Editorial

The first International Conference on Trends in European Landscape Architecture Practice was inspired by the 'Our National Landscape' conference (Lake Tahoe, 1979) and the 'Our Visual Landscape' conference (Monte Verita, Ascona, 1999) and convened by Erich Buhmann at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences in Germany in November 2000. With only thirteen speakers recorded in the conference program, it was already international in scope. Content was diverse, but the word "digital" appeared nowhere in the published abstracts from that conference. The very next year the conference theme was "Virtuality" in Landscape Architecture, and then came "Trends in"… – first in GIS, then Virtualization, and then Landscape Modeling, On-Line, and Real-Time, and Knowledge based Landscape Architecture; then in 2008 and 2009, "Digital Design in Landscape Architecture" – and in 2010 and subsequently, came "Digital Landscape Architecture" (DLA). From just 13 sessions in 2000, and a scant record of publication, by June 2016 we now have 39 peer reviewed quality articles from the DLA conference, representing fourteen different countries. We are proud to be able to present these to a broader audience than ever, in this new format, the *Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture*, with worldwide representation and circulation.

The roles of digital technology in landscape architecture can be traced as far back as 1965, with the founding of the Laboratory for Computer Graphics at Harvard – well before most landscape architects had any idea of what a computer might be or do for them. By 1983, when Bruce MacDougal's seminal text book *Microcomputers in Landscape Architecture* was published – with the first 'potential application for landscape architects' identified as 'Word Processing' – Carl Steinitz and his students were already using GIS software to conduct geospatial analyses to drive land use decisions and producing fractal/parametric forest representations in computer generated color perspective renderings – in early applications of what has come to be called Geodesign. As a testament to an unbroken lineage of intellectual endeavor, we are pleased to present the keynote address to the DLA 2016 conference delivered by Carl Steinitz, an original member of that Harvard Lab, in this inaugural issue of this Journal.

This first issue of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture 1-2016 presents presentations at the annual conference at the Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey, covering five broad themes:

• Systems Thinking in Landscape Design Processes

• Landscape Visualization and Analysis

• Geodesign Concepts and Applications

• Mobile Devices for Geodesign

• Teaching Methods in Digital Landscape Architecture

These clearly demonstrate digital innovation in landscape architecture. They also represent a transformation from a predominantly technological perspective to one in which the adoption of technology has led to increased experimentation in applications to teaching and significant professional projects.

Several studies in medical research have demonstrated an average time lag of around seventeen years from published research findings to widespread adoption of new techniques. With perhaps fewer reasons for such caution, landscape architects globally appear to be nearly as slow to take advantage of research findings and advances in technology. We can only hope that with the broader reach and increased access offered by this new Journal format, coupled with the exciting range of topics displayed in this and recent years' DLA conferences, the diffusion of knowledge from these annual international meetings can be accelerated across all the many aspects of digital landscape architecture, into an ever-increasingly-digital world. Proliferation of new ideas and information into every country, every educational community, and every sector of relevant industries, is an important goal of this Journal.

We are very happy that the 17th Digital Landscape Architecture Conference is being hosted by Istanbul Technical University. Turkey is the largest European country in size, beside the Russian Federation, and offers, with one of the largest number in population, also one of the highest number of landscape architecture programs in Europe. As in all other European countries information and communications technologies (ICT) are intensively used in landscape architecture education and practice in Turkey. Delivering design education in a digital environment, seeking to increase quality in professional and scholarly education and engaging with international colleagues and platforms is extremely important, especially for a country just in the middle of the east and west, such as Turkey. Introducing design theories, methods and models with computational tools and media to students in their landscape architecture training is essential. In the field of practice, IT adoption is widespread and GIS and CAD software are extensively used and constantly developing, but we cannot say the same yet about rapid prototyping and digital fabrication techniques. We are proud that Istanbul Technical University is the first Turkish university hosting the Digital Landscape Architecture conference.

We hope that you will appreciate the first addition of this journal. It is to be handed out at the 17th Digital Landscape Architecture Conference DLA 2016, held from May 31 to June 3, 2016 at Istanbul Technical University. You will find all the contributions online on our platform www.digital-la.de and at the gis.Point and gis.Open platform of Wichmann http://gispoint.de/gisopen.html.

We would also like to invite you to the following annual conferences. The DLA 2017 will be held from June 8 to 10, 2017 in Bernburg, Germany. The next dates reserved for the DLA 2018 are May 31 to June 2, 2018, and for the DLA 2019 in Dessau, Germany for May 23 to 25, 2019.

The Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture invites you to submit ideas for special issues and topics.

Please also follow our continuing announcements for call for papers and posters at www.digital-la.de. Here you will also find the complete documentation of the DLA beginning from the year 2000.

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