

ANNE WHISTON SPIRN

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EDUCATION

Radcliffe College, Harvard University, A.B. 1969 cum laude
University of Pennsylvania, Art History Ph.D. program, 1969-1970
University of Pennsylvania, Master of Landscape Architecture, 1974

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

MIT: Cecil and Ida Green Distinguished Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, 2017-;
Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, Departments of Architecture and Urban
Studies and Planning, 2000-
University of Pennsylvania: Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, 1986-2000; Co-
Director, Urban Studies, 1996-2000; Chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture and
Regional Planning, 1986-1993
Harvard University: Director, Landscape Architecture Program, 1984-1986; Associate Professor, 1983-
1986; Assistant Professor, 1979-1983

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorary Member, Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, Alpha Iota Chapter, 2019
National Design Award, Design Mind, 2018
Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award, International Federation of Landscape Architects, 2018
Honorary Doctorate, Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala, 2010
Model Scholar, Urban Studies Program, Stanford University, 2010
Daring to Look: John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize, 2009; Great Place Book Award, 2009; PROSE
Book Award, American Association of Publishers, Honorable Mention, Art and Art History
Category, 2009; Art Book Award, Finalist, Association of Art Historians, 2009
The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design named one of the past century's "essential books
of planning," American Planning Association, 2009
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Fellowship, 2007-2008
International Cosmos Prize for "contributions to the harmonious coexistence of nature and humankind,"
2001
Harvard University: Fellow, Charles Warren Center for American History, 2004-2005; Noyes Fellow,
Bunting Institute, 1986; Bunting Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Independent Study, 1978-1979
Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC: Fellow, 1995-1996; Guest Scholar, 1994
University of California, Humanities Research Institute: Fellow, 1994
University of Sydney, Australia: Ethel Chettle Distinguished Fellow, 1988
American Society of Landscape Architects: ASLA Medal, 2020; Fellow, 2004; Honor Award for Marnas
Garden (www.marnasgarden.com), 2018; Honor Award for *Daring to Look*, 2011; Community
Service Award, 2004; President's Award of Excellence for *The Granite Garden*, 1984
White House Conference, Imagining America: Model Project, 1999
Philadelphia School District: Person of the Month, 1998
International Architecture Book Award, American Institute of Architects, 1996
Ozzie Award for Excellence in Design, 1989, for *Landscape Journal*
National Endowment for the Arts: Project Fellowship, 1990-1991, 1981

SELECTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Selection and Review Committees: U.S. General Services Administration, National Register of Peer Professionals, 1998-; Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1997; Fulbright Fellowships, 1995-1996; National Endowment for the Arts, 1991

Advisory Committees: Expo 2005, Aichi, International Advisory Committee, 2002-2005; Task Force on Site Character, Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House, 1993; Design Advisory Committee, U.S. Botanical Garden, 1992-1993

Awards Juries: U.S. General Services Administration Design Awards; EDRA Awards, ASLA Design Awards, ASLA Research and Publication Awards; Bruner Award; James Ritchie Award, Jury Chair; Minnesota State Capitol Design Competition; New Orleans Arboretum Design Competition; Hillside Housing Design Competition, Cincinnati

Boards of Directors: Boston Natural Areas Fund, 2000-2002; Fairmount Park Art Association, 1992-2002

Editorial Boards: *Landscape History*; *Landscape Journal*, 2003-; *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, 1984-1988, Chairman (86-88)

OECD, Paris: Chairman, Advisory Council, Territorial Development Service, 1995-1998; Panel of Experts, Program on The Ecological City, 1993; Chairman, Panel of Experts, Ministerial Conference on the Economic, Social, and Environmental Problems of Cities, 1992

City of Philadelphia: Art Commission, 1988-1990; Fine Arts Committee, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, 1988-1989; Mayor's Select Committee on Land Re-Use and Management, 1998-1999

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

West Philadelphia Landscape Project: Director, 1987- (see www.wplp.net)

City of Boston: Consultant on urban design strategies, 1984-1985; consultant to on reuse of vacant urban land, 1984-1985

Registered Landscape Architect: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, CLARB 1979

Firms: Wallace McHarg Roberts & Todd, Philadelphia, 1973-1977; Roy Mann Associates, Cambridge, 1977-1978

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design (Basic Books, 1984). Published in Japanese, 1996; in Portuguese, 1995. 1984 ASLA President's Award of Excellence.

The Language of Landscape (Yale University Press, 1998).

Daring to Look: Photographs and Notes from the Field by Dorothea Lange (University of Chicago Press, 2008). 2009 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize. 2009 Great Place Book Award. 2009 PROSE Book Award Honorable Mention, 2009 Art Book Award Finalist. 2011 ASLA Honor Award.

The Eye Is a Door: Landscape, Photography and the Art of Discovery (Wolf Tree Press, 2014). Original eBook.

The Buried River: Restoring Nature, Rebuilding Community. book-in-progress.

C.Th. Sørensen: Garden Artist, by Sven-Ingvar Andersson and Steen Høyer (Arkitektens Forlag, 2001). Introduction and Translation.

Selected Chapters in Books

- “The Nature of Mill Creek: Landscape Literacy and Design for Ecological Democracy.” In *Grounding Urban Natures*. Edited by Sverker Sörlin and Henrik Ernstson (MIT Press, 2019).
- “The Marnas Digital Archive: Practice, Theory and Place in Space and Time,” In *Routledge Companion to Landscape Architecture* (Routledge, 2018).
- “Helen and Newton Harrison: The Art of Inquiry, Manifestation, and Enactment.” In Helen and Newton Harrison, *The Time of the Force Majeure* (Prestel, 2016).
- “The Granite Garden: Where Do We Stand.” In *Nature and Cities: Urban Ecological Design and Planning* (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2016).
- “The Nature of Mill Creek: Landscape Literacy, and Design for Ecological Democracy.” In *Pragmatic Sustainability*. Edited by Steven Moore (Routledge, 2016).
- “Teaching Landscape Literacy: Historic Preservation and Community Knowledge” In *Bending the Future: Fifty Ideas for the Next Fifty Years of Historic Preservation*. Edited by Max Page and Marla R. Miller, (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016).
- “Restoring Water, Rebuilding Community, Empowering Youth.” In *Terrain of Water*. Edited by Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha (Applied Research and Design, 2014).
- “Restoring Mill Creek: Landscape Literacy, Environmental History, and City Planning and Design.” In *Nature’s Entrepot: Philadelphia’s Urban Sphere and Its Environmental Thresholds*. Edited by Brian Black and Michael Chiarappa (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012).
- “Ecological Urbanism.” In *Routledge Companion to Urban Design*. Edited by Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris (Routledge, 2011).
- “One with Nature”: Landscape, Language, Empathy, and Imagination.” In *Landscape Theory*. Edited by Rachel DeLue and James Elkins. (Routledge, 2008).
- “Urban Ecosystems and Urban Planning.” In *Understanding Urban Ecosystems: A New Frontier for Science and Education*. Edited by Alan Berkowitz (Springer-Verlag, 2002).
- “The Authority of Nature: Conflict and Confusion in Landscape Architecture and Ecology.” In *Ecology and Design: Frameworks for Learning*. Edited by Kristina Hill and Bart Johnson (Island Press, 2001).
- “Ian McHarg, Landscape Architecture, and Environmentalism: Ideas and Methods in Context.” In *Environmentalism and Landscape Architecture*. Edited by Michel Conan (Dumbarton Oaks, 2000).
- “Rebuilding Urban Communities and Restoring Natural Environments.” In *Planning for the New Century*. Edited by Jonathon Barnett (Island Press, 2001).
- “Reclaiming Common Ground: Water, Neighborhoods, and Public Spaces.” In *The American Planning Tradition: Culture and Policy*. Edited by Robert Fishman (Woodrow Wilson Press and Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).
- “Carl Theodore Sorensen.” In *Scandinavia: Luoghi, figure, gesti di una civiltà del paesaggio*. Edited by Domenico Luciani and Luigi Latini (Edizioni Fondazioni Benetton Studi Recherche, 1998). In Italian.
- “Frank Lloyd Wright: Architect of Landscape.” In *Frank Lloyd Wright: Designs for an American Landscape, 1922-1932*. Edited by David De Lon (Abrams, 1996). American Institute of Architects International Architecture Book Award.
- “Constructing Nature: The Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted.” In *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. Edited by William Cronon (W.W. Norton, 1995).
- “Deep Structure: On Process, Form, and Design in the Urban Landscape.” In *City and Nature* (Odense University Press, 1993).
- “Urban Nature and Human Design: Renewing the Great Tradition.” In *Classic Readings in Urban Planning*. Edited by Jay M. Stein (McGraw-Hill, 1995).
- “Texts, Landscapes, and Life.” In *Sven-Ingvar Andersson* (Arkitektens Forlag, 1994).

Selected Articles

- “Marnas: A Journey Through Space, Time, and Ideas,” *Landskab* 100:1 (2019): 2-5.
- “The Problems and Potential of the Visual E-book: Call for an Alliance between Authors and Librarians,” *Art Documentation* 33 (fall 2014), 206-226. With Ann Baird Whiteside.
- “Digital Doorway: E-books Redesign the Flow between Images and Text,” *Architecture Boston* (June 2015), 48-51.
- “The Language of Landscape: Literacy, Identity, Poetry, and Power,” *Urban* (March 2013), 17-34. In Spanish. Revised version published in Chinese in *Chinese Landscape Architecture* 32:2 (2016), 5-11.
- “The Conquest of Arid America,” *Topos* 2007/59 (July). Reprinted in *Best of Topos*, 2008.
- “Restoring Mill Creek: Landscape Literacy, Environmental Justice, and City Planning and Design,” *Landscape Research* 30:5 (July 2005): 359-377. Reprinted in *Justice, Power, and the Political Landscape*. Edited by Kenneth Olwig and Don Mitchell. London: Routledge, 2009.
- “The City as a Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design,” *Illume* (Summer 2002). In Japanese.
- “Deep Structure: Über Entwicklung, Form und Gestaltung in der Stadtlandschaft,” *Praxis Geschichte* 11:4 (July 1997): 52-55.
- “Architecture and Landscape: Toward a Unified Vision.” *Landscape Architecture* (August 1990).
- “From Uluru to Cooper's Place: Patterns in the Cultural Landscape.” *Orion* (Spring 1990).
- “The Poetics of City and Nature: Toward a New Aesthetic for Urban Design.” *Landscape Journal* (Fall 1988), reprinted in *Places* 6:1 (Fall 1989): 82-93.
- “Landscape Planning and the City,” *Landscape and Urban Planning* 13 (1986), 433-441.
- “Urban Nature and Human Design: Renewing the Great Tradition,” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (Fall 1985).

Selected Monographs

- Publications of the West Philadelphia Landscape Project (Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania): *The West Philadelphia Landscape Plan: A Framework for Action*, 1991; *The West Philadelphia Digital Database: An Atlas and Guide*, 1996, with Robert Cheetham; *Models of Success: Landscape Improvement and Community Development*, 1991, with Daniel Marcucci; *Shaping the Block*, 1991, with Mark Campbell and Michele Pollio; *Vacant Land: A Resource for Reshaping Urban Neighborhoods*, 1991 and “*This Garden is a Town*,” 1990, with Michele Pollio.
- Nature, Form, and Meaning: Special Issue of Landscape Journal*. Editor, 1988. Ozzie Award for Excellence in Design.
- Research monographs (Harvard Graduate School of Design): *Air Quality at Street-Level: Strategies for Urban Design*, prepared for Boston Redevelopment Authority, 1986; *Plants for Passive Cooling*, 1981, with Adele Naude Santos.
- Professional reports (Wallace McHarg Roberts & Todd): *Environmental Resources of the Toronto Central Waterfront*, 1976, with Narendra Juneja; *Pardisan: An Environmental Park*, 1975, with Ian McHarg, Narendra Juneja, and W. Robinson Fisher; *Woodlands New Community: Guidelines for Site Planning*, 1973.

World-Wide Web Publications

- Anne Whiston Spirn (www.annewhistonspirn.com) 2008-
- The West Philadelphia Landscape Project* (www.wplp.net), 1996-, seven awards for design excellence and millions of visits from more than 90 countries.
- Marnas: A Journey Through Space, Time, and Ideas* (www.marnasgarden.com) 2017-
- Daring to Look* (www.daringtolook.com) 2008-
- The Eye Is a Door* (www.theeyeisadoor.com) 2012-

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

- Community Gardens and the City*: Keller Gallery, MIT, February 2018.
- The Eye Is a Door: Landscape Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn*: Smith College Museum of Art, January 31-August 31, 2014; University of Arkansas, fall 2014.
- Knowing Where to Stand*: MIT Museum, 2003-2004; Vassar College, 2004.
- Anne Whiston Spirn, Landscapes*: Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, Maine, 2002; Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, 2000.
- Looking at Landscape: Three Photographers* (with Alex MacLean and Camilo José Vergara): Harvard Museum of Natural History, 2006-2007; New York Hall of Science, 2007.
- Urban Insights* (group show): Kamloops Art Gallery, British Columbia, 2005. Exhibition catalogue edited by Jann Baily and Lon Dubinsky.

SELECTED DOCUMENTARIES AND INTERVIEWS

- National Public Radio, "Daring To Look," *Here and Now*, March 2009.
- National Public Radio, "Daring To Look," *All Things Considered*, July 2008
- Oregon Public Radio, "Memories of the Depression," September 2008
- Michigan Public Radio, "The Language of Landscape and the West Philadelphia Landscape Project," *Todd Mundt Show*, July 2000.
- Public Radio International, "The Language of Landscape," *Dialogue*, December 1999.
- National Public Radio, "Buried Rivers," *Radio Times*," August 1999.
- Wisconsin Public Radio, "The West Philadelphia Landscape Project and the Language of Landscape," *To the Best of Our Knowledge*, January 1999.
- Philadelphia School District Cable TV Station, 30-minute feature on my work at Sulzberger Middle School, aired daily throughout November 1998.
- Michigan Public Radio, "The West Philadelphia Landscape Project," March 1998.
- Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, "Frank Lloyd Wright," documentary film, 1998.
- Wisconsin Public Radio, "Constructing Nature: The Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted," *To the Best of Our Knowledge*, May 1997.
- Public Radio International, "The Granite Garden," *Dialogue*, January 16, 1995.
- National Public Radio, "The West Philadelphia Landscape Plan," *Living on Earth*, 1993.

SELECTED REVIEWS IN PRINT MEDIA

- Anne Raver, "Where the Water Was," *Landscape Architecture* 108:10 (October 2018): 122-139. Cover story on West Philadelphia Landscape Project.
- Deni Ruggeri, "The Eye Is a Door: Landscape, Photography, and the Art of Discovery." *Landscape Journal* 34:1 (2015): 101-104.
- Jonathon Raban. "American Pastoral." *New York Review of Books* 56:18 (November 19, 2009). Review of *Daring to Look*.
- Louis Masur. "The Big Empty: Dorothea Lange's Photographs and Reports from the Field." *Los Angeles Times*, May 25, 2008.
- Anne Hammond. "Faces from the Dust Bowl." *Times Education Supplement* (London), September 4, 2008.
- "Listen to the World: Anne Whiston Spirn." Profile and interview. *Landscape Architecture China* 6: 2009. In Chinese and English.
- 2001 International Cosmos Prize: Anne Whiston Spirn*. Osaka, Japan: Expo-90 Foundation, 2002. In Japanese and English.

- “The Mill Creek: West Philadelphia Students Uncover the Life of Their Urban Watershed.” *New Communities* (Winter 2002).
- “Urban Nature and City Design: Anne Whiston Spirn Talks with Kazuhiko Takeuchi.” *Science Journal Kagaku* 72:5 (May 2002), 518-529. In Japanese.
- “Building the Urban Landscape: Anne Whiston Spirn Talks with Hubert Murray.” *Architecture Boston*, Fall 2001, 43-47.
- Paul Bennett. “Landscape Organism: The West Philadelphia Landscape Project.” *Landscape Architecture* (March 2000): 66-71, 82.
- Keiko Takayama. “The West Philadelphia Landscape Project.” *Bio-City* 17 (November 1999): 57-67. In Japanese.
- Paul Bennett. “The Language of Landscape.” *Landscape Architecture* (May 1999).
- Glenn Campbell. “Learning Gets Real With Service.” *Philadelphia Daily News*, May 7, 1998.
- Ruth Knack. “Dig These Gardens.” *Planning* 60:7 (July 1994): 20-24.
- Thomas Hine. “Surroundings: A Long-Buried Creek in West Philadelphia.” *Philadelphia Sunday Inquirer*. November 15, 1992.
- William Thompson. “A Natural Legacy: Ian McHarg and His Followers.” *Planning* (Nov.1991).
- Anne Raver. “The New Crop.” *The New York Times Magazine: Home Design*. Oct.13, 1991.
- Steve Curwood. “Profile: Shaping the City to Nature's Laws.” *Boston Globe*, May 26, 1985.
- Mark Francis. “The Granite Garden.” *Journal of Architecture and Planning Research* (1985).
- Reuben Rainey. “The Granite Garden.” *Design Book Review* 6 (Winter 1985).
- Jon Lang. “The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design.” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 5 (Autumn 1985).
- Eugene Odum, “The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design.” *Landscape Journal* 3 (Fall 1984).
- Ralph A. Saunders. “The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design.” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 75 (March 1985).
- ASLA Awards Panel. *Landscape Architecture* 74:5 (1984).
- Fred Powledge. “The Greening of American Cities.” *Washington Post Book World*. April 1, 1984.
- Sam Hall Kaplan. “A Plan for Peaceful Urban Coexistence.” *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, February 25, 1984.
- Richard Bender. “Making the Metropolis Green.” *New York Times Book Review*, January 22, 1984.

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

International

Selected Keynote Lectures: International Federation of Landscape Architects; European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools; German Historical Institute, Conference on Urban Nature; Cosmos Prize Symposium on my work, Tokyo and Osaka; Japanese Institute of Landscape Architects, Tokyo; International Federation of Landscape Architects, Florence; International Conference on “Between Garden Art and Urban Planning,” Copenhagen; Canadian Society of Landscape Architects; European Council of Landscape Architects.

Selected Invited Lectures and Papers: Conference on Landscape in Theory, University of Nottingham; Symposium on Landscape Theory, Burren College of Art, Ireland; Doorenbos Lecture, The Hague; World Park Conference, Nagoya; Landscape of Urban Parks, Osaka; Ordering the Human-Built World, Berlin; The Ecological City, OECD; The Social, Economic, and Environmental Future of Cities, Paris; City and Nature, University of Odense; The Global Environment and the City, Osaka; City Planning Association, Tokyo; World Conference on Landscape Planning, Hannover; The Urban Landscape, Ljubljana; International Union of Architects/Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Sydney; Congress Mondiale des Cités-Unies, Montreal; Green Cities Conference, Liverpool.

Universities: SciencesPo, Paris; Architects' Association, London; Manchester University; University of Nottingham; Royal Danish Academy of Art; Danish Agricultural University; University of Copenhagen; Swedish Agricultural University; Helsinki Technical University; University of Aarhus; University of Sydney; University of New South Wales; Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; Technical University of Delft; Wageningen Agricultural University; Queens University, Belfast; University of Granada, Spain.

National

Keynote and Plenary Talks: Planners Network Conference, Minneapolis; International Association of Landscape Ecologists, Tempe; American Society of Landscape Architects Centennial Conference, Boston; Cary Conference, Institute of Ecosystem Studies; Conference on Environmental Quality for Public Officials, Cambridge; Society of Soil and Water Conservation Annual Meeting, Lexington; ACSA Teachers' Workshop, Cranbrook Academy of Art (conference chair); Conference on Ecology and Planning, University of California, Davis; Xeriscape, Sacramento; Urban Air Pollution, Colorado Springs; Leadership Meeting on Urban Ecology, Denver; Washington Society of Landscape Architects.

Invited Lectures and Papers: "Imaging Environment: Maps, Models, and Metaphors," Stanford University; Association for the Study of Literature and Environment; "Inventing for the Environment," Smithsonian Institute; "Human Valuation of the Environment," Princeton University; American Historical Association; "Crossing Boundaries," University of Oregon; American Society of Environmental History; "Nature and Ideology" Dumbarton Oaks; Chair, Panel on Environment and Cities, American Planning Association; Dumbarton Oaks Roundtable on Environmental Ethics; Public Art in America Conference; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, "Meanings of the City."

American Universities

Harvard University; Yale University; University of Chicago; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; University of Pennsylvania; University of Michigan; Stanford University; University of California-Berkeley; University of California-Los Angeles; University of California-Davis; Cal Poly-Pomona; University of Wisconsin; Cornell University; Arizona State University; University of Georgia; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; Parsons School of Design; Rhode Island School of Design; University of Miami; University of Virginia; University of New Mexico; Ohio State University; University of Washington; Washington University; University of Tennessee; SUNY-Buffalo; SUNY-Syracuse; University of Oregon; University of Massachusetts; Catholic University; University of Missouri-St. Louis; Vassar College; Smith College; Mount Holyoke College; Bowdoin College, Boston College Law School; Tulane University, University of Colorado; American University; Bryant University, University of Arkansas; University of Rhode Island.