

# ALISON B. HIRSCH

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## PRESENT

Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism, School of Architecture, University of Southern California, 2013-present

Co-founder+Partner, foreground design agency, 2011-present

## EDUCATION

Ph.D, Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, 2008

Master of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, 2011

Master of Historic Preservation (Cultural Landscape concentration), University of Pennsylvania, 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Art and Art History, Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT), 2000

## SELECT RECOGNITIONS

Rome Prize (FAAR), Prince Charitable Trust/Rolland Rome Prize, 2017-2018 (with Aroussiak Gabrielian)

Charles M Sappenfield Guest Lecture, Ball State University, 2017 (with Aroussiak Gabrielian/foreground)

Distinguished Panelist, Landscape Architecture Foundation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event (Philadelphia, PA), June 2016

J.H.Zumberge Research & Innovation Fund Grant [*Action Landscapes* book production] (\$21,200), 2014

Graham Foundation Publication Grant [*City Choreographer*] (\$7,500), 2013

David R. Coffin Publication Grant, Foundation for Landscape Studies [*City Choreographer*] (\$3,000), 2012

'Pruitt Igoe Now' International Ideas Competition Prize Winner, 2012 (with Aroussiak Gabrielian/foreground)

National Olmsted Scholar Finalist, Landscape Architecture Foundation, 2011

John Dixon Hunt Prize in History, Theory, Criticism, University of Pennsylvania, 2011

Internationale Gartenschau Hamburg 2013 Design Competition Finalist, 2010 (with Aroussiak Gabrielian)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dumbarton Oaks, July 2009

University Doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2005-2008

Will M. Melhorn Scholarship, First Prize, University of Pennsylvania, 2006

Faculty Award for Highest Academic Achievement, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, 2005

Ilona S. English Travel Award, 2005

Susan C. Coslett Travel Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2004

Keepers Preservation Education Fund Travel Fellowship, 2004

## **PUBLICATIONS** (\*peer-reviewed)

### **Books**

\*Alison B. Hirsch. *City Choreographer: Lawrence Halprin in Urban Renewal America*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2014. 335pp.

\*James Corner and Alison Hirsch, eds. *The Landscape Imagination: Collected Essays of James Corner, 1990-2010*. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 2014 (authored peer-reviewed Introduction). 367pp.

### **Book Chapters**

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Expanded 'Thick Description': The Landscape Architect as Critical Ethnographer," in Jonathon Anderson and Daniel Ortega, eds. *Innovations in Landscape Architecture*. UK: Routledge, 2016.

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Ritual Practice and Place Conflict: Negotiating a Contested Landscape along Jamaica Bay (NY)," in Vinayak Bharne, ed. *Global Perspectives on Heritage Conservation*. UK: Routledge, 2017 (forthcoming).

Alison B. Hirsch. "Take Part Workshops: A Participatory Experiment" (exhibition catalogue), in Giovanna Borasi, ed. *The Other Architect*. Montreal: Centre Canadien d'Architecture, 2015.

Alison B. Hirsch. "Jean Walton." *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*, vol. 3. Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 2017 (forthcoming).

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Introduction: Landscape Architecture in Theory, Method and Action," in James Corner and Alison Hirsch, eds. *The Landscape Imagination*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2014.

Alison B. Hirsch. "Imaging Change," in Anu Mathur and Dilip da Cunha, eds. *In the Terrain of Water*. New York, NY: Oro Press, 2014.

### **Articles**

\*Alison B. Hirsch, "Perpetuating L.A.'s Landscapes of Resistance." Submitted for peer-review to *Places* (January 2017). Forthcoming.

\*Alison B. Hirsch and Aroussiak Gabrielian. "Grounding Diaspora: negotiating between home and host." *Journal of Architectural Education* 70, n. 1 (March 2016): 115-129.

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Urban Barnraising: Activating Collective Ritual to Promote *Communitas*." *Landscape Journal* 34, n. 2 (Winter 2015/2016).

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "From 'Open Space' to 'Public Space' : Activist Landscape Architects of the 1960s." *Landscape Journal* 33, n. 2 (Winter 2014/2015).

Alison B. Hirsch, "The Collective Creativity of Anna and Lawrence Halprin," *GIA Reader (Grantmakers in the Arts)* 27, n. 2 (Summer 2016).

\*Aroussiak Gabrielian and Alison B. Hirsch. "Garden as Garment." *International Journal of Interior Architecture and Spatial Design* 2 (2013; "Corporeal Complexities"): 72-79.

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Facilitation and/or Manipulation? Lawrence Halprin and 'Taking Part.'" *Landscape Journal* 31, n. 1-2 (Winter 2012): 119-136.

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Scoring the Participatory City: Lawrence (& Anna) Halprin's Take Part Process." *Journal of Architectural Education* 64, n. 2 (March 2011): 127-140.

Alison B. Hirsch. "Esthetics as Preservation in the Urban Renewal Landscape." *CRM: Journal of Heritage Stewardship* 7, n. 2 (Summer 2010): 34-39.

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Lawrence Halprin: The Choreography of Gardens." *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* 27, n. 4 (October-December 2007): whole issue (pp. 258-355).

\*Alison B. Hirsch. "Lawrence Halprin's Public Spaces: Design, Experience and Recovery." *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* 26, n. 1 (January-March 2006): whole issue (pp. 1-97).

## **PUBLICATIONS-IN-PROGRESS**

Book-in-progress: *Action Landscapes: Design Practices for Civic and Embodied Performance*

Prospectus reviewed by MIT Press; partial manuscript invited for further review (in progress)

John H. Zumberge Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$21,200) for book development and production

Granted Graduate Research Asst (GRS) for book development, 2014-present

Book-in-progress on the activist practices of landscape architect Karl Linn

Significant archival research completed at the University of California, Berkeley's Environmental Design

Archives; chapters developing out of this research and articles already completed (see above)

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor, Master of Landscape Architecture Program, School of Architecture, University of Southern California, August 2013-present

Tenure-track faculty with associated responsibilities (teaching/research/service):

### **Courses:**

- ARCH 565: *Global Histories of Landscape Architecture* (foundational history/theory course – 2 lectures per week), 2013-present
- ARCH 545: *Contemporary History and Prospect* (contemporary theory course – 2 lectures per wk), 2014-present
- ARCH 542b: *The Geography of Civil Uprising: Designing the Public Realm in the Insurgent Spaces of the City* (design studio; 4<sup>th</sup> semester), 2014, 2015
- ARCH 541b: *Introduction to Landscape Architecture* (design studio; 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 3-year students), 2014
- *Hoover Gateway Triangle* (Spring 2015), course funded by Neighborhood Improvement Fund grant acquired by Council District #1 (Cedillo) to conduct community design process and generate design for Hoover Triangle in University Park (*to be constructed* by Spring 2016), 2015

### **Service:**

- "Landscape Architecture As Necessity" Conference Co-Chair (2014-2016; scheduled for 2016)
- Design Thesis committee chair (6 in AY 2013-2014; 4 in AY 2014-2015)
- Landscape Architecture Director Search Committee Member (2013-2014)
- Urban Spatial Ecology Tenure-Track Search Committee (2014-2015)
- J.H.Zumberge Research & Innovation Fund Grant Reviewing Committee (2014-2015, 2015-2016)
- Landscape Architecture Admissions Committee (2013-2014; 2014-2015, 2015-2016)
- Human Resources Committee (2014-2015); Lectures+Exhibition Committee (2013-2014); Admissions Committee (2015-2016)
- Parkside Arts & Humanities Residential College Master's Night Dinner lecture, Fall 2014

Visiting Assistant Professor, *Contested Territories: Geopolitics, Media + Design in Southern California*, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Spring 2014

Taught seminar to GSD MLA and M.Arch students studying in Los Angeles for the semester

Studio Coordinator + Design Critic, Elective studio: *Grounding diaspora: negotiating between home and host*, University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Urban Design, Fall 2012

Coordinated and co-taught a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year graduate design studio for students in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design; generating public space infrastructure for an ethnically diverse portion of Queens, NYC along Jamaica Bay

Visiting Assistant Professor, *Theories & Histories of Historic Preservation*, Pratt Institute, School of Architecture, Sustainable Planning and Development (PSPD), Fall 2012

Taught required history-theory course for historic preservation graduate students with a particular emphasis on Cultural Landscape preservation, planning and design

Lecturer, research seminars and required history-theory lecture courses, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, 2011-present

Fall 2011: *Landscape & the City* (lecture) and *Body-City* (design seminar); advised independent studies

Spring 2012: *Design-Activism: developing a participatory framework* (seminar) and co-taught *Theories of Modern Landscape Architecture* (lecture) with Elizabeth Meyer; Admissions Committee

Design Critic & Lecturer, foundational studios and research seminars, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Department of Landscape Architecture, 2008-2009

Taught first and fourth-semester foundation studios focused on public sites in Salem and Chelsea, MA and seminar (*The Bodied Environment*); on Admissions Committee

Lecturer, *History of Architecture, Landscape & Urban Form*, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Department of Architecture, 2006-2008

Created syllabus and conducted daily lectures for incoming graduate students in Architecture  
Focused on the relationship between architecture and its wider milieu

Assistant Instructor, *Theories of Landscape Architecture (I & II)*, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Department of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning, 2009-11

Conducted occasional lectures and led weekly discussions on readings and lectures

Teaching Assistant, *The Urban Situations of Architectural Order* (instructor: David Leatherbarrow), University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Department of Architecture, Spring 2008

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Co-chair (with USC Professor Kelly Shannon), *Landscape Architecture as Necessity* conference, University of Southern California, September 2016

*Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)* annual conference, March 2016, paper: "The Geography of Civil Unrest: Designing the Public Realm in the Insurgent Spaces of the City"

*Society for American City and Regional Planning History* national conference, November 2015, paper: "Building the Commons: Collective Labor for Community Development"

*Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)* annual conference, March 2014, papers: "Grounding Diaspora: negotiating between home and host" (with Aroussiak Gabrielian) and "Urban Barnraising: Activating Collective Ritual to Promote *Communitas*" (sole author)

*Society for American City and Regional Planning History* national conference, November 2011, paper: "Design Activism in the 1960s: Deploying Participatory Strategies to Preserve Public Life"

*In the Terrain of Water*, University of Pennsylvania, March 2011, presented paper on generative drawing techniques of Lawrence Halprin & Ian McHarg

*Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium*, Dumbarton Oaks, December 2010, paper: "Facilitation or Manipulation? Participatory Planning in the Urban Renewal City"

*The Preservationist's Eye*, J.M. Fitch Foundation, September 2009, paper: "Esthetics as Preservation in the Urban Renewal Landscape"

*Living Landscapes: International Conference On Performance, Landscape & Environment*, Aberystwyth University, June 2009, paper: "Scoring the Participatory City: Lawrence & Anna Halprin's Experiments in Environment"

*Society for American City and Regional Planning History* national conference, October 2007, paper: "The Impact of Lawrence & Anna Halprin's Community Workshops on Participatory Design"

*Urban Transformations/Shifting Identities*, Brown University Architecture Symposium, September 2007, paper: "Lawrence Halprin's Reactionary Urbanism: Reinstating Life into Urban Renewal America"

## **EXTERNAL ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Board of Advisors, "Sitting Still" (a NEA-funded film on the career of Laurie Olin by Gina Angelone)

Reviewer/Juror, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Carter Manny Award 2016

Peer-reviewer, *CRIOS: Critica degli ordinamenti spaziali*, 2017

Peer-reviewer, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) national conference, 2015

Peer-reviewer, *Planning Perspectives*, 2015-present

Peer-reviewer, *Journal of Architectural Education* (JAE), 2013-present

Peer-reviewer, *Landscape Journal*, 2015-present

Editorial board member, *International Journal of Interior Architecture and Spatial Design (ii Journal)*, 2014

## **SELECT INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS**

Charles M Sappenfield Guest Lecture, Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning, March 2017, presenting "Landscapes Real-and-Imagined" (with Aroussiak Gabrielian/foreground)

Invited Speaker, *Landscape Dialogues*, University of Pennsylvania, 2017

Remote panelist (could not travel, immediately after childbirth), "Then and Now: Lawrence Halprin's Portland Open Space Sequence," ASLA 2016 Annual Meeting and EXPO

Invited Speaker, Landscape Architecture Foundation 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event (Philadelphia, PA), June 2016 "The New Landscape Declaration: A Summit on Landscape Architecture and the Future"

Moderator, California Historical Society (Los Angeles), May 2016, panel discussion titled "LA Activism and Social Commentary in Architecture"

Invited Review Panelist, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Carter Manny Award 2016

Panelist, California Historical Society (San Francisco), February 2016, "The Continued Legacy of Lawrence and Anna Halprin in California and Beyond" (with Janice Ross, Professor, Stanford University; Charles Birnbaum, founder/president/CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation)

Lecturer, University of British Columbia, Belkin Art Gallery, March 2015, presenting "Landscape Avant-Gardes and the Participatory City" in symposium titled "Spatial Politics and the City"

Lecturer, Portland State University, School of Architecture, February 2015, presenting "City Choreography" in School of Architecture Annual Lecture Series

Lecturer, The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, December 2014, lecture and book launch (*City Choreographer*) to coincide with exhibition, "Experiments in Environment"

Speaker, The Los Angeles Seminary for Embodied and Civic Arts, July 2014, presented *City Choreographer* and my current research on "Ritual Practice, Landscape Process"

Speaker, USC/LA Times Festival of Books, April 2014, book signing and presentation of *City Choreographer*

Lecturer, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, January 2013, presented "Staging Urban Ritual"

Panelist, The Bridge, Progressive Arts Initiative, event part of AIA Architecture Week, Spring 2012, "Creative Community Planning" panel re: new models for community development

Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Fall 2011, presented "The High Line + the Public: From Stillness to Spectacle" to undergraduates in Architecture

Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Fall 2011, presented "Landscape, Choreography & the Participatory City"

Panelist, Charlottesville Community Design Center, Charlottesville, VA, Spring 2010, "Preserving Designed Landscapes – Theory & Practice" panel

Lecturer, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, Art & Art History Department, Spring 2009, presented "Body-Performance-Environment"

Lecturer, University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Spring 2009, *The history of regional planning as landscape ecology* course (instructors: Charles Waldheim & Alissa North)

Lecturer, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Fall 2008, presented "How to Score: Lawrence & Anna Halprin's Choreographic Process"

Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture Program, Fall 2008, presented "Taking Part in Charlottesville" to studio working on the Charlottesville Pedestrian Mall (instructor: Elizabeth Meyer)

Lecturer, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Cambridge, MA, Fall 2008, presented Heritage Park in Fort Worth as part of "Marvels of Modernism" advocacy events

Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Fall 2008, presented "Continuity & Connection: Design as Preservation(?)" to *Cultural Landscape Preservation* course (instructor: Randy Mason)

Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Fall 2007 & Fall 2008, presented my doctoral research to students & faculty

Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Fall 2006 & Fall 2007, presented to students in Research Methods course (instructor: Frank Matero)

Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Department of Landscape Architecture, Fall 2006 & Fall 2007, presented case studies to *Theories of Landscape Architecture* course (instructor: John Dixon Hunt)

## **SELECT INVITED STUDIO JURIES**

UCLA Architecture and Urban Design, invited critic for mid- and final-review of M.Arch studio, 2015 (instructor: Wonne Ickx)

The Ohio State University, critic for mid-reviews for thesis year MLA studio, 2015 (instructor: Katherine Bennett)

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, invited critic for mid- and final-review of M.Arch/MLA joint studio, March/May 2014 (instructors: Michael Maltzan and Mia Lehrer)

California State Polytechnic University (Pomona), College of Environmental Design, invited critic for mid-review of BLA urban design studio, February 2015 (instructor: Rennie Tang)

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Environmental Design, invited juror for MLA final reviews, December 2014 (instructors: Kristina Hill and Walter Hood)

Pratt Institute, B.Arch Thesis mid-review, March 2013 (instructor: Dragana Zoric) (also August 2014 final review)

Rhode Island School of Design, MLA first-year final review, Spring 2012 (instructor: Scheri Fultineer)

University of Pennsylvania & the Van Alen Institute, invited juror for charrette on "Parks for the People" student design competition (instructor: Randy Mason)

University of Virginia, School of Architecture, invited critic for various MLA/M.Arch & B.S. Arch. studio reviews, 2011-2012 (instructors: Elizabeth Meyer, Anselmo Canfora, etc)

University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, MLA first-year final review, Fall 2011 (instructors: Anu Mathur+Dilip da Cunha)

Columbia University, GSAPP, M.Arch final studio review, Summer 2011 (instructor: Kate Orff)

Parsons The New School for Design, M.Arch studio final review, Spring 2011 (instructor: Dilip da Cunha)

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, invited critic for various MLA and MAUD studio reviews, 2008-2009 (instructors: Martha Schwartz, Paula Meijerink, Felipe Correa, etc)

## **SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

foreground design agency, [www.foreground-da.com](http://www.foreground-da.com) (Queens, NY), 2011-present

Founder+Partner

Co-founded a transdisciplinary practice (architecture, landscape architecture, urbanism and the visual arts); producing competition proposals, conducting research and executing commissioned projects

Featured projects in CD: Dance Deck for Performing Arts Center, Catskills, NY (expected completion: Fall 2015); house+garden for an independent filmmaker, Beverly Hills, LA (expected completion: Fall 2015)

James Corner Field Operations (New York, NY), 2013

Landscape Designer/Researcher/Writer

Involved in research and writing for JCFO publications; marketing, project-based research and design

W Architecture and Landscape Architecture (New York, NY), 2012-2013

Landscape Designer

Involved in the design of public space projects particularly urban waterfronts, including the redevelopment of St. Patrick's Island in Calgary (Alberta, Canada); other projects include new entry plaza for SUNY Purchase; Roof Terrace for Prudential Tower (Newark, NJ); downtown public square in Calgary

#### **ARTICLES ABOUT DESIGN/RESEARCH** (\*peer-reviewed)

\*Allen, Michael R. and Nora Wendl. "After Pruitt-Igoe: An Urban Forest as an Evolving Temporal Landscape." *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes: An International Quarterly* 34, n. 1 (2014): 101-112.

Engel, Allison. "Architecture Author Landscapes a Legend." *USC News* (April 10, 2014).

Wendl, Nora. "Architecture and Fiction." (*Non-*) *Essential Knowledge for (New) Architecture*, 306090, 15, (2013): 216-227 (David Hayes ed).

\*Wendl, Nora. "Pruitt Igoe, Now." *Journal of Architectural Education* 67, n. 1 (March 2013): 106-117.

\*Wendl, Nora. "An Ecology of Absence: In Place of Pruitt Igoe." *New Constellations/New Ecologies*, Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Conference Proceedings (2013).

Singer, Dale. "Winning projects envision new life for Pruitt-Igoe site." *St. Louis Beacon* (June 25, 2012).

Engel, Allison. "Architects' dilemma on memorials: Forget and heal, or confront and grieve." *USC News* (September 9, 2013).

Ford, Jane. "Landscape Architecture Course on 'The Bodied Environment' Links Movement and Space." *UVA Today* (December 8, 2011).

"Earthly Dances (review of 'Lawrence Halprin: The Choreography of Gardens')." *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (January 2, 2008).

#### **SELECT EXHIBITIONS** (featured design work + curatorial work)

Firm (foreground) Exhibition, *Landscapes Real and Imagined*, Ball State University, Indianapolis, IN, March 2017

Exhibited, *What now, landscape architecture?* Exhibition in conjunction with *Landscape Dialogues* at the University of Pennsylvania, 2017

foreground design agency exhibit, "In-Passing: Migrations Across America," School of Architecture, University of Southern California, November-December 2014

Exhibited, *A New Utopia*, Marlboro Gallery, Largo, MD, 2013

Featured project: "Recipe Landscape: reinstating collective ritual" (foreground design agency)

Exhibited, *Pruitt Igoe and Other Architectural Fictions*, AIA Portland- Center for Architecture, 2012

Featured project: "Recipe Landscape: reinstating collective ritual" (foreground design agency)



Exhibited, *Pruitt-Igoe, Why This, Why Here?* Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University, 2012  
Featured project: "Recipe Landscape: reinstating collective ritual" (foreground design agency)

Exhibited, *Pruitt Igoe Now*, Old North St. Louis Restoration Gallery, 2012  
Featured project: "Recipe Landscape: reinstating collective ritual" (foreground design agency)

Exhibited, *The Greatest Grid*, Museum of the City of New York, 2012  
Featured project: "Transgressing the Grid" (foreground design agency)

Curatorial contributor, *In the Terrain of Water*, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2011

Exhibited, *Bienal Europea de Paisaje de Barcelona*, Barcelona, Spain, 2010  
Featured project: "Traversing Landscape"

Curator, *Lawrence Halprin: The Choreography of Gardens*, Kroiz Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, 2007-2008