

Pathways

A Quarterly Publication from Hays Landscape Architecture Studio, Ltd.

Winter08

**WHAT IS
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE?**
10 Easy to Remember Points!

Screaming Trees

*Save Trees & Money with
Proper Tree Trimming*

Grand Vue Park

**Hays LAS begins
phase one of this
unique aquatic center**

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Michael Mills,
Principal of Mills Group, LLC

*Walled English Garden designed by Landscape Architect Ellen Biddle
Shipman in 1929. Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, Akron, Ohio.
Photo by Gabe Hays.*



Project Spotlight: Grand Vue Park

Hays Landscape Architecture Studio has been working alongside the Marshall County Commission and Grand Vue Park on a new aquatic center in the heart of the Park located just outside of Moundsville, West Virginia.

The Phase One development concept includes a new entrance ramp, a 2,800 square foot pool with zero entry, outdoor patio and spray ground. The new facility will take the place of the existing pool and adjacent grounds and phase one Construction is anticipated to begin in 2009. The Park's goal is

to market the facility as a place for all age groups with focus on health and fitness. Hays L.A.S. stresses the importance of community identity and has included a series of rolling lawn mounds that reflect the area's unique history for construction development cost savings and design interest. Hays L.A.S. has assembled an exemplary team of Design Engineers and Architects to assist in developing all phases of the design. Family Fun Pools and Creative Design Innovations, Inc., of Louisville, Ohio, have assisted in site engineering and design for water parks around the globe. The Mills Group, LLC of Morgantown,

WV has continued their support in architectural concepts including the renovations of the two-story pool house and new pump building. The concept images in this article were built using Google SketchUp and have been instrumental in providing a visual aid to the client, those involved in the design, and as a future marketing opportunity.



The Path Ahead *by Gabe Hays*

Fall was a time for Landscape Architects to look to the future. During our American Society of Landscape Architects annual conference I gained valuable insight into how other small firms thrive, I learned about the latest cutting edge software, and I was inspired by the innovative storm water management techniques observed.

I also had the opportunity to present a talk on historic estates at the first annual Stan Hywet Symposium. This experience provided much inspiration for opportunities at historic estates that we work with such as Oglebay and Willow Glen.

These inspirations served as a foundation for our annual strategic planning retreat where our full-time staff (and Sarah!) comes together to plan our path ahead. The ASLA conference knowledge primed our engines as we addressed such topics as continued growth in a down market, refining our value statements, improving our technological offerings, and expanded continuing educational opportunities. We look forward to growth, ever improving service, and prosperity!!!

Wm. Gabriel Hays

What is Landscape Architecture?

What do you do during the winter months? Do you grow flowers? What is wrong with my Rhododendron? These are unfortunately some of the questions that landscape architects get asked. As proud landscape architects, we are often disappointed at our client's, our consultants, and even our family's lack of understanding of what is truly involved in the profession of landscape architecture. Whose fault is it? Ours. It is our responsibility to educate the public (and our families!) of what it is exactly that we do. So, here is the crux of our profession in a quick, easy to remember format of a top ten list!

1. We can design, plan and or collaborate for anything outside the walls of architecture. This includes, but is not limited to, streetscapes, historic sites, parks, recreation fields, resorts, roads & parking, bike trails, private gardens, public gardens arboreta, therapeutic gardens, urban plazas, zoos, campuses, scenic byways, new communities, revitalized communities, retail centers, corporate headquarters, churches, cemeteries, campgrounds, aquatic parks, amusement parks, playgrounds, sculptures, memorials, fountains, wetland restoration, reclamation, and conservation projects.

2. We lead, collaborate with, or sub-consult to engineers, urban planners, horticulturalists, architects, economics consultants, surveyors, and a host of other specialists.

3. We prepare site development construction drawings for all the above for contractor bidding and construction.

4. We design with materials such as earth, brick, stone, concrete, asphalt, steel, aluminum, copper, EPMD, PVC, wood, plastics, paints, geotextiles, fabrics, recycled items, and glass in addition to plants.

5. We create outdoor spaces, or "rooms" for human use in which we "Create Outdoor Experiences."

6. We are stewards of our natural environment.

7. We serve cities/municipalities, private developers, not-for-profits, architectural/engineering firms, and private homeowners as clients.

8. We advocate and lobby for more support of recreation, cultural landscapes, downtown revitalization, trails, environmental education, etc.

9. We volunteer and help build more vibrant, livable communities and continually educate ourselves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

10. And finally, we prepare well thought out, beautiful, landscape planting designs for all sizes and types of projects!

While some landscape architects will also run contracting businesses, the profession is purely focused on the design and planning of places for environmental and human environments.

Quotable Quotes

of the Quarter

1

"Every mile is two in winter."
- George Herbert

2

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."
- Rachel Carson

3

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit."
- Edward Abbey

4

"Chop your own wood, it will warm you twice."
- Henry Ford

5

"The world owes nothing to any man, but every man owes something to the world."
- Thomas Alva Edison

6

"A kind word can warm three winter months."
- Japanese proverb

The Green Corner by Phil Cole



The Screaming Trees

Ok, I've bit my lip long enough, so here it is...What is going on with trimming practices of our community's trees?! There might be more critical issues currently at hand with our region and nation, but this is an issue that is within reasonable control and can certainly have an impact on our local economic markets.

What were once highly valued shade trees that have added an endearing aesthetic to our communities and sheltered our streetscapes from the elements, have been recklessly and unjustifiably scaled down to totem poles. An improperly pruned tree can grow so sporadically that more drastic pruning is needed soon after. The same "tree experts" in their pick up trucks and chainsaws are hired yet again, and around and around we go, administering effortless buzz cuts. Not to mention that some of the more sensitive species of trees that are poorly maintained can become stressed and eventually die. In this case, it would be better to simply replace the tree!

Timing is crucial as well. Most varieties of Oaks should not be trimmed between April and October because of vulnerability to disease and flowering trees should be pruned a few weeks after they have finished blooming. Before performing any trimming on your own, it's a good idea to talk to a trained professional. My advice is to consult with an arborist, who is qualified under the National Arborist Association. There is more to proper tree pruning than one would think. Different tree species and situations require specific techniques. For more information on proper techniques, check out "Pruning Landscape Trees" by Penn State University College of Agricultural Science at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/uh099.pdf>

Client Testimonial:

"It has been my experience that in the practice of architecture if one is to serve their clients at the highest level possible it depends on bringing your "A" Team to the project. Hays Landscape Architecture Studio is part of my "A" Team. We have collaborated on residential projects, historic cultural landscapes, park master plans, entertainment venues, and commercial projects all with results that would not have been possible without their insightful talents as creative problem solvers. My ongoing relationship with Hays L.A.S. has extended beyond the ability to bring success to the project but also has yielded a true partner in business that can provide our current and future clients value added services that compliment our project work.

As Alexandria David-neel stated "Landscapes have a language of their own, expressing the soul of the things, lofty or humble, which constitute them, from the mighty peaks to the smallest of the tiny flowers hidden in the meadow's grass."

It has been our experience that Hays LAS has the ability to execute expressive planning and landscape designs that allow for memorable client experiences, to be shared with others."

-Michael Mills, Principal of Mills Group, LLC
Practicing architecture, planning and preservation
For more, please see: www.millsgroup.biz

Studio Fun!



"Let Freedom Ring"
Gabe & The Liberty Bell



"Sarah's Perfect Storm"
Andy, Mike, Sarah, Phil, Les



"Groupies"
John & Valerie (bottom)
Steve & Karen (top)



"Our Friends at Ecofest"
Wendy, Tim & Gus



"Our Friends at Ecofest"
Julie and Kellie

- Seven Springs Resort Spa, Champion, PA
- St. Paul's Cemetery Expansion Cremation Internment Gardens, Weirton, WV
- Brooke County Veteran's Memorial Park/Amphitheater, Brook Hills Park, WV (in conjunction with artist Dave Mega and Heritage Architectural Associates)

In the Works!

- University of Akron Exchange Street Parking Deck Expansion, Akron, OH (Creo Design, Inc.- Lead Architect)
- Marietta River Trail Phase III, Marietta, OH (Jobs Henderson & Assoc, Inc. – Lead Engineer)
- Grand Vue Park Aquatic Center and Pool ADA Ramp, Moundsville, WV
- Valley Hospice Memorial Garden, Wheeling, WV
- Historic Beverly West Virginia Streetscape Restoration
- Olney Friends School Phase One Campus Development, Barnesville, OH
- Several Wheeling, WV area residential landscape designs



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Ken's Korner

Have you ever reached a point in your life where you felt a career change was due? After spending nearly 30 years with various construction firms as an estimator and project manager through-out the area, I knew I wanted to change directions but remain in the construction industry.

Fortunately, an opportunity presented itself at the offices of Hays LAS. Gabe Hays felt he needed someone with experience to help, as his business began to grow, and decided I would fit those plans.

I've always been on the other side, trying to decipher what the architect meant when he put the drawings together. But, after two months here in St. Clairsville, I've learned it is not as easy as it seems to design a project and get it out for construction. A lot of discussions, meetings, brain storming, and gnashing of teeth is required.

The staff here is great to work with, both teaching me new skills, and listening to my suggestions for new ways to do things. It's a great team, and I'm very happy to be a part of that team.

Ken Blanton