

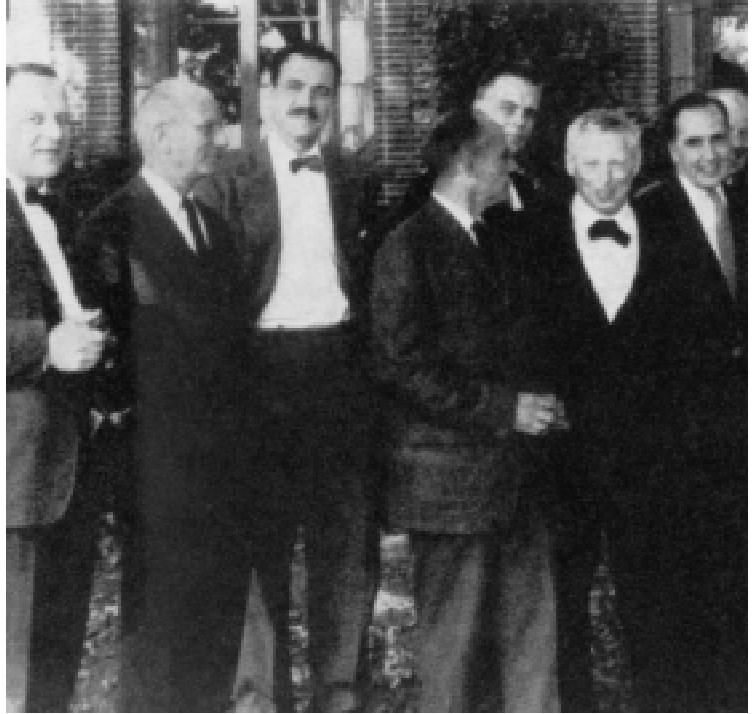
1. *Design with Nature* (Garden City, N.Y.: Natural History Press, 1969) led to fundamental changes in the teaching and practice of landscape architecture.

McHarg, Landscape Architecture, Environmentalism

Ian McHarg was born in Scotland in 1920, fought in World War II, then studied landscape architecture and city planning at Harvard University from 1946 to 1949.² After graduation, he worked and taught in Glasgow and Edinburgh, then returned to the United States in 1954 as an assistant professor of city planning at the University of Pennsylvania. At the time of his arrival, the Department of Land and City Planning, founded in 1950, was the most exciting planning program in the country. In a photograph from 1959, surrounded by colleagues at Penn, McHarg looks confidently into the camera (Fig. 2). He stands between Lewis Mumford and J. B. Jackson; to their right is William Wheaton, and to their left is David Crane, Louis Kahn, and Holmes Perkins. (All but Jackson were members of the Penn faculty.) Three years earlier, in 1956, McHarg had founded a newly reinstated Department of Landscape Architecture, for which he gradually built a faculty. The 1961 list of faculty and visitors included Karl Linn, as assistant professor, and Jack Fogg, a botanist, as an associated faculty member; Gordon Cullen, Aldo Van Eyck, and Denise Scott-Brown as research staff; and Garrett Eckbo, Philip Johnson, Dan Kiley, Robert Royston, and Peter Shephard as visiting critics.³ This list conveys McHarg's extraordinary ambition for the fledgling department; composed mainly of architects and landscape architects, however, it

² Among the courses he took was John Kenneth Galbraith's *The Economics of Agriculture*.

³ Reproduced in Ian McHarg, *Quest for Life* (New York: John Wiley, 1996), 133.



2. Portion of a photograph by Grady Clay from *Architecture*, January 1959, showing (from left to right) William Wheaton, Lewis Mumford, Ian McHarg, J. B. Jackson, David Crane, Louis Kahn, and Holmes Perkins (photo: courtesy of the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania)

did not yet exhibit the remarkable range and depth of intellectual concerns that were to characterize the faculty by the end of decade. The ecologists and geologists who became influential members of the faculty later in the 1960s had not yet arrived.

The development of landscape architecture and city planning in the twentieth century and the context of American environmentalism put McHarg's contributions in perspective. Landscape architecture and city planning share a common history in the United States. Many of the first metropolitan and regional plans in the nineteenth century were developed for park systems that integrated recreation, transportation, storm drainage and flood control, and wastewater management, and that created a framework for future urban development. The authors of such plans were landscape architects like Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons, John Charles and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., Charles Eliot, and John Nolen. Such landscape architects as these devised plans for entire new communities and were among the founders, in 1909, and first presidents of the National Conference on City Planning.⁴ The first course in city planning at an American university was initiated in 1909 at Harvard University's School of Landscape Architecture. By 1923, the school offered a

⁴ See Anne Whiston Spirn, "Urban Nature and Human Design: Renewing the Great Tradition," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 5 (autumn 1985): 39–51; Cynthia Zaitzevsky, *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press); John L. Hancock, "Planners in the Changing American City, 1900–1940," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 33 (1967): 290–304; Alex Krieger and Lisa J. Green, *Past Futures: Two Centuries of Imagining Boston* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 1985).