

Acknowledgements

Special thanks goes to the Board of Editors, and to the members of the review board of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture.

The Board of Editors helps promote the quality and interests of the **Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture (JoDLA)**. This includes advising the editors on the policies of JoDLA and its future direction, and recruiting appropriate submissions.

An even larger group of experts in the areas of New Media and Landscape Architecture serve as peer reviewers for the journal. The contributions to the journal are the result of a two-phase blind peer review process. Sixty-two abstracts were initially submitted. The anonymous peer review process led to forty-one full papers being accepted for publication as peer-reviewed papers. Every paper accepted as a full paper for the journal publication was rigorously reviewed by at least two peers from the international panel of scholars. Selected authors were also invited speakers at the DLA Conference 2017, held at Anhalt University/Hochschule Anhalt, Germany.

The high standards of the reviewers assure that the papers in this special issue will advance the theory and application of digital methods in landscape architecture.

We sincerely hope that the reviewers listed below will also find time to help us in the future.

Albert, Christian – Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Attard, Maria – University of Malta, Malta

Buhmann, Erich – Anhalt University, Germany

Campagna, Michele – Università di Cagliari, Italy

Canfield, Tess – London, United Kingdom

Conrad, Max – Louisiana State University, United States

Diaz, Joaquin – Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, Germany

Döllner, Jürgen – Hasso-Plattner-Institut, Germany

Ervin, Stephen – Harvard University GSD, United States

Fricker, Pia – Aalto University, Finland

Gottwald, Sarah – Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Hehl-Lange, Sigrid – University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Kias, Ulrich – Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University, Germany

Kim, Mintai – Virginia Tech, United States

Kolbe, Thomas H. – Technische Universität München, Germany

Lammeren, Ron van – Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands

Lindhult, Mark – University of Massachusetts at Amherst, United States

Lovett, Andrew – University of East Anglia, United Kingdom

Mattos, Cristina – Esri Deutschland Group, Germany

Melsom, James – ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Mertens, Elke – Hochschule Neubrandenburg, Germany

Nieman, Thomas – University of Kentucky, United States

Orland, Brian – University of Georgia, United States

Ozdil, Taner R. – The University of Texas at Arlington, United States

Ozimek, Agnieszka – Cracow University of Technology, Poland

Paar, Philip, Laubwerk GmbH, Germany

Palmer, James – Scenic, United States

Pietsch, Matthias – Anhalt University, Germany

Roth, Michael – Nürtingen-Geislingen University, Germany

Schroth, Olaf – The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Schwarz-v.Raumer, Hans-Georg – University of Stuttgart, Germany

Seçkin, Yasin Çağatay – Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

Smith, Alison – University of Georgia, United States

Stemmer, Boris – Hochschule Ostwestfalen-Lippe, Germany

Stremke, Sven – Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands

Strobl, Josef – University of Salzburg, Austria

Tomlin, Dana – University of Pennsylvania, United States

Tutundzic, Andreja – University of Belgrade, Serbia

Vugule, Kristine – Latvia University of Agriculture, Latvia

Warren-Kretzschmar, Barty – Utah State University, United States

Wissen Hayek, Ulrike – ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Zeile, Peter – TU Kaiserslautern CPE, Germany

We would like to summarize the phases of the specific review process that we apply during the review for the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture. The forty reviewers from the different areas of IT in landscape architecture, as well as all the authors, used OpenConf, an efficient online conference management system. This year Prof. Joachim Kieferle from Hochschule Rhein-Main operated the management system. **We would like to offer Joachim Kieferle our great appreciation for his long-term commitment.**

In the first step of the blind-review process, five blind reviewers are asked to give an initial evaluation for each of the anonymous abstracts assigned to her/him and place it into one of six levels of evaluation. The average score derived from these evaluations and the written evaluations of the reviewers are the basis for accepting a paper for full paper submission.

In the second step, the blind review of the full papers, only two reviewers with in-depth knowledge of the subject matter are assigned per paper. These second reviewers are usually selected from the original group that evaluates each initial abstract, and they are asked to consider recommendations already made.

In the written suggestions, the reviewers are also asked to check for

- missing references to the literature, and
- irrelevant or mistaken assertions.

The reviewers are usually able to make several suggestions for improvement. All further accepted authors are given enough time to rework their full papers according to the recommendations of the two reviewers. In this second review phase, only very few authors of full papers are asked for a complete re-submission for a later issue.

Each author receives the comments of the reviewers and additional comments by the editors for revising the full paper. When necessary, papers are returned to authors for revision until accepted by both reviewers. In some cases, additional anonymous reviewers are also asked to comment.

Forty-one authors and co-authors received a final confirmation letter that their contribution would be published in the second issue of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture, 2-2017, Herbert Wichmann Verlag, VDE VERLAG GMBH, Berlin and Offenbach, Germany. We are pleased that thirty of the positively reviewed authors were able meet to the rigid deadline for submitting the full paper for publication.

We would like to give special thanks to all our colleagues who helped serve on the Review Board and by doing so further develop the level of scientific standards of peer-reviewed proceedings of this conference. We thank all of them for the extensive time spent in reviewing the abstracts and the papers for these proceedings.

The quality of the peer-reviewed papers benefits greatly from the extensive advice given in comments by the blind reviewers to the anonymous authors. We are very flattered by the academic support given by the reviewers of JoDLA.

We thank all 42 reviewers who helped with their recommendations during the two-phase review process and we compliment the authors for their SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE!

**The Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture Award 2017 for
HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMMITMENT IN THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:**
by the editors was given to

Prof. Dr. Brian Orland, University of Georgia and
James Melsom, ETH Zürich
Sarah Gottwald, Leibniz Universität Hannover and
Dr. Ulrike Wissen Hayek, ETH Zürich

A special recognition for guidance of authors, and in-depth review recommendations, is given again to Agnieszka Ozimek, Olaf Schroth, Peter Zeile and for the first time this year to Cristina Mattos and Andrew Lovett.

We are also pleased to announce those who received the highest rating score for their full paper contributions to the 2017-2 edition to the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture:

**The Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture award 2017 on
SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE** was given to

Benjamin George, Ole Sleipness, and Andrew Quebbeman
Utah State University, United States:

“Using Virtual Reality as a Design Input: Impacts on Collaboration in a University Design Studio Setting”

and

Zihao Zhang
University of Virginia, United States:

“Human Factors in Responsive Landscapes: Importance and Method”

and

James Palmer, Scenic Quality Associates, United States

Vincent Vanderheyden, Université de Liège, Belgium

Gisele Alves, Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom and

Georgia Sismani, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece:

“Best focal length for single-frame visual simulations”

and

Mintai Kim

Virginia Tech, United States:

“Teaching Coastal Resilience using Geodesign: Study of Virginia Beach”

They received the highest possible scores of the review process for full papers.
Congratulations!

Jeanne Colgan was responsible for English language proofreading for this year’s JoDLA. Markus Franke checked and improved all the layouts. The team was also supported by Anna Greunig and Luis Janßen.

Our great thanks go to Anhalt University for having supported the international conference series Digital Landscape Architecture DLA, the peer-reviewed proceedings and now the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture JoDLA for over 17 years. Special thanks go to the president of Anhalt University Prof. Dr. Jörg Bagdahn, and to Dean Prof. Dr. Elena Kashanova. They provided the needed administrative support and the appropriate academic environment.