

# Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design

**Roberto Rovira**, *Associate Professor and Chair*

**Juan Antonio Bueno**, *Professor*

**Marta Canavés**, *Instructor*

**Ebru Ozer**, *Assistant Professor*

The Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design (LAEUD) Department focuses on the development of the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities appropriate to the practice of landscape architecture, with a special emphasis on tropical and sub-tropical environments and urban design. Situated between two of the richest coastal and inland ecosystems in the world, Miami presents unparalleled opportunities as an important design laboratory. The city's multilingual, diverse, and ever-expanding needs reflect what many parts of the world will look like in the coming decades. Our focus on leveraging landscape architecture in urbanized regions and especially in tropical and subtropical environments makes for a program that is profoundly relevant to addressing the issues that will affect the estimated six of the ten billion people who will live in similar parts of the world by 2100.

Our goal is to educate individuals who can serve and lead the community through the aesthetic, meaningful, and sustainable design of the physical environment. Our program focuses on design and draws from art, science and technology via a rich design studio sequence that benefits from small student-to-faculty ratios, cutting edge technology, individual workspaces, and study abroad options. Students explore environmental, ecological and urban issues, and propose innovative solutions in the design of public spaces, infrastructure, urban planning, industrial reclamation, ecotourism, environmental mitigation, and many other areas at the center of the relationship between human beings and their surroundings.

For students seeking to begin their professional design studies as undergraduates, the Landscape Architecture Department offers the Accelerated **Master of Landscape Architecture** (MLA). The Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Master of Landscape Architecture professional degree. The Accelerated MLA is comprised of 155 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 84 credit hours of graduate coursework.

The department maintains close ties with the architecture, and interior architecture departments in the college, and with landscape architecture professionals. Professional advisory boards regularly review the curriculum to maintain program relevance.

Applicants should plan for the financial aspects of a design education. This includes the costs of computers, software, travel and field trips, tools and equipment, and modeling supplies. Students must also have continuing access to a laptop computer through purchase, lease or

other arrangements. For further information contact the CARTA Student Services & Advising Center.

The first professional Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree is fully accredited by The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), an autonomous committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

## Admission Requirements

**Application & Portfolio Submission Deadline:**  
**February 1**

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis as applications are completed and all supporting documents are received. You may apply as early as July of your senior year. In order to be scholarship eligible you must submit your Fall application by **November 1**.

The department admits students once a year to begin their course work in the fall semester; therefore, it is recommended that interested applicants meet with a member of the college's Student Services and Advising Center during the Fall semester prior to the application deadline. Admission to the department is competitive and is not guaranteed. Admission will be offered based on space availability to those applicants judged by the Department Faculty Committee to have the greatest potential for successful completion of the program.

The department offers professional degrees in Landscape Architecture. The curriculum is composed of two years of foundational, undergraduate coursework followed by three years of focused graduate course work leading to the accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) professional degree. The department does not award the pre-professional bachelors degree.

Undergraduate students may apply for admission into the first year or the third year of the program. Students of the program are considered undergraduate students until they have accumulated 120 credit hours; therefore, freshman and transfer applicants must apply to both FIU's Undergraduate Admissions Office and to the appropriate department.

## Undergraduate Admissions

<http://admissions.fiu.edu>

## Department of Landscape Architecture

[www.fiula.com](http://www.fiula.com)

## First Year Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the University's admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section.

## Third Year Transfer Student Admission Requirements

Applicants for third year admission must meet the University's admission requirements and submit a design portfolio – please refer to the Design Portfolio Requirements section. Students who have completed an AA in architectural studies must meet the following requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; completed design studio courses 1 through 4 with a grade of 'C' or better; and be judged by the Faculty Admissions Committee to have passed a competitive portfolio review. Only grades of 'C' or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale)

are accepted for transfer of applicable prerequisite and core courses from other institutions. No grade below a 'C' will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

**Transfer Students:** University policy allows the transfer of 60 lower division credits. Additional upper-division transfer credits may be accepted. For most transfer students it will be necessary to take a certain number of undergraduate credits at FIU in order to achieve the minimum required to satisfy the degree requirements.

### **Third Year Native Student Admission Requirements**

FIU undergraduate students who wish to change their major to landscape architecture should check program requirements and be advised by the college's undergraduate advisors in advance of application for admission. Departmental approval is required.

### **Design Portfolio Requirements**

All applicants must meet University admissions requirements. Applicants to the Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design Department degree programs must also submit a portfolio for departmental review that demonstrates the candidate's creative aptitudes. The design portfolio is evaluated based on a candidate's demonstrated sense of composition, attention to detail, graphic communication skills, expressive quality, and sense of space, accuracy, and observation.

Design portfolios may include two-dimensional storyboards (a sequence of still images that show a story), computer printouts, and photographs of three-dimensional models/projects.

Digital design portfolios should be formatted to fit on 8.5" x 11" pages within a single, multi-page PDF file. Please refer to the departmental website for submission details.

Portfolios submitted after the Application Deadline will be considered if studio space is available. Details on portfolio requirements can be reviewed through the departmental website.

### **First Year Design Portfolio Requirements**

All candidates' design portfolios must include a one-page statement outlining your intentions, aspirations, and purpose in pursuing a professional degree in landscape architecture. In addition, all candidates' design portfolios require three freehand drawings based on accurate observations: (1) a drawing of a stair or stairs, (2) a drawing of a bicycle or bicycles or a part of a bicycle or bicycles, and (3) a drawing of your own choice. These drawings may be in ink, pencil or charcoal. In addition to the three required freehand drawings, the first year design portfolio may contain reproductions of a two or three-dimensional work.

### **Third Year Design Portfolio Requirements**

All candidates' design portfolios must include a one-page (maximum) statement outlining your intentions, aspirations, and purpose in pursuing a professional degree in landscape architecture. The design portfolio should include no more than 10 examples of your design work executed within the past five years. Examples

include, but are not limited to, studies of buildings or landscapes that demonstrate your analytical ability. Recent art and/or design projects that the applicant completed in collaboration with others are acceptable as long as the example contains an explanation of the applicant's role in the process. Portfolios may not contain samples of architectural or interior design construction documents either by hand or by computer.

### **Ownership of Student Work**

Student work submitted to the department in satisfaction of course or degree requirements becomes the physical property of the department. However, students retain all rights to the intellectual property of such work. This work may include papers, drawings, models, or other materials. The department assumes no responsibility for safeguarding such materials and at its discretion may retain, return, or discard such materials. Students must petition the department in writing for any deviation from these established policies.

### **Study Abroad**

Study abroad is an important component of the degree program. Our study abroad center is located in Genoa, Italy. The Genoa center is ideally situated in the historic center of the city in a renovated former convent dating from the 13th century. During the semester abroad option in Italy, students are afforded an opportunity to study those artistic, architectural, landscape and interior spaces and artifacts that have long been acknowledged for their exceptional and enduring value to Western design culture. Other travel options may be available. Departmental approval is required for participation.

## **Accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture**

### **Degree Program Hours: 155**

The accelerated Master of Landscape Architecture program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferral of the Professional Master of Landscape Architecture degree (MLA). The Accelerated MLA is comprised of 155 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 71 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 84 credit hours of graduate coursework.

### **Pre-Graduate Preparation**

Students should enroll in Lower Division design courses the first semester they attend FIU or their progress through the curriculum will be delayed. Seats for the Pre-Graduate course of study are limited and cannot be guaranteed to all students.

### **Progression Requirements**

No grade below a 'C' will be accepted for graduation in required courses or required electives.

### **Undergraduate to Graduate Standing**

Students will be evaluated for matriculation to graduate status based upon their graduate GPA at the end of the

spring semester of their 4<sup>th</sup> year (provided they have earned a minimum of 120 total credits). The criteria listed below must be satisfied:

1. A minimum of 120 earned credits (counting no more than 60 lower-division transfer credits),
2. 3.0 or higher GPA in graduate level coursework (5000 level or higher), and
3. Completion of undergraduate coursework.

No Bachelor degree is awarded in the accelerated MLA degree path.

### Pre-Graduate Level Course Requirements (71)

ARC 1131	Design Graphics 1	2
ARC 1132	Design Graphics 2	2
ARC 1301	Design Studio 1	4
ARC 1302	Design Studio 2	4
ARC 2303	Design Studio 3	4
ARC 2304	Design Studio 4	4
ARC 1461	Materials and Methods of Design	3
ARC 4586	Structures 1	1
ARC 2701	History of Design from Antiquity to the Middle Ages	3
ARC 2702	History of Design from the Renaissance to the XIX Century	3
ARC 4058	Fundamentals of Digital Design	3
ART 2330C	Beginning Figure Drawing	3

Course requirements also include 33 credits of general education coursework.

Courses are selected from the following categories:

#### Verbal Communication (9)

ENC 1101	Writing and Rhetoric I	3
ENC 1102	Writing and Rhetoric II	3
COM 3110	Business and Professional Communication	3

#### Environmental Context (9)

MAC 1114	Trigonometry	3
PHY 2023	Survey of General Physics	3
EVR 1017	The Global Environment and Society – GL	3

#### Cultural Context (9)

HUM 3306	History of Ideas	3
PHI 2103	Critical Thinking	3
PHI 2600	Introduction to Ethics	3

#### Creative Context (9)

ARH 4450	Modern Art	3
ARH 4470	Contemporary Art – GL	3

and one course selected from:

ART 2300C	Beginning Drawing	3
ART 2500C	Beginning Painting	3
ART 2750C	Beginning Ceramics	3

### Graduate Level Course Requirements (84)

All accelerated MLA students must complete the following requirements or their equivalent. A minimum of 84 semester hours is required to graduate:

LAA 5653	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1	6
LAA 6654	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 2	6
LAA 6655	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 3	6

LAA 6656	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 4	6
LAA 6363	Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 5	6
LAA 5716	History of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 5374	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture II	3
LAA 5541	South Florida Landscapes	3
LAA 5381	Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture III	3
LAA 6382	Analysis Methods	3
LAA 6521	Tropical Landscapes	3
LAA 5422	Landscape Development	3
LAA 5425	Landscape Documentation	3
LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture	3
LAA 6916	Research Methods	3
LAA 5423	Landscape Construction	3
LAA 6910	Graduate Seminar	3
LAA 6970	Master's Project	6
	<b>or</b>	
LAA 6971	Master's Thesis	6
LAA 6215	Professional Practice in Landscape Architecture	3
	Directed Electives	9

### Certificate in Landscape Architecture

The Certificate in Landscape Architecture offers students the ability to explore the design, planning, and management of regional landscapes. This program is developed to serve undergraduate students within the School of Architecture and in related fields such as Environmental Science and Biological Sciences who would like to seek to expand their academic experience with this area of specialized study. Focused on landscape design and development, the certificate seeks to extend students' skills, knowledge, and critical thinking about the design, making, and managing of existing and built landscape environments. Students who wish to earn the Certificate in Landscape Architecture should contact a School of Architecture undergraduate advisor in advance of pursuing this course of study. Certificate Requirements Students earning this certificate must accumulate 18 credit hours with a satisfactory grade from the following list of available courses. This certificate program is open to degree-seeking students only.

#### Program Requirements

LAA 3372L	Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture
LAA 3333	Site Analysis and Design
LAA 4242	Modern Landscape Architecture
LAA 3232	Theory of Planting Design
LAA 3712	Image of the Garden: Nature and Culture
LAA 3602	South Florida Landscapes
LAA 3802	Landscape Development
LAA 4546	Tropical Landscapes
LAA 3420	Landscape Construction
LAA 5235	Theory of Landscape Architecture
LAA 3212	Landscape Documentation

Courses on the list may require prerequisites and/or program approval.

## Course Descriptions

### Definition of Prefixes

LAA-Landscape Architecture; URP-Urban and Regional Planning

F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

**LAA 3212 Landscape Documentation (3).** Production of landscape construction documents, including drawings and project manual with bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, LAA 3420, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

**LAA 3232 Theory of Planting Design (3).** An introduction to the study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3248 Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3).** Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution and development of the urban fabric and its physical context.

**LAA 3333 Site Analysis and Design (3).** Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design.

**LAA 3341 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3).** Course will focus on technique, through exercise and assignments of varying degrees of complexity to explore and develop a range of skills necessary to develop confidence in drawing landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3350C Landscape Architecture Design 5 (4).** Landform as a design element. Integration of landform design and structure. Small to mid-sized scale projects of limited complexities. Prerequisite: ARC 2304. Corequisites: LAA 3712, LAA 3802.

**LAA 3354C Landscape Architecture Design 6 (4).** Development of design proposals applying principles and methods in landscape architecture within a tropical and sub-tropical context. Regional mid-sized to large scope scale projects. Prerequisites: LAA 3712, LAA 3802. Corequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602.

**LAA 3372L Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture (3).** Advanced study of computer software packages applicable to the architecture office environment, with particular emphasis on CAD software, graphics packages and desktop publishing. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3377C GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3).** Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3420 Landscape Construction (3).** Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisites: LAA 3802, ARC 4058 or equivalent.

**LAA 3430 Landscape Structures (3).** Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3602 South Florida Landscapes (3).** Study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 3712 Image of the Garden: Nature and Culture (3).** Exploration of garden traditions as symbiotic expressions of nature and culture. Emphasis on European gardens, Islamic courtyards, Japanese gardens, and modernist and contemporary gardens and parks. Prerequisites: ENC 1101 and ENC 1102.

**LAA 3802 Landscape Development (3).** Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisites: ARC 4058 or equivalent.

**LAA 3905C Special Topics Design Studio (4).** A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design under the direction of appropriate faculty.

**LAA 3936 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3).** This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

**LAA 4210 Professional Office Practice (3).** An introduction in office administration, negotiation of contracts, fee structure, professional ethics, client and public relations. Business organization, procedure scheduling and task allocation. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 4230 Theory of Landscape Architecture (3).** Critical review of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 4242 Modern Landscape Architecture (3).** Critical review of the origins and development of modern and post modern expressions in landscape architecture.

**LAA 4344 Italian Design and Culture (3).** Course to develop practical facility with the Italian language for conducting everyday tasks, engaging socially and increasing the qualitative depth of the work to be accomplished in the course. Corequisites: LAA 4354C, LAA 4345.

**LAA 4345 Landscape Architecture of the City (3).** The study of urban landscape architecture in Genoa, Italy, with emphasis on analysis and representation using manual drawing, digital photography, and conceptual model. Corequisites: LAA 4344, LAA 4354C.

**LAA 4354C Landscape Architecture Design 7 (4).** Exploration of form, circulation and spatial contexts for the design of urban sites. Consideration of cultural and natural factors addressing intermediate to large scale complexity.

Prerequisites: LAA 3420, LAA 3602. Corequisite: LAA 4375C.

**LAA 4355C Landscape Architecture Design 8 (4).** Exploring contemporary landscape architecture issues through the design of projects varying in scale and complexity. Prerequisite: LAA 4354C. Corequisites: LAA 4210, LAA 3212.

**LAA 4375C Computer Modeling (3).** This course will explore computer modeling in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 4546 Tropical Landscapes (3).** The study of the structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical regions. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 4940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3).** Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed practitioner. Prerequisites: LAA 3350C, LAA 3354C, LAA 4354C.

**LAA 5233 Theory of Planting Design (3).** Study of principles and methods related to the ecological, functional, and aesthetic use of vegetation in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5235 Theory of Landscape Architecture (3).** Critical review of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5716. (S)

**LAA 5243 Regional Landscape Issues (3).** Exploration of the landscape as cultural construct of social, economic, and scientific values relevant to regional issues of land use and management. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5249 Catalysts of the Urban Canvas (3).** Seminar-based course exploring the relationship of focused landscape and architectural interventions in the evolution and development of the urban fabric and its physical context.

**LAA 5331 Site Analysis and Design (3).** Introduction to ecological, functional, and aesthetic considerations in site analysis, planning and design. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 5346 Visual Notation in Landscape Architecture I (3).** Course will develop drawing skills in multiple media, actively engaging in projects of drawing as a medium of investigation, documentation, memory, observation and presentation for landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**LAA 5371 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 1 (3).** Computer applications of graphics, modeling, and animation techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5374 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 2 (3).** Computer application of drafting and design techniques used in landscape architecture. Prerequisites: LAA 5371, Program approval. (F)

**LAA 5378 GIS Applications in Landscape Modeling (3).** Introduction to modeling capabilities of GIS in the

environmental planning process addressing the natural and cultural characteristics of the landscape. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5381 Computer Practices in Landscape Architecture 3 (3).** Contemporary methods of digital representation for landscape architecture. Intensive exploration of three dimensional modeling and rendering techniques. Prerequisites: LAA 5371, LAA 5374, program approval.

**LAA 5422 Landscape Development (3).** Technical aspects of the design and specification of earthwork, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape development. Prerequisite: LAA 5371. (F)

**LAA 5423 Landscape Construction (3).** Technical aspects of the design and specification of sitework, including materials, products, and methods of installation used in landscape construction. Prerequisite: LAA 5422. (S)

**LAA 5425 Landscape Documentation (3).** Production of landscape documents including drawings and project manual, bidding documents, contract documents and technical specifications on the computer. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (F)

**LAA 5427 Landscape Structures (3).** Production of landscape construction details for structures and systems used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5423. (F)

**LAA 5540 Landscape Horticulture (3).** Overview of horticultural management practices related to the growth, transport, installation, and maintenance of vegetative materials used in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5541 South Florida Landscapes (3).** Study of structure, function, and change in the natural and cultural landscapes of tropical and subtropical Florida. Prerequisite: Program approval. (S)

**LAA 5605 Design Foundations (3).** The course is a rigorous introduction to design fundamentals. It builds a design language through lectures, practical experiences, exploring techniques, materials, skills, making and critical thinking. Prerequisite: Program approval. Corequisites: LAA 5346 and LAA 5371.

**LAA 5652 Formative Studio (6).** Introduction to concept development, spatial expression, and representational techniques in landscape architecture. Prerequisite: LAA 5346 and LAA 5XXX Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture. (F)

**LAA 5653 Landscape Architecture Graduate Design 1 (6).** Application of landscape architecture principles and methods to site design in tropical and subtropical contexts. Prerequisite: LAA 5652. (S)

**LAA 5715 History and Theory of Architecture (3).** Overview of the history and theory of architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (SS)

**LAA 5716 History of Landscape Architecture (3).** Historical survey of the principal sites and traditions

manifested in the evolution of landscape architecture and urban design from antiquity to the present. Prerequisite: Program approval. (F)

**LAA 5905C Special Topics Design Studio (6).** A landscape architectural design studio based on a particular aspect of landscape architectural design and relevant ideologies under the direction of appropriate faculty.

**LAA 5938 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3).** This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators, scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

**LAA 5940 Landscape Architecture Internship (3).** Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with a licensed professional.

**URP 5316 Environmental and Urban Systems (3).** Overview of basic issues and principles of environmental and urban planning and design systems. Emphasis will be placed on multi-disciplinary linkages.

**URP 5912 Research Methods (3).** Methods of information search, data interpretation, and hypotheses formulation used in the field.