• Paper / Proposal Title:

Fabricating the Landscape: speculation, experimentation, simulation, and implementation since Modernism

• Author(s) Name:

Timothy Baird

• University or Company Affiliation:

Cornell University

• Presentation Method. I would like to:

  i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):

American Modernist landscape architects were innovators in materiality, not only in their non-vegetal material choices and assemblies but also in the way they experimented with the making of pavements, walls, stairs, and objects. This foundation of experimentation and innovation emanated, at least for some, from the influence of French Modernists such as Robert Mallet-Stevens; his abstract pre-cast concrete trees in the 1925 exposition in Paris caught the eye of Fletcher Steele who in turn wrote about it in American journals which were eventually read by Dan Kiley and Garrett Eckbo, among others. This paper reviews the current emphasis on physical and digital making and simulation in the profession and the academy in order to trace the lineage of today’s methods back to the earlier approaches to making. From the pre-cast concrete tree stumps and limbs as fence posts and rails in Butte Chaumont to Eckbo’s Alcoa Garden to the use of foam milled machettes to houses created with 3D printed concrete, it is clear that making and
fabricating in landscape architecture has undergone a major transformation and will continue to evolve rapidly. Examples from both built work and student exercises will illustrate just how far the profession has come and the unlimited possibilities available through the application of new technologies.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

**Timothy Baird, ASLA, PLA** is a licensed landscape architect and Professor and Chair of the Landscape Architecture Department at Cornell University. He previously held tenure track positions at the Pennsylvania State University, where he is Professor Emeritus, and Texas Tech University where he taught design, design implementation, analog representation, and the history of landscape architecture beyond Modernism. Baird’s ongoing research focuses on two areas: material expression in the designed landscape since the Modern era and the influences that helped to shape the designer’s approach and palette, as well as environmental art and designed landscapes that were commissioned in land reclamation contexts. Before entering academia in a fulltime capacity, he practiced landscape architecture for 25 years on both coasts of the United States and in the Middle East with a variety of firms including Peter Walker and Partners, Hanna/Olin, Ltd., Hargreaves Associates, Collins DuTot Partnership, and Kuwaiti Engineers Office. During this time, he held part time or visiting teaching positions at Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Louisiana State University. Timothy Baird received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Louisiana State University and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania.