Foreword

These proceedings document most of the peer-reviewed papers presented at the twelfth Digital Landscape Architecture (DLA) Conference. It was held jointly with the pan-European LE:NOTRE and ECLAS Summer School in Dessau and Bernburg, Germany, at the end of May, 2011. It also documents the papers given at the thirteenth DLA 2012 held both in Bernburg and Dessau 31 May – 2 June 2012. The summer school in 2011 focused on the theme “Landscape Architecture Education”, while the DLA conferences focused on teaching, practice and research issues in the world of “Digital Landscape Architecture” by way of keynote addresses, lectures, workshops, and meetings engaging an international audience. The two chapters on Teaching in these proceedings are also an outcome of the LE:NOTRE III emphasis on Education. As all authors of papers submitted in the year 2011 have updated their papers, we are able to label these proceedings “DLA 2012”.

When Anhalt University organized the first international conference on information technologies in landscape architecture thirteen years ago, computers had just started to replace drawing boards in landscape architecture practice. Today, landscape architects work digitally in all project phases, often in international and interdisciplinary settings. Responding to today’s international planning and design practice, as well as to the international cooperation in software development for landscape architecture, the tenth annual Digital Landscape Architecture DLA Conference in 2009 was held for the first time outside the Anhalt campus. Local responsibility for that conference was assumed by the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of Malta. The success of the first DLA held outside our home university may inspire other faculties to apply for hosting the conference for one year at their campus. In fact, we are pleased to announce that the DLA 2014 will be hosted by the teams of PLUS, Planning of Landscape and Urban Systems, Prof. Dr. Adrienne Grêt-Regamey and ILA Institute of Landscape Architecture, Prof. Christophe Girot of the ETH at the Science City Campus, Zurich-Hoenggerberg in Switzerland.

Relevant research and development involving information and communications technology for landscape architecture is only possible when research and teaching units at universities of different disciplines cooperate with each other and with the software industry as well. The DLA conferences provide an international platform for this exchange of research and teaching. We are honored that so great a spectrum of our profession has spent so many hours of effort to document today’s state of the art in digital work-flow practices, to share their own experiences, and to point out further needs for research and improvement.

A growing number of professionals are close to achieving a truly paperless digital work-flow; able to analyze, design, review, construct and submit documents in digital form. Individual landscape architects and firms are routinely working around the world as web-connected design teams; CAD, GIS, and imaging software on a laptop computer with ample memory and a fast internet connection are the only requirements. Beyond simply replacing analogue utilities, digital tools enable us to confront the challenges of exploding complexity in ‘geo-design’ projects by taking advantage of powerful new tools for both creativity and collaboration. Those of us still accustomed to sketching ideas with pencil and paper or making corrections on printed plans today watch in astonishment as even these operations
are accomplished by digital natives on hand-held tablet-computing devices using ‘gestural-
interfaces’, software ‘mash-ups’, and increasingly ‘crowd-sourced’ data …

One of the objectives of this conference series is to present these opportunities and
challenges and to anticipate future developments. As these proceedings document, the
digital landscape architecture work we can do today is outstanding. Exploring virtual
worlds with geospatial tools and techniques reveals forms of creativity that are at once both
new and familiar. Our challenge is to engage the best of each.

Please see our call for papers for the DLA 2013 on the last two pages. The 2013 focus will
be on “GeoDesign – Teaching and Case Studies of Integrated Geospatial Design and
Planning”. The conference Digital Landscape Architecture DLA 2014 will be focusing on:
“Landscape Architecture and Planning: Developing Digital Methods in GeoDesign”.

Every one of you can help define the focus of the next year’s conferences by contributing
their own papers and posters or by offering workshops. While giving a platform to the
evolving concept of Geodesign in Europe, we look forward to contributions in all areas of
digital landscape architecture research and applications.

Acknowledgments

Contributors to the DLA Conference
This conference is the thirteenth in a series of conferences headed by Scientific Director
Prof. Erich Buhmann at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. These conferences were
initially organized in cooperation with the keynote speakers and the LE:NOTRE
Information Technology working group. As documented in the closing chapters, a formal
DLA Program Committee has been established for the further scientific development of this
international conference series. Members of the DLA Program Committee will also serve as
local chairs for further DLA Conferences. More than fifty experts are working at the
moment on the DLA Review Board. At the General Assembly Meeting of the 2009 ECLAS
Conference, the LE:NOTRE Information Technology working group was additionally
established as the ECLAS Committee on Digital Technology. Future DLA conferences will
continue to focus on topics identified by ECLAS needs for improvements in teaching
digital methods.

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