

**LARCH 353/ 5 credit course**

**Designing Landscapes in a Modern World: History of Modern Landscape Architecture**



Donnell Garden Pool, Thomas D. Church, 1948

**FALL 2015**  
**Gould Hall 322**

**M/W/F 9-10:20**

**Instructor:** Thaisa Way PhD, ASLA  
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The course offers students an opportunity to investigate modernism and the modern landscape architecture as process, product, and theory.

What makes a good urban landscape? A great public park? An inspiring work of landscape art? This course will explore the

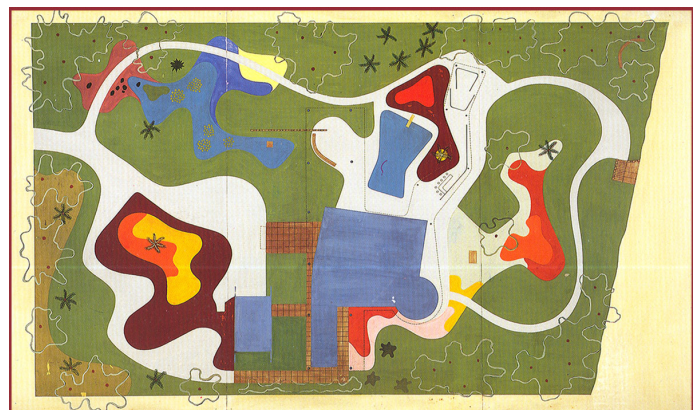
history of designing and creating gardens and landscapes in diverse cultures and places as the profession and practice of landscape architecture has become a leading field in the design and creation of newly imagined city spaces and places. We will begin in the 19th century with Central Park in New York City, one of the first public parks designed for the public and work our way up to the postindustrial parks and landscapes of the late 20th century. We will study small gardens that inspire the poet and large nature preserves as well as city plazas, corporate roof gardens, and the neighborhood park.

We will explore how modern art and architecture influence landscape design and in turn how environmental thinking influenced the push for sustainable cities. What does it mean to be modern? How does creativity shape the design of natural landscapes? This course provides an historic and critical overview of the evolution of modernism and modernist designs in terms of aesthetic, technological, social, and spiritual concerns in the built landscape. Moving between practice and theory, between design as a creative art and as a way of thinking, we will consider diverse modernisms across the Americas and Europe.

**Workload:** Readings approx. 60-75 pp per week and writing essays/ assignments.

**Queries we will explore include (as a start...)**

- What are the theories of modernism?
- What makes a landscape modern?
- What relationships developed between modern art, architecture, and landscape?
- What of garden cities, the modern city, and housing projects?
- How has modernism influenced contemporary work?
- How does environmental awareness shape designed landscapes?



Roberto Burle Marx, Brazil