Sociology of Professions: The Evolution of Landscape Architecture in the United States

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Abstract
In mid- to late-nineteenth-century American history, there was a fairly uniform evolution of ‘occupations’ that developed into specialised ‘professions’; the process of which has long been an area of study for sociologists. Acknowledged professions such as law and medicine were beneficiaries of this transition - being cited today as consummate authorities in their respective knowledge bases. Yet, landscape architecture, to date, has not achieved the same level of public understanding and approbation even in comparison to sister professions of planning and architecture. This paper uses the theoretical framework of the sociology of professions to understand the comparatively latent development of the profession of landscape architecture in achieving public recognition. Based on these theoretical standards, the findings of this study include possible reasons for landscape architecture’s slower evolution in public recognition and acceptance, as well as a projection of its future through a review of recent accomplishments and events that indicate how public approbation and understanding of landscape architecture might be expanded. The paper concludes with reasons for optimism towards the future of the profession and discipline. The research goal of this undertaking was to trace landscape architecture’s trajectory from occupation to profession, beginning in the late nineteenth century, and to compare that path with other disciplines, such as planning and architecture, in order to determine the reasons for landscape architecture’s slower journey toward public recognition and understanding. This article frames the professional evolution of landscape architecture in the United States through a sociological lens of professional development. The study begins with a survey of the development of professions as a sociological phenomenon, and is placed in context by a literature review of scholarly journals, professional trade magazines and various studies of the profession. The authors summarise a positive future through interviews and electronic communication with contemporary educators and practitioners.

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The field of landscape architecture is expected to continue to grow over the next several years. According to the statistics reported by the United States Department of Labor, the employment rate for landscape architects is projected to increase by 5% between now and 2024. Populations around the globe are expanding, and these growing populations are creating a need for trained individuals capable of balancing both facets without causing detriment to one or the other. As with most land grant universities in the United States, instruction in landscape architecture began in the College of Agriculture in 1888. Sociology of Professions: The Evolution of Landscape Architecture in The research goal of this undertaking was to trace landscape architecture’s. 12 The symposium organised by Marc Treib at the University of California at Nursing Guide to Practice - Office of the Professions - New York ... The University of the State of New York THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Office of the Professions Division of Professional Licensing Services www.op.nysed.gov. Landscape Architect Form 4A. Verification of professional experience applicant instructions 1.