Preface by the President of Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

On behalf of the editors, I am happy to present you this publication of Anhalt University. This year’s peer-reviewed proceedings combine the contributions to the 12th conference on Digital Landscape Architecture 2011, and the 13th conference DLA 2012. This issue also includes the papers given in workshops on “Teaching Landscape Architecture” held parallel during the LE:NOTRE Summer School at our Bernburg and Dessau campuses in May 2011. The Bernburg campus hosts our English language Master of Landscape Architecture Program and the German language Bachelor Program in Landscape Architecture, as well as the Bachelor and Master Programs in Nature Conservancy. The Dessau campus hosts the English language Master of Architecture Program DIA; the Master of Integrated Design, MAID; our German language Bachelor Programs in Architecture and Design; and the Bachelor and Master Programs in GeoInformation.

The series of conferences on Information Technology in Landscape Architecture is organized by Prof. Erich Buhmann. As well as being the Scientific Director of the Digital Landscape Architecture Conferences, Prof. Buhmann is also the Chair of the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS) Committee on Digital Technology. The conference series is also supported by the Vice President for Information Technology of Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Einar Kretzler, who heads the IT working group of the German Association of Landscape Architects (BDLA).

I would like to thank the editors of these proceedings Prof. Erich Buhmann, Dr. Stephan Ervin, and Matthias Pietsch for processing all the submitted papers and compiling them into sixty one peer-reviewed scientific publications totaling 608 pages. The editorial work shouldered by these colleagues and the international review board for this peer review process is equal to a total of ten months of editorial work over the period of two years. We also thank the academic partners within our university, as well as the ECLAS Digital Technology Committee and the thirty-two external reviewers who make this international annual scientific conference happen.

Thanks go to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG for the financial support within the program for „Internationale Wissenschaftliche Tagungen“ and special thanks to the sponsors from the software industry who have generously supported these conferences over the years.

We are very happy to have the honor of welcoming a number of new keynote speakers in both years. In 2011, Prof. Ralf Bill acted as opening speaker of the Digital Landscape Architecture Conference for the first time. Prof. Dr. Ralf Bill from the University of Rostock is the most published scientist in Geoinformation in Germany. We were very happy to welcome him together with another first time keynote, Dana Tomlin, the “Father of Raster GIS” from the University of Pennsylvania.

We rely on the continuing support of many outstanding scientists in the areas of geospatial planning and design. The long term and continuous support given by Prof. Carl Steinitz, Harvard University was honored when we awarded him the Honorary Senator Award of
Anhalt University in 2010. In 2012 we are happy to welcome “the Father of City GML” Prof. Dr. Thomas Kolbe, TU Berlin to the DLA conference series for the first time.

We see our annual conference on digital landscape architecture as part of the trend towards integration of geospatial disciplines, such as summarized by the industry with the catchphrase GeoDesign. We are very pleased to have some of the world leading GeoDesign developers presenting during the 2012 conference, and to present William R. Miller’s technical paper on GeoDesign in the closing chapter of these proceedings.

Anhalt University currently has over 7,900 students. With more than 24 percent international students, it continues to be one of the universities in Germany with the highest level of international enrollment. Holding this conference in the State of Saxony-Anhalt in Germany is a gesture to all the international collaborators working with Anhalt on the concept of worldwide training. The great number of international speakers indicates the level of international awareness the conference has developed. The conference series also serves as a conference of the ECLAS Committee Digital Technology and the IT working group of the European Network of Landscape Architecture Schools. This LE:NOTRE thematic network in landscape architecture already includes over one hundred universities in Europe and is cooperating with a number of selected schools outside of Europe.

In 2011 Anhalt University established the interdisciplinary KAT competence center of “Digital Planning and Designing” with the aim of fostering CAD and GIS research cooperation in the region. Numerous colleagues of several departments are cooperating in the area of applied information systems in regard to design and building. The annual conference of Digital Landscape Architecture complements this research cooperative.

International conferences open the window of the world for our students and researchers. Having positioned the international conference in Digital Landscape Architecture at our university fills us with pride. We have always given new technologies education a special emphasis. Therefore we are very happy about the numerous research collaborations with the software industry. This international conference will strengthen the existing contacts and will be the platform for new partnerships worldwide.

Finally, I do not want to miss this opportunity to thank Professor Buhmann for his strong personal commitment and for the work that he has done over the last 17 years in helping establish Landscape Architecture in Saxony-Anhalt, for which he has received national and international acknowledgment.

I wish the international group of landscape architects and environmental researchers an exciting and successful conference in Bernburg and Dessau. You are always welcome to return to our Bernburg and Dessau campuses. We extend a special invitation to you for next year’s DLA conference from 30 May to 1 June 2013.

Bernburg, April 2012

Prof. Dr. Dr. habil. Dieter Orzessek
President Anhalt University of Applied Sciences