From the President
by Patrick Gay, ASLA

Spring is beautiful in Washington, D.C., but it can get hot (more on this later). I’ve never been there for the cherry blossoms, but I hear it is an incredible experience. I have had the fortune the past two years to attend the mid-year Chapter Presidents Council meetings and ALSA Advocacy Day representing the New Mexico Chapter. This year’s meetings/advocacy were productive and educational. Greg Miller and I advocated with Congressional staff members and one member of the House for a day. We met with staff for Representatives Lujan and Heinrich as well as Senators Udall and Bingaman to promote both the Urban Revitilization and Livable Communities Act (HR 3734) and the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act (HR 4202) legislative initiatives. We also got a call back for a personal meeting with Representative Ben Ray Lujan Jr. We had twenty minutes to get there. I still smile when I think about Greg and I woofing down lunch in mere minutes, running across the Capital grounds in our dark suits (having just woofed down lunch mind you), then waiting/panting in a security line behind 15 firemen (all of whom seemed to forget they had big belt buckles, badges, and steel toed boots on) to get into the House office building. Then we raced up five flights of stairs holding our materials in our teeth as we tried to put our belts back on before our slacks fell off. Whew, we made it. Representative Lujan graciously welcomed us into his office and we had a lively discussion about the legislative issues and landscape architecture in New Mexico. He is already a co-sponsor of HR 3734, so our work was made that much easier. Representative Lujan was so engaged that the staffers had to kick us out (in a very nice way) to keep him on schedule. Well, then it’s off to the races again as we are now late for our meeting with Senator Udall’s staffer. Naturally, our meeting is all the way on the other side of the Capital at the Hart Senate office building. By this time it is quite hot and humid outside and Greg and I make the half mile sprint across the Capital grounds once again. We made the dash in record time, Greg while phoning to let them know we are running late, me holding two handfuls of materials while Greg phones. We must have been a funny and sweaty sight as we rushed into Senator Udall’s office for our meeting just a few minutes late, pride intact.
The next day it was off to our respective meetings. Greg was elected the national Vice President for Membership at the Trustee’s meetings. Congratulations Greg and thanks for your six years of service to NMASLA as our Trustee. I had the opportunity to present the New Mexico Chapter’s Continuing Education strategy to over 100 Landscape Architects at the CPC meetings. Now here is where my local advocacy comes in. You too could have the great experiences noted above in the near future. We need a few members to step up and help lead the Chapter over the next few years. I would like to encourage those members that have yet to be involved in our leadership to take their turn. Think of the stories you will have for future newsletters!

Elections are just around the corner and we need folks to let us know of their interest very soon. Additionally, I would like to encourage all members to participate in our upcoming quarterly “Q” events in a more robust fashion. The members that coordinate these events for you work very hard to provide these opportunities and need your interest and support to keep them going. Next up will be the Golf Tournament and Vendor Expo event on August 20. I hope to see many of you there.

Fore!
Pat

To comment on the President’s message, please email responses to Pat: pgay@sites-sw.com
Victor Stanley offers contemporary designs built with 48 years of “Real World” reliability. We continually evolve our product lines to fit all environments, while maintaining the industry lead in durability and quality. All of this allows Victor Stanley to provide true piece of mind and inspiration to the New Mexico landscape architecture community.

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Pat Hurley Hillside Development
Albuquerque, NM
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Greg Miller, ASLA
Rob Loftis, ASLA

The scope of the project included the construction of a pedestrian path to link the existing upper and lower park spaces, reconstruction of two entry plazas in the lower park, extensive soil stabilization and storm water management measures, slope revegetation, and integral art installations. This challenging project dealt with the bluff face itself, and its successful construction accomplished a number of goals, both environmental and social.

Pat Hurley is a park with extraordinary topography created by lateral erosion of the Rio Grande Rift. The hillside is a drop of some 120 feet from the upper park to the lower portion over a relatively short distance (in some places with a slope of 1-1/2:1!). The soil is highly erosive, so stabilization and control of the surface run-off were major goals.

The bluff separates two different communities – the older community in the lower part of the floodplain, and the newer suburban neighborhoods above the floodplain. The Pat Hurley Hillside development solved the problems with a daringly executed pedestrian path that traverses the slope, creating usable spaces for humans. Gabions filled with basalt (salvaged from another nearby construction project) create level landings and path sections, carefully sculpted into the slope. Pre-fabricated metal
The upper and lower parks are now joined by a series of paths that are used both by casual strollers admiring the view and athletes training up and down the difficult slopes.

stairs connect the landings, reducing impact on the delicate soils. Two small overlook plazas take advantage of spectacular views and afford places along the paths for congregation.

Basalt cobble and boulders create a system of bio-swales and drop structures that capture storm water, slowing the flow velocity, permitting lateral dispersion, and allowing infiltration. This system has halted erosion and will be monitored to ensure continued function.

Plantings and revegetation seeding emphasize native species that can survive the harsh conditions, look beautiful and stabilize soil. Temporary drip irrigation provides supplemental water for plant establishment.

The upper and lower parks are now joined by a series of paths that are used both by casual strollers admiring the view and athletes training up and down the difficult slopes. There is now a functional and beautiful connection between previously disjointed communities.

Pat Hurley Hillside was developed in a manner that used its tremendous physical disadvantages and challenges to create a place with the unusual combinations of excitement and beauty, exercise and contemplation, and expressions of traditional and modern elements. Didactic and artistic elements speak to both the cultural and physical components of the site. This has produced a park unlike any other in Albuquerque. Innovative construction techniques, use of sustainable materials, and the creative integration of human and envi-
Environmental needs have shifted the paradigm for future park construction in the City. This park serves as an example of comprehensive planning for sustainability, pioneering construction methods, monitoring of long term success, and integration of physical and social program elements.

MRWM worked with Bohannon Huston who served as the project lead and civil engineers responsible for storm water design and structural engineering. Hughes Design Inc. served as electrical designer. The project was constructed by Lee Landscapes, Mountain West Golfscapes, Saiz Earthmoving, B&D Electric, City of Albuquerque Class II crews, and the artist PAZ.

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Inviting all Children to Play Outdoors

Presentation Re-cap by Greg Neal at the Q1 Event

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), one in every five children is obese. A growing body of research shows that a lack of outdoor play and interaction with nature is a contributing factor to this epidemic. The issue is gaining so much interest that it even caught the attention of the White House. Just last month, President Obama emphasized the importance of reconnecting American families to the outdoors and signed a Presidential Memorandum to launch America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.

Additionally, the CDC released a report in December 2009 that shows the number of children diagnosed with autism has increased 57 percent since 2002—including four times more boys than girls. Because autism and other sensory-processing disorders are on the rise, this issue must be addressed so that children have the opportunity to learn, play, interact socially and communicate with their peers.

With “nature-deficit disorder” and sensory-processing disorders like autism receiving more focus from parents, educators and government officials, it’s a natural fit that playground equipment manufacturers are taking an active role to encourage kids to get outside and welcome them to the playground. Landscape Structures has introduced two playground design solutions that do both.

Play Naturally™, which encourages children to appreciate the natural world around them, offers nature-inspired playstructures and planning ideas to create a more natural play environment. With the Inclusive Play solution, all children—those with sensory-processing disorders and typically developing—receive and benefit from sensory experiences like tactile, proprioceptive, vestibular, visual and auditory stimulation. Furthermore, Landscape Structures hopes the solution will help establish new standards for inclusive playgrounds worldwide.

To learn more about the Play Naturally and Inclusive Play design solutions, visit www.playlsi.com.

Sensory Wall

Tree House
Power, Landscape, and Meaning:
Reclaiming the Trans-industrial Heterotopia of Madrid, New Mexico
by Jessica Dunn, MLA Candidate

I. THEORY
The location of meaning in landscape is just as temporary and subject to circumstance as its physical forms. The situating of landscape within the structure of social orders and discourses is a complex and subjective process, dependent upon the purposes that landscape will serve. We are an ordered kind, with definitions, meanings, and language for that which we encounter and experience. Landscape is not exempt from this process, and since landscape is the physical world in which we inhabit, landscape is arguably a locator through which we understand our social identities. What happens when a landscape cannot be defined or named? In our postmodernist existence, with the affects of industrialization, power relationships, and capitalism well-infused into our daily lives, undefined landscapes are increasingly prevalent. Landscapes are mined for natural resources, and then abandoned, leaving spaces outside of categorization. Michel Foucault calls these in-between spaces ‘heterotopias,’ or places in which multiplicity of meanings exist, causing a disruption and inversion of the normal social order.

This project investigates the implications that these in-between places, these heterotopias, carry for the reframing of sociopolitical environments and identities. This project, Power, Landscape, & Meaning: Reclaiming the Trans-Industrial Heterotopia of Madrid, New Mexico, aims to interact with a modern heterotopia and to develop design strategies that celebrate the current heterotopic qualities of such places, while providing mutable design which can evolve and change in response to time and space. The project fuses theory and practice within a design approach that focuses on activating these landscapes as opposed to naming them. The layers within the physical and cultural constructs of Madrid, New Mexico, reveal it to be a place of aggregated meaning. The once company-owned mining town is now a vibrant artisan community. Traces of the mining landscape remain as valuable monuments to the town’s past, but also present a need for reclamation. Gob piles, or coal waste piles, are large landforms that were created out of refuse from underground mines; these piles occur throughout the village as mounds and as fill within Madrid’s main watercourse, the Madrid Gulch. The gobs are aesthetically desired by the residents, as they contribute to mining-based tourism within the village; however, they do cause adverse environmental impacts and need reclamation. The gobs’ steep slopes, fine soil particles, and little vegetation contribute to exasperated erosion, stormwater intensity,
and sedimentation of water courses, which affects downstream sites. Some gobs have caught on fire and produced what is called ‘red dog’ clay, which the residents of Madrid harvest for pottery use. The historical legacy of mining has also caused issues with flooding in the village, as the arroyo within the Madrid Gulch was channelized during the mining era in order to build a railroad spur. The drainage that once crossed the main street before this channelization now floods the village. Channelization of the arroyo has also led to erosion and bank destabilization, causing sedimentation in downstream sites.

II. PRACTICE

The heterotopia of Madrid, New Mexico, is embraced and amplified through the adaptable design features of the Madrid Open Space project, which contributes yet another new place and new layer to the already richly variegated heterotopic landscape of this former mining town turned artisan community. This happens through a series of design interventions which respond to site history, use, and the heterotopia of Madrid.

**GOB WALK**

Environmental impacts from the gobs are treated sculpturally through design to maintain their meanings; gabion retaining walls planted with native species mitigate erosion and sedimentation, but also become art walks, framing the gobs themselves, providing a sort of outdoor, lived museum. The gob is reclaimed in a way that does not mask its meaning, but instead celebrates it.

**THE TIPPLE BRIDGE**

A reconstructed ‘tipple’ bridge is included as a reference to the coal processor, the Jones Tipple, that once stood on site; however, instead of the tipple’s original function of shipping and sending away from the site, the new tipple bridge links elements of the site together. The tipple bridge is the climax of an above/below experience the visitor takes through a tunnel-like underground gallery which is constructed out of rammed earth structures within an existing 30’ tall gob pile located within the Gulch. The tipple bridge provides an experience of height and view at an above point, while the tunnel gallery provides an experience of the underground that connotes the life of the miner. This design element also contributes to the site’s heterotopic nature; these tunnel galleries create productivity and use out of the very waste product of the mines— the gob piles.

**SOLAR STUDIOS**

Another design element, a series of solar studios, involves the reuse of historical features that juxtapose the mining history in Madrid with the future of sustainable energy in solar power. Railroad cars turned into studios are set on tracks with solar energy panels on their tops. The mutability of this design inclusion allows for agency for Madrid residents; the studios are on rail tracks, and can be positioned based on need/whim. These solar studios are sited adjacent to three of the harvested red dog gob piles. They can be rented...
out, turned into living quarters or hospitality amenities, or can be clustered for gallery shows; the solar studios can also be used directly on site as workshops for pottery classes.

ART TROLLEYS AND REVEGETATION
Informal paths within the Madrid Gulch are formalized into connecting trails, and art rail lines follow these trails. These art rail lines have art trolleys, which are designed after historical pump trolleys, and can be operated by hand. The art trolleys offer an opportunity for the appropriation of space, which problematizes systems of power and fixed notions of place. The trolleys could also be used for mining history exhibits or as moveable classrooms. The content and intent of this design element remains receptive to the village’s necessities.

Planned revegetation acts as a barometer for process, progress, and time on the site, as well as ecological historical reference. Native plants are planted in linear strips throughout the site (referring the linearity of the railroad lines) that, over time, will expand beyond the rows to revegetate certain areas in alignment with the vegetation types in the surrounding area.

CHANNELS
On the east and west sides of town, drainage channels are designed to reconnect water to the arroyo, bringing stormwater runoff off of the Madrid’s main roads and into the arroyo. Checkdams and native plantings are included in the channels that mitigate sedimentation and trap some of the gob materials within the runoff from reaching the arroyo. The channels also act as informal trails bringing people into the site from the main street.

III. PRAXIS
The design of the heterotopia cannot be a fixed approach, or a solution-oriented focus, but instead a site-specific investigation along the shifting faultline of meaning inherent to a heterotopia. The Madrid Open Space project aims to fulfill this objective, combining ecological and sociocultural reclamation through introduced modifiable programming elements and through the magnification and perpetuation of existing heterotopic qualities of the site. The many meanings of place are exalted and reconstructed in a design schema that proposes and encourages change. In the Madrid Open Space design, meaning is mercurial, and place is realized through interactivity and through self-deciphering of many faceted knowledges. The exposure of the multiple meanings within Madrid through the task of design reveals a site that is a hybrid of natural and cultural space, abandoned and reclaimed space, and changes this post-industrial space of the abandoned mining landscape into the activated trans-industrial space of the heterotopia.

Please direct any comments or questions to Jessica Dunn
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Mid Year Board of Trustees Meeting 2010
by Greg Miller, ASLA

The agenda for the BOT meetings was very similar to that of the Annual meeting in Chicago. The big concerns of the Society remain membership, budget and the Sustainable Sites Initiative.

Membership has dropped from October and is currently around 16,000 members. National is focusing efforts to assist Chapters with membership retention and recruitment campaigns. This effort includes encouraging chapters to reach out to the student chapters to help increase involvement. Some of the positive indicators include; the recent national awards program set a record for the number of submissions, sponsorship of the 2010 annual meeting is higher than ever before, registration for the annual meeting is ahead of 2009, and ad sales in Landscape Architecture Magazine are tracking ahead of the budgeted amount.

Regarding finances, the budget realignment of 2009 has been effective. A lot of the cost cutting measures resulted in reduced operating costs, without greatly affecting programs. A portion of the long-term reserves were liquidated and placed into short-term reserves, but ASLA has not needed to withdraw from these funds to meet budget. A national dues increase of $9.00 in 2011 was approved. This increase is consistent with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual increase of 3%. There will be no dues increase in 2012.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative Pilot Project Program is underway. Pilot projects have been selected and will begin the process of review and evaluation. 216 projects were selected from the 345 applications.

If you’d like any more detail on any of the activities of the BOT, please don’t hesitate to ask.

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Chapter Events

NMASLA Elections
It’s almost time for NMASLA Elections! This year, we will be holding our elections in July. Get involved and have some fun too… We need volunteers! Positions include President Elect, Trustee, Treasurer, Secretary, Member-at-Large, and Associate-at-Large.

Please contact Amy Duckert at aduckert@mrwnm.com if you have questions or are interested in becoming a part of the Executive Committee.

Call for Articles!
We want to showcase YOUR projects in our newsletter! Please send us your case study of a project completed in the last year and half for inclusion in the next or future newsletters. Additionally, if you have ideas for a different type of article, please send us your suggestions. Help us keep our newsletters relevant and interesting for the NM Landscape Architecture community.

Please send your questions, case studies and/or articles to Ryan Anderson: ry.anders@gmail.com

“Landscape Architecture in New Mexico”
Gallery Exhibition
Date/Time: Gallery Entries due in June, Gallery Opening Friday, Sept. 10th (showing for entire month of September)
Location: UNM School of Architecture + Planning Gallery, Pearl Hall
Theme: Landscape Architecture in New Mexico

For more information contact
Amy Duckert at aduckert@mrwnm.com

Q2- Annual Golf Tournament and Vendor Expo
Date: Friday, August 20th
Location: Desert Greens Golf Course
Note: More information and registration coming soon! To be a sponsor, contact Tag Gay at 505-881-8925

Membership & Address Changes
Please email Amy Duckert: aduckert@mrwnm.com

Newsletter
The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning. Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor:
Ryan Anderson
ry.anders@gmail.com

Website
Have you visited the NMASLA Website?
Please check it out:
http://www.nmasla.org/
Want to show off your projects?? We are requesting project images or landscape images that anyone would like to have posted on the website. Please include a note with a brief description (name of project/landscape, location…anything else to explain the image). Now is your chance for Fame !!!!

NMASLA Poster Competition
Thank you to everyone who submitted. Congratulations to Sara Zahm for 1st Place and to Karin Pitman for 2nd Place.
The 2010 poster will be printed soon and a free copy will be available to each member at upcoming chapter events, including the Golf Tournament and Expo.

NMASLA Poster Competition: 1st Place

DESIGN IN THE DESERT 2010 EMAILD