.asp)

**Spring into GBA Membership**
If you weren’t among the members enjoying a significant discount at GBA’s recent annual Green$ense conference (a smashing success with a record-breaking attendance of 400+), you still have time to join and take advantage of many benefits during 2008. Members receive discounts on education programs and tours, qualify to serve on GBA committees, benefit from networking at members-only events, and will soon receive a members-only quarterly update on relevant legislative activity. Make an investment now to advance your knowledge base and be connected with other cutting-edge green building leaders. Join your friends and corporate partners whose support ensures GBA’s continued efforts in this region.

**Pennsylvania Green Building Legislation Update**
Recently, Special Session HB1, legislation that will promote green building in the state of Pennsylvania, passed in the State House. GBA worked with GSP Consulting and its partners in Harrisburg through the Green Building Forum to successfully insert language into this energy bill. The important legislation passed its first hurdle with strong support by a vote of 126 to 74, and now awaits action in the State Senate. You can help make this happen...

Chief among the bill’s provisions is $25,000,000 in grants for high performance building projects that meet a number of criteria. These projects must be consensus-based, and include, among others, performance-based categories aimed at fostering optimization of energy performance, the use of environmentally preferable building materials, and waste reduction. Developers pursuing these grants must also employ third-party post-construction review and verification of the achievement of standards and have a performance record of certified green buildings in the United States.

GBA needs your help in contacting members of the Pennsylvania State Senate and urging them to support this important language in the final version of the General Assembly’s energy package.
News from Sustainable Pittsburgh:

8th Annual Southwestern Pennsylvania Smart Growth Conference  
Friday, May 16, 2008  
See details in the Calendar of Events

Parking lot is big... big and eco-friendly
The parking lot, which will serve an expansion of the Prime Outlets shopping mall in Williamsburg, is advertised as “the largest pervious concrete project in the United States,” one that covers 7 acres of Earth with this environment-friendly building material. The Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association, a trade group, now promotes pervious concrete. Its officials ticked off a list of “green” concrete projects under way or completed - an apartment parking lot in Norfolk, sidewalks in Richmond, car washes in Northern Virginia, driveways at homes in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

A level playing field for cities
Does the special role that cities play in the economy and society mean that cities need special treatment from state and national governments? No. Cities are strong. Give them a level playing field and they can compete robustly. However, cities shouldn't have to face a policy deck stacked against urban living. Urban firms and residents shouldn't have to pay a disproportionate share of the taxes needed to care for disadvantaged Americans. Suburbanites shouldn't get a free pass on the environmental damage created by a car-based lifestyle.

Transportation Planning Warms Up to Climate Change
A furious, though still fledgling, effort has commenced to help America’s drivers curtail their trips, burn less fuel and, ultimately, emit less CO2. It involves a marriage of transportation planning, land use planning, engineering and public policy to implement everything from smart growth to congestion pricing to increased use of mass transit. And if that wasn’t complicated enough, it will involve every level of government, from town hall to the United Nations. Transportation planners have described climate change as the force that may once and for all bring about the merger of land use planning and transportation planning; the places and the routes to them can no longer be separated now that sprawl and segregated land uses are considered one the greatest enemies of the polar bear. Nonetheless, the urgency of climate change has caused many planners to conclude that restrictions on mobility may be called for. Some individual state DOTs, MPOs and municipalities are considering a range of options like shifting funds to public transit, new zoning laws and limits on highway funding.

Spring semester comes to a close...  
Last day of evening classes is April 28th.