

ASLA Annual Meeting Education Presentation Submission Example

Presentation Title (maximum 12 words): An Evolving Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities for Landscape Architects in China

Presenters with Bios (maximum 100 words each):

Michael Grove, ASLA
Sasaki Associates, Inc.

Michael Grove, ASLA is a Principal at Sasaki Associates, where his 15 years of global experience embraces a wide range of project types including regional plans, urban districts, and waterfronts. As the director of Sasaki's Shanghai office, he offers unique insight into the unprecedented transformation and urbanization of the region. On each project, Michael collaborates closely with clients to formulate planning and design ideas that balance development with environmental and cultural influences. Michael's work has been recognized with numerous awards, and he is also a frequent presenter at conferences and universities around the world.

Kongjian Yu, FASLA
Turenscape & Peking University, Beijing, China

Dr. Kongjian Yu, FASLA is the President and Principal Designer at Turenscape. He has won numerous international awards for his ecologically and culturally sensitive projects. Kongjian has been a professor of architecture and landscape architecture at Peking University since 1997, and the founder and dean of Peking University's Graduate School of Landscape Architecture. Dr. Yu is also a visiting professor of landscape architecture and urban planning and design at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where he received his Doctor of Design Degree in 1995.

Anthony Fettes, Assoc. ASLA
Sasaki Associates, Inc.

Anthony Fettes, Associate ASLA is a Landscape Ecologist at Sasaki Associates with more than 10 years of combined experience in landscape design, ecological restoration, and environmental monitoring. His experience brings a unique perspective to design projects, assisting fellow designers and planners to broaden the ecological role and function of their designs. Prior to joining Sasaki, Anthony contributed to several National Park Service Natural Resource Technical Reports while working for the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program. He received his MLA from the University of New Mexico in 2010.

Session Marketing Statement (maximum 50 words):

Landscape architects working in China face the challenge of reversing ecological degradation and reconnecting people to the landscape. This session candidly examines recent work from Turenscape and Sasaki, including successes and missed opportunities in the planning and building of high-quality and functional landscapes in China.

Learning Objectives (maximum 15 words each):

- 1) Learn how landscape architects are working in China to address the country's unique environmental challenges.
- 2) Understand the challenges and successes of integrating green technologies and landscape infrastructure.
- 3) Gain insight into the fledgling Chinese nursery industry and collaborating with often unskilled landscape contractors.
- 4) Examine strategies for reducing landscape maintenance costs while working with natural processes.

Categories:

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Primary Topic: International Design

This session meets Health, Safety, and Welfare Compliance: Yes

Presenter Diversity:

This panel is comprised of professionals with global experiences and backgrounds. Dr. Yu and Mr. Grove currently reside and work in China, thus lending an international perspective to the conversation.

Audience Engagement:

30 minutes at the end of the presentations will be held for interaction with the audience (Q & A).

Sources:

- <http://www.sasaki.com/projects/region/Asia+and+Pacific/>
- <http://www.turenscape.com/english/>

Uploaded Course Outline:

I. Introduction: Context, Challenges, and Design Objectives (15 minutes)

- A. From site to eco-regional context: the importance of thinking at different landscape scales
- B. Introduction to case studies (case studies will be referred to throughout the presentation)
 1. Beijing Technology Business District
 2. Suzhou Hi-Tech District
 3. Jiading Park
 4. Houtan Park and other Recent Works

II. Landscape Planning: Fostering client awareness of larger landscape goals (10 Minutes)

- A. The challenges of gathering useful site information in China
 1. Critical gaps in readily available data
 2. The importance of understanding the big picture
 3. Site level understanding of assets, character, and challenges
- B. The case for conservation and restoration
 1. Strategies for disturbed and fragmented landscapes
 2. Implementable solutions at the site scale
- C. Planning for a functional landscape infrastructure
- D. Beginning client dialogue and obtaining buy-in early in the planning/design process

III. Design: Integrating functional natural systems and landscape infrastructure

- A. Introducing and promoting new design specifications, and communicating new technologies **(10 Minutes)**
 1. Rainwater harvesting, storage, and reuse on an enormous scale
 2. Bioengineering and rethinking established hard engineering practices
 3. Reintroducing indigenous plant materials and habitats to highly manipulated landscapes
- B. The case for additional consultants
 1. Endemic lack of professional input from local scientists (soil scientists, hydrologists, arborists, etc.)
 2. Construction Document depth and quality – are they really followed?
- C. Time constraints
 1. Fast-tracked project schedules (in both design and construction)
 2. Testing alternative design approaches – giving designers time to think and debate

IV. Landscape Construction: New industry, new challenges (10 Minutes)

- A. It's all about the contractor – China's inexperienced landscape labor force
 1. Farmers, migrant workers, and you – a guide to understanding your construction team
 2. Daily project supervision – because your drawings likely won't be followed
- B. Construction quality – what to expect, and what to look out for
- C. Ensuring design intent – influences of project scale, client wishes, and time and budget constraints
- D. Materials and sourcing
 1. China's fledgling nursery industry – challenges with securing high-quality plant materials

2. Inexpensive materials, high environmental costs

V. Landscape Maintenance: Integrating natural processes with public space **(10 Minutes)**

A. Budget constraints – where cities are lacking

B. Maintenance practices: good intentions, questionable execution

C. The need for maintenance plans

D. Integrating natural cycles and processes into a maintenance plan

VI. Discussion / Q&A (35 minutes)