

# Career Opportunities

## It's A Very Good Time To Become A Landscape Architect

(NAPSA)—According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, landscape architecture—the comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation—is the fastest-growing of all the design professions.

That growth isn't expected to peak anytime soon. Demand for landscape architecture services is projected to expand an astonishing 18 to 26 percent by the year 2014.

To meet this demand, the number of graduates in landscape architecture programs needs to grow by an average of 6 percent each year. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is embarking on an ambitious program to recruit more students to study landscape architecture, working with the ACE Mentor Program to reach high school students and with the Cultural Landscape Foundation to target middle school students, while working with colleges and universities to increase the number of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

ASLA's 2006 surveys show that the average annual compensation (salary and bonuses) for landscape architects is \$89,700, up by more than 20 percent since 2004. Average compensation rose steadily by years of experience in the 2006 survey, peaking for those with 36 to 40 years of experience, who earn an average of \$154,600.

Residential work continues to be the largest landscape architecture market, with most of that work consisting of single-family homes. Commercial and industrial



**The Connecticut Country House in Westport—an example of residential design by landscape architects. (Photo: Jeff McNamara; 2007 ASLA Residential Design Honor Award)**

design is the second-largest market, followed by parks and recreation. Less-conventional fields such as storm-water management, green roofs and security design have grown significantly in the past two years.

With only 30,000 landscape architects currently in the U.S. and the sustained growth in demand for landscape architecture services, there are major opportunities for anyone considering entering the profession. And educational opportunities for landscape architecture students abound. There are 46 colleges in the United States and Canada with accredited undergraduate programs and many scholarship programs available for those considering the field. The teacher-to-student ratio for most of these programs is 15:1.

According to U.S. News & World Report, landscape architecture is one of the best careers of the year. And ASLA members agree: Now is a very good time to become a landscape architect.