

## Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects

is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing roughly 16,000 members in 48 professional chapters, 76 student chapters, and five student affiliate chapters. The Society's mission is to lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. Members of the Society use the "ASLA" suffix after their names to denote membership and their commitment to the highest ethical standards of the profession.

### ASLA began with 11 founding members:

Nathan Barrett	John Charles Olmsted (the Society's first president)
Beatrix Jones Farrand	Samuel Parsons, Jr.
Daniel W. Langton	George F. Pentecost, Jr.
Charles N. Lowrie	Ossian Cole Simonds
Warren H. Manning	Downing Vaux (son of Calvert Vaux)
Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.	

**At year-end 2011, ASLA reported 15,428 members and 48 chapters representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 66 countries around the world.**

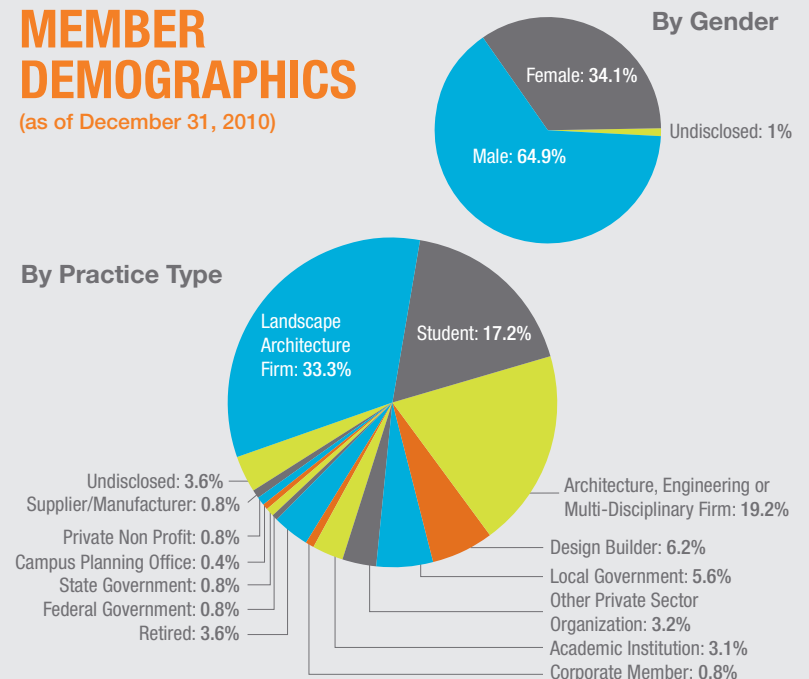
- The U.S. Department of Labor in 2008 (most recent count) identified 26,700 employees in the landscape architecture field. ASLA has 11,538 Full, Fellow, and Associate members; therefore, ASLA represents roughly 43 percent of the landscape architecture profession.
- Approximately 16,000 landscape architects are licensed. Licensure is required in all 50 states to be identified as a "landscape architect" and in 47 states to practice landscape architecture.
- In 2011, 5,136 ASLA members worked at landscape architecture firms; 2,959 worked at architecture, engineering, or multi-disciplinary firms; and 956 were employed by design-build firms. A total of 1,119 members worked for federal, state, or local government.

## MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE

Member Type	2011	2010	Percentage +/- 11 v. 10
Full Member	9,350	9,702	-3.6%
Student	2,401	2,265	6.0%
Associate	1,503	1,413	6.4%
Affiliate	631	667	-5.4%
Full-Fellow	685	660	3.8%
Student Affiliate	379	411	-7.8%
International	162	181	-10.5%
Corporate	185	171	8.2%
Honorary (living)	132	127	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>15,597</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

## MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS

(as of December 31, 2010)



# THE PROFESSION

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the natural and built environments.

## Among the types of projects they produce are:

- Academic campuses
- Conservation
- Corporate and commercial
- Gardens and arboreta
- Green Infrastructure
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Land planning
- Landscape art
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Stormwater management
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors
- Urban design

## THE FACTS

Approximately 70 percent of the profession is in the private sector, 26 percent in the public sector, and 4 percent in academia, based on responses to the 2010-11 ASLA National Salary Survey.

Average annual salary and bonuses for those in the landscape architecture field total \$78,600 (2010-11 ASLA National Salary Survey).

Some 66 percent of respondents to the 2010-11 Business Indicators

Survey reported revenues in 2009 of less than \$1 million.

Some 27.8 percent of respondents to the ASLA fourth quarter Business Quarterly survey reported billable hours as slightly (plus 5 to 10 percent) or significantly (10 percent-plus) higher in fourth quarter when compared to the previous quarter. Another 34.8 reported billable hours as about the same (plus or minus 5 percent). This is down from the previous quarter, which showed 32.4 percent as slightly or

significantly improved and 33 percent as stable.

Three largest client groups, descending order:

- Private-home owners
- Architects
- Cities/municipalities

For smaller firms (up to three employees):

- Private-home owners.

LEARN MORE AT

[asla.org](http://asla.org)

Landscape architects are licensed in all 50 states, but not yet in the District of Columbia.

# EDUCATION

Sixty-six universities currently offer at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB)\*.

There are two undergraduate professional degrees. These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).

There are two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

- The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for those who hold an undergraduate degree in a field other than landscape architecture and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who do not have an undergraduate degree.

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture for persons who want to conduct research in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals, programs by schools that are candidates for accreditation, and certificate programs.

*\*LAAB is a specialized agency that accredits educational programs leading to first professional degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels.*

**Predicated on issues of ecology and based on an orchestration of large surfaces with many overlapping and competing systems, landscape architecture is a discipline that is perfectly equipped to untangle...urban issues."**

October 2010, *Architect* magazine

## LICENSURE

There are two different types of licensure laws:

- States with practice acts (47) require a license to practice landscape architecture.
- States with title acts (3) allow anyone to practice landscape architecture, regardless of their qualifications, but only those with a license may use the title "landscape architect" or advertise for "landscape architectural" services.

Each state sets its own requirements for licensure, but all require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE.