

## Editorial

*Dear LELA Members,*

Much has happened since publishing LELA's first Newsletter. Active exchange with the Panhellenic Association of Landscape Architects (PHALA), Greece, has been underway with plans to host landscape architects in Lebanon and similarly LELA members in Athens. The aim is to exchange professional experiences and best practices in both countries. Nayla Al-Akl is following on the initiative. I would also like to share with you news of two interesting conferences. The first, 'The Place that Remains', 30-31 March, 2018 is proposed by Hala Younes, professor at the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, Lebanese American University (<http://sard.lau.edu.lb/events/conferences/the-place-that-remains/index.php>), co-organized by LELA and the Arab Center for Architecture. At the intersection of landscape, architecture and planning, the conference reflects on the transformation of Lebanese territories over the last 100 years from a predominantly rural, productive landscape towards an overbuilt, realty speculative one. The Iranian Society of Landscape Professionals (ISLAP) is organizing the "Middle East landscape Architecture Conference" on 7-8 May, 2018 (<http://rd.shahromanar.org/melac2018/#toggle-id-3>). The conference focuses on landscape in transition, questioning the role of design in providing quality living in the context of globalizing

influences and geopolitical changes in the region. The conference is another step towards establishing the IFLA Middle East Chapter as discussed in the LELA GA meeting on March 2nd, 2017.

I would like to conclude with pride in the news of three IFLA appointments of LELA members. Maria Gabriella Trovato was elected chair of the IFLA working group, Landscape Architects Without Borders (LAWB) in July 2017 (<http://iflaonline.org/professional-practice-and-policy/working-groups-and-task-forces/landscape-architects-without-borders/>), Zeena Al-Jaja was nominated and approved as a member of the Young Professionals Advocate working group representing IFLA Middle East (<http://iflaonline.org/professional-practice-and-policy/working-groups-and-task-forces-youngprofessionals-advocate/>) and I was invited to serve as a member of the IFLA Advisory Circle, a committee established to explore the range of themes that are likely to expand perception of the landscape profession.

I hope LELA members will be able to take part in these interesting events.

Stay in touch,  
Jala Makhzoumi

## Lecture by Lorenzo Brusci

*Soundscapes | May 29, 2017*

The Lebanese Landscape Association had the honor of hosting Lorenzo Brusci for a lecture on "Soundscapes". Brusci has a doctor in Philosophy of Music and is currently the co-founder and art director of MUSST, a practice that aims at "creating interactive and experiencecentered solutions for architecture, installations, live events and communications strategies while working with adaptive music and soundscape generation, physical and symbolic interfaces, hardware design, sensing technology and human-space experience design".

Soundscape for Brusci is an active human action, a clear definition of how one should be intentionally aware when it comes to sound and any kind of space present in nature. His studio specializes in designing several types of sound systems, extremely sensitive to the context, in order to enhance and emphasize sound experiences.



## Zeina Kronfol Architect

zeinakronfol@gmail.com *Landscape*



Zeina Kronfol studied Landscape Design and Eco-System Management (LDEM) for 4 years at the American University of Beirut, graduating in 2005.

Zeina started her professional career with Exotica-UAE where she practiced for 4 years. She then returned to Lebanon, and co-founded Green Studios in 2009, which is specialized in green walls and roof gardens. Their patented green wall systems helped them win several awards, which encouraged Green Studios to expand to the Gulf and other countries.

A few years back, while working at Green Studios, Kronfol was approached by the Municipality of Beirut to offer her design services for a public garden in Beirut. Kronfol worked on the project with her colleague Pamela Haydamous (LDEM, 2010) after leaving Green Studios, through their own practice, Greener-on-the-other-side (<https://www.greenerontheotherside.com/>). They chose the Karantina neighborhood which is threatened by gentrification. The project targets youth living in the neighborhood, offering them an informal gathering space. The designers researched the historical, political and geographical status of Karantina, and they organized several community-engaging workshops with the local children and youth in order to integrate them in the design process. A part of the garden was allocated to a competition to involve local artists. Catalytic Action, an NGO (<http://www.catalyticaction.org/>), won the competition.

The Karantina Play Garden won the Lebanese Architects Awards for Public Space in 2016, being a public project that is educational and fun, a flexible environment for the community, and because of the participatory design approach.

## Featured Litterature

### BOOKS

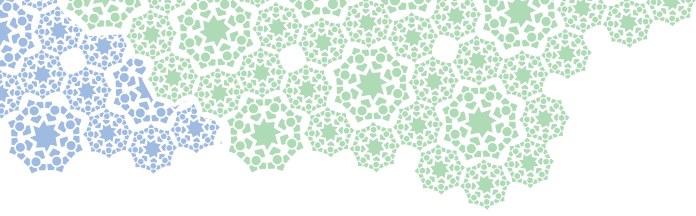


### Open Space: People Space |

*Edited by Catharine Ward Thompson and Penny Travlou*

Taylor & Francis, London, 2007

The authors of this volume got it right a decade ago. Today, increased awareness of the benefits of participatory design and the necessity of community inclusive development, vindicates what the authors of this volume were advocating ten years ago. The book includes four parts: policy issues and current challenges to planning for inclusive access; the nature of exclusion in different contexts; the challenge of inclusive landscape design; and the promise of theory and research in the context of inclusive spaces. The book is important to steer designers and local authorities away from the formalism of conventional parks, and the prevailing perception of parks as 'something to look at', towards a more dynamic approach of envisioning public landscapes as an enabling place both socially and politically. Zeina Kronfol, profiled in this newsletter, is living proof that this approach to the landscape of municipal parks can be successful.



## Updates

### *National / International news and events*

2017

**OCT 20-23** **ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO** | Los Angeles, USA

This event gives the opportunity to explore hundreds of new products, services, technology applications, and design solutions— all under one roof, with nearly 350 exhibitors, the ASLA EXPO is the largest trade show in the industry and the best-attended event of the annual meeting. For your enjoyment, a number of popular activities will be located in the EXPO.

If you wish to know more about the event: <https://www.aslameeting.com/>

**OCT 30-31** **The Arab Future Cities Summit 2017** | Dubai, UAE - The Convention Center, Sofitel The Palm Resort & Spa

The summit is held under the high patronage of The Ministry of Infrastructure Development, UAE with His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Belhaif AlNuaimi, Minister of Infrastructure Development. With upcoming sustainable infrastructure developments, along with the integration of smart technologies driving the future of how we live, work and play in the Middle East region - this summit will play a key role in acquiring knowledge, spreading awareness and procurement of the right solutions for the year ahead.

If you wish to know more about the summit: <http://www.smartcitiesdubai.com/>

2018

**MAR 20-24** **7th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2018** | Gozo, Valetta, MT

Hosted by the University of Malta and Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, this forum will focus on the landscape of Gozo in the Mediterranean Sea. Gozo is the smaller sister island of Malta located in the north of the archipelago. Around 30 000 inhabitants share a small territory of about 67 km<sup>2</sup>.

If you wish to know more about the forum: [http://ln-institute.org/public\\_lni/calendar\\_show\\_details.php?event\\_id=1268](http://ln-institute.org/public_lni/calendar_show_details.php?event_id=1268)

**MAR 21-24** **Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Annual Conference 2018: Transforming the Discussion** | Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

The conference is inspired by complex landscape and societal issues faced by researchers and designers in their practices. Transformative practitioners engage in the layered dialogues that call to account their positions and reflect upon their actions. Transformative educators challenge conventions, habits of mind, and those deeply held meanings that guide our thinking about social, political, and environmental issues. Conference presenters and participants are invited to enter into discussions and debates intended to challenge contemporary norms, transform our discussions, and break our landscape architecture chrysalis.

If you wish to know more about the conference: <http://cela.lar.vt.edu/>

**MAR 30-31** **Middle East Landscape Architecture Conference** | Tehran, Iran

Organized by The Iranian Society of Landscape Professionals (ISLAP), the theme for this conference will evolve around Landscape in Transition. In the recent years, due to different struggles (such as drought, war, immigration, geopolitical changes and so on), the landscape of the Middle East has undergone massive changes that has brought about international crises. In addition to the regional transition, transformation in terms of the concept of the landscape, development in the new technologies and the effects of globalization should be taken into the account. Studying these issues can cause enhancing education, awareness of professionals, intelligent management and logical process in order to face these situation.

If you wish to know more about the conference: <http://rd.shahromanazar.org/melac2018/#toggle-id-3>

**MAY 7-8** **“The Place that Remains”, recounting the un-built territory** | Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon

Proposed by Hala Younes, professor at the Department of Architecture and Interior Design, Lebanese American University, and co-organized by LELA and the Arab Center for Architecture, this exhibition comes in line with *Freospace*, the theme of the upcoming 16th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice. The aim of this conference is to reflect on the Places that Remain and their transformation in the Lebanese territory, un-built spaces, their qualities, their histories and their potential over the last 100 years; from a predominantly rural, productive landscape towards an overbuilt, realty speculative one.

If you wish to know more about the exhibition: <http://sard.lau.edu.lb/events/conferences/the-place-that-remains/index.php>

## Welcome Note

*Dear LELA Members,*

Welcome to the Lebanese Landscape Association (LELA), an informal collective for landscape practitioners, academics, researchers and students to connect, network and promote the idea of 'landscape' in Lebanon. LELA has as well a formal role, as Lebanon's national representative at the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) World Congress.

For years, many of us have aspired to, and tried hard, to secure some kind of national recognition for the profession. LELA is the culmination of this effort and, with IFLA certification (December 2015), the bonus of connecting internationally.

For those of you who attended, the conference

last May, *Unfolding Middle Eastern Landscapes* (<http://www.lela-lb.org/conference>), was the first event organized by LELA. We hope to organize other events, lectures, workshops and short trips. This first issue of the LELA Bulletin is another way for us to remain connected, to update you on events and profile our members. It is a beginning that we hope can evolve with contributions from our members. We hope that together, we will be able to fulfill the vision of LELA and meet the challenges facing landscape practice, teaching and industry in Lebanon and the region.

*Sincerely,*



## IFLA Beirut 2016 Conference: Unfolding Mediterranean Landscapes | changing forms, evolving tools, transforming meanings

To announce its establishment, LELA organized an international conference "Unfolding Middle Eastern Landscapes – changing forms, evolving tools, transforming meanings".

The conference was held under the patronage of IFLA and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, May 31- June 2, 2016, in cooperation with the American University of Beirut, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management and the Lebanese University, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Veterinary Medicine, Department of Landscape and Territory Planning.

The conference was attended by 146 participants from 21 different countries. Speakers included Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons, Anna Grichting Solder, Mohammad Motalebi, Gloria Pungetti, Salma Talhouk, Andreja Tutundzic, Burcu Yigit Turan, Rami Zurayk and others from various backgrounds.

The conference was an opportunity to showcase the potential of landscape practice and theory taking into account the environmental and cultural specificities in Lebanon and the region in six overlapping areas: landscape history and landscape heritage | landscape and the agrarian challenge | greening the urban landscape | landscape, ecology and environment | landscape, networks and infrastructure | landscape, displacement and human rights.

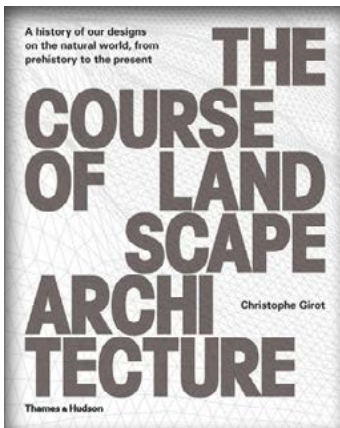


**Dr. George R. Battikha**  
Senior Lecturer  
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## Featured Literature

### BOOKS



### The course of landscape architecture

Girot, Christophe. The course of landscape architecture: a history of our designs on the natural world, from prehistory to the present. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2016. Print.

The history of civilization can be summed up as the history of humans' relationship with nature, thus resulting in a vital and multifaceted narrative that defines our cultural relationship to, and dependence on, the landscape. In his book, Christophe Girot starts to chronicle this history, describing all aspects of mankind's creativeness and inventiveness. He compiles, in twelve chapters, the key stories that have molded our man-made landscapes. This book will target the interest of every person who would like to deepen her understanding of how our landscapes have been shaped, and how we connect to them.

Dr. George R. Battikha is an honorary member of the Lebanese Landscape Association, the first in his category, in gratitude to his outstanding contribution to the profession.

Dr. Battikha earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture followed by a Master of Science in Horticulture from the American University of Beirut, shortly after, receiving a United Nations Certificate for plant breeding in 1960.

In 1972, he earned a Fulbright Scholarship in Landscape Horticulture, University of California Davis, USA where he completed a second Master of Science in Landscape Horticulture, 1974, and a PhD in Botany, 1978.

Dr. Battikha's contributions to Landscape Architecture include 28 years of teaching, 13 at the Université du Saint Esprit Kaslik and 15 at the Lebanese University, as well as 46 years at the American University of Beirut where he is currently still a part-time lecturer. During the early years of his career, he worked with the Municipality of Beirut, 37 years, commissioned work on the "Green Plan" (1964- 1972) - المشروع الأخضر - which embraced designing a number of landscaped areas (public gardens, streetscaping...). After that, he became the director of Public Parks and Gardens for Beirut from 1972 till 2002. He then left the Municipality, having planted a record of 23 000 trees in the capital city.

Dr. Battikha has been responsible for numerous projects in Lebanon and the Middle East, including university campuses, commercial landscapes, residential...

His most recent project, in collaboration with the Municipality of Beirut is the Beirut Pine Forest's Botanical Garden. The design of this garden includes several green houses, a nursery, a small pond, and several vegetated passages. It aims to show people the importance of the preservation of plants' diversity, both native and introduced, in Lebanon.



## Updates

### *Lebanon news and events*

**FEB 16-18** **Lebanese Architect Awards** | Biel Exhibition Center, Beirut

The Lebanese Architectural Awards festival, organized by the Federation of Lebanese Engineers, was dedicated to expose 36 flagships executed projects after the year 2000, designed by Lebanese Studios, based inside or outside Lebanon. Being an interaction platform with an exchange of ideas, know-how and relations, the event was also designed to stimulate new, profitable business opportunities against a top-notch cultural background. The awards were divided into several categories and 3 landscape architects were nominated. **Zeina Kronfol and Pamela Haidamous (landscape architects), having designed the Karantina Play Garden, won the Lebanese Architect award under the category of Public spaces.**

<http://www.lebaneseearchitectawards.com/index.html>

**MAY 23-27** **The Garden Show 2017** | Beirut Hippodrome Park | 4:00 PM till 10:00 PM everyday

**till JUN 12** **"Visit Beirut" Exhibition** | Surssock Museum | Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun from 10:00 AM till 6:00 PM  
Thu from 12:00 PM till 9:00 PM

### *International news and events*

**FEB 28** **Election of IFLA president for the term of 2017-2019 Christine Mackenzie**

<https://www.ifla.org/node/11273>

**JUL 13-14** **5th IFLA-Africa Symposium, 2nd AAPM Symposium: Learning the Landscape // Landscapes of Learning, towards a sustainable world through new approaches in Landscape Architecture and ancestral customs** | Rabat, Morocco

The symposium examines how we learn the landscape on one hand, and what the landscape can teach us on the other. The first part of the theme will look at what constitutes an appropriate course structure relevant to our times. The second part of the programme will expose landscapes that teach us the history of a place, the cultural customs, or those which enrich our understanding of ecological processes and environment. Illustrations will be taken from all over the continent and the Mediterranean Basin.

If you wish to know more about the symposium: <http://iflaonline.org/event/5th-ifla-africa-symposium/>

**SEP 10-13** **ECLAS 2017 Conference: Creation/Reaction** | University of Greenwich, London, UK

Landscape architects, artists, planners, architects, geographers, ecologists and social scientists are invited to explore the theme of Creation / Reaction. Creation almost always provokes a responsive reaction. It can result in transformation as well as revolution – for better or for worse. The processes of transformation and revolution in design are an inherent part of the creative process, and it is often the moments of conflict or tension that can be the most creative. These catalysts may be found in creation and reactions across all practices in landscape, and thus participants are encouraged to explore these active and often difficult situations they find in the course of their work.

If you wish to know more about the conference: <https://eclas2017london.com/>

**SEP 12-15** **IALE 2017 European Landscape Ecology Congress: From Patter and Process to People and Action** | Ghent, Belgium

The congress theme reflects that landscape ecology as a meeting point - where pattern and process meet people and action - seen as a way of thinking when dealing with European landscapes, bringing in the social and cultural approaches, requiring a true interaction of natural and social sciences, and of science, policy and practice.

If you wish to participate and submit your abstract: <http://www.iale-europe.eu/iale2017/call-papers>

**OCT 16-20** **IFLA World Design Summit** | Montreal, Canada

The world design Summit– Montréal 2017 is an unprecedented international gathering of diverse disciplines of a common focus: how can design shape the built environment of the future? The Montreal Summit will group designed professionals, government and business leaders, industry representatives, media and NGOs from around the world (18 simultaneous congresses with over 100 topics and some 4,500 delegates in attendance from 80 countries and also includes an exposition with over 350 exhibitors). For the 10 days, attendees will come together to transcend silos, foster corporation and enhance professional development. Beyond being only a celebration of design, the summit will demonstrate the tremendous power of design to create viable solutions to global social, economic, cultural and environmental challenges.

If you wish to know more about the summit: <http://iflaonline.org/event/world-design-summit-montreal/>

**OCT 24-27** **53rd ISOCARP Congress: Smart Communities** | Portland, Oregon, USA

This year's topic — Smart Communities—is relevant for rural towns and major international centers. The participants will have the opportunity to explore how technology is changing our communities, how we can harness the benefits but also address the challenges of rapid change.

If you wish to participate and submit your abstract: <https://isocarp.org/53rd-annual-congress/abstract-submission/>