TRUMP SIGNS MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS BILL, ENSURING LWCF’S FUTURE

FIRM FOCUS WITH CONTOUR DESIGN STUDIO

SDSU WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

ASLA ADVOCATES LOCALLY & NATIONALLY
WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO...

THE NORTH DAKOTA SECTION’S WINTER SOCIAL, SPONSORED BY COMMERCIAL RECREATION SPECIALISTS, WAS HELD AT A RETRO ARCADE BREWERY IN DOWNTOWN FARGO. DOMINIC FISCHER, NORTH DAKOTA STATE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROFESSOR, PLAYED A CLASSIC ARCADE GAME AT PIXELLED BREWING CO.

WINTER SOCIALS

ASLA NEBRASKA DAKOTAS

WE CHANGED OUR NAME!

OUR 2018 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE, ‘CREATING, CONNECTING, AND ACTIVATING’ WAS HELD IN FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA. THIS EVENT WAS WELL-ATTENDED WITH OVER 50 PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS! IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, TOUR AND INTERACT WITH ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AND VENDORS.

WE TOOK OVER INSTAGRAM!

THE NEBRASKA-DAKOTAS CHAPTER TOOK OVER NATIONAL ASLA’S INSTAGRAM FOR WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH, SHARING THE PERSPECTIVE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN OUR CHAPTER. FOR MORE INFO ON THE PROJECTS, FIRMS, AND MEMBERS FEATURED, CHECK OUT WWW.NRPLA.COM.

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ADVOCACY FOCUS

Find out about the advocacy efforts going on at both the state and national level for each of our three state sections!
**Chapter of ASLA!**

October, it was official! We are now the Nebraska/Dakotas membership to allow all members to express their opinion. Conversations and took a “straw poll” of the entire our long-term members via one-on-one telephone via an email sent to the entire membership. We engaged lightly. We informed our members of this proposed change their advocacy, fundraising and membership efforts. The Chapter Executive Committee did not take this change their boundaries, will assist both our leadership and members in bound to originate name change from the Great Plains Chapter ASLA to Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter ASLA!

Why the name change? It is the belief of the Great Plains Chapter Executive Committee that changing the chapter’s name to denote the actual states included within our boundaries rather than continue to use a name that includes a region extending far beyond our geographic boundaries, will assist both our leadership and members in their advocacy, fundraising, and membership efforts. The Chapter Executive Committee did not take this change lightly. We informed our members of this proposed change via an email sent to the entire membership. We engaged our long-term members via one-on-one telephone conversations and took a “straw poll” of the entire membership to allow all members to express their opinion. After a chapter vote and vote by the Board of Trustees in October, it was official! We are now the Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter of ASLA!

In addition to our name change, we embarked on a refreshed look and feel with our Facebook page, Instagram and most importantly our WEBSITE! Our new website (http://www.ndcASLA.org) houses events, resources, blog posts, partnership information and, in the future, conference registration! Thank you to all our committee members for the time and commitment to making these significant changes in how our chapter shares our profession with the world.

World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM), an international month-long celebration of Landscape Architecture, is wrapping up! Through events and social media, WLAM provides a platform to showcase our profession to the public by highlighting landscape architect-designed spaces and demonstrate how landscape architecture affects our daily lives. On April 13th, we took over the National ASLA Instagram account and received great feedback on our work! Thank you to everyone who shared their work and helped educate others on the landscape architecture profession!

ASLA Advocacy Day is May 2nd in Washington, D.C. On that day, Robin Fordyce, Chapter President-Elect; John Royster, our trusty Chapter Trustee; Bryan Leininger, North Dakota Section Chair; Kone Oktigho, ASLA National Associate Advisory Committee Chairperson; and I will travel to the Hill to educate members of Congress on landscape architecture and legislature supporting projects in which landscape architects participate. This year’s focus will be Restoring our Parks, Water Quality Protection and Job Creation, and Transportation Alternatives Enhancements.

For anyone interested in learning more about advocating for landscape architecture at the local, state or federal level check out ASLA’s Government Affairs page (https://www.asla.org/governmentAffairs.aspx) and use their toolkit to contact decision makers in your community.

In addition to all the events that our sections have planned, our BIG event for 2019 is our annual fall conference. This year it will be held in Sioux Falls in conjunction with Design Week! Look for more information on this exciting event in the upcoming months! We will host our 2nd annual Executive Committee retreat and will be participating in a strategic planning workshop with Julia Lent from ASLA to develop goals and objectives for our chapter in the upcoming years.

In closing, I hope you will take the opportunity to thank the committee members; professional and student volunteers; who have spent countless hours planning events this month and throughout the year. Plus, please take ample time to visit and thank our loyal partners, whose support is critical to our Chapter’s programming while advancing landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

Before I sign off, I want to encourage everyone to visit the recently redesigned Nebraska/Dakotas ASLA website (www.ndcASLA.org) to find out how you can get involved in the events leading up to the 2020 Central States Conference, become a part of chapter leadership and get to know our invaluable sponsors.

On behalf of the entire NDC ASLA Executive Committee, thank you for all your support, and we look forward to working for you to make 2019 a great year!
UPCOMING EVENTS

2019

SPRING SOCIALS
NEBRASKA SECTION - MAY 9 / BLACK OAK GRILL - OMAHA, NE
NORTH DAKOTA SECTION - MAY 16 / DREKKER BREWHALLA - FARGO, ND
SOUTH DAKOTA SECTION - MAY 16 / R WINE BAR - SIoux FALLS, SD

DESIGN IN THE HILLS | “NEW RURALISM”
JULY 18-19 / RAPID CITY, SD
Design in the Hills is a unique gathering of architects, landscape architects, interior designers, engineers and artists from across the state, along with members of the community to celebrate and elevate the standard of design work in the Black Hills. http://aiasouthdakota.org/events-calendar/design-in-the-hills/

NEBRASKA/DAKOTAS CHAPTER CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2-4 / SIoux FALLS, SD
Save the date for our Chapter’s 2019 Annual Fall Conference! Our event will coincide with Sioux Falls Design Week, where various organizations and groups from the design community will be hosting design-related events, speakers and activities. Stay tuned!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE

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Upfit: designed by KEM STUDIO in partnership with StruXure Outdoor
In a huge win for conservationists, President Trump has signed into law the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

Negotiated over the past few years, the bipartisan legislation permanently re-authorizes the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which finances important and popular federal and state conservation and park projects. The legislation puts into law the Every Kid in a Park program, which gives 4th graders and their families free passes to national parks for a year. The bill also protects an additional 1.3 million acres of wilderness out West through the expansion of eight national parks and the creation of three new ones. And hunters and anglers applauded their new, expanded access to public lands.

The LWCF is funded from fees and royalties from offshore oil and gas. The fund is capped at $900 million a year, but Congress typically funds it to the tune of $300-500 million annually. According to Daniel Hart, ASLA government affairs manager, who has lobbied for the bill on Capitol Hill in recent years, "some 40 percent of LWCF funds go to purchasing land that shores up national parks; another 40 percent goes to state and local governments to conserve land and water and create new parks and recreation facilities; and the remaining 20 percent of spending is discretionary."

Fourth graders at an event in Hamilton Grange National Memorial hold up their Every Kid in a Park passes. National Park Service
Since its inception in 1965, LWCF has made $3.9 billion in state grants to 40,000 projects, protecting and restoring some 2.37 million acres. ASLA has been a dedicated, long-term advocate for permanent re-authorization of the LWCF because so many landscape architects around the country have greatly benefited from the program, using the funds to restore and enhance natural landscapes and build new parks and recreation facilities.

Carl Keleman, FASLA, founder of KMS Design Group in Pennsylvania, is one of those landscape architects. He said a $300,000 grant of LWCF funds for the 119-acre Black Rock Sanctuary, a wetland restoration project in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, “allowed the project to go forward.” His efforts transformed contaminated pools associated with a ‘slack canal system’ that once conveyed barges carrying coal to Philadelphia into a meadow wetland preserve that sustainably manages stormwater (see image at top). Piecing together financing from various foundations for interpretive trails and habitat development, Keleman still needed funds to create upland meadow wetlands.

With LWCF support, Keleman created 30 new acres of wetlands and enhanced another 17 acres. The impressive results, which are outlined in a Landscape Performance Series case study, included tripling the bird count in the area and increasing the number of bird species by two-thirds.

“...so many landscape architects have greatly benefited from the program...”

In Sitka, a rural community found in the rainforest of southeast Alaska on the Pacific Coast, landscape architect Monique Anderson, ASLA, founder of Anderson Land Planning, also received the support her project needed from LWCF.

With the help of a grant of $220,000, the community was able to move forward with the much-needed Sitka Community Playground at Crescent Harbor Park. “The grant from LWCF was really important early on, as it inspired the state and local governments to open their purse; they realized the project was a real thing that was happening,” Anderson said. The LWCF frequently funds playground and park development projects in both large and small communities across Alaska.
Beyond protecting LWCF, the Natural Resources Management Act includes the Every Kid in a Park program, one of ASLA’s priorities, which introduces children to the beauty and benefits of the natural world.

The program, which started as an initiative under the Obama administration, gives 4th graders and their families free access to all national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and forests for a year, an $80 value. The National Park Service in partnership with the National Park Foundation also provides transportation grants and educational materials to schools.

The legislation creates six new national monuments, including the site of the St. Francis Dam Disaster in California; Jurassic, Utah; Medgar Evers Home in Mississippi, home to the civil rights activist; and Mill Springs Battlefield and Camp Nelson in Kentucky.

Five national parks — Joshua Tree National Park and Death Valley National Park in California and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Occoneechee Mounds National Historic Park, and Fort Frederica National Monument in Georgia — have been expanded. And no mining will be permitted in 370,000 acres surrounding Yellowstone National Park in Montana and North Cascades National Park in Washington.

Some 1.3 million acres of land in California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah are now designated wilderness, meaning no roads or motorized vehicles are allowed. 650 miles of rivers, such as the Rogue River in Oregon, which provides important salmon breeding grounds, will remain wild and scenic, protected from damming or other development. And some 380 bird species will receive habitat protections.

Lastly, the legislation is a boon for hunters and anglers — bow hunters can now bring their bows through national parks when trying to reach areas where they can legally hunt. And unless designated otherwise, all federal land will be open to hunting, fishing, and shooting.

For New Orleans-based landscape architect Dana Brown, FASLA, two LWCF grants of $150,000 also made possible Riverside and Tuten Parks in the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

According to Brown’s firm, the 17-acre Riverside Park used to be known as Fitzzenreiter Park but it had fallen into such a state of disrepair because of vandalism and illegal dumping that it needed a new name. As part of the $850,000 project, Dana Brown & Associates restored the park’s ecosystem and wetlands; created new paths, trails, docks, and fishing boardwalk; and remedied security problems.

And in Tuten Park, also in Lake Charles, Brown’s team undid the havoc created by Hurricane Rita, which damaged or destroyed 80 percent of the park’s trees. Along with a new master plan, “a resource management plan was created to aid in the ecological maintenance and continued recovery of the park.” Paths and trails take visitors through a restored, revitalized park with a playground that cost some $650,000.

...the National Resources Management Act...introduces children to the beauty and benefits of the natural world.
Please introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your background. My name is Bryan Leininger, Owner and Landscape Architect at Contour Design Studio—a small landscape architecture practice in Fargo, North Dakota. I’m from Kasson, Minnesota, a town of about 6,000 people in southeastern Minnesota. In 2005, I enrolled at North Dakota State University and began interning at a local firm in 2010. In 2011, I graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design. I’m currently licensed to practice in North Dakota and Minnesota.

How long had you been working professionally when you decided to start your own firm?
I had been working professionally for about 7 years before really considering the idea of owning my own business. Although, early in my college career, I can remember paging through Landscape Architecture Magazine, Topo or whatever publication de jour and reading about the firms and projects that were highlighted and aspiring to be one of them. From very early in my career the thought of owning a firm was present. I had always wanted to have a business and be my own boss. The path to being one of them is a lot less linear than I thought it to be when I was 20.

What motivated you to found Contour Design Studio?
Getting married and becoming a father were a major motivation—there was a major calling to responsibility which led me to thinking about the larger, long-term life decisions. I’m not sure where I’d be if I didn’t have my wife and two girls! They’re my biggest cheerleaders and motivators!

What was your mission at the outset?
The mission was simple—find prospective clients. During the first six months of business, my primary focus was to meet and connect with anyone who might lead to potential new clients. We took a lot of coffee meetings!

What is your business structure (i.e. LLC, ownership)?
Contour is currently organized as an LLC, sole-member ownership.

“Firm Focus: Q&A with Bryan Leininger”

“Firm Focus: Q&A with Bryan Leininger”

“It’s been fun building relationships, connecting with people...and building visibility for our profession.”
How did you approach the back of office—understanding taxes, payroll, insurance, benefits? What resources were the most valuable to you navigating this? I’m very fortunate and grateful to have such insightful friends, family members and mentors. When given the opportunity, I didn’t hold back in asking questions of anyone who’d be willing to answer! A family member who has been running an engineering firm in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area really put me on the fast track to being able to understand all of the above. From a day-to-day standpoint, a friend and colleague whom I share office space with has been an incredible guide and mentor in all facets of the profession.

What’s most exciting about owning your own firm? It’s been fun building relationships, connecting with people who have led us to prospective work and building visibility for our profession. Every conversation begins with a brief introduction and then immediately into what landscape architecture is and how landscape architects go about their work. When you can see that the other person “gets it” simply through the expression on their face—that’s what excites me about meeting new people! We’ve also got a cool little office space in an historic building in Downtown Fargo and share the floor with two other creative/design firms who are able to “talk shop” with us. It’s allowed us some cross-discipline collaboration, where we’ve been able to team up on project proposals, which has been incredibly gratifying.

What are some current projects that you are excited about? One that I’m most excited about seeing through the finish line is the Fargo National Cemetery project in which we’re contracted to provide inspection services for the National Cemetery Administration. It’s been an incredibly interesting and insightful project. While it’ll be bittersweet to see the project come to an end, I’m excited to see it all completed and green this summer.

If you had one piece of advice to someone wanting to start their own firm, what would it be? Find a good mentor!
GET INVOLVED:
CALLING ALL MEMBERS!!!

We are recruiting new committee volunteers who are enthusiastic to get involved, eager to make a difference, and committed to enhancing the CENTRAL STATES 2020 Conference on Landscape Architecture.

JOIN the committee to share your experiences and expertise, connect with fellow members and collaborate with your peers on programs and initiatives aimed at advancing the profession - all while developing skills that will benefit you both personally and professionally.

You don’t have to be in Omaha to participate! We hold monthly conference calls, and store all of our files on a dropbox, so you can assist from ANYWHERE! HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE PARTY???

Contact Katie Swanson, katie.swanson@cityofomaha.org or Jen Cross, jcross@rdgusa.com, if you are interested!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nick Bianco
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I was a junior in college when I found the nascent landscape architecture program at Washington State University. Ian McHarg was routinely traveling to Pullman to support Fritz Steiner’s effort to get the program accredited. For a third-year freshman, the program offered a potpourri of knowledge – everything from Political Science to Horticulture. My interest was piqued: I earned a 5-year Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture and a Master of Regional Planning. I stayed in the Idaho panhandle, worked, and picked up a Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Idaho. I eventually moved to Spokane, Washington, to be closer to family and started an interdisciplinary design firm with certification as a Minority/Woman Owned business. My firm provided landscape architectural services to architecture and engineering firms with government contracts. I designed some wonderful estates, worked for the World Health Organization in Russia, and provided local Indian Nations with recreation design services. My business thrived.

As a practitioner in the Inland Northwest, I promoted the design professions by sharing an Architecture-in-the-Schools Program with K-12 students and conducting workshops on the profession of Landscape Architecture at high school career days. I served on the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) writing and grading the Landscape Architect Registration Exam (L.A.R.E.). My interest in educating young practitioners grew when I was invited to be an adjunct professor at Washington State University. Within a few years, I applied and was accepted to the PhD program at Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. My dissertation research focused on cataloging established and emerging problem-solving pedagogies in the design disciplines. This involved identifying interdisciplinary approaches to teaching creativity and techniques for discovering design problems not yet thought of. I am currently sharing these interests with 128 students enrolled in a School of Design sponsored Creative Thinking course.

I enjoy cultivating connections between people in the design world, scholarly research, and higher education. This spring, we connected the senior landscape architecture students with professional landscape architect mentors as a way to enhance their capstone projects. A former employee of mine, who practices landscape architecture in Hawaii, is mentoring one of our students who is interested in tropical plant material. Next spring, I hope to involve professionals in the Nebraska-Dakotas Chapter of the ASLA who are interested in mentoring students’ capstone projects.
“I am eager to inspire students at South Dakota State University, helping to strengthen and grow our chosen profession.”

JEREMIAH BERGSTROM

I think I am one of a few landscape architects who found the profession early in life and started my studies from day one. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test we all took in high school pointed to a proficiency for architecture and suggested I consider related fields. As a follow up, I attended a summer program hosted by Ball State University and enjoyed a 2-week summer course led by urban planners, landscape architects, and architects. I had found a path and passion and promptly went to Iowa State University to study landscape architecture upon graduating from high school in Burlington, Iowa. After completing studies at Iowa State, I moved to the east coast with my wife and growing family.

As a licensed Landscape Architect for 20 years working in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, I have developed a background and expertise in natural resources planning, environmental design, stormwater management, native plant materials and ecological restoration. My work has included investigations at both the site scale as well as larger regional scale collaborations that include the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). My design work has focused on planning, design and implementation of distributed and disconnected stormwater management strategies in urban and suburban landscapes. Additional experiences include an in-depth background in the inventory and analysis of natural, recreational, historic and scenic resources in regional and watershed planning. During my practice, I have been responsible for design development, environmental permitting, construction documents, technical specifications, cost estimating, public bidding, and construction administration of multiple landscape design, stormwater management, and ecological restoration projects. I frequently facilitate planning and design efforts with multi-disciplinary collaborations and implement a majority of my work in partnership with nonprofit, academic, municipal, and county entities. I have also conducted training programs and lectures on green infrastructure strategies, stormwater management, rain garden design, as well as environmentally sensitive and sustainable site planning. My practice has crossed multiple sectors including private, non-profit, and academic organizations with an emphasis on natural resources management and environmental design. For eight years prior to joining...
SDSU. I served as Senior Research Project Manager for the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. The program’s mission is to identify and address community water resources issues using sustainable and practical science-based solutions and we worked with a range of communities across the State of New Jersey. In October 2017, I completed a Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture with a research emphasis on community-based design. With the degree, it was my intention to pursue opportunities at academic institutions that has led me to my current position at South Dakota State University.

My wife and youngest daughter moved with me from New Jersey to Brookings in August 2018. Our older children were already living in the Midwest in Minnesota and Iowa. We are now much closer to family and our roots. I am passionate about the profession of landscape architecture, my work in environmental resources with developing communities and enjoy the challenge of working with diverse community and professional partnerships. I am eager to inspire students at South Dakota State University, helping to strengthen and grow our chosen profession. I am looking forward to engaging students in natural resource studies, geographic information systems, and detailed stormwater design utilizing green infrastructure practices to manage both water quality and water quantity in the landscape.

**RECENT UNIVERSITY EVENTS**

**APRIL 4-5TH - UNL LANDSCAPE ARCH SYMPOSIUM**

“Nexus - design, horticulture, ecology projects” included two days of engaging sessions as some of the most prominent voices in our fields came together to share insights and best practices.

**APRIL 10TH - NDSU BOWLING NIGHT**

North Dakota State University’s Student Chapter recently had their last Bowling Night of the school year.

**APRIL 24TH - SDSU MARTIN MACA LECTURE**

Dr. Richard Sutton, Professor Emeritus in Landscape Architecture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln presented “Reading the Nebraska Landscape” at McCrory Gardens Education & Visitor Center for South Dakota State’s 2019 Martin Maca Lecture.

**APRIL 30TH - NDSU CORNHOLE FUNDRAISER**

The Student Chapter of ASLA at North Dakota State University held a Cornhole fundraiser to raise money to send students to the 2019 ASLA Conference in San Diego.
The Nebraska/Dakotas Executive Committee continuously works to coordinate advocacy efforts both at the state and national legislative levels. This Advocacy Focus highlights the efforts ongoing for each of the state sections, as well as at this year’s Advocacy Day.

Revisions to the Professional Landscape Architects Act are underway at the Nebraska Legislature. Legislative Bill 30 (LB30) was introduced on January 10th, 2019 to amend the licensed scope of the profession, as well as amending provisions related to the Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects. John Royster, our Chapter’s Trustee, and Dennis Bryers, our Government Affairs / Advocacy Chair, have been working with a lobbyist to garner support for these changes. The Act itself intends to “safeguard the life, health, and property of the citizens of this state and to ensure that the landscape architects serving the public meet minimum standards of proficiency and competency.” (Nebraska Revised Statute 81-8,184.01, 1984). Among these revisions include:

- Revised the intent of the Act to include welfare
- Revised the definitions of Landscape Architecture and Professional Landscape Architect
- Added definitions for Coordinating Professional, Design Professional, and License
- Change from an annual to a biennial renewal – kept professional development as an annual requirement
- Added authorization for the Board to recover costs associated with online renewals and applications
- Added authority for the Board to cover costs to promote licensure
- Revised licensure requirements to allow additional paths to licensure
- Moved military renewal exemption and reinstatement process to rules and regulations
- Added provision for issuing replacement and/or duplicate certificates
- Added actions and procedures the Board may take on compliance cases
- Added authorization for the Board to access a penalty and the ability to recover costs on compliance cases
- Expanded seal requirements
- Moved exemptions listed in the definition of Landscape Architecture in 81-8,184(2) to 81-8,206
- Added Coordinating Professional requirement

This process has been instrumental in advocating for the profession. In John Royster’s meetings with Nebraska senators, he has had the opportunity to discuss the various facets of Landscape Architecture and the value of our role as professionals. These efforts left a good impression on our legislators, and LB30 is expected to be put on the consent agenda of this 2019 session.
In South Dakota, a house bill (HB1111) passed regarding professional or occupational licensure for certain active duty military personnel and their spouses. This law eases the transfer for military families by fast-tracking the process of professional license applications. While previous legislation provided that issuance of licenses be expedited to these individuals, HB1111 requires that period be within thirty days. For Landscape Architects, the South Dakota Board of Technical Professions would need to issue licenses to applicants who are currently active duty, were transferred to South Dakota, and hold in good standing a valid Landscape Architect license from another state or the District of Columbia. There would also be no application fee required for applicants. Other professions that will also have expedited licensure review include engineering, architecture, pharmacists, dentistry, nursing, teaching, cosmetology and more. This legislation now allows qualified professionals to enter South Dakota’s workforce quickly, lessening the difficulties of time, cost, and effort.

In Nebraska and South Dakota, lobbyists have been working to introduce legislation that would require any state or government contractor to purchase a software that verifies that the hours billed under their contract are legitimate. This software would track both keystrokes, mouse movements, and take a screenshot at least once every three minutes. The Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter is opposed to this legislation, and in South Dakota (HB 1123) it was unanimously rejected. In Nebraska, LB717 underwent a hearing with the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on March 20th and has yet to be voted upon.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota is also undergoing legislation revisions that remove the exemption for the State Board of Architecture and Landscape Architecture from a mandate to adopt rules regarding licensure of military spouses (ND SB 2306). The Board must now issue a two-year provisional license or temporary permit to military spouses and is prohibited from charging any application fees.

SOUTH DAKOTA

In Nebraska, LB717 underwent a hearing with the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on March 20th and has yet to be voted upon.

NATIONAL

On Thursday, May 2nd, five representatives from the Nebraska/Dakotas Chapter will take to Capitol Hill to educate the 116th Congress on current issues important to landscape architects. Advocacy Day is our opportunity to sit across the table from our representatives in the U.S. House and Senate. We talk about specific projects in our districts and how the bills that these congresspeople vote yea or nay on will affect our livelihood and our communities. This year, we will focus our efforts on infrastructure. Landscape architects are educated practitioners who are perfectly positioned to educate the members of the House and Senate on the short and long-term impacts of infrastructure planning.

Apart from this singular effort, there are constant opportunities to become more involved with advocacy throughout the year. The simplest way to begin advocating for your profession and your community is to go to www.asla.org/iadvocate. You can read up on previous initiatives that ASLA has led and been a part of, but most importantly, you can email your representatives in support or disapproval of topics on which you feel strongly.

“Landscape architects are...perfectly positioned to educate the members of the House and Senate on the short and long-term impacts of infrastructure planning.”
Gabion-style seating.
The Canyon collection is a fusion of rugged seating with natural elements.

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