

agriCULTURAL landscapes

30 years of landscape
architecture education
in Nitra

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

ECLAS NITRA 2025

06--11-09-2025



SUA
Slovak University
of Agriculture
in Nitra



SUA·FHLE
Faculty of Horticulture
and Landscape
Engineering

1995
FZKI
2025

**LANDSCAPE
IN FOCUS**

ECLAS
EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SCHOOLS

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Rediscovering Agriculture by Landscape Architecture
ANJA BRÜLL

Transformation of agriCULTURE for climate-resilient landscapes:
Challenges and opportunities in the Three-Countries Park
ALENA SALLAŠOVÁ

Rural Landscape Restoration versus Innovation:
Inspiring approaches to the planning and restoration of agricultural
landscapes in the past, present, and future
LIONEL FANSHAWE

Delivering Multi-Functional Outcomes from Rural Landscapes:
Lessons from Hampshire Farming Test and Trials project for the
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ECLAS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SCHOOLS

ABOUT ECLAS

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools exists to foster and develop scholarship in landscape architecture throughout Europe by strengthening contacts and enriching the dialogue between members of Europe's landscape academic community and by representing the interests of this community within the wider European social and institutional context. In pursuit of this goal the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools seeks to build upon the Continent's rich landscape heritage and intellectual traditions.

The first pan-European meeting of landscape schools was convened by Berlin Technical University in 1989 under the title Europäische Hochschulkonferenz Landschaft. This was followed by a second meeting in Vienna in 1990. The European Conference of Landscape Architecture Schools was formed as a result of the

success of the Berlin and Vienna meetings and met first in Wageningen in the Netherlands in 1991. This meeting was followed by a series of further annual conferences. At the 2000 Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, a decision was taken to expand the activities of ECLAS beyond the annual conferences and to symbolise this by changing the name of the organisation to the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools. In 2006 ECLAS was incorporated as a not-for-profit member organisation under Dutch Law, with a formal set of statutes and standing orders. A new logo and corporate identity were designed at the same time.

<https://www.eclas.org/>

ABOUT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN THE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT

Landscape architecture is the discipline concerned with mankind's conscious shaping of his external environment. It involves planning, design and management of the landscape to create, maintain, protect and enhance places so as to be both functional, beautiful and sustainable (in every sense of the word), and appropriate to diverse human and ecological needs. The exceptionally wide-ranging nature of the landscape means that the subject area is one of unusual breadth, drawing on and integrating not just material from the two sides of the traditional divide between the creative arts and the natural sciences, but incorporating many aspects of the humanities and technology as well.

This complexity is closely reflected by the diversity of approaches to the discipline which can be found throughout Europe, a diversity which is clearly illustrated by the range of dif-

ferent types of higher education institutions across Europe in which landscape architecture teaching has been established. These range from universities specialising in the fine arts to those dedicated to agriculture and forestry, and encompass technical universities as well as the more broadly-based 'general' universities.

<https://www.eclas.org/about-eclas/landscape-architecture-the-european-dimension/>

EUROPEAN FRAMEWORKS FOR LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN

COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION AND THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

In 2025, we celebrate 25 years since the Landscape Convention has been opened for signature in Florence. The aim of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention, ratified to date by 40 member States, is the protection, management and planning of the landscape, with reference to the entire territory of the States parties, promoting public awareness and participation. ECLAS is one of the recognized NGOs monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Landscape Convention.

ECLAS is a member of the New European Bauhaus. The New European Bauhaus is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative that connects the European Green Deal to our living spaces and experiences. This conference aims at supporting networking and knowledge creation for the New European Bauhaus. It unites experts to shape sustainable and inclusive environments.

The New European Bauhaus (NEB), launched by the European Commission in 2020, is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative that connects the European Green Deal to our living spaces and experiences. It envisions making the green transition not only sustainable but also beautiful and inclusive. By promoting solutions that combine *sustainability*, *aesthetics*, and *inclusion*, NEB encourages diverse stakeholders to co-design, experiment, and implement projects that enhance both the environment and everyday living. This conference aims to support networking and knowledge creation for the New European Bauhaus. It unites experts to shape sustainable and inclusive environments.

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

WHY IN NITRA? 30 years ago, the Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Engineering was established at the Slovak University of Agriculture (SUA) in Nitra. This occasion marked the beginning of landscape architecture education in Slovakia, building upon the tradition of the Lednice landscape school in Czechoslovakia.

WHY AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES? Nitra is often referred to as the capital of agriculture in Slovakia. It is situated in the fertile Danube Lowland and agriculture has played a central role here for centuries. Moreover, Nitra has been the hub of the most important national institutions for agricultural research, innovation, education, and exhibition. SUA Nitra is the only agricultural university in the country and currently the only university providing landscape architecture education.

With this year's ECLAS conference, we want to celebrate three decades of landscape architecture education in the agricultural capital, at the only agricultural university in one of the most important agricultural regions of Slovakia. Thus, the theme **agriCULTURAL** landscapes.

The challenge of ensuring food production and biodiversity conservation on the same land, while enabling mitigation of and adaptation to changing climate presents significant challenges for agriculturally shaped landscapes. How can **agriCULTURAL** landscapes become more multifunctional, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable? How can they be socially acceptable, ecologically ambitious, and economically viable? What is the role of current and future landscape architects in planning and designing sustainable **agriCULTURAL** landscapes?

Agriculture has long shaped our landscapes, creating a dynamic relationship between food production and the natural environment. Over centuries, agricultural practices have not only provided the basis for human survival, but also given rise to diverse cultural landscapes, traditional knowledge systems, and regionally specific patterns of land use. Fields, pastures, orchards, and irrigation networks have become integral elements of the rural identity, connecting communities to their environment and contributing to heritage values that persist to this day.

Today, these agriculturally shaped landscapes face growing and often conflicting challenges: ensuring reliable food production and biodiversity conservation on the same land, while also enabling climate protection and adaptation. At the same time, they play a crucial role in the global food chain, which is under increasing pressure to meet rising demands for both quantity and quality of food, while maintaining environmental sustainability and social equity.

Climate change, soil degradation, water scarcity, and urban expansion further disrupt this delicate balance, threatening both productivity and ecological systems. Agricultural intensification risks eroding biodiversity and depleting natural resources, while abandonment of marginal farmland can lead to loss of cultural landscapes and traditional practices. In parallel, consumer expectations, policy frameworks, and technological innovation are reshaping the ways in which landscapes are managed, creating both opportunities and tensions between local needs and global pressures.

How can we perceive, plan, and design **agriCULTURAL** landscapes? By reimagining agricultural landscapes as multifunctional spaces, we can align food production with biodiversity conservation, soil health, and climate resilience. This approach not only supports local landscapes, but also strengthens the global food chain, ensuring its sustainability, equity, and capacity to feed future generations. Innovative solutions and collaborative efforts across sectors are essential to create systems that are productive, resilient, and beneficial for both people and nature on a global scale.

AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

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AND THE ECLAS 2025 CONFERENCE CHAIR

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**THE LANDSCAPE OF SUBALTERN RURALITY:
 THE FABRIC OF RURALITY, EXTRACTIVE
 PRESSURES, SUBALTERNIZED SPACES,
 AND THE STRUGGLE FOR COEXISTENCE
 IN THE COLOMBIAN ANDES**

This research aims to examine the relationship between spatial production practices and extractive-protectionist planning policies in Andean rural territories. The hypothesis is that rurality is primarily a political condition based on systems of radical dependencies, interactions, and conflicts between subjects, ecologies, and economies. Reasoning about such dynamics in planning requires focusing on the question of “coexistence” between different rural “socio-spatial ecologies” rather than working on the valorization of local “palimpsests,” the promotion of “sustainable local development” strategies, and the pursuit of agricultural productivity strategies.

The investigation seeks to reconceptualize thinking around Andean rurality and its subaltern condition through spatial explorations based on southern epistemologies and decolonial studies. The notion of landscape in Colombia and Andean territories is a question that goes beyond contemporary crises of climate change and food demand. Historically, Andean rurality has been the place of conflict, migration and resistance; it is the scenario of struggle and defense for self-determination of an interdependent territory (Escobar, 2010). The latifundist and colonial character of land distribution reflects the hegemonic-colonial position and the responsibility of a violent spatial projection and planning, executed through the social and economic marginalization of certain

bodies, spaces, and rural territories that are exploited, indebted, and thus rendered subaltern. And today, labeled as responsible for the rural crisis and for overcoming the agricultural frontier.

The research is conducted through the socio-spatial study of Pueblo de Mongui, in the Colombian Andes. In this case, the conflict between permanently extractive landscapes, that means planning policies and emerging economies (mineral, agronomic, cultural, and environmental). And on the other hand, subsistence landscapes (family agriculture, sartorial craftsmanship, and care work). The proposed project stance is to stop assuming rurality as a ‘reserve of resources and care’ (Nobre, 2017) available to urban demand and global economic centers. Therefore, an ecological stance is adopted in the first place. Ecology, it is useful to clarify, is understood not as the relationship between organisms and their environment but, as Morton (2016) argues, as a fabric in which multiple entities, subjects, and desires are placed in relation, forming interdependencies. These hypotheses are articulated within four ecologies: wild, protected space, extractive, and subsistence ecologies. Finally, a project of coexistence among the various rural ecologies is proposed according to generative, reversible, and dispersal practices a logic that reflects rural practices, an ecology of temporality.