



# MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ACADEMIC YEAR  
2023-2024

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

Military Walk



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY



# WELCOME TO AGGIELAND!

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Master of Landscape Architecture program at Texas A&M University! As a member of the Aggie family you are a part of a world-class institution defined by tradition, integrity, camaraderie, and service. Our faculty, staff, and students represent cultures from around the globe coming together to offer a one-of-a-kind educational experience. Becoming part of the Aggie Network offers unparalleled advantages to our students during their academic career and beyond and we are excited to welcome you to the Aggie family.

Thanks, and Gig 'Em!

The Academic Building



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# INTRODUCTION

Landscape architecture is the regulated profession that ensures the health, safety, and welfare of citizens through landscape design.

The Master's of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at Texas A&M University prepares students to plan, design, and build outdoor spaces. You will learn how to assess, protect, restore and design landscapes for people to interact and build connections with the natural and built environment. Through our accredited program, you will prepare to become a professional landscape architect.

Image: thebatt.com



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The MLA program at Texas A&M has been training entry level professional landscape architects since 1958. Our diverse faculty guide students to be well-rounded in design, construction, digital graphics, GIS, ecology, research methods and professional practice. These specialized areas of study are centered around a collaborative design studio environment that encourages students to critically evaluate their own work and the work of their peers. An array of professional resources opportunities are provided to our students such as ASLA student membership, Aggie Workshop and Career Fair. Students regularly engage with invited professional landscape architects through our Professional Advisory Board, design studios, and design charrettes. Our graduates are motivated to be lifelong learners capable of independent and interdisciplinary leadership in the field of landscape

## AGGIE VALUES

The purpose of Texas A&M University is to develop leaders of character dedicated to serving the greater good." Texas A&M University is steeped in history and tradition. As a member of the MLA program, you join a network of students, faculty, staff and alumni who exemplify the university's six core values:

- Excellence - set the bar high, then higher
- Integrity - character is destiny
- Leadership - follow me
- Loyalty - acceptance forever
- Respect - we are the Aggies, the Aggies are we





# WHY STUDY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT TEXAS A&M?

Texas A&M University is a national leader in evidence-based landscape architecture. Our graduates are prepared for creative forms of professional practice by learning how to make data-driven design decisions, make use of advanced visualization techniques, and engage in high-impact experiences in real, community-driven projects. Texas A&M's approach addresses real and current issues in society including the improvement of urban environments, green infrastructure, microclimates, public health outcomes, ecosystem services, and increasing resilience to stormwater and flooding. As of July 13, 2023 Landscape Architecture became a STEM discipline (04.0601) in the United States. Our MLA curriculum is the top-ranked program cited in the ASLA 2022 STEM white paper for number of courses with STEM content (pp. 97-105). Our faculty and students work hard to engage current issues in landscape architecture to solve real-world



Climate Change Armor, Zixu Qiao



# WHAT'S BEING SAID...

- #1 in Top 25 Best Landscape Architecture Colleges for Veterans <sup>1</sup>
- #2 in Best Master Degree Colleges for Landscape Architecture <sup>1</sup>
- #3 in Highest Paid <sup>1</sup>
- #4 Most Popular <sup>1</sup>
- #7 Best Overall Landscape Architecture Master Program <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [College Factual](#)



Students and PAB members collaborating in LAND 620



# WHY STUDY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT TEXAS A&M?

- #9 Globally in Number of Publications related to Green Infrastructure (all venues) 1
- #3 in the US in Number of Publications Related to Green Infrastructure (all venues) 1
- #2 in US in Number of Publications Related to Green Infrastructure (universities only) 1
- #2 Institution in Citations per Faculty Member for Landscape Architecture

1 Shao, H., Kim, G., Li, Q., & Newman, G. (2021). Web of Science-Based Green Infrastructure: A Bibliometric Analysis in CiteSpace. *Land*, 10(7), 711.

2 Park, K., Sanchez, T. W., & Zuban, J. (2022). Evaluating Scholarly Productivity and Impacts of Landscape Architecture Faculty Using Citation Analysis. *Landscape Journal*, 41(1), 1-14.

3 Brown, R. D., Tasnum, T., & Kim, Y. (2020). Assessing US landscape architecture faculty research contribution. *Land*, 9(3), 64.



Students and Faculty collaborate in a design studio.



# STUDENT AWARDS

Our students have won numerous national and state design awards for their design studio and MLA Final Study projects. Some recent examples include:

## **2022 National ASLA Honor Award | Research Category**

*Thermalscape Tactics – Solutions in Response to Ubiquitous Heat Threat in El Paso*

Xiaoyu Li, Student ASLA | Jingxi Peng

Faculty Advisors: Robert Brown, FASLA | Dongying Li, FASLA | Kirk Hamilton

<https://www.asla.org/2022studentawards/7081.html>

## **2022 TX-ASLA Award of Excellence | Research Category**

*Evaluation of Galveston Dike Performance in Multiple Storm Scenarios*

Zhenhang Cai

Faculty Advisors: Galen Newman, ASLA

## **2022 TX-ASLA Merit Award | Urban Design Category**

*Pipe Dream: An Adaptive Green Infrastructure Model*

Tianyi Wang

Faculty Advisors: Galen Newman, ASLA

## **2020 National ASLA Honor Award | Analysis and Planning Category**

*Tenacity - Integrating sea level rise and Urban Growth Prediction Modelling in Design Scenarios in Tampa, FL*

Karishma Joshi | Jiali Li

Faculty Advisors: Galen Newman, ASLA

<https://www.asla.org/2020studentawards/1185.html>

## **2018 CELA Student Award for Creative Scholarship**

*Climate Change Armor*

Zixu Qiao

Faculty Advisors: Galen Newman, ASLA



# MEET YOUR FACULTY & STAFF

The Master of Landscape Architecture program is delivered by a dynamic group of faculty with experience in research, teaching, and professional practice and is supported by experienced staff members in the School of Architecture.





# MLA PROGRAM CONTACTS

The MLA program is administered by a team of faculty and staff and supported by programs and offices across the School of Architecture and the Texas A&M Campus.

The **Program Coordinator** manages the program and can answer planning-specific questions like which courses to choose or how to find an industry internship.

The **Graduate Advisor** can answer questions about your enrollment, degree plan, curriculum requirements, and degree completion.



**BRUCE DVORAK**

MLA Program Coordinator  
bdvorak@tamu.edu  
Langford A Room 305



**THENA MORRIS**

Graduate Advisor  
Assistant to the Department Head  
t-morris@tamu.edu  
Langford A Room 311A



# FULL-TIME FACULTY

Our faculty's experience and skill-set prepares students to be leaders in the field of landscape architecture.





# ROBERT BROWN

## **Professor**

Ph.D.

Fellow, Council of Educators in Landscape  
Architecture Fellow, Canadian Society of  
Landscape Architects

Member, Saskatchewan Association of  
Landscape Architects

## **Scholarly Interest:**

Dr. Brown studies how the urban landscape  
modifies the microclimate, and how  
microclimates affect the health and well-being  
of people.



# BRUCE DVORAK

## **Professor and Coordinator of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program**

Senior Schob Scholar

FASLA, PLA

## **Scholarly Interests:**

Professor Dvorak teaches graduate and  
undergraduate courses in Landscape  
Architecture. His areas of interest include  
sustainable design, planning, and construction.  
His areas of research include green roof and  
wall technology.





# CHANG-SHAN HUANG

## **Associate Professor**

Ph.D., RLA, AICP

### **Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Huang's areas of interest lie in design programming and methodology, urban and community design, therapeutic garden design, design communication, and interdisciplinary design education.



# KEN HURST

## **Assistant Professor of the Practice**

### **Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Hurst has practice and research interests in the interactions of human and ecological systems and the healing contribution of nature and outdoor public open space with a specialization in children's outdoor learning and play environments.



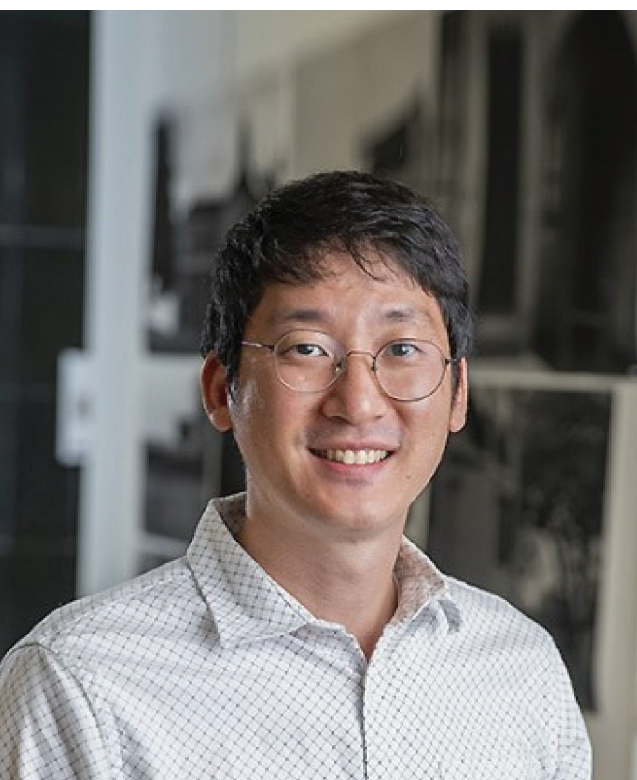
## CHANAM LEE

**Professor and Executive Associate Dean of the Ph.D. Program in Urban and Regional Sciences**

Ph.D.

**Scholarly Interest:**

Dr. Lee's areas of interest are active living research and healthy community design.



## SUNGMIN LEE

**Assistant Professor**

Ph.D.

**Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Lee's research focuses on healthy communities, neighborhood safety, health disparity, environmental inequality, green justice, and tree canopy.





## DONGYING LI

**Associate Professor**

Ph.D., ASLA, APA

**Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Li's research examines the relationship between the characteristics of the physical environment and people's behavior and mental health. Specific topics include urban nature and mental health, environmental psychology, health equity, urban informatics, GIS and spatial analysis.



## MICHAEL "ERNIE" MCNAIR

**Assistant Professor of the Practice**

Professor McNair's research focuses on the negative effects of human development on rivers and streams, the use of Natural Channel Design for river and stream restoration in both urban and rural environments, and the use of drone-based Structure-from-Motion to monitor riverbank erosion and its use within the landscape architecture design process.



## GALEN NEWMAN

**Professor and Department Head**

Ph.D., ASLA, APA

**Scholarly Interests:**

**Dr. Newman's interests include urban regeneration,** land use science, spatial analytics, flood resilience, and community/urban scaled design.



## RUSSEL W. REID

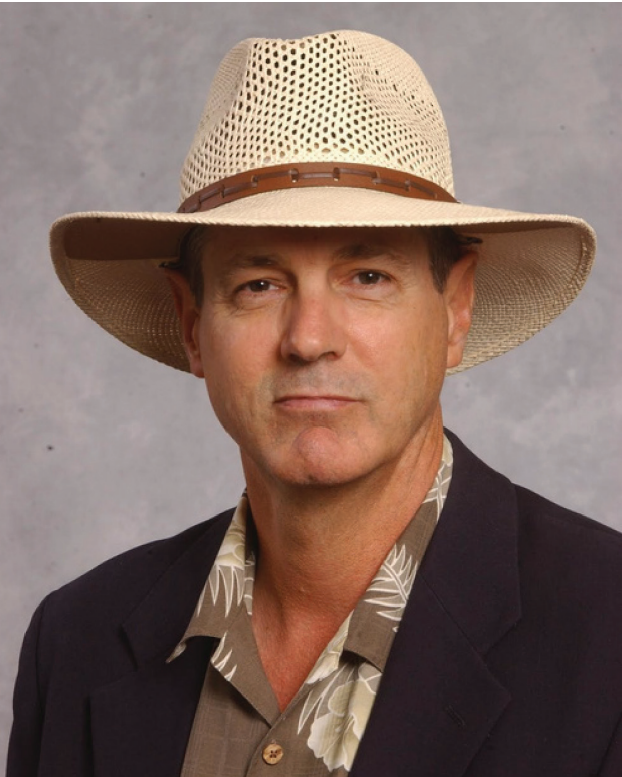
**Assistant Professor of the Practice**

ASAI, AIGA, FIA

**Scholarly Interest:**

Professor Reid has worked professionally in the fields of visual communications for over 30 years. His architectural illustrations continue to be commissioned by International Architectural firms. Reid's fine art is represented by galleries globally. His teaching interests are in the areas of observational and analytical drawing languages, design communications, urban planning communications, and the creative processes in visualization theory.





# GEORGE O. ROGERS

**Professor for the Urban and Regional Sciences Program**  
Ph.D.

**Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Rogers is interested in the areas of sustainability, risk analysis and planning, technology and society, and quantitative methods.



# YANG SONG

**Assistant Professor**  
Ph.D.

**Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Song works at the intersection between landscape architecture, community planning, and urban design. His academic activities have a strong focus on the role of public placemaking in community health and resiliency. He has a long-standing interest in applying digital technology and data science in landscape research and design. He studies the usage of urban public spaces and develops human-based design theories that enhance active living and economic resilience.



# WILLIAM “CHIP” WINSLOW

## **Assistant Professor**

PLA, FASLA, CLARB Certified Landscape Architect

### **Scholarly Interests:**

Professor Winslow’s areas of interest and experience include plant material, planting design, site design, materials and methods, design implementation, water management including landscape irrigation design, and golf course planning and design. Current research, in collaboration with colleagues in geography, investigates the use of spectral analysis to remotely detect stress in trees. Professor Winslow teaches in the BLA, MLA, and MLPD programs and



# BOQIAN XU

## **Assistant Professor**

Ph.D., PLA

### **Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Xu’s research on ecological planning, ecological performance evaluation, and land change modeling.





# SINAN ZHONG

**Assistant Professor**

**Scholarly Interests:**

Dr. Zhong's research interests lie at the intersection between healthy aging and community design. Her research centers on exploring how community environments influence the health, physical activities, and intergenerational interactions of its residents.

# AFFILIATED FACULTY

The MLA program draws on the expertise of affiliated faculty outside of the LAND programs.







# MICHAEL A. ARNOLD

**Department of Horticultural Sciences**

**Professor and Direstor of the Gardens**  
Ph.D.

## **Courses**

Plants for Landscape Design (HORT 608)



# ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The MLA program undergoes a voluntary peer review process conducted by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board.



Aggie Park by OJB



# PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY

Programs accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) are required to provide reliable information to the public. Programs must report on accreditation status and its performance. This information is to help potential students make informed application decisions.

## ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The Texas A&M Master of Landscape Architecture program is a three-year degree program that is accredited by the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards under the auspices of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Please see the Texas A&M Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning's [Professional Licensure and Certification Disclosure Statement](#) for a notice to students pursuing programs that may lead to a professional license or certification required for employment.

Pertinent information related to the importance of licensure in landscape architecture can be found here: <https://www.asla.org/licensure.aspx>

Pertinent information related to experience requirements and [how to become licensed](#) as a landscape architect can be found on the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards website.

# DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Please note: these deadlines may vary. Check with the Graduate and Professional School, your graduate advisor, and your committee chair about the specific deadlines and requirements. Visit the [Graduate and Professional School](#) website for more information.

TAMU Engineering Quad, Designed by Aan Coleman & Associates



# STEPS TO A MASTERS DEGREE

Step	What to Do	When	Approved by
1	Meet with the LAUP graduate advisor to plan a course of study for the first semester.	Before first semester registration	Graduate advisor
2	Establish advisory committee; submit your degree plan online.	Following the deadline imposed by the student's school and approved no later than 90 days prior to the request of final oral or thesis defense; see the Graduate and Professional School calendar.	Advisory committee, department head, and the Graduate and Professional School
3	If a thesis is required, submit thesis research proposal and Research Proposal Approval Form to the Graduate and Professional School.	Must be submitted to later than 20 working days prior to submitting the request and announcement of final examination.	The Graduate and Professional School
4	Apply for a degree online at the Howdy Portal; pay graduation fee.	During the first week of final semester; pay graduation fee after graduate application is submitted; see the Graduate and Professional School calendar.	The Graduate and Professional School
5	Check to make sure degree program and advisory committee are up-to-date and course work is complete.	Well before submitting request to schedule final examination.	Advisory committee, graduate advisor, and department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty

# STEPS TO A MASTERS DEGREE

Step	What to Do	When	Approved by
6	Complete residence requirement. (Check with your department to determine if there is a residency requirement.)	If applicable, before or during final semester.	The Graduate and Professional School
7	Submit Request and Announcement of Final Examination to schedule final examination to the Graduate and Professional School.	Must be received by the Graduate and Professional School at least 10 working days before exam date. (See The Graduate and Professional School calendar for deadlines.)	Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, and the Graduate and Professional School
8	Successfully complete final examination.	The Report of the Final Exam form should be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School within 10 days following the exam date by the department.	Advisory committee and the Graduate and Professional School
9	If required, upload one approved final copy of thesis as a single PDF file to etd.tamu.edu and submit signed thesis approval form to the Graduate and Professional School.	See the Graduate and Professional School calendar for deadlines.	Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, and the Graduate and Professional School
10	Graduation; arrange for cap and gown.		



# THE MLA CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is structured so that our teaching and professional instruction foster critical analysis and critical thinking in our students from simple to complex.



LAND 601 Landscape Architectural Theory Final Project

# PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY

## 3-YEAR FIRST PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

The Master of Landscape Architecture curriculum is a 3-year graduate program accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) and is a STEM discipline (04.0601). The hallmarks of the MLA curriculum are:

- **Core learning:** Our curriculum focuses on core skills utilized by landscape architects including design, construction, and planning components as well as the visual quality, theory, research, and technological aspects of the field.
- **Flexibility:** Students in the MLA program have the flexibility to pursue one of six graduate certificates offered by the School of Architecture, or by selecting their own preferred elective courses that are approved by the LAUP Department.
- **Experiential Learning:** MLA students engage with real communities and real clients throughout the core and elective curriculum, especially through their engagement with Texas Target Communities and their chosen internship program.

**CORE CURRICULUM - 57 CREDITS**

**MLA ELECTIVES - 12 CREDITS**

**INTERNSHIP - 0-1 CREDIT**

**69**

**CREDITS TO GRADUATE**



# THE MLA CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

## 2-YEAR TRACK

Only students with a BLA from a US Accredited school are considered for the 2-year track in our MLA program. Some exceptions may be possible for applicants with a BLA from a non-accredited US school, but also have significant skill development (including site grading, construction, context-based design), and significant experience in professional practice as a landscape architect (1-2 years).

**CORE CURRICULUM - 38 CREDITS**

**MLA ELECTIVES - 12 CREDITS**

**INTERNSHIP - 0-1 CREDIT**

**50**

**CREDITS TO GRADUATE**

# THE MLA 3-YR. CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

Year	Leveling Year			Advanced Year One			Advanced Year Two	
Semester	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
Communication	LAND 655 Landscape Architectural Communication (3)							
Design Theory/ Application	LAND 601 Design Theory (5)	LAND 602 Design Application (5)		LAND 620 Open Space Development I (5)	LAND 621 Open Space Development II (5)		LAND 693 Professional Study (3)	LAND 693 Professional Study (4)
Construction/ Engineering	LAND 612 Site Development (4)	LAND 614 Site Construction (3)						
Prof Practice/ Research	LAND 645 Practice Diversity (3)		LAND 630 (Optional Online)	LAND 630 Development of Landscape Architecture (3)	LAND 640 Research Methods (3) LAND 681 Seminar (1)	LAND 684 Internship (0-1)		LAND 646 Professional Practice (3)
Natural Science		LAND/PLAN 635 Concepts in Ecological Planning & Design (3)		HORT 608 Plants for Landscape Design (4)				
Electives					Elective (3)		Elective (3) Elective (3)	Elective (3)
Credits	15	11	-	12	12	0-1	9	10

57

Professional Core

0-1

Internship

12

Elective

69 Total 3-yr



# THE MLA CURRICULUM

## LEVELING YEAR | 26 CREDITS

Fall Semester	15 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 601</b> Design Theory	5 credit hours
<b>LAND 612</b> Site Development	4 credit hours
<b>LAND 645</b> Practice Diversity	3 credit hours
<b>LAND 655</b> Landscape Architectural Communications	3 credit hours

Spring Semester	11 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 602</b> Design Application	5 credit hours
<b>LAND 614</b> Site Construction	3 credit hours
<b>LAND 635</b> Concepts of Ecological Planning and Design	3 credit hours

# THE MLA CURRICULUM

## ADVANCED YEAR | 24-31 CREDITS

Fall Semester	12-16 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 621</b> Open Space Development I	<b>5 credit hours</b>
<b>HORT 608</b> Plants for Landscape Design	<b>4 credit hours</b>
<b>LAND 630</b> Development of Landscape Architecture	<b>3 credit hours</b>
<b>LAND 612</b> Site Development (2-yr track only)	<b>4 credit hours</b>

Spring Semester	12-15 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 621</b> open Space Development II	<b>5 credit hours</b>
<b>LAND 681</b> Seminar	<b>1 credit hours</b>
<b>LAND 640</b> Research Methods	<b>3 credit hours</b>
<b>Elective</b>	<b>3 credit hours</b>
<b>LAND 614</b> Site Construction (2-yr track only)	<b>3 credit hours</b>



# THE MLA CURRICULUM

## SUMMER SEMESTER | 0-1 CREDITS

Summer Semester	0-1 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 684</b> Internship	0-1 credit hours

## ADVANCED YEAR | 19 CREDITS

Spring Semester	9 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 693</b> Professional Study	3 credit hours
<b>Elective</b>	3 credit hours
<b>Elective</b>	3 credit hours

Spring Semester	10 Credit Hours
<b>LAND 646</b> Professional Practice	3 credit hours
<b>LAND 693</b> Professional Study	4 credit hours
<b>Elective</b>	3 credit hours

# MLA ELECTIVES

Please note that the catalog of electives changes from semester-to-semester according to faculty availability and student needs. The following is a list of the electives we typically offer each year or every other year. Students may also enroll in electives outside of the MLA program with departmental approval. For course descriptions, please see the [Graduate and Professional Catalog](#).

Course	Frequency
<b>ARCH 624</b> Theory of Placemaking	
<b>ARCH 631</b> Applied Architectural Studies	
<b>ARCH 638</b> Architectural Theory-Renaissance Through 19th Century	
<b>ARCH 655</b> Parametric Modeling in Design	
<b>ARCH 660</b> Design Programming	
<b>ARCH 674</b> Typologies of Contemporary Hospital Design	
<b>ARCH 675</b> Health & Design Research	
<b>ARCH 678</b> Foundations of Healthcare Design	



# MLA ELECTIVES

Course	Frequency
<b>ARCH 689</b> Active Living	
<b>ARTS 304</b> Graphic Design II	
<b>ARTS 311</b> Traditional Photography	
<b>ESSM 612</b> Rangeland Vegetation Management	
<b>HORT 609</b> Plants for Landscape Design II	
<b>HORT 689</b> Ornamental Grasses and related Taxa	
<b>LDEV 661</b> Development and the Environment	
<b>LDEV 667</b> Design and Development Economy	
<b>LDEV 671</b> Sustainable Development	
<b>PLAN 610</b> Structure and Function of Urban Settlements	
<b>PLAN 612</b> Transportation in City Planning	<b>Annual</b>

# MLA ELECTIVES

Course	Frequency
<b>PLAN 623</b> Planning in Developing Countries	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 624</b> Digital Communications	<b>Semester and Summer</b>
<b>PLAN 625</b> Geographic Information Systems in Landscape and Urban Planning	
<b>PLAN 626</b> Advanced Geographic Information Systems	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 627</b> Intro to Urban and Regional Economic Development	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 629</b> Neighborhood Revitalization	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 634</b> Environmental Health Policy and Planning	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 641</b> Problems of Environmental Administration	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 642</b> Planning for Coastal Sustainability and Resiliency	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 647</b> Disaster Recovery and Hazard Mitigaion	<b>Annual</b>



# MLA ELECTIVES

Course	Frequency
<b>PLAN 650</b> Disaster Response Planning	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 656</b> Housing and Community Development	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 667</b> Site Planning	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 670</b> Urban Public Transportation Planning	<b>Every Other Year</b>
<b>PLAN 673</b> Design for Sustainable Transportation	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 678</b> Applied Transportation Studio	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 685</b> Directed Studies	<b>Annual</b>
<b>PLAN 689</b> Digital Communications	<b>Annual</b>
<b>URPN 361</b> Urban Issues	
<b>VIST 374</b> Designing for the Web	

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

The School of Architecture offers six graduate certificates. These certificates are formal awards granted by the school with approval of Texas A&M University and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

TAMU Engineering Quad, Designed by Aan Coleman & Associates



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Certificates consist of 12-15 credit hours of courses in a concentrated area. When a student meets all the requirements of the certificate, the credential will appear on their transcript. Students must be currently enrolled in a Texas A&M graduate degree program to be eligible for a certificate.

For more information about graduate certificates, please visit the School of Architecture's [Graduate Certificates](#) web page.





# THE MLA FINAL STUDY

The MLA program curriculum concludes with a year long Final Study where students apply design theories and create designs for real or theoretical projects. Students take on the role of a project manager and refine their skills in preparation for professional practice.

Cycle of Life, Cycle of Trees | Shu Sun

# THE MLA FINAL STUDY

## COMMITTEE SELECTION

An MLA Final Study Committee is a three-person committee comprised of a

- Committee Chair (LAND faculty member)
- Committee Member (LAND/LAUP faculty member)
- Committee Member (non-LAND faculty member)

In the spring of the advanced year, students enroll in LAND 681. This course leads students through the process of preparing for and selecting a Chair for their MLA Final Study. Faculty are invited into LAND 681 to discuss their background, interest and announce any possible Final Study projects. Students should consider which faculty they share similar interests, or who will be working on a project or research area that is of interest to the student.

A list of LAND faculty approved to serve as Committee Chairs can be found on the Graduate and Professional School [Graduate Faculty Committee](#) webpage.

## PROJECT SELECTION

The Texas A&M Master of Landscape Architecture program is a three-year degree program that is accredited by the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards under the auspices of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

# THE MLA FINAL STUDY

## FINAL STUDY REQUIREMENTS

Once a Final Study project has been determined, students will submit a project proposal early in the Fall Semester for approval by their Committee Chair and MLA Coordinator. This proposal will then be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School (see Steps to a Masters Degree).

Not all MLA Final Study deliverables are the same, and students should work with their Committee Chair to develop a work plan and list of deliverables that will satisfy the requirements for their MLA final project. Common Final Study deliverables include, but are not limited to:

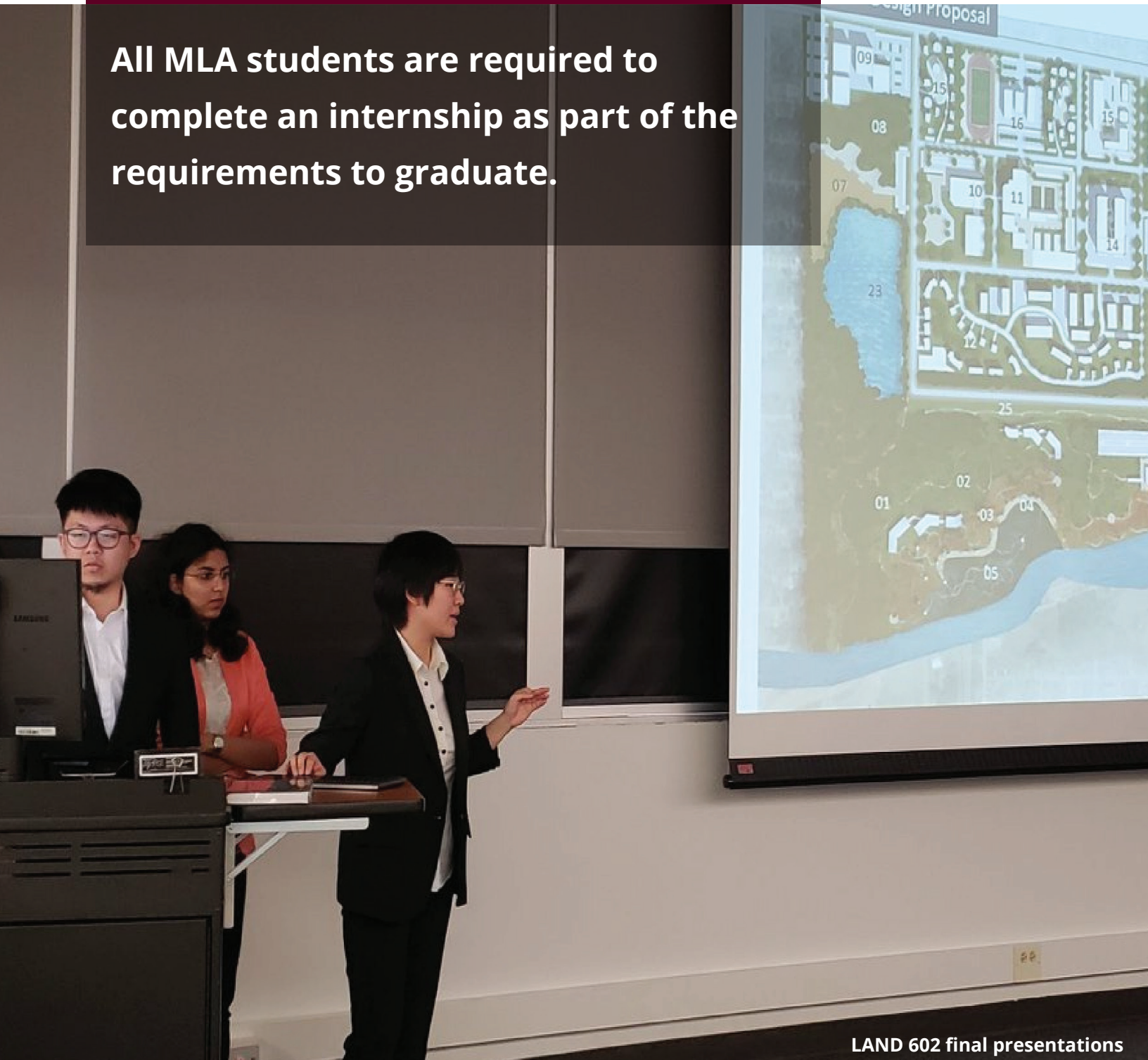
- Literature review and precedent study analysis
- Site inventory and analysis
- Market analysis
- Design program
- Schematic master plan
- Conceptual site design
- Implementation strategy
- Graphic representations

Students are required to meet with their Committee Chair on a weekly basis for the duration of their final project (Fall and Spring semesters). Full Committees typically meet twice in the fall semester and twice in the spring semester. The final full Committee meeting is the student's final defense. The final defense is when the full Faculty Committee will evaluate the efforts of the student's completed final project and determine whether the requirements have been met for the student to graduate.



# INTERNSHIPS

All MLA students are required to complete an internship as part of the requirements to graduate.



LAND 602 final presentations

# INTERNSHIPS

Internships that fulfill the MLA degree requirements must meet the following criteria:

- Literature review and precedent study analysis
- Site inventory and analysis
- Market analysis
- Design program
- Schematic master plan
- Conceptual site design
- Implementation strategy
- Graphic representations

Students may accept internships for any company or studio conducting business within the United States. Companies that typically offer landscape architecture internship positions include landscape architecture firms, interdisciplinary firms (engineering, architecture, etc.) and government entities (city planning departments, parks departments, state and federal environmental agencies, etc.)

Students prepare for interviews and the LAUP Career Fair in LAND 681. The Career Fair is an excellent time for students to connect with employers seeking landscape architecture interns. Students may approach firms that do not attend the Design Career Fair who offer positions that meet the internship requirements.

[ASLA JobLink](#) is another resource to search for ASLA affiliated firms offering internship positions.



# ADMISSIONS

In addition to the University graduate admission requirements, the Master of Landscape Architecture program has special admission requirements that applicants must be aware of to be considered for the program.



The Langford Architecture Center



# ADMISSIONS

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Internships that fulfill the MLA degree requirements must meet the following To be given first consideration for admission into the MLA program, please submit your application in the Texas A&M GradCAS portal by December 15. All applications received by December 15 will be reviewed for fall admission and be given full consideration for financial aid (including our recommendations for graduate assistantships and scholarships). The MLA program only admits students for entry in the Fall. Applications received after December 15 will be reviewed and considered for admission — however, considerations for financial aid may be limited. Formal review of applications by the review committee begins after January 15. LAUP accepts applications up through March 15. In some cases, late applications can be considered.

If you are a current Texas A&M undergraduate senior (of any major), you may consider applying to our program via the Aggie Priority application within the Texas A&M GradCAS application portal.

Applicants can expect a response letter from our department regarding a decision on their application sometime between late February and Mid-March. A separate offer letter will follow if financial aid is being offered. April 15 is our deadline for applicants to return offer letters to LAUP to indicate their intention to study landscape architecture at Texas A&M University.

# ADMISSIONS

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

In addition to the [university graduate admission requirements](#), the Master of Landscape Architecture program requires the following:

### Minimum Education

- A bachelor's degree is required for admission to the MLA program.
- A 3.0 undergraduate GPA (or equivalent) is minimum requirement.
- Admitted applicants who are still earning the prerequisite degree are admitted contingent on the completion of that degree. Applicants who do not meet this contingency must reapply after graduation.

### Résumé

- Résumés should include your employment history, educational record, publications, awards, and any community/volunteer experiences you may have. Additional information can include experience with software including AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, SketchUp, GIS, and other digital programs. Please upload your resume to the [Texas A&M GradCas System](#).

### Statement of Purpose

- Your statement of purpose should clearly demonstrate your interest in the Master of Landscape Architecture program. Statements of purpose are used to gauge whether an applicant will be a good fit in the program based on interests and prior experiences.

### References

- You must provide three letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your academic achievement and potential. If you have been out of school for a number of years and are unable to contact former professors, you may submit non-academic references (e.g., employers).



# ADMISSIONS

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

### Test Scores

- The MLA program does not require [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#) scores for admittance at this time.

### Portfolio

- The MLA portfolio should showcase recent, high-quality work, and will be judged on both content and overall design. Applicants without professional training may submit work that shows other evidence of creativity (studio art, construction/renovation, furniture design, etc.) and clearly demonstrates interest in landscape architecture. Any material that is not entirely the applicant's own work must be clearly identified.
- Upload a link to or a PDF copy of your portfolio in the application via the [Texas A&M GradCas System](#) (required).
- Applicants may also choose to submit a printed copy of their portfolio to the following address:

Master of Landscape Architecture  
Thena Morris  
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning  
Texas A&M University, Mail Stop 3137  
College Station, TX 77843-3137

# ADMISSIONS

## FAQ ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

### **If I do not have a background in landscape architecture, can I apply to the MLA program?**

Yes, our MLA program is a first-professional degree, which means an undergraduate degree from any allied field is good preparation for a career in landscape architecture and our MLA program (e.g. horticulture, arts, architecture, urban planning, geography, ecology, wildlife management, engineering).

### **Can I apply for entrance to the MLA program at any time of the year?**

No, the MLA curriculum is based upon the development of skills semester by semester. We only offer core courses once a year. The MLA program only allows a Fall semester entry.

### **Can I complete an MLA degree online or virtually?**

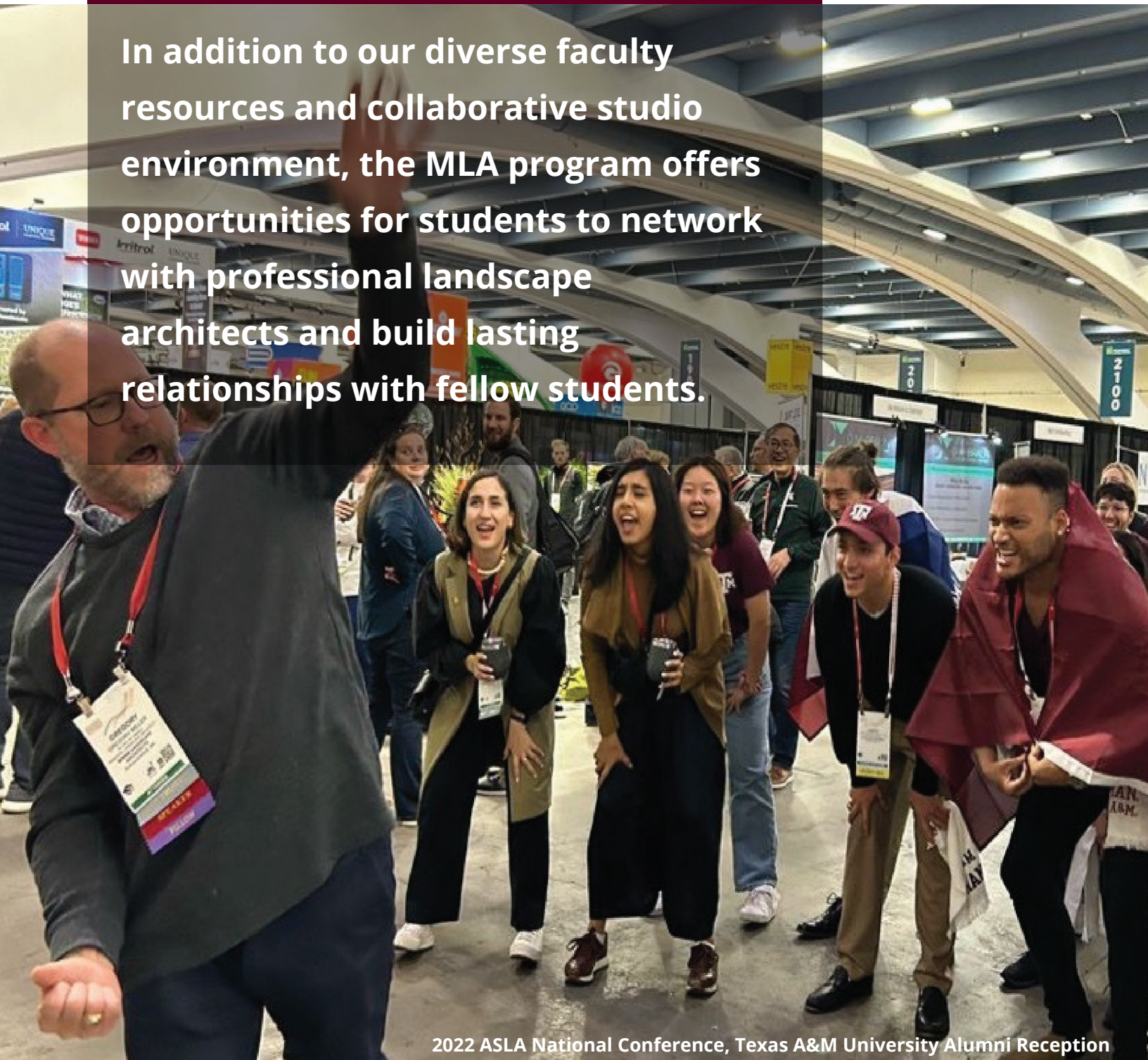
No, the development of skills and knowledge requires face-to-face contact with instructors and peers. Some online education within the courses and curriculum may be possible, as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the MLA program, please contact Bruce Dvorak, MLA Program Coordinator, at [bdvorak@arch.tamu.edu](mailto:bdvorak@arch.tamu.edu).

Questions about application requirements and process can be directed to [laupgradprograms@arch.tamu.edu](mailto:laupgradprograms@arch.tamu.edu).

# STUDENT LIFE

In addition to our diverse faculty resources and collaborative studio environment, the MLA program offers opportunities for students to network with professional landscape architects and build lasting relationships with fellow students.



2022 ASLA National Conference, Texas A&M University Alumni Reception



# AGGIE WORKSHOP

Aggie Workshop is an annual day-long event in the spring semester put on by undergraduate and graduate landscape architecture students. Industry professionals are invited to give talks about their work and industry trends and students participate in a design charrette in teams made up of fellow students and design professionals. Workshop has also included activities like sketch crawls, watercolor demos, and an end of day reception with snacks and drinks.

# CAREER FAIR

The Design Career Fair is a day-long event that takes place in the spring semester, usually the day before or after Aggie Workshop. Representatives from professional landscape architecture, engineering, and interdisciplinary firms travel to our campus to meet with students seeking summer internships, co-ops, and full-time positions. The morning of Career Fair, students are able to freely visit with firm representatives at their respective tables. Many firms make themselves available in the afternoon for onsite interviews with students. Students are strongly encouraged to prepare a professional quality portfolio and resume that showcases the best work they have completed in their MLA courses and in previous internships. As students should want to make the best first impression, business professional dress is strongly encouraged.



Current and former students meet at Career Fair 2011

# ASLA STUDENT CHAPTER

Texas A&M's ASLA Student Chapter is an affiliate of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Annual dues are required to become a student member. Student members attend monthly chapter meetings to discuss trends in landscape architecture, plan networking events, and hear from invited landscape architecture professionals. In addition to fun local events hosted by the chapter, students are encouraged to use their student ASLA membership to attend the National ASLA Conference, the Texas ASLA Conference, and LA Bash. These conferences and events are wonderful ways for students to interact and network with landscape architects in our region and from around the country.



2022-23 Texas A&M Student Chapter ASLA Student Officers



# PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning partners with a [Professional Advisory Board](#) (PAB) composed of industry professionals committed to reinforcing skills learned at the University and providing knowledge attained after working in the field through the Professional Mentorship Program.

The Mentorship Program is a voluntary, student-driven program students may participate in each year they are enrolled as an MLA student. Students have the opportunity to request a participating Mentor based on their personal research, interest in the Mentor's project types, geographical location, or similarities in culture. Mentors may provide advice to students about career paths and interest, provide feedback on portfolios and resumes, and offer guidance on developing soft skills such as initiative, responsivity, confidence, communication, and goal orientation. As a student-driven program, students should define goals that set a metric to measure the success of the mentorships. Goals may be short-term (i.e. portfolio reviews, office visits, etc.) or long-term (i.e. "I want to be a world leader in proactive efforts to mitigate and reverse climate change.").

Whether deciding where to focus your time within landscape architecture, or how to prepare for an upcoming job interview, PAB Mentors are ready to guide our students towards a successful career path.



**Professional Advisory Board Members mingle with students during Aggie Workshop 2023**



# FINANCIAL AID

We offer competitive scholarships for applicants based upon GPA, prior experiences, test scores, and a portfolio. All applicants to the MLA program who meet the application deadline are considered for competitive scholarships.

Many of our applicants receive from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in one or two-year scholarships which also secures in-state tuition. Top applicants compete for up to \$10,000 two-year scholarships.

We also offer two-year assistantships for up to two first-year MLA students which secures \$1,000 per month and in-state tuition. Applicants with U.S. military service experience may qualify for special housing provisions.



Image: forbes.com



# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The Office of IT maintains a list of recommended hardware specifications for each major in the School of Architecture. It is highly recommended that students purchase a laptop that meets these minimum specifications.



# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## MINIMUM HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

The Office of IT maintains a list of recommended hardware specifications for each major in the School of Architecture. It is highly recommended that students purchase a laptop that meets these minimum specifications:

- Intel i7 processor 9th generation or higher (This is the brain of the computer. The faster the speed, the faster it can process data/projects.)
- 16 – 32 GB of RAM or more (The RAM is the computer's "working" memory. RAM allows a computer to work with more information at the same time, which usually has a dramatic effect on total system performance. The more RAM a computer has, the more efficient it will be while running large programs such as AutoCAD for projects.)
- Minimum 512 GB storage (preferred 1 TB) Solid State Drive (SSD) or more (the more storage a computer has, the more projects, documents, etc. you can store. SSD storage will allow a computer to turn on and open projects significantly faster than traditional HDD storage but tends to be more expensive.)
- Graphics Card GTX 1650 or Quadro T1000 equivalent or better.
- Screen Resolution 1920 x 1080 or better (A higher resolution will allow projects to fit on the screen more effectively.)
- Webcams are strongly recommended, per the [University BYOD guidelines](#).

In addition to the computer requirements for all School of Architecture students, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning have additional required specifications for laptop computers to meet the needs of core courses:

- CPU: Intel i7/AMD Ryzen5 or better processor recommended
- RAM: 16GB minimum and 32GB recommended
- Graphics: Discrete (rather than integrated) graphic card capable of displaying resolutions at 1920×1080 recommended. If you wish to run Lumion from your laptop, we recommend a graphics card scoring at least a G3DMark of 10,000 or higher at least 6GB of memory. [Specs for Lumion based computers](#).



# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

MacOS laptops are **NOT recommended**. Many software packages used in the Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning industry are not compatible with the MacOS system.

Chromebooks and similar types of computers are **NOT suitable** for design purposes.

Laptops with small display screens may be difficult to navigate during classroom exercises.

## SOFTWARE

Software programs used can be accessed through the links below. Some programs are free for students through Texas A&M University.

### GENERAL LEARNING SOFTWARE

Software	Cost	Link
Microsoft 365 Products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams)	\$0	<a href="https://gateway.tamu.edu/office365/">https://gateway.tamu.edu/office365/</a>
Zoom	\$0	<a href="https://tamu.zoom.us/">https://tamu.zoom.us/</a>
Camtasia	\$18	<a href="https://software.tamu.edu/">https://software.tamu.edu/</a>

# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## DESIGN SOFTWARE

Software	Cost	Link
Autodesk Products (AutoCAD, Maya, Revit, etc.)	\$0	<a href="https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured">https://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/featured</a>
Land FX	\$0	<a href="https://www.landfx.com/kb/installation/item/553-land-fx-student-installation.html">https://www.landfx.com/kb/installation/item/553-land-fx-student-installation.html</a>
SketchUp	\$55/yr	<a href="https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing#for-higher-education">https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing#for-higher-education</a>
Adobe Creative Cloud	\$19/mo	<a href="https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html">https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/buy/students.html</a>
ArcGIS Pro	\$0	<a href="https://geosat.tamu.edu/service/support/faqs/configuring-arcgis-pro/">https://geosat.tamu.edu/service/support/faqs/configuring-arcgis-pro/</a>
ESRI Products (CityEngine)	\$100/yr	<a href="https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-for-student-use/buy">https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-for-student-use/buy</a>
Lumion	\$0	<a href="https://lumion.com/educational-licenses.html">https://lumion.com/educational-licenses.html</a>
Rhino	\$195	<a href="https://www.rhino3d.com/en/sales/north-america/United_States/">https://www.rhino3d.com/en/sales/north-america/United_States/</a>



# UNIVERSITY POLICIES

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”**

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

To meet this standard in the Master of Urban Planning courses and program requirements such as the master’s paper or thesis, all ideas (including text, data, or graphics) that are not your own must be properly cited. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the “Academic Integrity and Plagiarism” section on the TAMU Library website. Violations of university policies on academic integrity will be handled according to university guidelines. Depending on the severity of the infraction, sanctions for academic dishonesty include:

- A failing grade for the assignment
- A failing grade for the course
- Student dismissal from the program
- Student dismissal from the university

The Texas A&M Library offers a free online [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Quiz](#) to help students better understand the various forms of plagiarism.

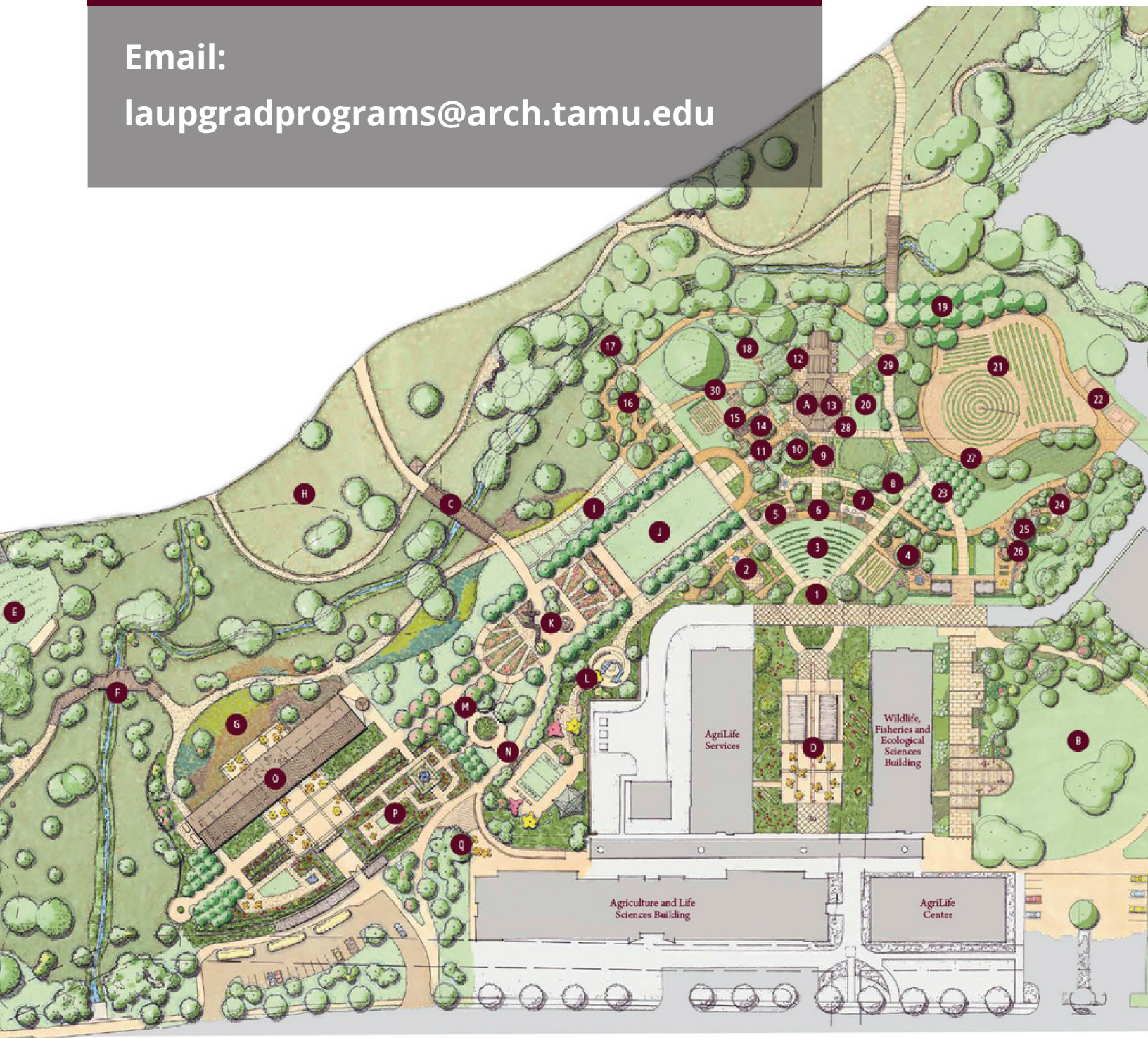
## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. You can learn more about accessibility or request an accommodation at <https://caps.tamu.edu/about/contact/accessibility/>.

# HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email:

[laupgradprograms@arch.tamu.edu](mailto:laupgradprograms@arch.tamu.edu)



The Leach Teaching Gardens Conceptual Master Plan by MLA Class of 2013