

Landscape Architecture

Main Contact:

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Background research:

What do they do?

The Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Maryland is dedicated to educating and training students in the artful design, wise planning, and careful stewardship of natural and built environments. As part of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, the program offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees that are accredited and meet the academic requirements for professional licensure.

Our client's primary project point of contact, Dr. David Myers, has taught at the University of Maryland since 1999 and is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. He has also recently been teaching construction and materials.

Who are their stakeholders?

University of Maryland undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff, alumni, landscape architect firms, and local communities.

What is their mission or business strategy?

They plan to:

- Develop eco-friendly landscapes that protect natural resources.
- Address climate change impacts through resilient design.
- Improve cityscapes with green infrastructure.
- Create livable, healthy communities through smart design.
- Prepare students for careers in landscape architecture.
- Offer hands-on experience through design studios and projects.
- Advance knowledge in sustainable agriculture and urban landscapes.
- Develop solutions for soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity.
- Partner with communities to improve public spaces.
- Inform policymakers on environmental and planning issues.

How does their problem or need fit into what they do?

Tracking the reach of projects and engagement through visualizations can help determine areas that require attention and areas that are meeting expectations. Tracking projects and their progress to stay organized and ensure projects are not stagnating.

Myers Bio:

I am interested in issues related to the application of landscape ecological principles to the built environment, particularly in suburban residential and the everyday landscapes. I am also interested in green infrastructure, compliance in forest easements, greenway planning and envisioning, and conservation design and planning. My teaching focuses on green infrastructure, GIS and greenway design and planning, landscape ethics and environmental and watershed planning. I have recently also been teaching construction and materials. I have taught at the University of Maryland since 1999 where I am currently Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. I previously served as Director of University of Maryland Landscape Architecture and MLA Program Chair from 2012 to 2017 and nine years as Director, Digital Studio. I have an interdisciplinary background with education and experience in landscape architecture, plant science, and biogeography with sustainable design and planning as the central focus of my research, teaching and practice. I have received funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust, National Park Service, National Capitol Park and Planning Commission: Montgomery County and Prince George's County and the Maryland Department of Environment. My service has been focused on ASLA, MDASLA and the University of Maryland.

Landscape Architecture Program:

Landscape architects are licensed professionals who analyze, plan, design, manage, and preserve the built and natural environments. The work we do has a significant impact on the health of our communities and our quality of life. Career tracks include:

Ecological Design - where you are trained to analyze degraded environmental conditions such as brownfields, strip mines and abandoned urban industrial sites, and restore them to high functioning terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Urban Design - where you examine civic environments and human activity and weave them together into a fabric of streets and open spaces, waterfronts and central parks, historically significant districts and communities with emerging identities, and neighborhoods that are socially equitable and economically viable.

Community Design - where you address issues of climate change, cultural resource preservation, urban agriculture, redevelopment of vacant properties, crime prevention through environmental design, and a wide range of planning and design activities that embrace the views of community residents.

Creative Design - where you engage in all forms of creativity, including earthworks, soundscapes, lighting design, metal fabricating, woodworking, stonework, sculpture, mosaics, murals, and more. Every object in the landscape has the potential for beauty when unlocked by a savvy designer.