

Karen L. Russcher M.LA, ASLA, RLA  
203G Human Ecology  
Landscape Architecture Department  
School of Planning, Design, and Construction  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1221  
E-mail: karenrus@msu.edu | P h o n e :517.884.6690

## **EDUCATION**

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA.  
MLA Master in Landscape Architecture (1992)

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Lexington KY.  
BSLA Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture with Distinction (1990)

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

California ASLA Merit Award  
Moffet Towers, Sunnyvale CA. 2010

National ASLA Student Competition  
Distinguished Design Award, 1989

National ASLA Honor Award  
University of Kentucky, 1990

Recipient of Oswald Research and Creativity Award  
University of Kentucky, 1990

Recipient of Outstanding 3rd year student, 4th year student, and Construction Technology  
University of Kentucky, 1988, 1989, 1990

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Michigan State University, Instructor, Landscape Architecture; School of  
Planning, Design & Construction, August 15, 2013 to present.

University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Lecturer, School of Architecture,  
January 9, 2012-August 9, 2012.

Private Landscape Architectural Consultant, Commercial and Residential  
Design, June 6 2010-August 15, 2013.

Director of Landscape Architecture, DES Architects & Engineers, Redwood City CA.  
September 2008-June 2010.

Senior Landscape Architect, Pedersen Associates, San Rafael CA.  
February 2008- September 2008.

Senior Landscape Architect, KLA, Sonora, CA. November 2006-December 2007.  
Director of Landscape Architecture, Mid Valley Engineering, Modesto CA. July 2005-  
November 2006.  
Private Landscape Architectural Consultant, Commercial and Residential Design,  
June 2002-July 2005.  
Principal Landscape Architect, LandDesign Inc., Southern Pines, NC. 1996-2002.  
Senior Landscape Architect, LandDesign Inc., Charlotte NC. 1992-1996.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

Russcher, K.L., Student, Class #1310, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 1992. New Park:  
New Ideas, An Exhibit of Student Designs for Riverside Park-Manhattan, New York, January  
28- February 28, 1992.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

### **COURSES: Michigan State University**

**Graphics and Two-Dimensional Design Studio** (LA140, 1 Lecture 2 Labs, 4 credits).  
Introduction to basic two-dimensional design principles and elements. (26 students) Fall  
2013.

**Site Construction Materials and Methods** (LA230, 1 Lecture 1 Lab, 5 credits).  
Undergraduate construction studio course exploring materials and site grading for  
landscape architecture and horticulture students. (18 students) Fall 2013, (14 students)  
Fall 2014, & (23 students) Fall 2015.

**Design Development Studio** (LA 345-01 and LA 345-750, 1 Lecture 1 Lab, 5 credits).  
Landscape Architecture Upper division studio focusing on design details as a link between  
design and construction. Section 750-8 week on campus, combined with Section 001  
independent study (18 students) Spring 2014, (13 Students) Spring 2015, (8 Students)  
Spring 2016

**Juried Design Studio** (LA 447, 5 credits). Cap stone Studio focusing on a design project  
from initial master plan conception through the site design development phase, as an  
independent project manager, responsible for all aspects of the project's development.  
(14 students) Spring 2014, (18 students) Fall 2014, & (13 students) Fall 2015.

**Regional Environmental Design** (LA448, 2 credits). Seminar and Design course  
addressing regional scale design, utilizing ecological concepts, spatial analysis methods and  
tools. The course objectives are related to landscape sustainability, including the integration  
and ecological concepts in landscape planning and design as well as the utilization of GIS  
taught in tandem with UP 424 GIS and Design Tools for Planning. (18 students) Spring  
2015, (13 students) Spring 2016.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

### **COURSES: Michigan State University Cont.**

**Introduction to Landscape Architecture** (LA200, 3 credits). Introductory class to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Information ranging from environmental issues, design, problem solving strategies along the breadth of the profession across both different scales, focus, and geography. (29 students) Fall 2015.

**Landscape Architecture Field Studies** (LA390, section 001 & 750, 3 credits and 2-4 credits). Focused on first-hand field experiences as a means to increase knowledge of Landscape design history, perceptive abilities and design knowledge base. Learning experiences in the field on study abroad include historical and cultural contexts relating to German, French, Dutch, English, Italian, and Catalan (Spanish) landscapes. (8 students) Spring 2016.

**Place Making Studio** (LA243, 1 Lecture 1 Lab, 4 credits). Design course applying landscape architectural design process to the human experience of place at the site scale using established place design approaches and philosophies. (11 students) Spring 2015 & (16 students) Spring 2016.

**Study Abroad** (LA345, LA421, & LA390 Field Studies, 6 credits). Leading the last 2 weeks of 8 week study abroad field studies program to Rome, Italy and Barcelona, Spain (8 students) Spring 2016

### **COURSES: University of North Carolina-Charlotte**

**Urban Design Basics: Urban Spaces, Urban rooms, Graduate/Undergraduate Topical Design Studio** (ARCH 4102/ ARCH 7102, 6 credits). Urban Design Topical Design Studio focusing on the design of an urban park/streetscape in Uptown Charlotte NC. (14 Students) Spring 2012.

**Urban Design Seminar: The Art of Sustainable Grading, Graduate Urban Design Seminar** (MUDD 6050/6213 and ARCH 6050, 4 credits). Graduate Seminar exploring historic precedents and contemporary landscape architectural concepts of sustainable grading and drainage practices. (12 Students) Summer July 5- August 10, 2012

## **MSU OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**

**Carriage Hills Shopping Center**, East Lansing, MI.

Formed a Public Private Partnership with MSU, Meridian Township Planning Dept., Meridian Economic Development Committee, DTN Developers, and Carriage Hills neighborhood Association for the redevelopment of a shopping center located in East Lansing, MI. (14 Student) Spring 2014. Raised \$3,850.00 in additional funding for class project cost.

## **MSU OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT cont.**

### **Carriage Hills Shopping Center News Coverage and Publications related to student work:**

[http://www.homtv.net/index.asp?view=news&news\\_id=4324&1=Ideas-Proposed-to-Revitalize-Carriage-Hills-Shopping-Center](http://www.homtv.net/index.asp?view=news&news_id=4324&1=Ideas-Proposed-to-Revitalize-Carriage-Hills-Shopping-Center)

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20140606/COMMUNITIES0301/306060007/East-Lansing-s-Carriage-Hills-neighborhoods-become-force-change>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z20nuelwVlw>

[http://www.homtv.net/index.asp?view=news&news\\_id=4439&1=Further-action-is-being-taken-on-Carriage-Hill-Shopping-Center-project](http://www.homtv.net/index.asp?view=news&news_id=4439&1=Further-action-is-being-taken-on-Carriage-Hill-Shopping-Center-project)

### **Chicago Drive Entry Corridor/Gateway, Holland MI.**

Case Study Outreach and Engagement including local stakeholders: Bill Johnson, Landscape Architect, FASLA, MSU alumni, Holland Charter Township, City of Holland Community and Neighborhood Services, and MSU Campus Planning and Administration.

Entry corridor study of an existing main entry sequence into the city of Holland, Mi. Existing contextual features are retail and commercial areas, single family neighborhoods, new energy park, Hope College, Macatawa River Greenway, and relating it to the local tourism draw. (18 Students) Fall 2014.

### **Boyne City Waterfront Park System, Boyne City, MI.**

Case Study Outreach and Engagement a parallel study along with MSU Extension, MML Michigan Municipal League/MI Place Plans, and School of Planning Design and Construction. An existing waterfront lacking a sense of identity and connectivity along Lake Charlevoix as well as a connection to the town of Boyne City. The goal was to create a better connection to the water from the town, as well as provide a continuous walkway along the entire length of the waterfront and identify uses to generate activity throughout the 4 seasons of Michigan. (13 Students) Fall 2015.

### **Place Plans, Boyne City, Monroe, Benton Harbor and Lathrup Village, Michigan.**

Outreach that assists communities across the state in creating unique, vibrant and livable downtown areas through a strategic planning process, through a joint effort between Michigan State University and the Michigan Municipal League, funded by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority through the MIPlace initiative. The goal is to encourage economic activity that keeps Michigan competitive by transforming communities into places that attract and retain young people, talent and employers.

**Speaker, MSU Fall Extension Conference October 13, 2015**, Topic: Planning & Design for a Sustainable Built Environment: Examples and case studies from Michigan Communities. Description: This session will highlight the Sustainable Built Environment Initiative (SBEI) within the MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction (SPDC). The SBEI builds on the success of the former Small Town Design Initiative by providing an integrated approach to solving complex community problems. Examples and processes will be discussed with an emphasis on sustainable planning and design solutions for local issues include green development, adaptive reuse, placemaking, and resiliency planning. Speakers included in this topic were Wayne R. Beyea, JD, AICP, Outreach Specialist and Warren J. Rauhe, M.L.A., ASLA, LLA, Associate Professor – Emeritus

## **CONFERENCES AND CONTINUED EDUCATION:**

**Attendee, ASLA** Fall 2014 and 2015

**Attendee, MI ASLA** Fall 2014

**Attendee, Built Environment Showcase (BES)** Fall 2014

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

MSU - Landscape Architecture curriculum – Defining and Measuring Learning Objectives and Goals (**Intended Learning Outcomes Committee**)

MSU - **Masters of Environmental Design (MED)** Master's Program Guidance Committee

MSU – **Faculty Learning Committee (FLC)** Enriching the Faculty-International Student Experience

## **LICENSURE**

California #4942 Landscape Architecture License (inactive)  
North Carolina #950 Landscape Architecture License (inactive)  
South Carolina #671 Landscape Architecture License (inactive)