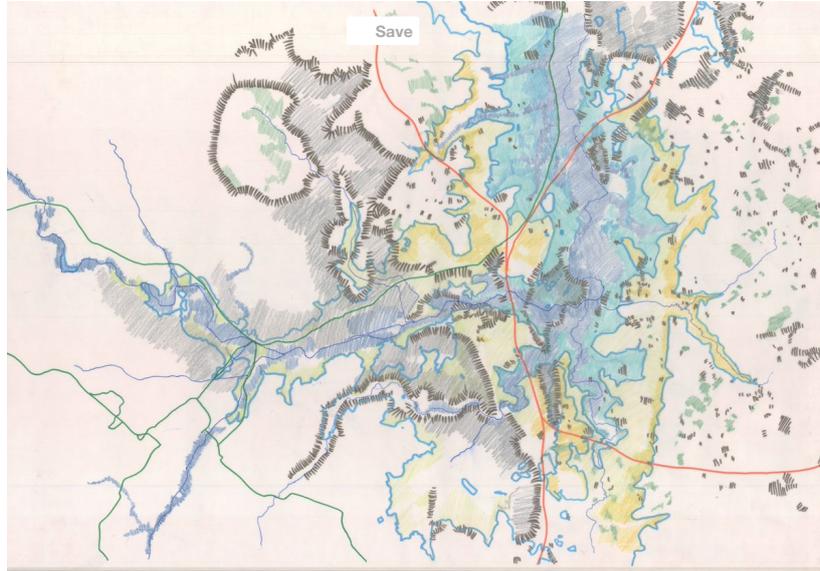


IFLA NEWS



Around the world, landscape architects are involved in city masterplanning, regional planning and infrastructural design, the development of economic strategies and many other kind of projects at a whole range of scales that have a profound impact on improving the quality of life for citizens and communities. Globally, landscape architecture with its interdisciplinary expertise is rapidly growing in status, as the benefits of employing landscape architects at the beginning of the planning and development process and the power of landscape to help achieve many of the UN 2030 Sustainability Goals is becoming too powerful to ignore. Here in the UK for example, we have an international conference on June 21/22nd June 2018 at Birmingham City University to discuss the social, economic and environmental implications of considering a landscape led approach for the delivery of infrastructure (book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/catid-conference-tickets-43471235636> and see <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/research/centres-of-excellence/catid/new-idea-of-landscape>)

Yet as president, my attention has been drawn to a situation that could have a tremendously negative impact on the landscape, culture and identity of many nations. Apparently, a few ministries are contemplating eliminating landscape architects from any role in planning and building legislation or ensuring that they no longer have a role in the processes of planning and construction regulated by law as certified professionals. In some places landscape architects aren't even able to sign certificates or have their own professional chamber.

I am not sure why this is happening. In fact in the circumstances it is quite extraordinary. From what I can gather it seems to be made on the basis that landscape architects are presumed to be part of "bio technic science" and therefore cannot be part of the planning and construction process. We all know however, that there are many, many landscape architects who, like me, have very little to do with any "bio technic science". At Beijing Forestry University, China in a recent international review of its educational provision and as part of a process to establish its future direction, it was clear that landscape architecture is one of the fastest growing professions in the country.

Within Europe, landscape, as defined by the European Landscape Convention, is about values, culture and identity, not just ecology and biodiversity. The value of Europe's natural capital in both rural and urban settings, is recognised with the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure, to ensure that the protection, restoration, creation

The financial argument is simple. When landscape architects are employed appropriately at the beginning of the planning process, development can achieve a far better return on the investment. But more significantly, properly supported by enlightened clients and systems, landscape architects can ensure the development of more sustainable and resilient towns and cities, urban realm, transport systems, parks, squares, agriculture, forestry, energy and water system solutions as well as creating a greater sense of place and community. All of this is vital for health, wealth and well-being of communities in every country.

It takes years of specialist education to qualify as a landscape architect. Such expertise cannot be gained as a subset of an engineering or architectural degree. Look at any town or city where this happens and the evidence is unfortunately clear to see. There is a growing trend in many countries to regulate the landscape architecture profession. I would urge governments and institutions around the world not let this process go to waste. More significantly, they must resist any proposal to diminish the role of landscape architects and invest in the discipline and practice. This is vitally important to enable the profession to flourish and play a truly foundational role in the future development of countries globally.

IFLA has long standing memoranda of agreement with professional organisations such as the International Union of Architects and ISOCARP to agree to support each other and to not undermine our respective professions – If you are facing problems in your country please contact the presidents of these international organisations to ask them to write to the relevant ministries to urge them to reconsider.

I look forward to seeing you all in Singapore.

Very best wishes

Professor Kathryn Moore President IFLA



12 June 2018

This IFLA News comes from IFLA President, Kathryn Moore

Notices from our members

- ILASA 2018 Conference, Landscape - Medium for connectivity, 13 -14 August, Drakensburg, South Africa. For more information see [here](#).
- The deadline for submissions to the IFLA Europe Young Professionals Design Competition is coming up on June 22nd. For more information see [here](#).

Other notices

- World Cities Summit 8 – 12 July 2018 in Singapore. For more information see [here](#).
- The Rosa Barba Prize deadline has been extended. You have until June 22nd to submit an entry. For more information see [here](#).
- There are four landscape architecture jobs on our website. For more information see [here](#).

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