
Foreword

Future Resilient Landscapes

As we move forward in the 21st century, the world is facing unprecedented global changes that require a new approach to landscape architecture. Resilience has become a crucial factor in designing and man-aging our landscapes in response to natural and man-made hazards, such as climate change, urbanization, and environmental degradation. Therefore, the theme of this issue of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture, “Future Resilient Landscapes”, is timely and relevant. The term “Resilient Landscape” refers to a landscape that can withstand and recover from shocks and stresses caused by various hazards, including extreme weather events, sea level rise, and biodiversity loss. Achieving resilience requires an integrated approach that considers ecological, social, and economic factors and leverages technology and innovation. This issue of the journal features a range of articles that showcase how digital tools and techniques can contribute to building resilient landscapes. The articles cover various topics related to resilience, including global change and hazard response, landscape and building information modeling, geodesign approaches, digital technologies, and related case studies. The use of UAV imagery and remote sensing in landscape architecture is explored in detail, along with the role of mobile devices, the internet-of-things, and ‘smart’ systems in landscape architecture. Algorithmic design and analysis of landscapes, visualization, animation, and mixed reality landscapes are also discussed. Finally, the issue examines the role of digital fabrication in landscape architecture and how to teach digital landscape architecture in academia and professional practice. In conclusion, this issue of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of research and practice in the field of resilient landscapes. We hope that the articles will inspire and inform landscape architects, planners, and researchers to adopt a more integrated, collaborative, and innovative approach to building a sustainable and resilient future. We thank all the authors, reviewers, and editors who have contributed to this issue and made it possible.

If you’ve managed to read this far, then we’re lucky. Didn’t you get the feeling that the lyrics seemed somehow interchangeable, terribly generic and oddly impersonal? Did you perhaps think something like “what in the world happened to this guy (the author), wasn’t he writing more reflectively and engagedly before”? Well, then you are spot on. The above part of the foreword was written by a chatbot, built on top of large language models, fine-tuned using both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques. Any simpleton can use this relatively new breed of AI technology to generate endless texts while leaning back and staring at the screen of their mobile phone themselves, following, for example, the latest news from the Norwegian Flat Earth Society. Or watching cat videos. Or consuming some other comparatively important thing. Great, isn’t it? Now, right now, we have arrived in the digital age. Not quite as exciting as we might have thought. Recently, when an exhilarated and nervous young interviewer asked the famous, now 95-year-old Noam Chomsky, whether software like ChatGPT would replace people’s language learning in the future, for example French, Chomsky twisted the corner of his mouth for a tenth of a second. Then he muttered something like, “Don’t worry about it too much”. Anything new is eyed anxiously until it goes out of fashion, becomes commonplace, and then is forgotten. Yes, AI will become big, but no, DALL-E and the other applications will not put the landscape architect out of work. Let’s be happy

and also a little proud that the DLA conference has been ploughing the field of digital landscape architecture for well over 20 years without getting obsolete or out of fashion. Such stamina is the only way to prevent flat hype and create what is called substantial progress. Progress is happening slowly but steadily, and each year a new tenuous layer of research and application is laid over the substance that has been worked out so far. Finally, back to the main theme of the conference. Creating or preserving resilient or even sustainable landscapes is a noble goal and an important task. We don't know anything with certainty, but we are rather sure that this task cannot be mastered without digital technology and methodology. Thank you all for working diligently on this expedient challenge.

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