

SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE ART OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LECTURE WITH LES SMITH (DESIGN WORKSHOP)

PRESENTED BY THE UC DAVIS TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Lecture begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 donation requested. No-Host Bar.

Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141,
Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences
291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village
(on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)



Les Smith is a professor of landscape architecture at Ball State University in Indiana. He has spent the past several months working with Design Workshop in their Faculty-in-Residence program while on sabbatical. Scholarly work includes projects in alternative agriculture and revitalization of rural landscapes; constructed wetlands and naturalized low-maintenance landscapes; equestrian landscape conservation/preservation; equestrian facility design and competition planning; computer applications in site analysis, site visual simulation and site engineering projects; design and planning for on-campus and off-campus outdoor environmental education facilities; and student/community-based environmental facility design/build service learning projects.

Landscape architects, working along with scientists and consultants, combine science with other more qualitative planning and design processes and methods. They design “artful” places for people. These places should support sustained, healthy, and thriving environmental systems.

Examples of the science of landscape design include the use of geology and soil science for sensitive land planning. Soil erosion science is utilized to minimize site disturbances during construction. Restoration projects repair and restore damaged systems. Hydrologic science is utilized to discover and design ‘green’ storm water structures. Economic assessments are used to emphasize sound project goals and social science assessments emphasize community

needs determinations – including modeling for optimum open-space conservation, recreational programming needs assessments, and educational needs assessments. Assessments for alternative energy potentials can include incorporating passive solar, small-scale hydrologic, and wind. The latest “green” technologies are available for application and implementation. Embodied energy figures as basis to choose lower impact construction materials.

Learn how these ideas are being utilized in this region, and share ideas for improving the landscape around us.