



**NORDISK ARKITEKTURFORSKNING**

Nordic Journal of Architectural Research

**1-2016**

**THEME ISSUE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:  
INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS  
IN A NORDIC CONTEXT**

## Nordic Journal of Architectural Research

ISSN: 1893-5281

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Published by SINTEF Academic Press

P O Box 124 Blindern, NO-0314 Oslo, Norway

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## PUBLICATIONS USED IN THE EARLY YEARS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: SEVEN NORDIC SCHOLARS' SELECTION

PER HEDFORS

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research was to study the theoretical approaches and intellectual traditions in landscape architecture in a Nordic context. The aim was to identify some of the literary sources that supported academic pioneers. In focus was the exchange of ideas in the Nordic countries thanks to a common understanding of languages. Seven pioneering scholars from the Nordic countries were invited to a symposium called "Urkunder & husgudar" (Records & House gods) held in Uppsala at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in April 2012. The scholars elaborated on the influences on their work during their careers. The reference list of each lecture was loaded into a database and identical referencing was given special attention. The amount of references was 159, and 15 of these were reported by more than one informant. References to Ian L. McHarg and Carl Theodor (C.Th.) Sørensen were the most frequent. A library classification system of the 15 references indicated keywords of which the most prominent was "City planning". Other significant elements had to do with gardening, garden art, and nature or landscape management.

Key words:  
landscape architecture, theory,  
publications, authorships, Scan-  
dinavia, pioneers, city planning,  
garden

## Introduction

Landscape architecture can be considered as a discipline generated by a craft and its needs for knowledge and efforts of becoming a profession. The close interplay of theory and practise is a significant issue in this process. Practice is based on the applications of theory, while theory is refined by the experiences in practice. Theory is useful first for communication, for example, internally with colleagues and externally with experts in other disciplines. Theory is also a foundation for the development of concepts for the practitioners' own thinking while practicing management, maintenance, planning and design. There is a satisfaction in knowing when ideas were born, to trace the origin of good solutions, and to have references to some useful arguments.

Landscape architecture is understood as a discipline and field of study that is consulted in landscapes planning practice, design and management (ECLAS, 2015). The discipline has been deeply rooted in professional practice and developed as a profession during the industrialization in the 19th century, with connections to e.g. garden art, architecture, agronomy, nature conservation, and urban planning and design. During the early 20th century, landscape architecture started to develop into an academic discipline.

## Regional development through interrelated languages

The Nordic countries form a historical and cultural-linguistic region, and aims at the community formed by closely related languages that are comprehensible to most people in these countries<sup>1</sup>. The exchange of ideas across the Nordic borders was for instance manifested by the trade magazine *Havekunst/Landskap* (1920–1980). The magazine changed the name *Havekunst* to *Landskap* during the 1960s, which reflects a turn of scope of the discipline from merely garden art to include the entire landscape and city planning. The Nordic community constituted a larger critical mass than what each single country could offer, and this critical mass favoured the development of the discipline. At the same time, the use of language meant a certain detachment from the surrounding world where much of the thematic debate was in progress, for example in German and English. The linguistic affinity was probably more significant to the pioneers than it is today. However, many shared traditions in the Nordic countries are assumed to be based on an understanding of languages.

The professional community of landscape architecture in the Nordic countries was established and had significance for the development of the discipline almost a hundred years ago. Significant contributors by that time were e.g. G.N. Brandt (1878–1945), Marius Røhne (1883–1966), Olav L. Moen (1887–1951), C.Th. Sørensen (1893–1979), and Sven Hermelin

- 1 The Nordic languages Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish used by 25 million people do not include Finnish, which belongs to the Finno-Ugric languages. However, both Finnish and Swedish are official languages in Finland, and many of its inhabitants understand Swedish.

(1900–1984). Academic training started early in Norway, but the corresponding education was not established in the other Nordic countries until the 1960s. In the United States, the training of landscape architects started at Harvard even earlier, around the turn of the century (1899/1900) by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and others. The European continent was not far behind, and Norway was the leading country in 1919 when Olav L. Moen was appointed (Jørgensen and Suneson, 1999). The research in landscape architecture gradually developed and the first dissertation in the Nordic countries was defended by Olav R. Skage in Norway in 1967 (Skage, 1967).<sup>2</sup> Gradually, the Nordic language community faded primarily due to the outside world; the dominance of the Anglo-American language. Within the academia, this dominance is almost complete.

An assumption in this study was that the regional exchanges in the Nordic countries generated specific concepts and approaches, and at the same time, international concepts and approaches were adopted. Such characteristics might emerge in any more or less isolated language region, and can have such value that they deserve to be highlighted as theoretical contributions on an international level. The inputs from the external world grew as the landscape architects in the Nordic countries increased in number and began to read foreign languages more often. However, the outputs to the external world did not spread until much later as there were few advocates travelling abroad or who were published in international journals. A way of studying the exchange of ideas on an international level in future research is to study the formation process of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) (e.g. Anagnostopoulos, 2000; Imbert, 2007).

### Problem presentation

The overall interest in this study was making the theory of landscape architecture explicit. The study was part of a research project with the purpose to examine the theoretical approaches and intellectual traditions in landscape architecture in the context of Nordic languages. Little has been done to categorise the various theories represented during the period under discussion, and understand what concepts informed and guided landscape architects in their work. This study is a contribution in finding a base for such a categorisation. The research was a didactic project to facilitate the understanding of the field of study also for future generations, when they choose to look back in time. The study is considered to be a so-called boundary-work (Geiryn, 1983), to enforce an intellectual territory and to legitimise the competence. By boundary-work is meant a more or less involuntary demarcation work, which describes what belongs to the discipline and what is its focus. The study was focused on the subject-specific literature and the literary education within the discipline seen as important communicators of theory, although sources of expertise in the subject are very much of a different kind such as drawings, competitions, criticism, lectures, field trips, actual

- 2 When it comes to the empirical work of the present study, Olav R. Skage, the first scholar in the Nordic countries to defend his thesis, was one of the informants.



locations, etc. The task was to identify publications and authorships that have been influential in the Nordic countries. The goal was to identify literary sources that supported the understanding of landscape architecture as far back in time as people living in year 2012 could remember, and of which they have experiences of their own. The Research question was: Which were the influential publications and authors in landscape architecture according to pioneering scholars in the Nordic countries?

### Existing studies addressing literature

There are a number of Anglo-American studies addressing comparable literature in the English language, like compilations of literature (e.g. Swaffield, 2002; Thompson 2009), and other studies focusing on different periods (e.g. Riley and Brown, 1991; JoLA, 2008). In 1992, the trade magazine *Utblick landskap* published the special issue *Urkunder* (Eng. Records). The issue presented a Nordic study on books that have influenced people in the discipline. Nine experts in landscape architecture, mainly from Sweden (5) but also from Finland (1), Denmark (1) and the US (2), were asked about books that have influenced them. About 30 references (nonfiction) were addressed together with additional literature in fiction. The magazine did not have the ambition to carry out a scientific study. There is for instance no information on whether more than one of the informants pointed out the same sources. However, this study will be discussed below in this paper, as it is valuable to compare the informants' selection in this study with informants being colleagues of the same generation, to show both confirming and widening results.

### Method

This study was part of an extraordinary project arranged as a symposium documenting the history of intellectual traditions within landscape architecture in the Nordic countries. The symposium in landscape architecture called "Urkunder & husgudar" (Eng. Records & House gods) was held in Uppsala 18–19 of April 2012 (Hedfors and Dahl, 2015).<sup>3</sup> The symposium was addressed to landscape architects and students in academia as well as in the profession in the Nordic countries, and it was a way of looking at the subject in retrospect while already retired scholars were still willing to talk about their experiences. The method used in this study had a self-reflective approach. Each scholar concentrated on the literature and the authorships that they in retrospective found valuable during their careers. All respondents in our study except one held a lecture at the symposium and presented influences that played a significant role to them during their professional career as landscape architects in the academia, the profession or both. The study offered a quite rigorous setting compared to *i.e.* research interviewing of individuals, as the respondents prepared thoroughly for their presentations at the symposium. The setting gave the opportunity for criticism from the audience, from a round table discussion, and from the other respond-

3 The organizing committee of the symposium included Assistant Prof. Per Hedfors (Uppsala), Planning architect and Coordinator of FUSE Caroline Dahl (Alnarp), Prof. Em. Clas Florgård (Uppsala) and Prof. Em. Eivor Bucht (Alnarp) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

ents of the study, who were informed of the situation and active during the period under discussion.

## Selection of informants

At the symposium, seven persons were asked to identify the publications and authorships that have been influential to them. The reason for selecting seven informants was to match with the symposium, which was structured as a lunch-to-lunch seminar. An introduction and four lectures were held the first afternoon, and the additional three lectures were held the following morning. Each lecture was 30 minutes long including 10 minutes of discussion. The informants were chosen as a strategic selection of scholars. The results emanating from this study should not be treated statistically as seven informants are a far too limited group for statistical analysis. It was highly appropriate to ask those who have been active within the field for a long time to get their view of the traditions. Respondents were selected primarily among scholars who had a key position in the academy. Their connection to the academy was an assurance of their use and reuse of literature, for conducting research and teaching. These individuals were selected from four of the five countries where a Nordic language is in use: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Iceland, as being the fifth country was not included, but during this pioneering period, students from Iceland were offered education in the other Nordic countries. Both women and men were represented in the selection.

The following scholars were chosen: Magne Bruun (Norway), Eivor Bucht (Sweden), Göran Johnson (Finland), Ib Asger Olsen† (Denmark), Preben Skaarup (Denmark), Olav R. Skage (Norway), and Ragnhild Widgren (Sweden)<sup>4</sup>. These persons belong to the pioneers at the time when landscape architecture became established as an academic discipline in the Nordic countries in the middle and second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The informants, who in various ways have contributed to the development of the subject, mainly during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, were selected and asked to give their professional story. They belong to the generations of landscape architects subsequent to pioneers in the Nordic countries, like Brandt, Sørensen and Hermelin mentioned above.

4 Short biographies of the seven informants can be found in the Appendix.

## Preparation of seven lectures

The informants were asked to prepare a 20 minutes lecture (30 minutes including discussion) about their primary influences of literature relevant to their career. The invitations to the symposium were sent out 3–6 months in advance and they had plenty of time to prepare their lectures. They were asked to keep to the following questions: What texts have inspired you or significantly influenced the work during your career? Are there “records” that you want to lift forward (books, papers, other publications)?

This method set the conditions for the informants' thorough review and recapitulation. They prepared for their lectures of which a majority were illustrated. The lectures had an official status and a clear audience as the target group were scholars, students and practitioners at the symposium. The informants were well prepared for getting comments on their lectures during two round table sessions. The members of the round tables were colleagues of the same and a slightly younger generation.

## Analysis of lists of publications

The seven contributors submitted the lectures prior to the symposium. The reference list of each lecture was loaded into a database. Identical referencing was given special attention. These identical references were checked in the library system LIBRIS<sup>5</sup> to identify the subjects and subject affiliations. LIBRIS was chosen, as it is one of the most common systems in use in Sweden. The authorships of the total amount of references were also paid attention to. The number of references by the same author was counted. This documentation reflects some authorships that have influenced the field of landscape architecture with their way of thinking.

5 LIBRIS is an online database system at the Royal Library, Stockholm, Sweden (<http://www.libris.kb.se>).

## Results

### Publications

The total amount of references (books, papers, other publications) used in the written lectures by the seven informants was 159<sup>6</sup>. The time period of the publications is from shortly after the beginning of our chronology, with reference to the Bible, until year 2012. References from before the 20<sup>th</sup> century are few. Most of the publications originate from the period between 1950 and around 1980. A considerable portion of literature was reported even from later decades. The seven informants did not refer at all to the magazine *Havekunst/Landskap*.<sup>7</sup> The most recent references were primarily used in the lectures to confirm the various arguments and were not examples of literature that had been important in the development of the respondents' own knowledge. More than one of the informants reported 15 of the 159 references. The references to Ian L. McHarg and Carl Theodor (C.Th.) Sørensen were the most frequent (table 1). The shared references originated from the period 1930–1975.

6 The number of references was several more in this study (159) than in the referred study in the magazine *Utblick landskap* from 1992 mentioned above and discussed below (about 30 references [nonfiction] and additional fiction).

7 The informants did not refer at all to the present *Nordic Journal of Architectural Research*, which was established much later, in 1987.

**Table 1**  
Number of the seven scholars reporting 15 (out of 159) identical references relevant to landscape architecture

Number of informants	References
4	McHarg (1969) Sørensen (1959)
3	Lynch (1960) Selander (1955)
2	Brandt (1930) Buchwald, Lendholt and Meyer (1965) Cullen (1961) Gehl (1971) Kiemstedt (1967) Nihlén (1966) Rasmussen (1949) Simonds (1961) Sjörs (1956) Sørensen (1931) Sørensen (1975)

## Classification of literature

The references in table 1 were checked in a database to have the classification of literature and to identify the subjects according to the library system LIBRIS. The subject headings and classification codes according to the indexation system appeared together with the full reference to each publication, while checking in the database. The classification of the 15 references resulted in various keyword subjects, which occurred with different frequencies. The result is presented below in a so-called word cloud (figure 1). The more number of times the keyword appeared while checking the classification of the literature, the larger the font in the word cloud. The most prominent keyword was “City planning”. The positions in the word cloud are irrelevant.



**Figure 1**  
Word cloud of keyword subjects found in LIBRIS for the 15 references that more than one of the informants mentioned. The more often the keyword appeared while checking the classification of the literature, the larger the font. A few references are missing in LIBRIS and were instead represented by keywords in their title.

## Discussion

The present study aimed to document some literary references selected by pioneers in landscape architecture in the university sector in the Nordic countries. As expected, several respondents mentioned in their lectures other types of sources than literature and the literary education, for their influences and professional development, such as personal contacts, case studies, field trips etc. These other forms of knowledge generation and professional development are obviously of great importance for the communication of intellectual traditions. However, this study focused on influences of literature.

The empirical material of the seven informants' experiences of influential publications and authors in landscape architecture, have no clear answer to which of the publications that have had a greater or lesser importance for the development of disciplinary theory. By asking other experts from the same generation, we would surely get some other references. However, among the selected references, we got important clues for having an overview, an initial understanding of where to find the theories, and the intellectual traditions of the mid-1900s, as well as the next following decades. The result of this study shows that more than one informant used 15 of the 159 references. It is interesting to highlight the references that were commonly in use by the respondents.

Various knowledge areas were addressed according to the 15 references that were identified (figure 1). These basic areas of knowledge were relevant in landscape architecture, but over the years, the publications have been replaced with literature that is more modern. However, at least three of the references that more than one informant stated, are still frequently used in undergraduate courses according to lists of compulsory reading in education (Lynch, 1960; Cullen, 1961; Gehl, 1971). Moreover, the book by McHarg (1969), published in many editions, is discussed by students and researchers at seminars in many contexts. In addition to the areas of knowledge (figure 1), future research will contribute to a more comprehensive picture of landscape architecture by e.g. asking other representatives of the discipline.

## The library word cloud

A way to classify the areas of knowledge is to study the library keywords used for indexation of literature. The word cloud of library keyword subjects (figure 1) indicates that landscape architecture has much to do with urban issues and urban planning. A significant element has to do with gardening, garden art, nature management, or landscape management. According to the 15 identical references, we also find the neighbouring disciplines of geography and architecture. Important additions alongside the dominant disciplines are such as aesthetics, design, history, and sociology. It is noteworthy that the concept of ecology did not appear in

the library system, even if it was used in the publication, as the librarians have not chosen to classify the literature by using “ecology” as subject heading. However, the corresponding knowledge is hidden behind concepts such as biology and plant geography. Additionally, ecology represents knowledge applied in many of the dominant terms. The pattern of library keywords would probably not change significantly, even by asking other key people from the same generation. We would surely get some other references and some new keywords. Changes would appear of the proportions between keywords and they would be emphasised in new ways depending on the number of respondents involved, but the library system would probably indicate in a similar way. The library system is considered blunt as the indexation and subject headings show an aggregated level. An indexing system based on the specific topic landscape architecture (see Hubbard and Kimball, 1920) would give a more nuanced and detailed classification of the literature and support a deeper understanding of the subject area.

The library word cloud indicates significantly, according to our limited group of respondents, that the relevant literature that forms the basis of theory in landscape architecture is not easily found at libraries. As an example, the search for relevant literature by addressing the keyword “landscape architecture” would be very limiting as many more keywords are needed. Additionally, such a search with the help of one single keyword would address all literature coded as landscape architecture without any indication of which literature that was considered central or important in some other way. Therefore, a result of the study is that there is no easy access to lists of publications in the field of landscape architecture addressing its base in theory. The pattern is too complex and the librarians systems of indexation do not correspond.

### Comparison with the similar study of 1992

A comparison with key people of the same generation in Scandinavia is possible, as there is a similar study on the literature that played an important role in the development of the discipline. The comparable study was published in the trade magazine *Utblick landskap* in 1992. A comparison of the results in *Utblick landskap* and the present study, confirmed five references that were indicated both in the magazine and at least by two of our informants (the number of informants in square brackets): Sørensen (1959): [4], Selander (1955): [3], Brandt (1930): [2], Cullen (1961): [2], and Nihlén (1966): [2]. Additionally, *Utblick landskap* indicates five references that were specified by one of our informants: The Bible, Eckbo (1950), Masson (1961), Rasmussen (1957), and Tunnard (1938).

The list of 15 references that more than one informant used in their lectures was supplemented with the five references that were specified both in *Utblick landskap* and by one of our informants. By doing so, a

list appeared of 20 publications that more than one active scholar from the pioneering generation in the Nordic countries have highlighted. This course of action was to expand the list of influential literature originating from the same period (except the much older Bible).

In landscape architecture, literature from different disciplines was used in an eclectic manner, which is also being shown in this study. This is the case also within other disciplines, for example in the neighbouring disciplines of architecture and geography. However, it is hard to imagine any other discipline than landscape architecture combining literature from different disciplines in the same way. By summarizing the results of the study, although a limited group of informants, there are tendencies indicating that the discipline of landscape architecture has a specific collection of literature that contributes to its theoretical framework. The tendencies are shown in the pattern of keyword subjects in the word cloud in figure 1.

## Intellectual traditions

The literatures, which appear as the result, largely convey information with the purpose of generating instrumental knowledge. Such information is intended to be applied in practice. It is a technical literature that supports the pragmatic approach, and it is mainly hands-on. In addition, substantive theory is the focus, which indicates evidence-based facts (Ndubisi, 1997; Murphy, 2005).

Intellectual traditions reflecting the history of ideas, art history *etc.* does not emerge as clearly as the literature introducing instrumental knowledge. Nor does the procedural theory emerge clearly describing how the professional work of landscape architecture is performed and fits into a larger context (Ndubisi, 1997; Murphy, 2005). Seen in this way, the bibliography indicates that the discipline of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to a certain degree had an engineering approach: landscape architecture as a discipline on “green engineering”. However, this conclusion is tentative as it is based on a very limited group of strategically selected informants.

Possibly, it was the research question in this study concerning the influential literature, which easily led informants to think about their impressions based on instrumental and substantive theory. The alternative is, of course, that this type of knowledge really was most important to these pioneers. Possibly, it was at the time important to develop knowledge of hands-on techniques, until then unproved. When it came to literature for reflection on society and the work – its problems, possibilities, execution, and results – it is conceivable that the supply of literature was wide and seldom focused on the specific context of landscape architecture. The probability was therefore to a lesser extent that informants would indicate identical references in this area.

An assumption in this study was that the regional exchanges in the Nordic countries generated some specific concepts and approaches that have enough value to be highlighted as theoretical contributions on the international level. This study identified a number of references utilized by scholars in the early stages of the discipline's history. The results of this study allows for the further study of key concepts and approaches typical of the region where the Nordic languages are in use. A follow-up study is suggested to go deeper into the references indicated here.

The importance of the magazine *Havekunst/Landskap* as a communicator of knowledge between 1920 and 1980 was not confirmed by this study. Neither was *Nordic Journal of Architectural Research* referred, which is not surprising since it was established as late as 1987. It does not appear that journals had any major impact in the field of landscape architecture during the period under discussion.

A further understanding of the intellectual traditions requires the study of individual references among the 15 publications, or of the total sample of 159 publications. For example, Sørensen's texts are a reasonable starting point, together with publications of other authors in the sample, which had not primarily an instrumental purpose in their writing. According to the selection of publications, it was no doubt that Sørensen played a crucial role in the communication of theory in the Nordic countries. Sørensen would not agree on landscape architecture being considered as green engineering. He would emphasise the artistic approach.



Figure 2  
Word cloud of the authors to all references (in total 159) cited by the seven informants and supplemented by authors of subject-specific references found in *Utblick landskap* (1992). The more number of times the authors' name appear, the larger the font.



## Future prospects

This study stops at identifying a number of publications and authorships, which reflect an early period in the development of the subject of landscape architecture. Future research thereby gets a qualitative approach to study and analyse the contents of the literature in depth. Future research can search for the roots of the discipline by studying other members of the field of landscape architecture in the same generation, or in other generations. Future historical research can focus on past generations to find out and investigate the influences on early pioneers in the Nordic countries who were active before the generation in the present study (such as G.N. Brandt, Marius Røhne, Olav Moen, C.Th. Sørensen, and Sven Hermelin). Obviously, another set of methods are needed because they can no longer be asked in person. The shared references in our study are derived from the period 1930–1975. A corresponding future study of younger generations would widen the picture and highlight recent publications. As the organisation of a Nordic seminar is expensive and a very exclusive situation, a future study of younger generations can be carried out as research interviewing in their respective library. Additional future prospects can be to scrutinize the research methods, to compare different approaches in the studies carried out addressing literature typical to the discipline. The present study offered a rigorous setting compared to research interviewing of individuals, as the respondents prepared thoroughly for their presentations at a seminar. The seminar setting gave the opportunity for criticism from the audience, from a round table discussion, and from the other respondents of the study, who were informed of the situation and active during the period under discussion.

## Conclusions

This study suggests that the discipline of landscape architecture has its specific collection of literature as theoretical framework. In this study, some of the references are gathered that has shaped the different attitudes and competencies in the subject area in the Nordic countries. Some of the references are also used in neighbouring disciplines. The result is a contribution to the academic boundary-work of the discipline, to define its scope and intellectual territory. This perspective corresponds to the problem that Michael Murphy addresses: “One of our most important avenues of inquiry is to determine the areas of responsibility of these different disciplines [architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, planning] so that we can better manage successful interaction and synergy among them” (Murphy, 2005, pp. 12–13). Hopefully, the present study can be seen as a contribution in that way. City planning is referred to as the most prominent keyword that stresses the change of application of theory from mainly garden art to also consider urban design.

The literature was brought forward in 2012 by some of the pioneers from the period when landscape architecture was established as an acade-

mic discipline in the Nordic countries. Thus, we have documented some of the references used by previous generations, and we might consider what we rely on today. We can therefore see the study as a historical documentation. So far, little has been done to categorise the various theories represented during the period under discussion, and understand what concepts that informed and guided the retired landscape architects in their work. The contribution of this study gives the opportunity to take the next step by considering the keywords of indexation, define branches of theory, and study the contents of selected literature to interpret its contribution to disciplinary theory.

## Acknowledgements

The author is in debt to Caroline Dahl, Clas Florgård and Eivor Bucht in organising the symposium, and to all presenters who delivered their manuscripts in advance. Special thanks also to Maria Ignatieva, Madeleine Granvik and Johann Brösemyr, who supported the research in different stages of the study. Future Urban Sustainable Environment (FUSE) at SLU, and Letterstedtska föreningen funded the symposium. The Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences supported the research.

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## Appendix

Biographies of the seven informants at the symposium “Urkunder & husgudar”:

**Magne Bruun** (b. 1932): Professor Emeritus in landscape architecture (retired 1998). Degree in landscape architecture at NLH 1959. Master of landscape architecture at UC Berkeley in 1965. Lecturer at NLH 1966–72. Acting Professor at the Department of landscape planning, SLU Alnarp 1972–73. Associate Professor at NLH 1974, then full professorship. Honorary doctorate at SLU in 2000. Managed the Nordic council of ministers project “Natural and cultural landscape in spatial planning” 1984–87.

**Eivor Bucht** (b. 1943): Professor Emerita of landscape architecture (retired 2010). Master’s degree in horticulture, specializing in landscape architecture in 1968. Professor Bucht belongs to the third graduating class of the new academic program in Sweden. Secretary for the independent training program in landscape architecture 1971. Doctoral degree in landscape architecture in 1997. 1990–91 Adjunct Professor at KTH Stockholm. Externally funded professorship at SLU 1993–98, followed by a full professorship. Member of the Swedish institute for building research in Lund 1970–80. Founded and operated the Movium-secretariat from 1980 to 1993. Professor Bucht has upheld several commitments in research councils, parliamentary inquiries and committees.

**Göran Johnson** (b. 1939): Educated at the University of Hannover in Germany with the degree Dipl. Ing., specializing in land conservation. Member of the Landscape architecture association MARK in Finland. Lecturer in landscape architecture and landscape engineering at SLU. Acting Professor in landscape planning at the Technical University in Otenäs, Espoo, at Aalto University. Senior Lecturer in landscape and environmental planning at Polytechnic southwest in Espoo and at the Tavastlands polytechnic in Lepaa and at the Lahti university of applied sciences. Johnson is also active in his firm Octerra Oy.

**Ib Asger Olsen** + (1935–2013): Professor Emeritus in landscape architecture. Degree in horticulture at KVL Copenhagen 1961. Degree in landscape architecture at Kunstakademiets School of Architecture, Copenhagen in 1967. Lecturer in SLU Alnarp 1974–76 and Acting Assistant Professor 1976–78. Research Assistant at Kunstakademiets School of Architecture 1979–87, and lecturer at the Department of city and landscape planning 1991–94 at the same school. Assistant Professor at KVL, Department of garden and landscape 1987–91. Professor in landscape architecture at KVL, Department of economics, forestry and landscape, Division of landscape in 1994. Commitment in both academia and practice. Worked for landscape architect Erik Mygind and for Professor Sven-Ingvar Andersson – later managing his studio.

**Preben Skaarup** (b. 1946): Landscape architect MAA. MDL. PLR. Degree in landscape architecture in 1974 at the School of architecture in Aarhus, Department of landscape and garden art. Practiced in Professor Sven Hansen's architectural studio 1975–1982. Lecturer for 20 years at the School of architecture in Aarhus. Head of Department of landscape and garden art from 1986. Editor of the trade magazine *Landskab* 1980–82. PrebenSkaarup has been running a private studio with great success since 1984.

**Olav R. Skage** (b. 1933): Professor Emeritus in landscape planning (retired 1998). Master's degree in landscape architecture in 1959 at Norges landbrukshøgskole (NLH) followed by post-graduate studies in Berlin led by Professor Max Grossman, and in Hannover led by Professor Konrad Buchwald and Professor Konrad Meyer. PhD in 1968 in landscape architecture at NLH. Postdoctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania in landscape ecology and regional planning, which was led by Professor Ian L. McHarg. Professor Skage influenced strongly the activities at institutions such as UMB Ås, NTNU Trondheim and SLU Alnarp and Ultuna. He was involved in for example Harvard University, UC Berkeley, Addis Ababa University and the University of Ljubljana. Recurring duties as a member, expert and advisor in research councils and committees.

**Ragnhild Widgren** (b. 1944): Master's degree in horticulture, specializing in landscape architecture in 1968 (retired 2010). Widgren's professional life has focused on planning instruments and investigations in urban planning. She had a special interest in nature and natural land issues at the Swedish institute for building research in Lund and at the consulting firm Söderblom & Palm AB in Spånga. She was also involved in municipal planning activities in Södertälje, Luleå and Sundsvall. She served as a project manager and as a specialist support at the Swedish road administration, later Swedish transport administration. She is a special member of the Land and environment court in Östersund.



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Per Hedfors is a landscape architect (MSc). He holds a PhD in Landscape Architecture and had a position as researcher with a focus on theory, at the Division of Landscape Architecture, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. One of his research interests is a Nordic overview of the discipline and its tradition in contributing to sustainable development.