

notes and numbers



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects, promoting the profession, and advancing the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. In addition, stewardship of the land has been a critical part of the mission of ASLA since its founding.

ASLA began with 11 original members:

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

As of spring 2008, ASLA reports **more than 18,000 members and 48 chapters, representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 42 countries** around the world.

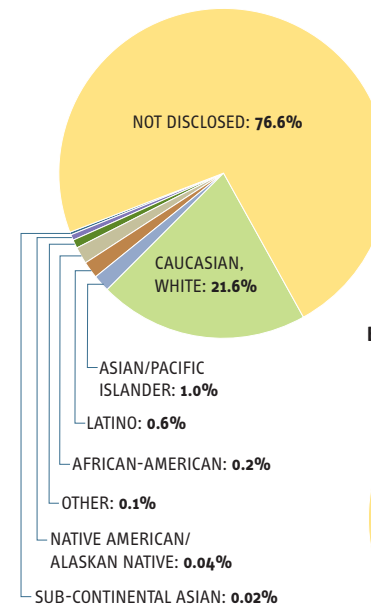
- There are about **30,000 landscape architects in the United States** (U.S. Department of Labor, 2006), including **11,368 Full or Fellow ASLA members**; therefore, ASLA represents roughly 39 percent of the landscape architecture profession.
- Firm size is increasing and more firms are becoming multi-disciplinary. Some **7,144 companies employ at least one active member: 6,992 in the U.S. and 152 outside of the U.S.** For context, U.S. Census data for 2005 reports 6,505 landscape architecture firms.
- Approximately **15,000 landscape architects are licensed**.
- **Licensure is not a requirement** for membership in ASLA.

Member Growth by Type

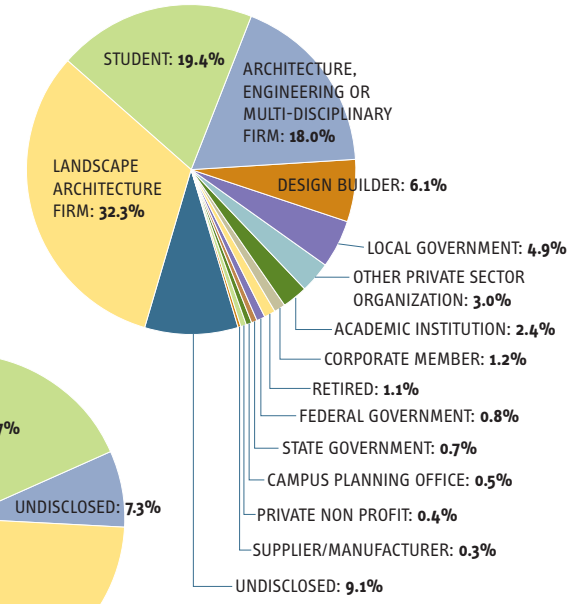
Member Type	2007	2006	2005	2004	Percentage +/- 04(05) v 07
Full Member	10,757	10,008	9,733	9,476	+13.6%
Student	3,213	3,070	3,042	2,580	+24.5%
Associate	1,942	1,704	1,542	1,488	+30.6%
Affiliate	824	667	655	667	+23.6%
Full-Fellow	611	585	558	540	+13.1%
Student Affiliate	434	348	686	N/A	-36.7%
International	239	119	126	131	+82.4%
Corporate	208	188	161	128	+62.5%
Honorary (living)	97	91	83	75	+29.3%
Total	18,324	16,780	16,586	15,085	+21.5%

Member Demographics (as of April 23, 2008)

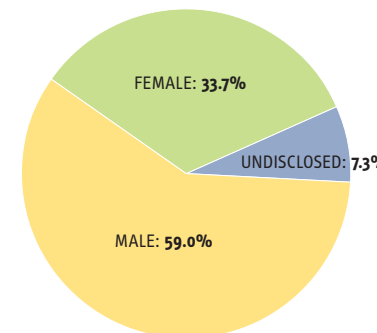
BY ETHNICITY



BY PRACTICE TYPE



BY GENDER



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
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Landscape art and earth sculpture
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors and facilities
- Urban design.

Approximately **80 percent of the profession is in the private sector, 16 percent in the public sector, and 4 percent in academia.**

Average annual salary and bonuses for landscape architects total nearly **\$90,000** (2006 National Salary and Business Indicators Survey).

Firm **billing rates are up by 10 percent since 2004** (2006 National Salary and Business Indicators Survey; 2008 study to field in summer)

Residential design is the largest market sector (approximately 40 percent of billing hours). Most of that work consists of single-family homes, but also includes multi-family and retirement communities.

Three largest client groups, descending order:

- Private developers
- Cities/municipalities
- Architecture firms.

For smaller firms (four employees or fewer):

- Private homeowners.

A comparison of May 2005 and May 2007 *Landscape Architecture* Magazine readers' survey data shows jumps in interest in coverage of **the environment** (47 percent, 2005, to 58 percent, 2007), **planning** (31 percent to 37 percent) and **technology** (37 percent to 40 percent). In addition, readers recorded big jumps in ratings of usefulness of coverage of **ecology** (35 percent to 48 percent) and **technology** (26 percent to 37 percent)

Top Resources for Professional Information (2006 ASLA Member Survey)

Other Professionals:	92%
Websites:	76%
Journals:	72%
ASLA:	59%
Other Associations:	47%

education

Landscape architects are **licensed in 49 states** (less Vermont and the District of Columbia).

There are two different types of **licensure laws**:

- States with **practice acts (41)** require a license to practice **landscape architecture**.
- States with **title acts (8)** 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.**

Sixty universities currently offer at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by 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 persons who hold an undergraduate degree in a field **other than landscape architecture** and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A two-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who **hold an undergraduate professional degree in landscape architecture.**

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.**