

## Alexander A Robinson

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### E d u c a t i o n

#### **Harvard Graduate School of Design**

Master of Landscape Architecture, 2005

#### **Swarthmore College**

Bachelor of Arts; Major in Studio Arts. Concentration in Computer Science, 2000

### P r o f e s s i o n a l   A f f i l i a t i o n s

#### **Office of Outdoor Research**

Principal

*Firm is engaged in urban planning and landscape architecture design projects.*

Summer 2010 – ongoing, Los Angeles, CA

#### **SWA Group Los Angeles**

Associate

*Project Manager for most medium and large scale local projects. Technical advisor & designer for work involving advanced landscape systems and technologies. In house systems researcher and writer.*

Spring 2007 – Spring 2010, Los Angeles, CA

#### **Mia Lehrer & Associates**

Designer, Urban Infrastructures & Open Space Analysis

*Primary member of LA Revitalization Master Plan River and Compton Creek Garden Park Master Plan Teams.*

Fall 2005 – Spring 2007, Los Angeles, CA

#### **StoSS Landscape Urbanism & Harvard Center for Technology and the Environment**

Project manager for Tanner Street Initiative and Eco-Demonstration Garden

Summer 2004-2005, Boston, MA

#### **American Society of Landscape Architects**

Member

### A c a d e m i c   A f f i l i a t i o n s

#### **Landscape Morphologies Lab**

Director

*University-based research entity focused on developing the design methodologies necessary for high performance landscapes and infrastructures.*

2010 – ongoing, Los Angeles, CA

#### **University of Southern California School of Architecture**

Assistant Professor

2013 – ongoing, Los Angeles, CA

#### **University of Southern California School of Architecture**

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Masters of Landscape Architecture Degree Program

*542a Fractal Landscapes Studio, 2012*

*542b Los Angeles River Studio, 2012 (Funded by LA BOE)*

*542a Owens Lake Studio, 2010, 2011 (Funded by GBAPCD)*

*540I Topics in Media in Landscape Architecture: GeoDesign, 2011, 2012*

*535 Landscape Reclamation / Living Systems, 2009, 2010, 2011*

*542b Performative Morphologies Studio, 2011*

*Faculty Leader, Xi'an Horticultural Expo University Park, 2010*

*534 Landscape Technologies & Grading, 2009, 2010*

*DDR Chair and Committee Member, 2009-2012*

*Guest Lecturer for Numerous Classes*

*Spring 2008 – Spring 2013, Los Angeles, CA*

**Harvard Graduate School of Design**

Studio Teacher Assistant / Workshops on Advanced Representation Techniques

2003-2005

S e l e c t P u b l i c a t i o n s & E x h i b i t i o n s

**Living Systems: Innovative Materials and Technologies in Landscape Architecture**

Birkhauser Publishers

Co-authored with Liat Margolis, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

*Now printing English, Chinese, German and French editions*

*Recipient of Graham Foundation Grant for Research*

*Reviewed in Landscape Journal, DWELL, Metropolis, 'Scape, and others.*

*Released July 2007*

**Landscape Infrastructures**

Edited by Gerdo Aquino & Ying Yu Hung, Actar/Birkhauser

*Essay contributor, alongside Charles Waldheim and Julia Czerniak.*

*Released 2011*

**Owens Lake Studio Publications**

*Self-published books on the Owens Lake Studio, funded by GPAPCD.*

*2011, 2012*

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam: The Flood,**

Curator: Adriaan Geuze, Exhibition & Publication,

*May-June 2005*

**Studioworks, selected work**

Harvard Graduate School of Design

*Fall 2003*

S e l e c t L e c t u r e s

**2011 CELA Conference in Los Angeles**

Owens Lake, Infrastructural Omnibus, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

*March 2011*

**Center for Land Use and Interpretation**

Owens Lake Measurements Lecture, Landscape Futures Super Workshop

*January 2011*

**University of Texas at Austin**

Living Systems Lecture, Landscape Architecture Lecture Series

*March 2008*

**Knowlton School of Architecture, OSU**

Living Systems Lecture, Landscape Architecture Lecture Series

*November 2007*

**University of Pennsylvania**

Living Systems Lecture, Landscape Architecture Lecture Series

*October 2007*

**Harvard Graduate School of Design**

Lecture / Book Launch & Reception, Landscape Architecture Lecture Series

October 2007

Select Research Projects and Grants

**Advanced Design Tools for Reconciling Scales of Use and Perception in Large Scale Infrastructures**

Principal Investigator, collaboration with Andrew Atwood of Sci-Arc.

Grant from Lauren Bon and the Metabolic Studio Grant / Annenberg Foundation, \$150k. 2012-2013.

Grant from USC Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences. \$12.5k 2011-2012.

Grant from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. \$70k, pending legal.

*Project entails designing and building a custom landscape prototyping machine in order to improve the design of dust mitigation landscapes at the Owens Lake in Lone Pine, California. The prototyping machine hybridizes engineering physical modeling techniques, robotic technology, digital projection, and 3D scanning to create a new multi-sensory design platform for addressing the complex issues present on the lake. The machine is designed to create a common ground where designers, engineers, and the public can dynamically engage in the multiple concerns inherent to the lake.*

Landscape Morphologies Lab

2011-2013. Exhibition and Publication in 2013.

**Los Angeles River Bowtie Site Hydraulic Studies & Studio**

Grant from the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering.

Grant from the USC Architecture Guild.

*The BOE supported the development of design-centric hydraulic physical modeling environment with which to develop and analyze proposals for the Los Angeles River Bowtie Site. The site is the location of a project currently being developed by the Army Corp of Engineers and is intended to demonstrate the hydraulic viability of ambitious design proposals, while also developing an effective design methodology for approaching similar projects. In addition to supporting the construction of the physical model, the BOE is supporting a strategic exhibition of the multimedia work. This project is intended to expand into a project for the entire river.*

Landscape Morphologies Lab

Spring 2012-Ongoing.

**Landscape Architecture Foundation Research Fellow**

Case Studies Investigations Project

*Project seeks to develop and apply performance metrics to built landscape projects.*

Summer 2011.

**Owens Lake Studio**

Grants from Great Basic Air Pollution Control District

*Studio work on the lake reportedly made the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to "think outside the box" and hire landscape architects to work on the next phase of the project.*

Landscape Morphologies Lab

Fall 2010, Fall 2011.

**Patrick Curran Research Fellowship**

Contemporary Urban Heat Island Research & Countermeasures

*Project assessing the growing body of scientific research and practiced landscape countermeasures to urban heat island, global warming, and other urban environmental ills. Research included travel to Germany and attending conferences. Materials will inform future design, course development and upcoming publications.*

2009 - ongoing.

**Xi'an Horticultural Expo, University Park**

Faculty Leader for Design of USC University Park Parcel

*Student and faculty collaborative design and workshop for a parcel at the Horticultural Expo capitalizes on contemporary research into urban heat island countermeasures. The "Sky Garden" is now built*

2010-2011.

**Graham Foundation Grant for Research**

Living Systems Book Research and Development  
2006.

**People, Places, & Prosperity Student EPA Grant**

Member of multidisciplinary student team advised by Niall Kirkwood  
*EPA funded multidisciplinary research and outreach project on the efficacy civic storm-water interventions. Culminating presentation in Washington D.C.*  
Summer 2004-2005, Cambridge, MA/Lowell, MA

**Harvard Community Fellowship Grant: Tanner Street Initiative**

Center for Technology and the Environment & StoSS Landscape Urbanism  
*Grant awarded to research and implement new adaptive landscape strategies for a neighborhood impacted by the Silresim Superfund site in Lowell, MA.*  
Summer 2004. Cambridge, MA.

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam: The Flood**

Member of student team led by Niall Kirkwood  
*Presented a prototypical landscape/urban design for the Netherlands that addresses rising sea levels.*  
Spring 2005, Cambridge, MA.

**Green Infrastructures for Water in the City Symposium**

Harvard Graduate School of Design  
*Co-organized a day-long symposium featuring prominent speakers from across the country.*  
Spring 2005, Cambridge, MA

**Pennywhite Travel Grant Recipient: Contemporary Oasis in the West**

Harvard Graduate School of Design  
*Explored the changing relationship of people and wildlife with water in a variety of oasis-like conditions.*  
January 2004, California, Nevada, & Arizona

**Collaboration with Eco-Artist Jackie Brookner**

*Assisted Jackie Brookner with proposals for the MassMOCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams, MA) and the BigNothing art installation in Philadelphia, PA.*  
Philadelphia, PA & North Adams, MA. Summer 2003-2004

**Artist-in-Residence**

Swarthmore College  
*Organized the ad-hoc construction of a public park on a post-industrial site in North Philadelphia.*  
Summer 2002, Philadelphia, PA

A w a r d s

**AIA Los Angeles LA Next Merit Award**

Samsung Bromex Development Master Plan Competition  
SWA Group & DRD-Studio  
2009

**American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Analysis and Planning Award**

Los Angeles Revitalization Master Plan  
Mia Lehrer & Associates  
2008

**Southern California American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Merit Award**

Compton Creek Regional Garden Park  
Mia Lehrer & Associates  
2007

**American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Honor Award**

Alternative Futures for Tepotzotlan, Mexico  
Studio Instructor: Carl Steinitz  
2005

Select Professional Projects at OOR

**Reb Arena**, Bad Durkheim, Germany. RebArena translated from German to English is literally "Vine Arena", referencing the active agricultural landscape in which it is situated and the historical local ties to Roman wine-making. The RebArena applies agendas of access, perception, and program to mutate a winemaking landscape into an original yet contextual form and materiality. The resulting space can accommodate a variety of events and programs, but its primary function is to enhance the contemplation and appreciation of the unique spatial and material terroir of this viniculture landscape.

Select Professional Projects at Mia Lehrer & Associates

**Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan**, Los Angeles CA. The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan was a multi-million dollar multi-disciplinary and agency planning effort coordinated by the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering. The project spanned a year and a half and included extensive community participation, advanced hydrologic, economic, and urban analysis, and visionary, long-term, master planning. The final document includes recommendations ranging from agency structuring to specific designs guidelines and had laid the foundation for a series of ongoing improvements to the 51 mile long urban river. *Designer. GIS Open Space Analysis.*

**Compton Creek Garden Park Master Plan**, City of Compton. The Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan provides a visionary plan for the transformation of an urban creek into a vital community amenity, within a strategic focus on the difficult process of actual implementation. The plan presented focuses on a set of typologies and systems that are designed to be able to be implemented opportunistically and flexibly without compromising the ultimate integrity of the plan. The plan also employs innovative organization and advanced graphics to help fund-raising and grant writing. *Co-author.*

Select Professional Projects at SWA Group

**Anning River Master Plan**, Panzhuhua, South Miyi County, China. MIYI People's Government. In China the Anning River provides the City of Panzhuhua (elevation 1,200m) with over half of its electrical needs through the creation of 3 hydro electric dams within a 12 kilometer reach. Harnessing this renewable energy has resulted in a growing population and need for increased residential densities. SWA with Arup Engineers is currently working with the Panzhuhua/Miyi Government in the planning of a future 3 square kilometer area that can allow the City to grow while maintaining its rich agricultural heritage and its infrastructural identity. The proposal includes an interconnected network of linear parks aligned with existing gravity fed irrigation canals and mountain streams meant to strengthen ecological corridors and link pedestrians to contiguous boardwalks along the riverfront. Dense development provides the framework that can allow for the preservation and enhancement of native habitat and natural systems within the region. *Lead Designer, Hydrology Specialist.*

**Arabian Canal Detailed Master Plan**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Limitless LLC. Detailed Master Plan for Area 1 & 2 of the Arabian Canal project, a 50 km waterway cut inland from the Dubai coast. This phase is a refinement of the conceptual design for the first two communities that are to be built. *Designer.*

**Del Amo Boulevard Landscape Restoration**, Torrance, CA. Exxon Mobile. Through a series of simple interventions and natural systems technologies, SWA Group's design for the Del Amo Site transforms a polluted vacant lot into an enriched and sustainable natural history display. The product of extensive site and regional research and analysis, the design employs vernal pools, washes, and topography to serve multiple design goals,

including public safety, biodiversity, stormwater remediation, and community amenity. A series of street side seating areas and decks provide access and interpretation, while maintaining site safety and habitat viability. *Project Manager, Lead Designer.*

**Floyd Bennet Field Competition**, New York, NY, Van Allen Institute. Planning and Preservation invited designers worldwide to generate design proposals for the unique potential for the 358-acre Gateway National Recreation Area in New York. “Changing Scenery” is a framework for thinking about the trajectory of National Park Service (NPS) holdings. This framework places NPS Lands in a strategic position that straddles the line between the historic mission of scenery conservation and a set of proposals about landscape that faces global environmental issues head on. Critical emphasis on a new identity within NPS Lands incorporates landscape process, infrastructure and resource management into the memorable landscapes that are evolving today. *Designer.*

**Los Angeles Harbor College**, Wilmington, California. Steinberg Architects. LA Harbor is uniquely perched over a large lagoon in South LA, near the Long Beach Harbor. While bracketed by beautiful natural features, the college itself lacks a notable internal landscape identity. Recent building renovations have given the campus a rare opportunity to create a new signature landscape and bind the college’s many disparate elements. SWA’s landscape plan proposes a low maintenance central landscape that improves problematic drainage and air quality, while providing the campus much needed landscape structure and comfort features. *Project Manager, Lead Designer.*

**Los Angeles Valley College**, Los Angeles, California. Steinberg Architects. SWA is preparing a new Master Plan with Steinberg Associates of the verdant 100 acre City College Campus in the San Fernando Valley. Recognizing the college’s commitment to sustainable practices, innovation, and regional identity, the landscape plan creates a rich internal structure of sustainable landscape features that reconnect with the adjacent waterway. Through intensive analysis, client meetings, and design charrettes, the plan also focuses on strengthening the college’s unique identity, creating vibrant social nodes, and maintaining its large urban forest. *Project Manager, Lead Designer.*

**Samsung Bromex Master Plan Competition**, Seoul, Korea. City of Samsung. DRD-Studio, Los Angeles. The Bromex site, with its convenient connections to Seoul and Goyang and adjacent Chang-Reung River and mountains has a rich assortment of potential links to both ecology and industry. SWA’s landscape concept of the Plexus, achieves this rich set of connections and define the site’s identity and quality of life. The complexity of the parcel distribution and the opportunities for connections requires a robust and singular landscape framework. What differentiates the Plexus from other linkage systems is that it not only connects people to program, development, and nature, but that the connective tissue itself becomes the core open-space and identity of the project. *Lead Designer.*

**Sands Bethworks**, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. RTKL. Landscape design and master planning services for the 56-acre brownfield, adaptive re-use site that integrates the original Bethlehem Steel Corporation architecture with a new casino, hotel and mixed-use development. *Team Captain, Designer.*