

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Michael Geffel is a Registered Landscape Architect, Professor of Practice at the University of Oregon, and Lab Director of the Fuller Initiative Land Lab. With research broadly focused on experimental landscapes, Michael's principal method of study uses field work and temporary installations to explore how landscape design can adapt to social and ecological processes over time. This research draws from professional practice designing public urban landscapes, landscapes on structure, and green infrastructure, and previous experience in the horticulture and restoration trades.

CONTACT INFO

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School of Architecture & Environment
University of Oregon College of Design
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EDUCATION

Masters of Landscape Architecture | University of Virginia | SARC Foundation Fellow (2010-2013)

Thesis Editing Emergence: Towards a Generative Maintenance Practice

Advisors Teresa Gali-Izard, Brian Osborn

B.S. Geography / minor Environmental Studies | University of Oregon | Resident Dean's Scholar (2001-2006)

Capstone Atlas of Yellowstone: The Fire History of Yellowstone

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of Practice in Landscape Architecture | University of Oregon | Eugene, OR (2020-present)

Lab Director | Fuller Initiative Land Lab (2021-present)

Interim Director | Fuller Center for Productive Landscapes (2021)

Visiting Professor in Landscape Architecture | University of Oregon | Eugene, OR (2017-2020)

Program Manager | Overlook Field School | Fuller Center for Productive Landscapes (2018-21)

Landscape Designer | Walker Macy | Portland, OR (2017)

Campus Sherwood High School | Landscape Designer

Landscape Designer | Klopfer Martin Design Group | Boston, MA (2013-2016)

Master Plan Malaysia Vision Valley | Superglade | Project Manager
Congress Square | City of Portland | Landscape Designer
Braintree Electric Light Department | City of Braintree | Landscape Designer

Park Negeri Sembilan Woodland Park | Superglade | Project Manager
Larz Anderson Park Renovation | City of Brookline | Project Manager
Fisher Hill Reservoir Park | City of Brookline | Landscape Designer

Campus NW23 Courtyard | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Landscape Designer
Brigham Building for Transformative Medicine | Brigham & Women's Hospital | Landscape Designer
Tower Healing Garden | Brigham & Women's Hospital | Landscape Designer
45 Francis Entry Renovation | Brigham & Women's Hospital | Landscape Designer
Roemer Plaza | Suffolk University | Landscape Designer

Street Lawrence Alley | City of Lawrence | Landscape Designer
East Boston Central Square | City of Boston | Landscape Designer
Kendall Square | City of Cambridge | Landscape Designer

Landscape Contractor | Native Canopy Landscape & Design LLC, LCB# 8832 | Portland, OR (2006-2010)

Head Gardener | Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center / Ecotrust | Portland, OR (2007-2008)

Nursery Production / Receiving | Portland Nursery - Stark | Portland, OR (2007)

Community Based Restoration Specialist | Clean Water Services / NWSA / AmeriCORPS | Hillsboro, OR (2006)

PUBLICATIONS.....

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2021 Author. "Landscape Design through Maintenance | *field case studies in parametric mowing*,"
Landscape Journal vol 39, issue 2, University of Wisconsin Press
<https://lj.uwpress.org/content/39/2>

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles

2022 Co-author. "Viridic Disturbance | *reprogramming the tools of landscape maintenance*,"
LA+ 15: GREEN, University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, ORO Editions
<https://laplusjournal.com/15-GREEN>

2020 Author. "Terrestrial Practices | *pulling landscape back to earth*."
Kerb 28: Co-existence, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Actar Publishers
<https://kerb-journal.com/editions/28>

2019 Profiled Designer. "Lawnmower Man," Motice, Z., Landscape Architecture Magazine
<https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/2019/06/17/lawnmower-man/>

2014 Author. "Editing Emergence: *surface of layered maintenance*"
surfaceFX, University of Virginia, Paper Matters Press

2013 Author. "Editing Emergence | *towards a generative maintenance practice*"
Catalyst, Issue 1: Conditions/Responses, University of Virginia, Actar Publishers
Co-Author. "Backbone Market | *transecting charlottesville's regulatory topography*"
Catalyst, Issue 1: Conditions/Responses, University of Virginia, Actar Publishers
Author. "From Landscaping to Infrastructure | *the scope and agency of maintenance*"
Scenario Journal, Issue 4: Rethinking Infrastructure (2013)
University of Virginia Lunch Design Journal, Issue 8: Futures for Sites Unknown (2013)

Professional Publications

2019 Editor. "Landscape sub(Urbanism) | *reclaiming the vance pits*"
Multnomah County Department of Community Services

Editor. "Oregon Timber Trail Field Guide - Willamette Tier"
Oregon Timber Trail Alliance

2011 Case Study Investigation: Teardrop Park, Richmond Canal Walk, and Avalon Park and Preserve
Landscape Performance Series, Landscape Architecture Foundation

Shorter Publications

2023 Contributing co-author. "Voices from Abroad,"
Woods Go Urban: The Alnarp Approach, Ed. Anders Busse Nielsen and Lisa Diedrich

2022 Contributing author. "Field Mechanics,"
Ambiguous Territory: Architecture, Landscape and the Postnatural.
Ed. Cathryn Dwyre, Chris Perry, David Salomon, Kathy Velikov, Actar Publishers.

Works in Progress

2024 Chapter co-author. "Recovering Maintenance | *Rapid Response and Slow Evolution*,"
Making Do in Urbanism and the Arts, Ed. Liska Chan and Ellee Stapleton,
Amsterdam University Press (Accepted)

Author. "Founding an Experimental Landscape: Case Studies of the Fuller Initiative Land Lab (First Draft)

Co-Author. "Auditory Fractals: Soundscape Ecology of the Fuller Initiative Land Lab (First Draft)

Citations, Credits & Acknowledgements

- 2022 "A New Aesthetic of Care." (citation)
Sutton, Parker. *Journal of Architectural Education*
- "Architectural and landscape garden planning integrated with artificial intelligence parametric analysis." (citation)
Wang, Yanxia, and Leiya Chen. *Security and Communication Networks*
- 2019 Case Study Investigation: Teardrop Park (credit)
Evaluating Landscape Performance: A Guidebook for Metrics and Methods Selection
Landscape Architecture Foundation (2011-2019)
- 2018 "Overgrown: *Practices between Landscape Architecture and Gardening*" (acknowledgement)
Raxworthy, J., The MIT Press
- 2018 "Dramatic Play with the Bluestone Ice-Water Wall" (photo credit)
Sorvig, K and J. Thompson, *Sustainable Landscape Construction*, 3rd Edition

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Interviews

- 2023 Over the Fence Landscape Tours, "U of O Fuller Initiative Land Lab," Donna Avalone, 08/15/2023.
<https://youtu.be/Naw47zvesxM?si=09bHWaTiD-WC8ygZ>
- 2022 The Oregonian, "Use an augmented reality game in Eugene to travel across Oregon," Samantha Swindler,
07/22/2022. <https://www.oregonlive.com/oregon22/2022/07/use-an-augmented-reality-game-in-eugene-to-travel-across-oregon.html>
- KEZI 9 News, "New 'living lab' at Riverfront Park brings natural wonders to Eugene," Robert Desaulniers,
07/13/2022. https://www.kezi.com/news/new-living-lab-at-riverfront-park-brings-natural-wonders-to-eugene/article_a41b5c82-02e3-11ed-80aa-97fbfcdbe09.html
- KLCC, "Eugene riverfront lab showcases UO research," Karen Richards,. 07/12/2022. <https://www.klcc.org/environment/2022-07-12/eugene-riverfront-lab-showcases-uo-research>
- 2020 KLCC, "City Club of Eugene: Reimagining Monuments," Love Cross, 11/09/2020. <https://www.klcc.org/social-justice/2020-11-09/city-club-of-eugene-reimagining-monuments>
- 2019 Eugene Magazine, "Vertical Planting: The Advantages of Planting a Living Wall, Cheryl Rade, April, 2019.
<https://eugenemagazine.com/home/vertical-planting/>

PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Panel. "Reimagining Post-Covid Landscape Design Education"
Annual Conference of ASLA-Oregon, Portland, OR
- Panel. "Cultivating a Design Practice of Land Care | *Teaching at the Intersection of Land and Labor*"
Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Albuquerque, NM
- Panel. "Founding a Sustainable Culture Through a Faculty & Facilities Partnership"
Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference, Seattle, WA
- 2020 Invited Lecture. "Terrestrial Practices | *Experimental Maintenance*"
Department of Landscape Architecture, Ohio State University (2020)
Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Oregon (2021)
Land Lab Lecture Series, University of Virginia (2021)
Department of Landscape Architecture, UT-Austin (2022)
- Presentation. "Recovering Maintenance | *rapid response and slow evolution*"
Making-Do in Urbanism and the Arts Conference, UO Slowlab, Eugene, OR (2020)

- Invited Lecture. "To Hold in Hand | *care as the essence of maintenance*"
Care Practices Symposium, White Stag Building, Portland, OR (2020)
- 2019 Workshop. "Tactical Suburbanism" (w/ Nicholas Sund)
HOPES 25 Conference: Destructive Idealism, Eugene, OR (2019)
- Presentation. "Transitory Public Works | *maintenance as a design instrument in landscape architecture*"
Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Davis, CA (2019)
- Presentation. "Adaptive Social Space | *tactical design in the suburban landscape*" (w/ Nicholas Sund)
Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Davis, CA (2019)
- 2013 Poster. "Editing Emergence | *the generative capacity of maintenance as a design instrument*"
Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Austin, TX (2013)

EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Director and Curator. "Oregon Experience Laboratory."
World Athletics Championships, North Campus Riverfront, University of Oregon
- Co-curator. "Landscape Makers Exhibition."
Laverne Krauss Gallery, University of Oregon College of Design
- 2021 Director and Curator. "Recovery Following Wildfire | *student work from the 2021 overlook field school.*"
Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, Eugene, OR (2021)
Transpecies Design Exhibition, curated by Adrian Parr, European Cultural Center in
conjunction with the Venice Architecture Biennale (2023)
Stories of Fire: Ground Truths, Prichard Art Gallery, University of Idaho Confluence Lab (2023)
- 2019 Program Manager and Curator. "Difficult Landscapes | *student work from the overlook field school.*"
Wallace and Grace Hayden Gallery, University of Oregon College of Design
- Co-curator. "(un)titled | *visualizing land tenure in the pacific northwest.*"
Wallace and Grace Hayden Gallery, University of Oregon College of Design
- 2018 Curator. "Editing Emergence | *towards a generative maintenance practice,*"
Wallace and Grace Hayden Gallery, University of Oregon College of Design
- 2017 Video Installation. "Field Mechanics,"
Ambiguous Territory Symposium, University of Michigan Taubman College, Ann Arbor, MI
Ambiguous Territory Exhibition, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (2018)
Ambiguous Territory Exhibition, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, NY (2018-19)
Ambiguous Territory Exhibition, Handwerker Gallery at Ithaca College (2019-20)

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

- 2022 Director & Curator. Oregon Experience Laboratory Exhibition Sponsorship
Travel Oregon / The Oregon Tourism Commission, \$21,000
- Faculty co-advisor. "Recovery Following Wildfire | *student work from the 2021 overlook field school*"
Overlook Field School, ASLA-National Honor Award, Student Communication
- 2021 Faculty co-advisor. "Algae as Agents | *Responsive Modelling Exploration and Projective Design Applications*"
Aaron Woolverton, ASLA-National Honor Award, Student Research
- 2019 Faculty advisor. "The Cyano-Sechhi | *An Instrument for Examining Lake Sediment Buildup*"
Carolyn Corl, ASLA-Oregon Honor Award, Student Design
- Faculty advisor. "Experimental 3D Printed Soil Sculpture Garden"
Heather Tietz, ASLA-Oregon Honor Award, Student Design
- Faculty co-advisor) "Good Drainage, Good Vibes"
University of Oregon Team #D22, 1st place in the 2018 EPA RainWorks Challenge

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

- 2019 East Boston Central Square, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Merit Award in Design, Boston Society of Landscape Architects
- 2018 Fisher Hill Reservoir Park, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Winner in Landscape Architecture / Public, Architecture Masterprize
Merit Award in Design, Boston Society of Landscape Architects
Suffolk University Roemer Plaza, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Winner in Landscape Architecture / Educational, Architecture Masterprize
Merit Award in Design, Boston Society of Landscape Architects
- 2016 Field moiré, Klopfer Martin Design Group
Competition Finalist, Jardin de Metis International Garden Festival

STUDENT HONORS & AWARDS

- 2013 ASLA Student Merit Award | University of Virginia
Honorable Mention (Public Award) | Rivanna River Vortex Competition
- 2012 SARC Research Fellow, \$1,000 | University of Virginia School of Architecture
- 2011 European Masters in Landscape Architecture (EMILA) Invitational Workshop | Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Internships

- 2013 Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates | Cambridge, MA (externship)
- 2012 Timmons Group | Richmond, VA
- 2011 Landscape Architecture Foundation | Lead Researcher Kristina Hill, PhD
Lango Hansen PC | Portland, OR (externship)
- 2005 Elk Rock Garden of the Bishop's Close | Portland, OR
Department of Conservation | Keri Keri, New Zealand
- 2004 Nga Uruora Kapiti Project | Paekakariki, New Zealand
Infographics Lab | University of Oregon

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2018-23 Program Curriculum Committee Member
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon
- 2022-23 Regional Habitat Connectivity Working Group Member
Intertwine / Metro Regional Government, Portland, OR
- 2022-23 Faculty Search Committee Member
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon
- 2021-22 Willamette River Natural Area Habitat Advisory Team Member
Campus Planning and Facilities Management, University of Oregon
- 2020, 2022 Undergraduate Studies Committee Member
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon
- 2020-21 Graduate Studies Committee Member
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon
- 2017-18 Lecture Committee Member
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2022-23 LA 260 | General Education Lecture / Understanding Landscape (undergraduate)
LA 4/572 | Overlook Seminar / The Working Forest (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 494 | Comprehensive Design Studio (undergraduate)
LA 610 | Landform Studio / Reclaiming the Campus Riverfront (graduate)
LA 610 | Assembly Studio / Reconstructing the Campus Riverfront (graduate)
- 2021-22 LA 260 | General Education Lecture / Understanding Landscape (undergraduate)
LA 4/551 | Media 1 / Digital Methods (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 610 | Landform Studio / Reclaiming the Campus Riverfront (graduate)
LA 610 | Assembly Studio / Reconstructing the Campus Riverfront (graduate)
UGST 109 | First-Year Interest Group / Environmental Design (undergraduate)
- 2020-21 LA 260 | General Education Lecture / Understanding Landscape (undergraduate)
LA 362 | Tech 1 / Grading and Drainage (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/508 | Overlook Field School / Recovery (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/572 | Overlook Seminar / Recovery (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/589 | Tech Studio / Oregon Sequence: Vanport (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 539 | Landform Studio / Reclaiming the Salem Waterfront (graduate)
LA 610 | Media 1 / Digital Methods (graduate)
UGST 109 | First-Year Interest Group / Environmental Design (undergraduate)
- 2019-20 LA 260 | General Education Lecture / Understanding Landscape (undergraduate)
LA 439 | Landform Studio / Reclaiming the Vance Pits (undergraduate)
LA 4/559 | Technical Workshop / Synthetic Landscapes (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/559 | Technical Workshop / Instant City: Block Party (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/559 | Technical Workshop / Instant City: Old Town (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/507 | Overlook Seminar / Experiment (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/589 | Tech Studio / Oregon Sequence: Coos Bay (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/589 | Site Design Studio / Land Lab (undergraduate & graduate)
- 2018-19 LA 260 | General Education Lecture / Understanding Landscape (undergraduate)
LA 4/507 | Overlook Seminar / Difficult Landscapes (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/508 | Overlook Field School / Difficult Landscapes (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/559 | Technical Workshop / Synthetic Landscapes (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/539 | Design & Process Studio / Experimental Garden (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/539 | Design & Process Studio / Instant City: Veneta (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/589 | Site Design & Planning Studio / Reclaiming the Vance Pits (undergraduate & graduate)
- 2017-18 LA 227 | Intro to Landscape Architecture (undergraduate)
LA 289 | Landscape Architecture Design Studio / Space, Site, Change (undergraduate)
LA 4/507 | Overlook Seminar / Maintenance (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/508 | Media Workshop / Field Guide to the Oregon Timber Trail (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/559 | Technical Workshop / Synthetic Landscapes (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/539 | Design & Process Studio / Reconstructing Oregon's Public Beaches (undergraduate & graduate)
LA 4/589 | Site Design & Planning Studio / Designing for Resilience in Rockwood (undergraduate & graduate)

Teaching Assistant

- 2013 LAR 7010 Foundation Studio | Jorg Sieweke | University of Virginia School of Architecture
- 2012 LAR 6020 Foundation Studio | Kristina Hill, PhD | University of Virginia School of Architecture
LAR 5370 Natural Systems & Plant Ecology | Cole Burrell | University of Virginia School of Architecture
- 2011 LAR 5370 Natural Systems & Plant Ecology | Cole Burrell | University of Virginia School of Architecture

Research Supervision

- 2023 Masters thesis advisor. Peter Olson. "Mitigating Climate Change Induced Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Threats in Coos Bay, Oregon"
- Masters thesis advisor. Celia Hensey. "Integrating Terroir and Genius Loci in Winery Design"
- 2022 Masters thesis advisor. Abby Pierce. "Land Care in the Expanded Field"
- Masters thesis advisor. Masayo Simon. "Sensing / Becoming Sensitive | *Centering connection to place in landscape research*"
- Masters thesis co-advisor. Liza Holz. "Agrarian Bumble Bee Network | *Planning, design, and management of wild bumble bee habitat at different agroecosystem scales*"
- Masters thesis co-advisor. Jigisha Modi. "Representation of the Willamette River in a Climate Crisis"
- 2021 Masters thesis co-advisor. Aaron Woolverton. "Algae as Agents | *Responsive Modelling Exploration and Projective Design Applications*"
- Masters thesis advisor. Sierra Gardiner. "Regenerative Hubs for Liminal Landscapes"
- 2019 Masters thesis advisor. Nicholas Sund. "Adaptive Social Space | *tactical design in the suburban landscape*"

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Licensure

- 2018-present Registered Landscape Architect - LA# 0996, Oregon State Landscape Architecture Board (OSLAB)
- 2013-present Full Member - ASLA# 1147587, Urban Design Professional Practice Network
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- 2008-10 Licensed Landscape Contractor - LCB# 8832, Oregon Landscape Contractors Board (OLCB)
- 2008 PLANET Certified Landscape Technician - Exterior
Professional Landcare Network in Partnership with the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association

Continuing Education

- 2023 Urban Wild in Transition: How a Landfill Became a Community Treasure - 4.25 PDH
Design Outside Development: Community Land Stewardship and Design - 1.25 PDH
Inside the LA Studio—Terremoto- 1.25 PDH
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- 2022 System Level Community Engagement - 1.0 PDH
Reimagining Forestry for Climate Resilience - 1.0 PDH
Visual Storytelling - 1.0 PDH
Critical Curiosity - 1.5 PDH
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- 2020 ADA to Universal Design: Creating Healthy Communities Through Equitable Design Approaches - 1.0 PDH
Queer Urbanism and Design: Past, Present, Future - 1.0 PDH
Navigating Community Engagement During COVID-19: Perspective, Practice, Prospect - 1.0 PDH
Evidence-based Design: Sensory Play Gardens and Children with Developmental Disorders - 1.0 PDH
Honoring Native American Heritage Through Collaborative Design - 1.25 PDH
DEI in the Willamette Valley - 1.0 PDH
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Equity, Justice, and Landscape - 1.0 PDH
Land8: Landscape Architects Network
Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership Symposium, 2.0 PDH
Landscape Architecture Foundation

- 2019
- Landscape Resiliency Through Integrated Planting Design and Management - 1.5 PDH
 - After Whyte: The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces Forty Years Later - 1.0 PDH
 - Postwar Plazas: Measuring Success When Managing Change - 1.25 PDH
 - Manassas Street, A Tactical and Artistic Urban Street Transformation in Memphis - 1.5 PDH
 - Mindful Movement & the Creative Process: Feldenkrais Techniques for Landscape Architects - 3.0 PDH
 - Inside the LA Studio with Mahan Rykiel Associates - 1.25 PDH
 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
 - Using Trees as an Ultra Urban Stormwater BMP: Portland, OR - 1.0 PDH
 - DeepRoot Green Infrastructure, LLC
- 2018
- Stewardship of Meadows: Case Studies Using Ecological Design to Heal Degraded Landscapes - 1.5 PDH
 - Planting Design and Dynamic Stewardship Strategies for Resilient Cities - 1.5 PDH
 - Toward a Cosmopolitan Flora: Creating and Managing Planting Systems for Better Cities - 1.5 PDH
 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)