Making Beauty Sustainable
The Charles F. Gillette Forum
November 3, 4, 2016

Presented by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Supported in part by the Freas Foundation

In this forum we examine connections: how, by reconnecting urban populations to the places in which they live, work and play, landscape design can revive communities. We look at how plants form connections in nature, and how those communities can be replicated in designed spaces to form engaging, durable, and beautiful landscapes.

On Thursday evening, Julia Czerniak of Syracuse University discusses how the emerging processes of landscape urbanism is changing how cities view renewal, and Mary Lydecker of Hargreaves Associates shares how Hargreaves Associates, in collaboration with the City of Richmond, plans to revitalize one of the nation's most historically charged waterfronts.

On Friday, Czerniak and Lydecker are joined by Thomas Rainer, principal, Rhodeside and Harwell, and co-author of **Planting in a Post-Wild World**; and Margie Ruddick, of Margie Ruddick Landscape, author of **Wild by Desig**n. Be inspired by Rainer and Ruddick's perspectives on creating durable communities of plants within designed landscapes. Through case studies, Czerniak lays out the potential for public parks to serve as focuses of urban identity and as healing places for individuals and populations. Lydecker examines how Hargreaves Associates' process of creating landscapes that resonate with urban populations leads us to reexamine our own notions of how parks and public spaces can be an essential tool to rejuvenate city neighborhoods.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Grow there.

Professional development credit hours are indicated in green. All programs subject to change.

Agenda
Thursday, November 3
1.25 HSW credits, LACES (pending)

5:30 pm — Registration & gathering time with cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres

6:15 pm — Dinner

6:45 pm 1.0 — Introductions and acknowledgements

- **Two 30-minute presentations**
  - Julia Czerniak: Professor and Associate Dean, School of Architecture, Syracuse University; Principal, CLEAR, co-author (with George Hargreaves) of **Large Parks**
    Urban Parks: Trends and Possibilities
    Czerniak presents an overview of the relationship of urban parks to cities, with historic and contemporary examples, as well as some waterfronts. She surveys the various roles parks serve in cities as infrastructure, as pleasure, and as ecologies.
    ▪
  - Mary Lydecker, Senior Associate, Hargreaves Associates
    - *The Richmond Riverfront Plan: Connecting a Storied City to an Iconic Waterway*

7:45 - 8 pm .25 — Q & A
Moderator: Mark Olinger, Director, Department of Planning & Development Review, City of Richmond

8 pm — Adjourn

Agenda
Friday, November 4
5.5 HSW credits, LACES (pending)

9 am — Registration or check in, coffee, fruit and pastry

9:30 am — Welcome & introductions

9:35 am 1.0 — Julia Czerniak
Between Place & Process:
The Contemporary Nature of Urban Parks
Czerniak reviews the restorative aspects of urban landscapes, both socially and ecologically, reviewing examples from both shrinking cities and their challenges, such as Syracuse, NY, and Detroit, and growing ones like New York City and Los Angeles. These examples suggest a relationship between healing strategies and creating identity for the places they serve.

10:35 am — Break

10:45 am 1.0 — Mary Lydecker

Hargreaves Associates: Creating holistic systems to heal landscapes and neighborhoods

11:45 am – 1:15 pm Lunch, book signings
Introduction: Shane Tippett, Executive Director,
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

.5 *Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Master Plan: Jay Hugo, 3North*
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's newly adopted master plan reshapes the heart of the Garden for an envisioned future.

1:15 pm 1.0 Thomas Rainer
Designed Plant Communities
Plants fare better in designed plantings that replicate the communities that occur naturally in the landscape. Rainer discusses the principles behind his and Claudia West's approach in **Planting in a Post-Wild World**: that plants thrive in settings designed to mimic these communities, and that these contrived communities can be exciting and beautiful, as well as self-sustaining.

2:15 pm Break

2:30 pm 1.0 Margie Ruddick
Wild by Design
Margie Ruddick offers a set of principles for a more creative and intuitive approach outlined in her book, **Wild By Design**, that challenges the entrenched belief that natural processes cannot complement high-level landscape design. Ruddick explains the five fundamental strategies she employs, often in combination, to give life, beauty, and meaning to landscapes: Reinvention, Restoration, Conservation, Regeneration, and Expression, to craft a set of broader, more flexible strategies and practical examples that allow for the unexpected exuberance of nature to be a welcome part of our gardens, parks, backyards, and cities.

3:30 pm .5 Q & A and final discussion with speakers

4 pm Adjourn

Supported in part by the Freas Foundation

Speakers

Julia Czerniak is a Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University where she teaches architectural studios as well as seminars on landscape theory and criticism. Her work focuses on the physical and cultural potentials of urban landscapes. Recent projects advance landscape as a protagonist in the remaking of formerly urban cities. Czerniak's work as a designer is complemented by her work as educator and writer, which in all cases advances design as a way to enable new ways of seeing and being. **Large Parks** (Princeton Architectural Press, 2007) and **Case: Downsview Park Toronto** (Prestel and Harvard Design School, 2001) focus on contemporary design approaches to public parks and the relationship between landscape and cities. **Formerly Urban: Projecting Rust Belt Futures** (Princeton Architectural Press, 2013) examines potential futures for shrinking cities.

Mary Lydecker, Senior Associate, Hargreaves Associates
Lydecker has a particular interest in the adaptive potential of urban infrastructures and marginal open spaces. Her research on these topics has most recently been published in *The International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* and *Oecologia Australis* and presented at the Northeastern Transportation & Wildlife Conference and the International Federation of Landscape Architects' Americas Regional Conference. Her artwork explores personal and shared landscape experience, with a focus on the reconstruction and representation of found images, information and landscapes. This work includes gouache and graphite paintings, collages and installations and has been exhibited nationally.

Thomas Rainer, Principal, Rhodeside and Harwell, Washington, DC, and co-author of **Planting in a Post-Wild World.** Rainer is a horticultural futurist fascinated by the intersection of wild plants and human culture. A landscape architect by profession and a gardener by obsession, Rainer has worked on projects such as the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and The New York Botanical Garden, but is happiest puttering in his small garden in Washington, D.C. He is also an instructor in The George Washington University's Sustainable Landscape Architecture curriculum

In **Planting in a Post-Wild World**, Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, two leading voices in ecological landscape design, reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse.

Margie Ruddick, principal, Margie Ruddick Landscape, New York City, and author of **Wild by Design**. For over twenty years, Margie Ruddick has been recognized for her pioneering work in the landscape. Winner of the 2013 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award in landscape architecture, Margie has forged a design language that integrates ecology and culture. Her transformative design for New York's Queens Plaza has won awards for promoting a new idea of nature in the city, where storm water, wind, sun, and habitat merge within an urban infrastructure to create a more sustainable vision of urban life. The new waterfront at Stapleton, in New York City, brings the harbor and city together in a park with cove and tidal wetlands, catalyzing the revitalization of this historic Staten Island district.

Margie's international projects include the Shillim Institute and Retreat in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, India; she has remained with the project as a member of the Institute's board. She traveled to Chengdu, Sichuan, China in 1996 to lead a team designing the Living Water Park, the first ecological park in China, which cleans polluted river water biologically.

In **Wild by Design**, she shares insights for creating beautiful, healthy landscapes that reconnect people with larger natural systems.