

WEBSITES

American Society of Landscape Architects
<http://www.asla.org>

American Society of Landscape Architects;
 accessed January 2005.

Now more than a century old, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) maintains a website as busy and varied as the organization it represents. ASLA is run by a board of elected officials and has more than 14,000 national and international members, including working professionals, future landscape architects, and interested amateurs. Like the landscape itself, ASLA is situated within a complex web of public and private entities that shapes both the built and natural environments.

ASLA's website serves multiple purposes, reflecting the organization's commitment to diverse audiences. Seven large content areas are available from the homepage. They include Membership, Products & Services, Newsroom & Publications, Meeting & Events, About Us, Government Affairs & Licensure, and Career Resources. Within each are layers of resource materials. Accessing all of the data can be time consuming, but a well-conceived web architecture makes searching easy.

The Career Resources page is one of the best aspects of the ASLA website, providing a host of resources for people interested in the field. This material is wonderful for the novice, including a definition of the field, a salary survey, job postings, and job titles. This information presents a solid sense of what landscape architecture is and how an individual might fit into the field, depending on personal interest and ability.

The ASLA website is a wonderful promotional vehicle. It highlights opportunities for landscape architects in community planning, which range from park and recreation to security and street design and notes the increase in positions and

salaries since 1988. Throughout the website, ASLA notes the training of practitioners and the breadth of the projects in which landscape architecture plays a role. Opportunities for personal growth and community engagement are addressed. Several ASLA-sponsored publications are accessible, including the *LAND Online* newsletter and *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, where both excerpts and full articles are available. Some documents are available to ALSA members only; visitors can apply for membership on the website.

On its Meetings & Events page, ASLA highlights its efforts to address the concerns of contemporary landscape architecture. Annual meetings, symposia, and other events demonstrate the variety of topics engaged in by ASLA. For example, *Safe Spaces: Designing for Security and Civic Values*, looked at the need for sound planning in the wake of September 11, 2001, noting that "security and design are not mutually exclusive." Abstracts of the papers on design and security presented at the symposium are available on the website.

Throughout the website, ASLA discusses the relationship between historic preservation and landscape architecture, including its Professional Interest Group on Historic Preservation and through connections with the National Park Service's Historic American Landscapes Survey. However, the website presents few examples of projects that engage both a preservationist and a landscape architect, or projects in which a certified landscape architect tapped into historic preservation work through consulting, which could be helpful to those contemplating this aspect of the field.

Overall, the website is rich, offering materials for a variety of audiences. It is easy to navigate and graphically and linguistically clean. Interestingly, ALSA's website is lacking in images, a weakness considering the field it represents.

Recently, the landscape of life has changed dramatically, for many people very far away and quite near. With this in mind, the work of ASLA is as crucial as ever, because nothing seems more important than the creation and management of our environment, in all of its manifestations.

Laura A. Macaluso
Milford, Connecticut

Society for Industrial Archeology
<http://www.siahq.org>

Society for Industrial Archeology; maintained by Department of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University; accessed on January 31, 2005 and March 21, 2005.

The Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) is dedicated to documenting, preserving, and interpreting industrial heritage. The developing field of industrial archeology in Great Britain and the establishment of the Historic American Engineering Record in the National Park Service in 1969 inspired the formation of the SIA in the United States. Now 1,800 members strong, the SIA was formed in 1971 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, to exchange information among disciplines working in industrial archeology; to generate bibliographic information about the field; and to educate the public about preservation, surveys, and other activities.

The SIA website is maintained by the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Technological University, a major center of industrial archeology education. Industrial heritage sites linked to the SIA website include the Bahr's Mill woodworking and grist mill in Red Hill, Pennsylvania; the 1906 Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Powerhouse in Jersey City, New Jersey; and the West Point Foundry, Cold Spring, New York, which from 1818 to 1911, made ammunition for the U.S. Army.

SIA promotes the preservation of industrial sites through several venues, including a biannual peer-reviewed journal, *IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology*, and a quarterly newsletter. The SIA awards small preservation grants, provides the General Tools Award annually to an individual for outstanding achievement in the preservation and understanding of industrial heritage, and bestows the Robert Vogel Award to the author of the best article in *IA Journal*.

Through the website, visitors can access the table of contents for the *IA Journal* from its inception in 1975 and order back-issues. For those who wish to submit an article to the journal, submission policies and instructions are included. Many past issues of the newsletter are included as well as abstracts of papers presented at past conferences.

The SIA website provides a Consultants page with a list of those who work in industrial heritage documentation. A glance at the Chapters page shows that the SIA is primarily focused on the Northeast and Upper Midwest. However the website discusses a tour in Montana and contains links to a historic bridges site with information on New Mexico and Texas. This limited regional focus may be related to the historical development of the society. After reading this section of the website, the author was tempted to join the SIA and add Spanish Colonial *acequias* (irrigation ditches), aqueducts, mills, and other industrial sites to the exchange.

A visit to the SIA website will inspire visitors to look at a town's old brewery, mill, or waterworks in a new way and encourage visitors to preserve important heritage sites of the industrial age.

Susan Snow
National Park Service

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Center for Cultural Resources



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