

MOBILE SESSIONS

Mobile Session #1

Nature Play and Learning Places

Session Leader: *Natural Learning Initiative (NLI)*

Visit four contrasting outdoor Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) spaces designed for children and families, both open access and controlled access. Included are: 1. *Kids Together Playground*, Cary, a family recreation space and research site, universally designed to integrate the living landscape with manufactured equipment; 2. *Beginning and Beyond Child Development Center*, Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE), serving the vulnerable, underserved community east of downtown Raleigh, part of Preventing Obesity by Design (POD) program focused on OLE gardening and physical activity; 3. *First Environments Early Learning Center*, Research Triangle Park (RTP), a large facility, serving employees of EPA and NIEHS, substantial

fruit and vegetable gardening, and adaptive use of remnant woodland; 4. *The Enrichment Center*, BHFS child development center, serving diverse employees of RTP high-tech industry, with recently renovated OLE; 5. Time permitting, BHFS RTP Child Development Center, pre-NLI original OLE model and research site. After 20 years of maturation, a useful prompt for landscape management discussion. Session participants will receive a packet of background information on these and other NLI regional sites. Since its founding in 2000, NLI has offered evidence-based design assistance and professional development services to organizations, institutions, and design firms across North Carolina and beyond.

Mobile Session #2

Collaborate and Transform

Session Leader: *North Carolina State University Office of the University Architect*

NC State University, a land-grant institution, was founded in 1887 and is the largest university in the 17-campus University of North Carolina system with over 34,000 students and 8,800 faculty and staff. This presentation will introduce NC State and illustrate campus transformations over time. NC State experienced the most dramatic transformation of the physical campus from 2001 to pres-

ent, more so than any other similar time-period in the history of campus. The presentation will review the importance the physical master plan played during this period of significant change and the strengthening of *A Campus of Neighborhoods and Paths*. Tour highlights include Hunt Library and Talley Student Union.

Mobile Session #3

Designing Spaces of Attention: Lessons in Communication and Materiality from the North Carolina Museum of Art Park

Session Leaders: *Ken Zagacki, Ph.D., Victoria Gallagher, Ph.D. and Larissa Carneiro*

Drawing on their co-authored article, *Rhetoric and Materiality at the North Carolina Museum of Art*, Dr. Ken Zagacki, Dr. Victoria Gallagher, and Larissa Carneiro, will lead a tour of, and discussion about, the sculpture park at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Zagacki and Gallagher are professors of communication in the Department of Communication at NC State and Carneiro is a doctoral candidate in the Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media doctoral program at NC State. Their on-site visit will focus on the extent to which the park creates “spaces of attention” wherein visitors are invited to experience the landscape around them as a series of enactments that identify the inside/outside components of sub/urban existence, as well as the regenerative/transformational possibilities of such existence. The on-site visit to

this creative, thought-provoking park is especially relevant in view of 1) the conference theme, with its focus on “Innovation: Shifting Ground,” and 2) the status of the city of Raleigh itself, where urban planners, politicians, citizens and all those interested in making Raleigh a more livable, “communicative” city will need to consider such spaces as a way of meeting Raleigh’s explosive growth and the dramatic social, economic and environmental changes it entails. Drawing on their work examining additional public parks, including Hart Plaza in Detroit, and Millennium Park in Chicago, the presenters will help participants identify how public spaces can highlight rather than cover over the tensions between like and unlike, nature and constructed environments, past and present, present and future, safety and risk, and strong and weak communal ties.

Mobile Session #4

Shifting Ground and Swinging Nets: Play Affordances of Tree Canopy Architecture

Session Leader: *Amy Frisz-Conlon*

At a time when the tree canopy in Durham, North Carolina is under stress, museum professionals at the Museum of Life and Science, in partnership with design consultants, developed a unique exhibit “Hideaway Woods” which features architectural structures in the natural tree canopy. The

series of soaring steps, ladders, and perforated swinging rope bridges that link highly elevated hierarchical platforms anchored to huge trees situated in the natural landscape inspire play, discovery and challenge for all users. Built into the design process is inclusion of people of all abilities – in the

treehouses and throughout the playscape. Hideaway Woods also features a series of treehouses low to the ground for very early learners, as well as other large play elements including a stream and

sensory ramble. This mobile session will include a local site tour of Hideaway Woods by Museum exhibit designers, and discussion of various design decisions and examples of visitor-environment interactions.

Mobile Session #5

Public Infrastructure Walking Tour of Downtown Raleigh

Session Leader: *City of Raleigh Urban Design Center*

Walking tour of Downtown Raleigh and the Warehouse District covering recent and ongoing public infrastructure improvements including Fayetteville Street, GoRaleigh Station, Moore Square, Nash Square, Raleigh Union Station (construction

site), and the West Street Extension project. Discussion to include funding, timeline, anecdotal return(s) on investment and areas of potential research partnership with the city.