James Melsom | Curriculum Vitae

Landscape Architect BSLA

BArch UWA MAS LArch ETHZ

ResearchGate : https://www.researchgate.net/profile/James_Melsom

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Association	Registered Landscape Architect in Switzerland
Academic Research	Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture at UTS, Sydney. Teacher and researcher at the Institute of Landscape Architecture, ETH, Zurich from 2007-2017. Leader of many interdisciplinary teaching workshops within ETH Architecture Design studios and in landscape architecture design and technology in Switzerland, Sweden, the UK, Italy and Singapore. Since 2012 co-supervisor in Landscape Architecture of the graduating ETH Architecture Masters design thesis students with Prof. Girot, C., including many students from Mendrisio. Invited to lecture on teaching and research projects and methods at various universities, including at the Berkeley CA, Columbia NYC, UWA (AUS), Curtin (AUS), Gothenburg Sweden and Politecnico di Milano.
Professional Research	James Melsom is co-founder of research practice LANDSKIP Lab, and Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture at UTS, Sydney. As a registered Swiss Landscape Architect (BSLA) he specialises in landscape sensing, scanning, and the analysis of dynamic territorial systems. He was previously the coordinator of the Landscape Visualisation and Modeling Lab at the ETH, Zürich, working for a decade in research, lecturing and teaching with Prof. Girot, C. at the Institute of Landscape Architecture, ETH Zurich. Author or co-author of over 30 publications, including book chapters, peer-reviewed conference and journal articles on the integration of various modeling, sensing, and visualisation technologies within the fields of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Interest in empowering landscape architects with new methods of understanding, designing, representing and transforming the built environment. LANDSKIP Lab (Sydney/Zurich) applies their techniques and research principles to the professions of spatial analysis and design, resulting in novel approaches to the challenges faced in dynamic landscape systems. They have worked with design offices, engineers, municipalities and universities on diverse scales, sites and contexts throughout the world. Their work was recently featured in the 2018 Istanbul Design Biennial, a remote urban scanning research project and associated workshop in the streets of Istanbul, and in the book Codify : Parametric and Computational Design in Landscape Architecture, Routledge, London, 2018.
Personal Statement	Fascinated by the process and potential of transforming spaces, both in practice and education. With a decade of experience in the teaching of architects and landscape architects, I have worked in various media, methods, scales and contexts. My professional, teaching and research interests bridge analogue and digital techniques, connecting design processes intuitively with the transformation and representation of both built and ‚natural' environments and the cartography and understanding of large scale territories. I enjoy working within diverse interdisciplinary teams on complex and dynamic urban sites. A firm believer in the importance of site investigation and the process of surveying spaces.

Tertiary Education

2004-2005	MAS Landscape Architecture - ETH Zurich
1996-2001	B.Arch Architecture (5 years) - University of Western Australia

Selected Research

Book Chapters

Melsom, J., Fraguada, L.: Code Matters: Consequent Digital Tool Making In: Codify: Parametric and Computational Design in Landscape Architecture. Bradley Cantrell & Adam Mekies Ed., Routledge UK 05/2018

Melsom J., Girot C: Case Study - Recasting Jakarta: Processing the Plastic River. Landscape Visualisation: Digital, 01/2015; Routledge, London.

Melsom, J.: The Apparatus of the Invisible Landscape: Sensing Beyond Sight. Field Instruments of Design, Pamphlet 18, 01/2015; GTA Verlag, Zurich.

Melsom, J.: Mapping and Refining the Site. Landscape Visualisation: Digital, 01/2015; Routledge, London.

Melsom, J.: Designing Processes - The Development of Design Methodologies for an Evolving Design Process. Rising Waters, Shifting Lands, 01/2012; GTA Verlag, Zurich.

Girot, C., Melsom, J., Kapellos, A., : Konsorski-Lang, S., Hampe M (Eds.): Iterative Landscapes. The Design of Material, Organism, and Minds, 01/2010: pages 109-115; , DOI:10.1007/978-3-540-69002-3_9

Published Conference Proceedings

Melsom, J., Girot, C., Hurkxkens, I.: Directed Deposition: Exploring the Role of Simulation and Design in Erosion and Landslide Processes. Peer-Reviewed Proceedings ACADIA 2015: Designing the Anthropocene, Cincinnati, USA; 01/2015

Melsom, J., Fraguada, L.: Urban Pulse: The Application of Moving Sensor Networks in the Urban Environment: Strategies for Implementation and Implications for Landscape Design. Digital Landscape Architecture Conference 2014, ETH Zurich; 01/2014

Melsom, J., Fraguada, L., Girot, C.: Ambient Terrain: The generation of large-scale landscape site data for design applications. eCAADe 2013: Computation and Performance–Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Education and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe, Delft, The Netherlands, September 18-20, 2013; 01/2013

Melsom, J., Fraguada, L.: Synchronous Horizons: Redefining spatial design in landscape architecture through ambient data collection and volumetric manipulation. Peer-Reviewed Proceedings ACADIA 2012: Synthetic Digital Ecologies, San Francisco, USA; 01/2012

Melsom, J., Fricker, P., Werner, P.: From reality to virtuality and back again: Teaching experience within a postgraduate study program in Landscape Architecture. Peer-reviewed Proceedings Digital Landscape Architecture 2012, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences; 01/2012

Thomas M. Klein, Wissen Hayek, U., Neuenschwander, N., Melsom, J., Grêt-Regamey, A.: Do new urban densities provide urban landscape identity? A concept for operationalizing qualitative factors combining sophisticated visualization workflows.. REAL CORP 2012 "RE-MIXING THE CITY – Towards Sustainability and Resilience?, Vienna; 01/2012

Bernhard, M. Ebnöther, Y., Fricker, P., Kapellos, A., Melsom, J., Girot, C.: Towards a meaningful Usage of Digital CNC Tools: Within the Field of Large-scale Landscape Architecture. Peer-reviewed Proceedings of FUTURE CITIES 28th eCAADe Conference; 01/2010

Funding Grants

SNF R'Equip Swiss National Reserach Fund - LVML - Landscape Visualisation and Modeling Lab
Co-author, Advisor and Researcher, 2009 (over 500k CHF)

SNF R'Equip Swiss National Reserach Fund - AudioLab
Co-author, Advisor and Researcher, 2014 (over 500k CHF)

Research Workshops

Lead: Landscape scanning and analysis workshop, Amsterdam Noord Polders Akademie van Bouwkunst, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, February 2018

Lead: Landscape scanning and analysis workshop, Frihamnen Harbour Chalmers University, Gothenburg, Sweden, October 2017

Co-Lead: Landscape scanning and analysis workshop w/ Ilmar Hurkxkens Chalmers University, Gothenburg, Sweden, October 2016

Co-Lead: Landscape scanning & analysis workshop w/ Ilmar Hurkxkens IaaC Valldaura, Institute of Advanced Architecture Catalunya, Barcelona

Co-Lead: Smartgeometry 2013 Conference, Workshop Co-leader Bartlett London, UK 15-20 April 2013

Lead: MLA Jakarta Studio, Prof. Rekittke, Design+Visualization Workshop NUS, Future Cities Laboratory, Singapore March 2012

Co-Lead: From Suburb to City, International Summer Academy, Design Workshop ETHZ, ONA, Oerlikon, Zurich, Switzerland 22 July 05 - August 2012