



MLA

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

enduring places   emerging practices   engaged communities

CAP

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

<http://cap.ucdenver.edu>



## THE DEGREE

The department's mission is to educate students to pursue research and to lead design and planning processes to create health, well-being, and environmental resilience through design in the public realm.

We deliver a fully accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) for first professional degree students and post-professional students (those already holding a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture or Bachelor of Architecture degree). Our program balances theory and practice, and emphasizes design to support human well-being and environmental balance.

The MLA curriculum revolves around a sequence of design studios, supported by core content classes and a variety of seminar courses. The curriculum fosters an ethic of responsibility grounded in natural systems and processes and an understanding of cultural and community values. Our educational program operates fluidly in both local and global contexts and at a variety of scales. Students learn skills working on relevant urban and rural projects. Studios and courses engage current issues, define future trends, and explore the role of landscape architecture in a rapidly changing world. Throughout the program, our students learn and apply design and planning skills that use technologies and design approaches to enhance community, foster equity, remediate environmental balance, conserve and regenerate resources, and create places that hold value for current and future generations.

Denver's vibrant professional design and planning community supports our students through guest lectures and participation in design reviews, internships and mentor programs, and opportunities to visit offices and meet practitioners and leaders in our field.

# MLA



Photograph by Jesse Kuroiwa



## CAREER PATHS OF GRADUATES

Our MLA alumni work in positions and industries ranging from public agencies to private firms and non-profit groups. Employers include the National Park Service and municipal parks and planning departments in metro Denver and Colorado's mountain communities and across the nation. Graduates also enter positions with top local and regional design firms such as Civitas, Inc., Wenk Associates and Norris Design as well as national and international firms such as Hargreaves Associates, RNL, AECOM, Design Workshop, OLIN, Peter Walker Partners, and Snohetta. Many of these firms are interdisciplinary and renowned for their unique approaches to diverse projects. Several alumni hold leadership positions in these prominent firms. Alumni also joined faculty at respected landscape architecture programs across the country, including the University of Illinois, Colorado State, Iowa State, Arizona State, Kansas State and Pennsylvania State universities. Finally, innovative and entrepreneurial students have started their own landscape architecture and design build companies, or have used their design skills to create opportunities, positions and jobs that suit their unique passions and interests.



## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Students have extensive opportunities for civic engagement, including paid internships at the college's Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) and the Learning Landscapes program whose mission is to build public places that support the well-being of children through increased exercise, access to open space and community gathering places, experiencing and working in gardens, and more. At 96 schoolyards and counting, Learning Landscapes has provided Denver's children with great places to play.

The practice of landscape architecture is now global, and this department is a leader in providing international study opportunities.

Dual degree with Tongji University in Shanghai, China. This prestigious program is unique for MLA students in the United States. Selected MLA students from CU Denver spend two semesters at Tongji University and MLA students from Tongji spend two semesters at CU Denver in a direct one-to-one student exchange. Students who participate in the program take rigorous courses, write a thesis, and participate in an internship experience; they graduate with MLA degrees from both CU Denver and Tongji University and enter the workforce with valuable international experience and connections.

The certificate in Geospatial Information Science (GIS) for LA offers an opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and critical context through cross-disciplinary study in the rapidly developing and progressively relevant platform of GIS.

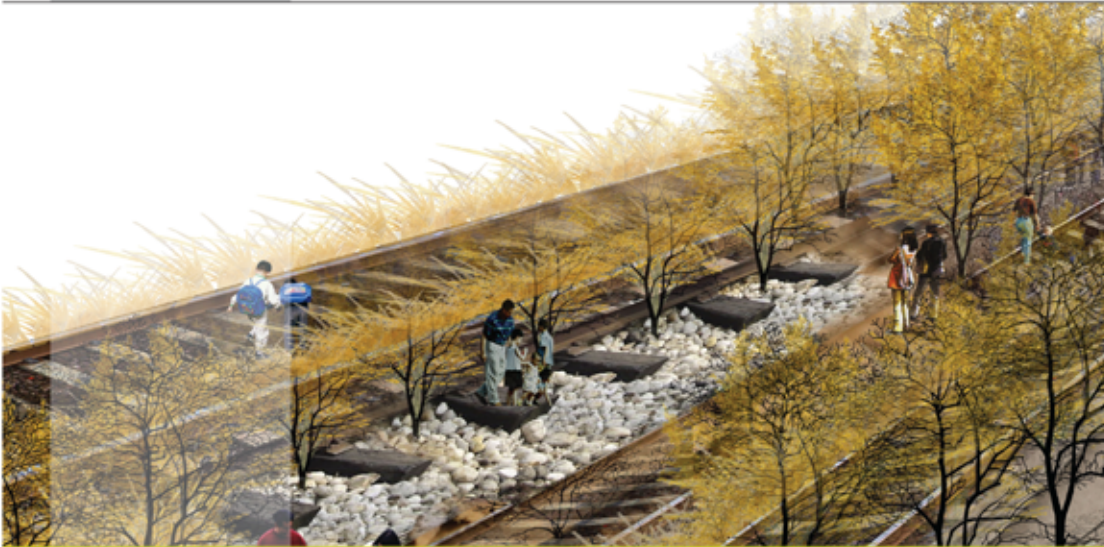
Our students engage in research with faculty and on their own through independent studies and thesis. They have presented at local, national and international conferences and symposia such as the National Park Service Western Region CESU Conference, Environmental Design Research Association, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, and International Green Roof Conference.

ROOT is the student run landscape architecture journal. We have published seven volumes since its inception, and it received an honorable mention in the national competition for the Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals in 2011.

Student organizations include the Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA), the Urban Horticulture Club, and Sigma Lambda Alpha, the landscape architecture national honor society.







Globeville Community Design Studio, Student Work

## LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN DENVER

Denver is an excellent place to study landscape architecture. CU Denver is part of the Auraria Campus, home to one fifth of all higher education students in Colorado. Our newly renovated building is located across Cherry Creek near the heart of campus. We are situated in Denver's lower downtown (LoDo), a historic district of brick buildings filled with apartments, vibrant shops, restaurants, bars and galleries. Cherry Creek, where gold was first discovered in 1859, runs alongside our building and joins the Platte River at Commons Park. The Cherry Creek recreation trail connects to almost 850 miles of paved bike paths throughout the metro area. Denver is one of the first cities in the United States to launch a European-style bike-sharing program with 80+ automated stations around town. Many students ride to school, or use the "Eco-pass" on the bus and light-rail network.

Denver is the largest urban center in a 500-mile radius, and serves as the cultural, intellectual and economic capital of the expansive Rocky Mountain region. It has the largest city park system in the United States; including the Denver Mountain Parks its total park acreage would cover Manhattan Island in New York. Denver benefits from a legacy of civic investment and progressive planning, and is seen as a national model for innovation in contemporary planning and design. Professional designers and planners participate in our program, bringing relevant professional experience directly into our design studios and seminar classes. These professional firms and agencies provide opportunities for internships and employment.

Denver sits at the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains, one of the most spectacular natural settings in the world. The mountains provide valuable natural and strategic resources, and abundant recreational amenities including some of the world's top ski resorts. The Rockies also present interesting challenges for designers and planners working in this region, who have to manage continued population growth while protecting the fragile eco-system.

## ADMISSIONS

The College of Architecture and Planning welcomes applications to our graduate programs from students with a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. The faculty-led selection process aims to admit students who are likely to succeed in completing the requirements for the degree and whose interests fit with the program's educational capacities. All of the required application materials help us to evaluate your potential for graduate study and to pair your interests with our strengths. No one component ensures or precludes admission; judgment is based on the entire application packet. Students are admitted to begin classes in fall semester only. Please see our website for current deadlines.

Required materials for application to the Master of Landscape Architecture:

- Online application
- Application Fee (\$50 for U.S. students, \$75 for International students)
- Statement of purpose
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions (except study abroad experiences)
- Proof of English language proficiency (International students only; TOEFL or IELTS)
- GRE (not required, but recommended if undergraduate GPA is below 3.0)
- Portfolio that showcases your best work. Students with a degree in landscape architecture are expected to include studio work. Students with no background in landscape architecture should demonstrate their creative abilities through whatever media they are comfortable. Please see our website for up-to-date instructions for portfolio format and submission.

For more information, see <http://cap.ucdenver.edu/mla> and then select "Admissions."

# CAP

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University of Colorado  
Denver

College of Architecture  
and Planning



#### CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

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#### PHYSICAL LOCATION

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