

# arcca

architect in the community issue

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UC Berkeley Units 1 & 2  
GLS Landscape Architecture  
EHDD Architecture

LANDSCAPE + ARCHITECTURE + LANDSCAPE

The View from the Landscape

Ecology and Culture in a Globalized Society

The Potential of Landscape Urbanism

Trading Change in the Delta

Perspectives on Landscape Ecology

The Fresno ArchHop

What's Love Got To Do With It?



Fritz Haeg, Edible Estates Regional Prototype Garden #14: London, 2007, commissioned by Tate Modern, photo by Heiko Prigge



EDAW, Tokyo Midtown © EDAW 2008, photo by David Lloyd\*

to children. It is no surprise that Paradise in all religions is always described as a garden.

The most important concerns motivating landscape architecture today are:

1. Nature deprivation in our culture, specifically urban and suburban culture.
2. To educate developers on the importance of landscape in our environments.
3. Our discipline's role in sustainability and contemporary environmentalism.
4. To influence the multi-disciplinary conversations about green urbanism, green infrastructure, and landscape urbanism.
5. To correct architects' perceptions of our field so that we can better influence our built environments.



Fritz Haeg, [www.fritzaeg.com](http://www.fritzaeg.com)

(I am actually not a landscape architect; my background is in architecture, but most current projects are commissioned by art museums.)

Architects by nature tend to be focused on buildings. This may seem obvious and simplistic, but I do not think it necessarily has to be this way. I imagine a future system of architecture education that views a building as one of many possible responses to a design challenge/problem. I like the idea of an architecture of removal, in which we become more strategic about removing structures and considering how little building we actually need to thrive as humans. In a system like this, landscape becomes the privileged form of human development, not buildings.

How can we develop open urban spaces that are more than just high maintenance, ornamental, vanity landscapes? What functions can we assign our open spaces that might also have pleasurable aspects, such as food producing urban farms and dirt cleansing phytoremediation gardens?



Steve Hanson, ASLA  
EDAW, [www.edaw.com](http://www.edaw.com)

Well, my flippant answer would be that the world isn't flat—but of course there are many architects with a great sensitivity to site and grading—and even some landscape architects without it. But, really, from the perspective of buildings, I wish more architects understood the power of landscape to make buildings better. And often it comes back to grading. A recent example is with an urban project that is meant to define a central open space, yet the building elevations have already been set. That can be very limiting.

This will sound very old fashioned, but I think it's very important to have a big idea, and I mean a design idea—an idea that conveys meaning, sense of place, culture, whatever. This is more important than ever in the current professional *climate* (pardon the pun) where so many of the metrics for success are based on non-design criteria. Sustainability is essential, but it isn't a design idea or a replacement for one.