AY 23—24

MLA
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MLA
PROGRAMME
HANDBOOK

DOA
NUS LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MASTER OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MLA Programme Handbook AY 23—24
Department of Architecture
College of Design and Engineering

PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION

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CONTENTS

NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

NUS Landscape Architecture is a core programme at Asia's premier school of design and the built environment. Starting from the inception of the Master of Landscape Architecture in 2009, NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE has grown to also offer the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with effect from Academic Year 2020/21, marking an exciting milestone for tertiary-level landscape architecture education in Singapore. NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE provides the only tertiary-level programmes that qualify graduates for accreditation as a practicing landscape architect in Singapore through the Landscape Architects Accreditation Programme of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects.

The core emphasis of NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE is excellence in design—we imbue our students with a deep understanding of the dual nature of design as both a process and a product. As a process, we prioritize landscape design to be creative, but one which is grounded in socio-cultural sensitivities, ecological knowledge, and grasp of conventional and emergent technologies and techniques. Design as a process benefits from synergistic knowledge exchange among multiple disciplines in NUS as one of the top research intensive universities in Asia and the world. As a product, landscape design expressed through various visual and digital media, must be inspiring, move the heart, and above all, instigate meaningful and impactful landscape changes in real life.

NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE is distinctively Asian and pantropical in its geographic attention and urban in its emphasis. With our central location in one of the most dynamic, diverse and rapidly urbanizing regions of the world, we aim to provide a landscape architecture education that is sensitive to the myriad challenges facing Asian cities, as well as opportunities provided by the sheer richness of heritage and cultural, socio-economic and ecological elements of the region. Our location in Singapore, with its diversity of culture and cosmopolitan outlook, and where greening and ecology of the built environment is a cornerstone of its urban development approach, also provides an enriching backdrop to our training of landscape architects.

As we move into the Ecological Age, where the environment and nature increasingly become prioritized in land-use developments, landscape architects are well-poised to play a critical role in shaping an environment that affects the large majority of the world's population. To that end, we train our students to design, build and manage design projects of different scales and context. Our graduates are expected to navigate the demands of the profession, and the dynamism and challenges the environment presents, and to be leaders and stewards in shaping a liveable, sustainable and resilient environment.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023–24:

SEMESTER 1	7 AUG–9 DEC 2023	18 WEEKS
Orientation Week	7—12 Aug 2023	1 week
Instructional Period		
Week 1—Week 6	14 Aug—22 Sep 2023	6 weeks
Recess Week	23 Sep—1 Oct 2023	1 week
Week 7—Week 13	2 Oct—17 Nov 2023	7 weeks
Reading Week	18—24 Nov 2023	1 week
Examination	25 Nov—9 Dec 2023	2 weeks
Vacation	10 Dec—14 Jan 2024	5 weeks

SEMESTER 2	15 JAN–11 MAY 2024	17 WEEKS
Instructional Period		
Week 1—Week 6	15 Jan—23 Feb 2024	6 weeks
Recess Week	24 Feb—3 Mar 2024	1 week
Week 7—Week 13	4 Mar—19 Apr 2024	7 weeks
Reading Week	20—26 Apr 2024	1 week
Examination	27 Apr—11 May 2024	2 weeks
Vacation	12 May—4 Aug 2024	13 weeks

For an up-to-date academic calendar, please refer to the following link from NUS Registrar's Office:

https://nus.edu.sg/registrar/docs/info/calendar/ay2023-2024.pdf

The following dates will be observed as University holidays during the academic year:

(a) National Day - 9 Aug 2023 (Wed)
(b) NUS Well-Being Day - 10 Nov 2023 (Fri)
(c) Deepavali - 12 Nov 2023 (Sun) * & 13 Nov 2023 (Mon)
(d) Christmas Day - 25 Dec 2023 (Mon)
(e) New Year's Day - 1 Jan 2024 (Mon)
(f) Chinese New Year - (to be confirmed)
(g) Good Friday - (to be confirmed)
(h) Labour Day - 1 May 2024 (Wed)
(i) Vesak Day - (to be confirmed)
(j) Hari Raya Puasa - (to be confirmed)

*The following Monday will be a public holiday.

Please note that the official end time for classes on Chinese New Year eve (Mon-Fri) is 2pm. There will be no classes on public holidays.

For an up-to-date listing of public holidays in Singapore, please check the Ministry of Manpower website.

The **Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)** is a two-year, full-time degree programme for individuals seeking advanced and cutting-edge training in landscape architecture. It is for students who have completed a BLA or its equivalent in related disciplines (architecture, urban planning, urban design).

The intensive and rigorous course engages students with the following emphasis:

Independence and excellence in design. As an advanced course, MLA provides a structured platform for students to pursue areas aligned with their own interests in depth, independent design, and intellectual inquiry.

Research as a foundation for design. Situated in a large research intensive university ranked among the top in Asia and the world, MLA emphasizes the use of research to critically identify and explore socio-ecological issues of the site. Design is envisaged as the bridge between scientific research and landscape changes arising from spatial design. Research skills are honed through dissertation and other lecture courses and applied to design studios.

Interdisciplinary collaboration. Hosted by the Department of Architecture which has a long-standing reputation as the top Asian Architecture School and one of the top ten schools in the world, MLA takes advantage of the close partnership with other design disciplines in architecture, urban planning, urban design, and integrated sustainable design through joint studios, cross-discipline electives, and networking guided by a world-class team of academics and practitioners. Our graduates will understand that the most pressing urban challenges cannot be solved by a single discipline but require interdisciplinary collaborations across professional disciplines and key stakeholders.

Developing leadership in practice. Landscape architecture as a professional practice is constantly evolving and the roles of landscape architects are gradually expanding into new frontiers of practice. Our graduates will contribute to critical discourse and shape the practice by providing thought leadership.

The MLA curriculum is anchored by four design studios, dissertation and ten lecture courses/electives. Of the four design studios, typically two are overseas studios which provide students valuable opportunities to explore landscape design under a myriad of socio-cultural, ecological and socio-economic context in the surrounding Asian region. The studios are organized into a sequence which increases in scale and complexity, culminating in a landscape planning studio at the regional scale. The lecture courses and electives provide knowledge in geodesign, urban ecology, topical areas like landscape urbanism, water urbanism, urban agriculture, and advanced digital landscape representation and modelling.

Our **Goal** is to train the next generation of landscape architects in practice and academia, who will be stewards in shaping a liveable, sustainable and resilient environment. Our graduates are expected to be able to navigate the demands of the profession, and the dynamism and challenges the environment presents.

The **Objectives** of the MLA programme are:

1. To develop competencies in a wide-range of professional skills that prepare our graduates for a diversity of career options.
2. To inculcate a questioning mind, critical thinking ability, and a mindset of continuous learning that prepare our graduates for an evolving landscape architecture profession.
3. To develop well-rounded graduates, with a care for the environment and the community.
4. To develop a deep appreciation in our graduates of the critical roles of landscapes in shaping key urban development goals of sustainability, liveability and resilience in a wide range of socio-cultural and socio-economic contexts as well as linkages with other disciplines.

The NUS BLA and MLA programmes are the only university-level programmes in Singapore that qualify graduates for accreditation as a practicing landscape architect in Singapore through the Landscape Architects Accreditation Programme of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects.

More information on the accreditation programme can be found here:

https://www.la-accreditation.org.sg/

The NUS MLA programme is a two-year full- time degree programme providing education and training in landscape architecture. The programme consists of 13 essential courses and 2 electives spread over two years: Master Preparatory Year (MLA 1) and Master Final Year (MLA 2).

Students admitted to the MLA programme with the equivalent of a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours) degree or a bachelor degree or above in a design-based built environment discipline will enter into the Master Preparatory year (MLA1).

Admitted students with a BLA degree from NUS can apply for Advanced Placement Credits (APC) of up to 40 units, and may advance to Master Final Year (MLA2) with approval from Programme Director.

Candidates are required to pass all courses in the preparatory programme (MLA 1) with a minimum B- average for LA4701 and LA4702 and minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 before they are allowed to proceed to the MLA 2.

Period of Candidature
The programme shall be conducted on a full- time basis lasting two years consisting of four semesters. The maximum period of candidature is limited to six concurrent semesters.

COURSES AND TUTORS

AY 2023/2024

COURSE	SEMESTER 1	
LA 4701 MLA Studio: Quarter 8 Units	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg	Janice Tung Part-time Tutor janice.tung@gardensbythebay.com.sg
	Bernard Ng Part-time Tutor bernard@bhna.com.sg	Mayura Patil Part-time Tutor mayura2604@gmail.com
	Evi Syariffudin Part-time Tutor evi.syariffudin@googlemail.com	Melissa Yip Part-Time Tutor melyip36@gmail.com
LA 5301 Geodesign 4 Units	Abraham Wu NUS Researcher abrahamwu@u.nus.edu	Xiao Ping Song Part-time Lecturer xp.song@nus.edu.sg
LA5511 Digital Techniques In Landscape Architecture (Landscape Architecture Elective) 4 Units	Ervine Lin Senior Lecturer akilse@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5222 Urban Ecology and Design 4 Units	Mark McDonnell Visiting Associate Professor markmc@unimelb.edu.au	

COURSE	SEMESTER 2	
LA 4702 MLA Studio: City 8 Units	Chun Liang Tan Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	Huei Lyn Liu Part-time Tutor hueilyn.liu@gmail.com
	Ervine Lin Senior Lecturer akilse@nus.edu.sg	Max Hirsh Senior Visiting Fellow
	Yun Hye Hwang Associate Professor yhwang@nus.edu.sg	Melissa Yip Part-Time Tutor melyip36@gmail.com
	Anton Siura Part-time Tutor anton.siura@siurastudio.com	
LA 5302 Landscape Construction II (+Professional Practice) 4 Units	Alfred Lee Part-time Lecturer alfredlee@stxla.com	Jiann Bin Koh Part-time Lecturer jiannbin@hotmail.com
LA 5303 Urban Greening: Technologies and Techniques 4 Units	Chun Liang Tan Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5901 Special Topics in Landscape Architecture 4 Units	Shawn Lum Visiting Consultant skylum@gmail.com	

COURSE	SEMESTER 1	
LA 5701 MLA Studio: Country (Local / Overseas) 8 Units	Kenya Endo Lecturer akike@nus.edu.sg	Jong-Hyun Baek Senior Visiting Fellow baekisback@gmail.com
	Victoria Marshall Senior Lecturer marshall@nus.edu.sg	
LA5211 Political Ecology and Landscapes (Landscape Architecture Elective) 4 Units	Victoria Marshall Senior Lecturer marshall@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5742A Dissertation Prep 4 Units	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5500 Pro Seminar 4 Units	Wong Ruen Qing Part-time tutor rq.wong@gmail.com	

COURSE	SEMESTER 2	
LA 5201 Policy of Landscape 4 Units	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5702 MLA Studio: Region (Local / Overseas) + LA 5742 Dissertation*** 8 Units + 8 Units	Chun Liang Tan Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	Yun Hye Hwang Associate Professor yhwang@nus.edu.sg
	Ervine Lin Senior Lecturer akilse@nus.edu.sg	Evi Syarifuddin Part-time Tutor evi.syariffudin@googlemail.com
	Kenya Endo Lecturer akike@nus.edu.sg	Russell Smith Part-time Tutor russellarthursmith@stxla.com
	Maxime Decaudin Senior Lecturer maxime@nus.edu.sg	Yukio Hasegawa Part-time Tutor yukio@artchork.com
	Puay Yok Tan Dean's Chair Professor puay.yok.tan@nus.edu.sg	

LA 4701 MLA Studio: Quarter†

This studio-based course develops higher level skills in landscape design and marks the first of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. Projects of city quarter scale are undertaken to explore issues of context, programme and socio-economic considerations. Projects will cover sites with different functions, e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, educational, health and recreation. Civic spaces like roadsides, highways, plazas, parks and city squares will also be tackled. There is an emphasis on sustainability and tropical design.

LA5222 Urban Ecology and Design

Urban ecology is the study of ecosystems that include humans living in cities and urbanizing landscapes. It is an emerging, interdisciplinary field that aims to understand how human and ecological processes can coexist in human- dominated systems and help societies with their efforts to become more sustainable. It has deep roots in many disciplines including sociology, geography, urban planning, landscape architecture, engineering, economics, anthropology, climatology, public health and ecology.

LA 5301 Geodesign

The course focuses on developing the knowledge and techniques of site analysis and planning, which are essential for sustainable landscape architecture. The course is named as "Geo design" because it emphasizes on the systematic thinking of site and site alternatives in broad context, in which the analysis is supported by contemporary theories and methodologies in landscape and urban ecology. The tool of geographic information system (GIS) is provided for the development of advanced techniques in analyzing, evaluating, managing, and modeling.

LA5511 Digital Techniques in Landscape Architecture

From the invention of the axe to surveying tools like the graphometre, technological advancements have always influenced how we document, understand, design and modify our landscapes. Perhaps the most influential was Geographic Information System (GIS) technology which allowed the convergence of topological, ecological and even social data into the discourse of landscape architecture. However, unlike the two dimentional nature of GIS, landscapes are inherently three dimensional. The course thus explores the various advances that allow landscape architects to operate within a 3D environment with data collected from reality, studied and modified through computational thinking, enriched through information modelling and tested through simulations.

LA 4702 MLA Studio: City†

This studio-based course develops an appreciation for design skills in tropical landscape design as applied on a large city scale and marks the second of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. Interdisciplinary requirements from planning guidelines, architecture design, engineering limitations; as well as understanding existing natural land and urban systems will be introduced into the design process. Project sites will be larger in scale with more complex urban design issues, with projects ranging from peripheral nature conservation sites to mix-use urban centres. There will be an emphasis on deriving innovative design solutions using ecological and sustainability principles.

LA 5303 Urban Greening: Technologies and Techniques

Driven by global urbanization trends, landscape architects are increasingly called upon to sensitively and creatively introduce landscapes in highly urbanized settings. To achieve this, fundamental knowledge of the challenges that the urban environment poses, solutions to these challenges, as well as the use of R&D to develop innovations are important in the skill set of landscape architects. This course introduces students to contemporary and emerging technologies and techniques that have become essential components of urban greening design and practices. It traces the origins of such technologies and techniques as responses to challenges and opportunities in creating a green and ecologically-balanced urban environment, explains their scientific underpinnings, and illustrates with examples of real-life applications. It emphasizes the role of R&D in a continual process to improve the performance of greening in areas of sustainability, ecological health, and liveability of the built environment. Topics covered include metrics used to measure greenery, technologies used to integrate greenery with the grey and blue elements of the built environment, and plants as the basic building blocks of functional landscapes. The course is conducted through lectures, class discussions, and site visits demonstrating real-life applications as well as R&D in progress.

LA 5302 Landscape Construction II & Professional Practice

This course is consist of two parts. The first part emphasizes landscape engineering techniques focused on designing landscape elements for urban stormwater management (water sensitive urban design, WSUD). These WSUD elements include design of bioswales, bioretention systems and constructed wetland constructions. The course will cover fundamentals in hydrology and hydraulics, application of the knowledge for design of WSUD, including sizing, material specifications and construction and design considerations, and proficiency in production of construction drawings. The second part provide informative knowledge on how design proposals are developed as professional drawings, how they are constructed, and operated in professional landscape architecture practice. It will give an overview of the nature of a professionalism that requires the active integration of related design fields. The course will clarify the responsibilities of landscape architects within the design team, as well as among different stakeholder groups, including clients, users, landscape contractors, managers, and policy makers. It will also cover office and project management, contract procedures, construction administration, ethics, and different types of oral and written communication skills for professional practice.

LA 5901 Special Topics in Landscape Architecture Tropical Forest Ecology

The practice of landscape architecture requires a working knowledge of ecology. The ecological understanding of practitioners is particularly challenging in the tropics, which feature some of the world's most diverse and complex ecosystems. This course aims to equip students with the foundational knowledge (ecological principles; vegetation types; habitats) and basic skills (plant identification, literature reviews) to recognise habitat types, interpret ecological properties of a site, and to be able to design and critique landscapes from an ecological perspective. The course is conducted through lectures and field trips.

* MLA PREPARATORY YEAR, CONCURRENT WITH BLA YEAR 4.
† MORE DETAILED DESIGN BRIEF AND SCHEDULE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE START OF SEMESTER.

12   13

LA 5701 MLA Studio: Country†
This studio-based course investigates the sustainable issues surrounding land development of large scales and marks the third of four master-level core studios in landscape design. Methods to balance economic and human development with ecological aspects are highlighted and discussed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The course aims on tropical design issues in the urban context of Singapore and other tropical countries. Thinking globally, acting locally – forms the topical framework of design content.

LA 5211 Political Ecology and Landscapes
Landscape architecture is not shaped just by environmental and aesthetic considerations, but also by the process of social engagement, social hierarchies, and power structures in society. This course introduces students to key concepts and frameworks of political ecology, which is a broad field of study and research that focuses on socio-environmental conflicts and their origins. Through a variety of teaching and learning modes, students examine landscape case studies representing different contexts, scales, and histories to uncover diverse human–environment interactions. There is an emphasis on applying different tools and methods to conduct and communicate political ecology research.

LA5500 Proseminar
The proseminar introduces MLA students to a range of key issues for urban environments in the anthropocene epoch and their implications for practice and research in landscape architecture. The focus is on developing critical perspectives that come from a deeper understanding of landscape architectural knowledge, methods, and speculation. Classes consist of a series of roundtables by landscape architecture faculty members and/or guest speakers followed by a discussion of assigned readings and a discourse on research questions, specific skills, and applicability in practice.

LA 5742A Dissertation Prep
LA5742A prepares students for LA5742 (Dissertation) which is run in Semester 2 of the second year of MLA. LA5742 is a research-based course in which students undertake a research project on a topic of their choice under the supervision which culminates in a written dissertation report. LA5742A prepares students for this research undertaking by introducing students to research process, research methods and basic statistics. It is run in Semester 1 of the second year and culminates in the submission of a written dissertation proposal that students will execute for LA5742 in Semester 2.

LA 5702 MLA Studio: Region†
This studio based course marks the last of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. The final MLA studio is regarded as opportunity for the graduating students to deliver their personal 'master piece'. The students will undertake projects in one of the countries of South East Asia, tackling landscape design issues in the fast growing urban agglomerations of this region. The studio integrates ecological, social and economic thinking in the course of generation of designs that shall be realistic and workable.

LA5201 Policy of Landscape
This course presents a review of current topics in landscape architecture and planning considering environmental and nature conservation issues through lectures, readings, and discussion. A broad sweep of strategic, comprehensive and regional design issues is provided and students are challenged to critique current practice and to reflect on the relevance of landscape policies to society.

LA 5742 Dissertation
The research dissertation engages the student in a short research project related to the research interests of the department. The student will be exposed to previous and current research in the department and will then frame a research project of his own that utilizes the research methodology and issues adopted by his supervisor and his team. The research will culminate in a written report not exceeding 5000 words.

† MORE DETAILED DESIGN BRIEF AND SCHEDULE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE START OF SEMESTER.

DESIGN THESIS / DISSERTATION
(LA 5702 MLA STUDIO: REGION + LA 5742 DISSERTATION)

As a research-centric programme, design thesis / dissertation is an important part of MLA training to enhance research skills and critical analysis. More importantly, it allows students to investigate an area of individual interest. Design thesis / dissertation preparation commences in Semester 1 MLA Year 2, with data collection, presentation, and final submission in Semester 2. Students will be assigned supervisors to guide students through the process of defining research questions and objectives, use of appropriate methodology, analysis, and final design outcomes and/or report writing. Students will have the option of working on either a design thesis or a dissertation; the former emphasizes knowledge production in the form of graphic representation, whereas the latter will be presented through substantial piece of written work.

Such capstone project complement the research-oriented focus of the MLA towards the teaching of tropical landscape architecture.

Below are the list of tutors for this course, with their respective focal themes and approaches.

SCIENCE vs. DESIGN vs. PLANTS
Tutor: Chun Liang Tan / Design Thesis

Greenery has long been touted as the key to alleviating the detrimental effects of urbanisation, such as pollution and the Urban Heat Island effect. Many scientific studies have validated its benefits, but have stopped short at recommending how to incorporate them into the planning and design process. This has resulted in some ambiguity on how greenery should be integrated into architecture and landscape projects, which, if left unchecked, may lead to more harm than good. We will examine this issue through the lenses of eco-literacy and design practicality, with the aim of developing frameworks to maximise ecosystem services provided by urban greenery whilst minimising potential disservices and unintentional green washing.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY FORMAL
Tutor: Ervine Lin / Design Thesis

Unlike our architectural cousins, landscape architects seem to shy away from form-making as if it was a taboo or outside the realm of landscape architecture. This could be attributed to the recent popularity of systems, technologies, and tactical approaches that abstain from formal approaches to design. Yet from the earliest known built landscapes, form has been integral in denoting importance, centrality, divinity and even a mastery of working with natural processes to bend nature to our will. All this was done with primitive tools, but with modern construction technology and digital tools, landscape architecture should no longer be bound by any formal limitations but should instead embrace such possibilities in order to explore new formal strategies for landscape interventions.

THE FOREST IS LONGING FOR THE SEA
Tutor: Kenya Endo / Design Thesis

Oyster farmers along the north-eastern coast of Japan, understand by experience that good harvest relies on the good health of adjacent forests. Rivers collect fertile sediments from land, and nurture aquatic life in the sea. This is not unique to the Japanese coast, but is a crucial component in many geographies. The forest and the sea are inseparable entities.

Natural systems form a dynamic web, in which human activities have heavily and purposefully intervened in the processes. This thesis group will start from mapping the various networks of material flows in the sea-land interface at a regional context, to problematize the artificial distinction between terrestrial and marine systems. Students will experiment with a range of visual representation mediums as instruments for discovery, intervention, and testing the new interplays that emerge.

DOWN TO EARTH: RETHINKING CRITICAL ZONES
Tutor: Maxime Decaudin / Design Thesis and Dissertation

Producing new knowledge at the intersection of nature and culture, theory and practice, landscape architects are extremely well-suited to lead sustainable development in the 21st century. As the current models of development keep increasing social inequalities, causing climate change, and accelerating the 6th mass extinction, it is urgent for landscape architects to actively take part in imagining sustainable and meaningful alternatives. Many scholars have been calling for a radical shift in our collective relationships with each other (economy & politics), with technology, and with the earth's systems. Equipped with holistic understanding of both natural and cultural processes, landscape architects play a key role in rethinking the ontological exceptionality of humans by revealing new forms of material interactions and creating long term strategies for more-than-human communities

and their living environments. In this stream, students are encouraged to address major long-term challenges facing humanity today through situated and contextualized cases and using qualitative or design research methods at a variety of scales.

Research Dissertation on pattern-process-function relationships of the urban environment, and human-nature interactions
Tutor: Puay Yok Tan / Dissertation

CLOSING THE LOOP: ECOLOGY AND ECONOMICS IN ISLAND CITIES
Tutor: Yun Hye Hwang / Design Thesis

Earth's resources are being depleted at an alarming rate as consumption of natural resources tripled over the past five decades. In the context of city islands where limited resources are constantly extracted, and material footprints are expanding within a finite area, it is critical to design circular systems. Yet, conventional discourse on circularity often focuses on waste elimination or renewables. This thesis theme is driven by the following query: how do we design circular systems that respond to the specifics of socio-cultural conventions and the ecology of local landscapes?

We focus on landscape as a means of contextualizing circularity and as a boundary object between human and nature, with a specific emphasis on island cities. What constitutes genuine circularity that can help extend the life and diversity of the Earth? How can economic growth be combined with wise conservation of healthy natural systems and improved urban metabolic processes? To what extent can the traditional knowledge and practices of nature-dependent communities contribute to sustainable management of existing resources and new development? By answering these questions, the designer will envision hybrid ecosystems that generate innovative synergies between inputs and outputs of production, between consumptive and productive space, and between ecology and economy.

PEOPLE OF THEIR LAND
Tutor: Evi Syarifuddin / Design Thesis

This thesis cluster takes a bold hypothesis that people and land are healthiest when they are deeply and meaningfully intertwined: that ecological restoration and the thriving of communities on any particular site are best achieved when it occurs concurrently in a mutually supportive manner.

As a collective, students will examine precedents of various scales along the rural-to-urban continuum. Students are then expected to apply insights from these studies into individual projects set within urban or peri-urban contexts where a less tenuous and more

multidimensional connection between land and people are desirable. As part of the process, they are expected to rigorously assess and rank the importance of different ecosystem services in a site-specific, holistic and non-exploitative manner.

In addition to proposing a convincing multi-functional programmatic use of the site, students are encouraged to address related socio-economic issues, such as land-ownership structures and community-governance. Other topics that are of possible relevance include food sovereignty, circular economies, urban resilience and climate adaptation.

BY THE WATER'S EDGE
Tutor: Russell Smith / Design Thesis

Urbanisation of the coastal zones in Asia is a continuing trend that presents both opportunities and challenges. Whether the mega cities of Shanghai and Chennai; the island cities of Singapore and Hong Kong; or the resort cities of Danang, Sanya and Denpasar; the economic imperative drives physical development forward at a frenetic pace that all too often ignores the integral environmental and societal obligations at the water's edge. How to comprehend the dynamics of the coast? How to balance diverse stakeholders' sometimes conflicting wants and needs that are focussed there? How to create beauty that appeals to all? This atelier provides students with the opportunity to explore development scenarios through design or through research, for self-determined contexts and scales, macro or micro, that define future comprehensive landscape architectural outcomes for sustainable future coastal settings.

INTERDEPENDENCY: EXPLORING "META-HOLOBIONT" THROUGH SPECULATIVE DESIGN
Tutor: Yukio Hasegawa / Design Thesis

Humans are intertwined with a vast number of microorganisms, collectively known as the human microbiota, which are essential to our existence. Similarly, our coexistence with other species on Earth contributes to our survival. Furthermore, our interdependence now extends to AI and machines, as they have become indispensable to our civilization. Building upon the concept of a "holobiont," an ecological unit formed through symbiosis between a host and its surrounding species, this thesis explores the META-HOLOBIONT - a term that encompasses the interconnectedness between humans, other organisms, and AI. The objective of this studio is to investigate how we can successfully coexist in this interconnected world. The emphasis is also on encouraging students to explore generative AI and demonstrate how its implementation can potentially reshape the field of landscape architecture.

SCHOLARSHIPS

GARDENS BY THE BAY SCHOLARSHIP

Offered to candidates who are passionate about Horticulture and possess a keen interest in pursuing a long-term career in this field. The Gardens will support our Scholars in embarking on their tertiary journey, with challenging and rewarding career paths and job rotations. Scholars can expect a rewarding experience – where passion is inspired and expertise is nurtured.

FOR FURTHER QUERIES OR CLARIFICATIONS:
https://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en/careers-and-scholarships/scholarships.html
or email at scholarship@gardensbythebay.com.sg.

DESIGNSINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP

DesignSingapore Scholarship is for individuals with creativity, drive and passion for design. The scholarship will groom designers to become designer leaders who will use strategy and innovation to make things better by design. Our scholarship holders may come from different fields of design, but they share one uncommon trait – they are game changers and aspire to contribute to Singapore and the design sector. We are on the lookout for talented individuals with creative flair, the drive to push boundaries; and a heart to serve Singapore.

FOR FURTHER QUERIES OR CLARIFICATIONS:
https://brightsparks.com.sg/profile/dsg/scholarship.php or email at MCI_Dsg_Scholarships@mci.gov.sg.

AWARDS

GARDENS BY THE BAY PRIZE
This cash prize of $1000 is awarded in each academic year to the top graduate with the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) in the MLA programme. Student has to complete the programme with the minimum GPA of 4.5 to be considered.

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

MLA provides semester-long exchange programmes with overseas universities to enrich our students' learning experience. Thus far, students have gone for exchange programmes at Cornell University, University of Oregon and University of Florida. Student exchange typically takes place in Semester 1 of MLA 2. Opportunities for student exchange with University of Michigan and University of Washington are also available, but subject to further arrangements. New exchange opportunities are being explored with other universities. Students on overseas exchange programme need not pay tuition fees of the receiving university but will have to cater to living, transport and other associated expenses on their own. Note that students eligible for exchange are nominated in the preceding semester based on GPA scores.

STUDIO AND OTHER OVERSEAS TRIPS*

Over the two academic years, students will have the opportunity and be expected to travel to regional countries for studio work. Typically, two of the four studios are overseas sites, which require students to spend 7-10 days at the study site to undertake field data collection, and consultation with local communities, practitioners, NGOs or other stakeholders. Overseas studio is a critical part of MLA, designed to expose students to the relevance and meaning of landscapes across diverse socio-cultural, socio-economic and geographical contexts. Occasionally, in some academic years, the number of overseas studio trips deviate from the norm. In addition to studio trips, overseas trips may also be undertaken as part of teaching courses when suitable opportunities are available to expose students to the regional context, challenges, and best practices encountered in these sites. The Department endeavors to secure sponsorship or partial funding to offset student travel costs for overseas trips, as well as makes travel arrangements to keep travel costs as low as practical. However, financial support is not always available and students must be prepared to self-finance overseas trips.

* OVERSEAS STUDIOS ARE SUBJECT TO NUS TRAVEL POLICIES.

RETENTION OF STUDENT WORK

All students should note that, pursuant to NUS Statutes, any work prescribed to be done by a candidate in the course of his or her study for the Master of Landscape Architecture may be deemed as the property of the University. Since the Department may be required to retain selected student work for exhibition, archiving and other reasons, students should make their own copies or records of their work for job interviews, competition entries, and other purposes.

PUBLICATIONS

Students are encouraged to publish (or publicize) their design thesis, dissertation with the supervisor. This also applies to essay-based assignments. In the event that said publication is not produced after a year, supervisors can use materials produced for publications with the prior consent of students as a co-author.

Students' performance will be assessed through various modes of continuous assessment. All work done within the Studio courses will be assessed. The DOA Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Grade and Grade Point Equivalent
Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports, as well as midterm and final examinations. A student's final grade in a course will be based on absolute and relative performance. Accordingly, there may not be direct correspondence between particular marks in continuous assessment and the overall course grade.

Grades released to students will be in the form of letter grades: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D+, D, F.

The grade and grade point equivalent shall be in accordance with the University regulations as follows:

GRADE	GRADE POINT	DESCRIPTION
A+ A	5.0 5.0	EXCELLENT
A- B+	4.5 4.0	VERY GOOD
B B-	3.5 3.0	GOOD
C+ C	2.5 2.0	SATISFACTORY
D+ D	1.5 1.0	PROBATIONARY GRADE
F	0	FAIL

Grade Point Average (GPA)
Academic progress is tracked by the GPA, which is the weighted average grade point of all courses taken by the student. Therefore, a student's GPA is the sum of the course grade points multiplied by the number of units for the corresponding course, divided by the total number of units. This is represented as follows:

$$GPA = \frac{\text{SUM (COURSE GRADE POINT X UNITS ASSIGNED TO COURSE)}}{\text{SUM (UNITS ASSIGNED TO ALL COURSES)}}$$

Courses with no assigned grade points and associated units are excluded from the calculation of GPA.

An online GPA calculator is available at:
https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/capcalc/cap_calculator.aspx

The GPA simulation is based on the entries made by you for individual course grades. As such, NUS will not be held responsible for any misuse, mistakes or wrong decisions made arising from the use of this Online GPA Calculator.

Progression and Graduation Requirements
For continuation requirement to MLA Year 2, students must achieve a minimum B- average for LA4701 and LA4702 and minimum GPA of 2.5

For graduation, a student must complete 80 units of 12 essential courses and 2 electives. To graduate, students have to fulfil the additional requirements of:

• Minimum GPA of 3.00 and
• Minimum grade B- for both LA5701 and LA5702

Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal
To continue in a Master programme at NUS, a student may not have:

• GPA below 3.00 (but ≥ 2.50) for three consecutive semesters; or
• GPA below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters.

For any semester in which the student's GPA falls below 3.00 (but ≥ 2.50), that student will be issued an academic warning. If, in the following semester, the student's GPA again falls below 3.00, s/he will be placed on probation. If the student's GPA remains below 3.00 for the third consecutive semester, the student will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar and denied re-admission.

For students whose GPA falls below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters, they will be placed on probation for the first semester, followed by dismissal in the second semester.

Such a student may appeal the dismissal if there are extenuating circumstances. The appeal must be submitted to the Education Office within two calendar weeks of the last day of the release of the semester's examination results. Generally, a student is allowed only one dismissal appeal per candidature. If the appeal is rejected, the student will not be readmitted. If the outcome of the appeal is positive, the student will be given one semester in which to achieve the minimum GPA required for continuation and graduation.

Award of Degree
The minimum GPA for fulfilment of the degree requirements for award of Master of Landscape Architecture is 3.0.

If there are any circumstances, academic or otherwise, which have adversely affected a student's academic performance during the course of semester or examination, the student can submit the form *Application for Special Consideration* together with supporting documents, if any, within the stipulated deadline.

If candidates do not achieve a passing grade in a course, they are permitted to retake the course in accordance with the prevailing NUS regulations under the modular system.

All students share the responsibility to uphold the academic standards and reputation of the National University of Singapore. Academic honesty is a prerequisite condition in the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive or failure to acknowledge the source or falsification of information or inaccuracy of statements or cheating at examinations/tests or inappropriate use of resources. There are many forms of academic dishonesty; plagiarism is one of them. Plagiarism is generally defined as 'the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own' (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University does not condone plagiarism.

Students should adopt this rule:

You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work.

This is a minimum standard. In addition, we hope the following guidelines will provide you with some assistance:

1. When using the ideas, phrases, paragraphs and data of others in work presented for assessment, such materials should be appropriately credited and acknowledged, so that it is clear that the materials being presented are that of another person and not the candidate's own.

2. The amount of detail required when referencing and acknowledging a source will vary according to the type of work and norms of the discipline.

3. Supervised exams will require less detail in referencing and acknowledgment.

4. Papers written other than under exam conditions will require a full citation of the source. While a particular style of citation is not prescribed, the citation should provide enough information for the reader to locate the source.

5. Research materials (including texts, graphics and data) obtained from the internet or other electronic resources should be treated in the same way as research materials obtained from traditional sources. This includes research materials used for design studio.

Any student found to have committed or aided and abetted the offence of plagiarism may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with the Section 1(I) of Statute 12 (Discipline) of the National University of Singapore. In addition, the student may receive no mark/grade for the relevant academic assignment, project, or thesis; and he/she may fail or be denied a grade for the relevant subject or course.

A student may not knowingly intend to plagiarize, but that should not be used as an excuse for plagiarism.

Students should seek clarifications from their respective tutors, lecturers or supervisors if they are unsure whether or not they are plagiarizing the work of another person. The Centre for Instructional Technology also provides a service to students to help detect and prevent web-based plagiarism.

More information at:
http://cit.nus.edu.sg/plagiarism-prevention/

Guidelines for use of AI Tools

In general, it is considered improper to use any available Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool to produce work and pass it off as your own work or idea. These tools include but are not limited to text generators and paraphrasing tools (e.g. ChatGPT, QuillBot AI, etc) or image generating tools (e.g. Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, etc).

However, the university is open to an ethical and proper use of AI when it is allowed. Please check with your individual instructor to understand if the use of an AI tool is acceptable for each specific assignment. In cases where an AI tool is indeed used, a clear acknowledgement of the tool, the prompts/inputs used and how it was used in the particular assignment should be clearly stated.

More information at:
https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/new2nus/acadintegrity

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