

OVERLOOK

2020 FIELD SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCH.



The Overlook Field School

The summer field school at Overlook offers students a unique opportunity to study and live on an evolving cultural landscape. With faculty and a visiting artist in residence, students examine the enduring connections between landscape, culture, and production.

Students earn 6 University of Oregon credits, while living and learning for four weeks at Overlook, a 400-acre property in northeastern Pennsylvania designed by the Frederick Law Olmsted firm in the early twentieth century and currently being re-imagined by the fourth-generation owners and landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz.

The program includes multi-day site visits to New York and Philadelphia. Weekly activities include design charettes, fieldwork, seminars, expert speakers, and site visits to regional cultural and productive sites.

Program Overview

2020 Theme: Experiment

Scientists have created many experimental landscapes as they move from the controlled environment of the laboratory to the complexity of the world. We have experimental forests and ranges, farms and nurseries, even experimental waterways. Landscape architects frequently draw from this research, but it often must be translated to match our particular design applications. How does the practice of experimentation relate to the design process? What is a design experiment – and what is experimental design?

For the 2020 Overlook Field School we will collaborate with artist David Buckley Borden to interrogate these questions as they apply to landscape, which has no clearly defined laboratory boundary, and the discipline of landscape architecture, which relies on experience, simulation, and abductive reasoning to develop design proposition.

Design Charette

The design charette uses Overlook as a case study to develop ideas from the field seminar. Students will design and build on-site installations that interrogate notions and perceptions of wastelands, and/or will speculate on new relationships between waste, nature, beauty and the picturesque landscape. Research and prototypes will lead to a group or individual final installations on site and in the land, presented at a final show open to the public.

Regional Study Course

Students will study the designers, theories, and monuments of regional landscapes and landscape architecture through field trips and site visits. In New York and Philadelphia, we visit design firms to discuss contemporary practice, and visit urban parks, infrastructure, and institutions. At Overlook, we explore the geology, ecosystems, and vernacular landscapes of Northeast Pennsylvania, through the lens of landscape perception. Sites visited include gardens and museums in the New York and Philadelphia regions, including Storm King Art Center, DIA Beacon, and Longwood Gardens.

| EXPERIMENT

Faculty

Michael Geffel: Program Manager, Overlook Field School

Geffel is a visiting professor of landscape architecture at The University of Oregon where he teaches design studios, theory and media classes. He will be leading the summer field school in Pennsylvania and teaching this spring's seminar class.

His design research investigates the generative capacity of landscape maintenance — that is, how maintenance operations mediate and construct landscape and how they may be utilized as design instruments to engage territories outside the traditional scope of landscape architecture.

2020 Artist in Residence

David Buckley Borden:

David is a Cambridge Massachusetts-based interdisciplinary artist and designer. Using an accessible, often humorous, combination of art and design, David promotes a shared environmental awareness and heightened cultural value of ecology. David's place-based projects highlight both pressing environmental issues and everyday phenomena. Informed by research and community outreach, David's work manifests in a variety of forms, ranging from site-specific public art installations in the woods to data-driven cartography in the gallery.

David was a 2016/2017 Charles Bullard Fellow (Artist-in-Residence) at the Harvard Forest where he answered the question, "How can art and design foster cultural cohesion around environmental issues and help inform ecology-minded decision making?" As a Harvard Forest Associate Fellow David continues to collaborate with Harvard researchers, to champion a cultural ecology supported by interdisciplinary science-communication.

Costs

Airfare, local travel, and room and board are paid for by the Fuller Center for Productive Landscapes. Local travel includes the field excursions, including travel, hotels, and admission to required sites.

Students pay tuition summer credit hours, according to the Registrar's fee schedule. Students make their own travel arrangements to and from Overlook. A travel subsidy will be deposited to students' UO accounts. The amount of the subsidy is based on round-trip airfare from Eugene to Scranton, PA, one checked bag fee each way, and shuttle cost from Scranton to Overlook.

Contact

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2020 Key Program Dates

6/26	Students arrive
6/28	Opening Dinner
6/29	Classes start
7/7	New York trip
7/16	Philadelphia trip
7/25	Closing show
7/27	Students depart

Applications

Admission is through the Landscape Architecture department, and considers academic standing and GPA, as well as relevance of the program to the student's area of study. The application is available online at: <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/fullercenter/ofs/>

January 31

Application deadline for the summer 2020 program.

February 15

Students will be notified of acceptance.

February 28

Student confirmation of offer. All students who are accepted to participate must confirm by this date.

Waiting List

If accepted students decline to participate, wait-listed students will be accepted after the February 28 deadline. These students will have two weeks to confirm their participation.