



Founded in 1899, the American Society for Landscape Architects is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing 17,000 members in 48 professional chapters and 68 student chapters. The Society's mission is to lead, to educate, and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. Members of the Society use the "ASLA" suffix after their names to denote membership and their commitment to the highest ethical standards of the profession.

member growth by type

Member Type	2008	2007	2006	2005	Percentage +/- 08 v. 05
Full Member	10,474	10,757	10,008	9,733	+7.6%
Student	2,644	3,213	3,070	3,042	-13.1%
Associate	1,562	1,942	1,704	1,542	+1.3%
Affiliate	850	824	667	655	+29.8%
Full-Fellow	618	611	585	558	+10.8%
Student Affiliate	636	434	348	686	-7.3%
International	161	239	119	126	+27.8%
Corporate	182	208	188	161	+13.0%
Honorary (living)	109	97	91	83	+31.3%
Total	17,236	18,324	16,780	16,586	+14.3%

ASLA began with 11 founding members:

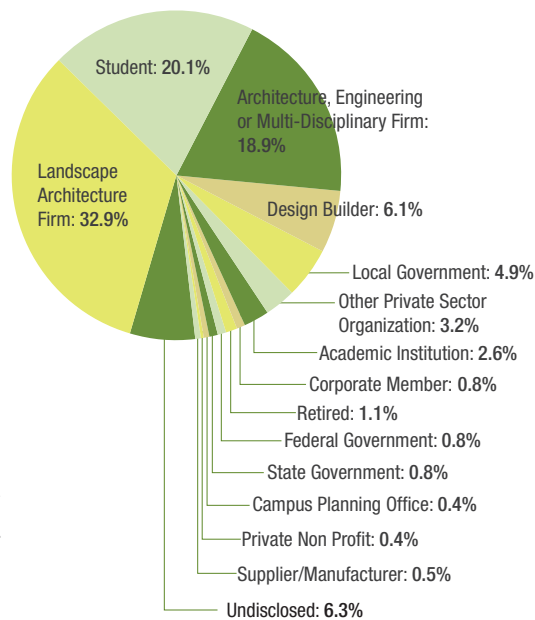
- Nathan Barrett
- John Charles Olmsted (the Society's first president)
- Beatrix Jones Farrand
- Samuel Parsons, Jr.
- Daniel W. Langton
- George F. Pentecost, Jr.
- Charles N. Lowrie
- Ossian Cole Simonds
- Warren H. Manning
- Downing Vaux (son of Calvert Vaux)
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

At year-end 2008, ASLA reported 17,236 members and 48 chapters representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 68 countries around the world.

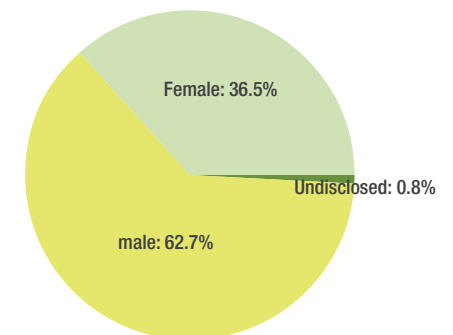
- There are about **30,000 landscape architects in the United States** (U.S. Department of Labor, 2006), including 11,092 Full or **Fellow ASLA members**; therefore, ASLA represents roughly 37 percent of the landscape architecture profession.
- More firms are becoming multi-disciplinary. Some 7,144 companies employ at least one active member: 6,992 in the U.S. and 152 outside of the U.S. For context, U.S. Census data for 2005 reports 6,505 landscape architecture firms.
- Approximately **15,000 landscape architects are licensed.**
- **Licensure is not a requirement** for membership in ASLA.

member demographics (as of November 15, 2008)

By Practice Type



By Gender



the profession

Landscape architects analyze, plan, design, manage, and nurture the natural and built environments.

Among the types of projects they produce are:

- Academic campuses
- Conservation
- Corporate and commercial
- Gardens and arboreta
- Historic preservation and restoration
- Hospitality and resorts
- Institutions
- Interior landscapes
- Land planning
- Landscape art
- Monuments
- Parks and recreation
- Reclamation
- Residential
- Security design
- Stormwater management
- Streetscapes and public spaces
- Therapeutic gardens
- Transportation corridors
- Urban design

Approximately **77 percent of the profession is in the private sector, 20 percent in the public sector, and 3 percent in academia.**

Average annual salary and bonuses for landscape architects total **\$85,100** (2008-09 National Salary and Business Indicators Survey).

Some 55.2 percent of respondents to the **2008-09 Business Indicators Survey** reported revenues in 2008 of less than \$1 million, while 32 percent indicated greater than \$1 million; 12 percent did not respond to the question.

Residential design is the largest market sector (approximately 32 percent of billing hours). Most of that work consists of single-family homes but also includes multi-family and retirement communities.

Three largest client groups, descending order:

- Developers
- Private-home owners
- Cities/municipalities.

For smaller firms (up to three employees):

- Private-home owners.

September 21, 2009
General Session,
ASLA Annual Meeting
& EXPO

“[Landscape architects’] history of environmental stewardship means you have much to offer builders, developers, architects, engineers, and others who are eager to compete in a growing green market... You are in a great position to help lead our nation’s transformation to a more sustainable society.”

Lisa Heinzerling
Associate Administrator

Environmental Protection
Agency’s Office of Policy,
Economics and Innovation

Green Since 1899

education

Landscape architects are **licensed in 49 states** (less Vermont and the District of Columbia).

There are two different types of licensure laws:

- States with **practice acts (45) require a license to practice landscape architecture.**
- States with title acts (**4**) **allow anyone to practice landscape architecture**, regardless of their qualifications, but **only those with a license may use the title “landscape architect” or advertise for “landscape architectural” services.**

Each state sets its own requirements for licensure, but **all require candidates to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination, or LARE.**

Sixty-three universities currently offer at least one program in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB.

There are two undergraduate professional degrees. These usually require four or five years of study in design, construction techniques, art, history, and natural and social sciences:

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)
- Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA).

There are two types of accredited graduate-degree programs:

- The three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) option is for persons who hold an undergraduate degree in a field **other than landscape architecture** and intend to become landscape architecture practitioners.
- A five or five-plus year Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is for persons who **do not have an undergraduate degree.**

Other, non-accredited programs are also offered, such as the MA/MS in Landscape Architecture **for persons who want to conduct research** in landscape architecture but do not seek to be registered professionals, programs by **schools that are candidates for accreditation, and certificate programs.**