The most comprehensive, current guide to the theory and practice of landscape architecture. For more than 50 years, this pioneering guide has served as the foremost resource on the principles and practices of landscape architecture. Now, the book has been revised to address the latest developments in the field, providing a comprehensive, current presentation of the profession. Richly illustrated with more than 400 full-color images, Landscape Architecture, Fifth Edition, explains how to plan and design for the human use of land with the least environmental impact. This updated volume offers new coverage of important topics such as sustainability, climate change, water conservation, land reuse, urban agriculture, stormwater management, low-impact design, and much more. This definitive reference: Introduces the fundamentals of site and environmental planning Describes the planning constraints imposed by the forms, forces, and features of nature and our built environment Addresses climate and its design implications Discusses site selection and analysis Instructs in the planning of workable and well-related use areas Describes the volumetric shaping of exterior spaces Explores site-structure relationships and organization Applies contemporary thinking in the planning of expressive human habitations and communities Landscape Architecture, Fifth Edition, preserves the essential character and timelessness of the original classic while incorporating up-to-date advancements in the profession. Extensively revised and filled with more than 400 contemporary full-color images, Landscape Architecture, Fifth Edition, remains the quintessential resource on planning for the human use of land in harmony with the environment. The book presents a systematic approach to the creation of more usable, efficient, and attractive outdoor spaces and places. Teaching diagrams, plans, photographs, and graphics--including the works of many of the world's leading landscape architects and firms--are featured throughout. This thoroughly modernized classic offers new coverage of: Sustainability Climate change and global warming Water preservation and water rights Land reuse and brownfield redevelopment GIS mapping Invasive species Urban agriculture and urban forestry Stormwater management Low-impact design Complete streets New Urbanism, Smart Growth, and Traditional Neighborhood Development Landscape Architecture, Fifth Edition, addresses every aspect of site and environmental planning, design, and implementation, including: The most comprehensive, current guide to the theory and practice of landscape architecture The human habitat and sustainability Climate Water Land Vegetation The visual landscape Topography Community planning and growth management Rational land use planning Urban design Site planning Site spaces Circulation Structures Landscape planting

Book Information
I discovered the first edition of John Ormsbee Simonds' Landscape Architecture in 1976 at the Boston Public Library. As an unemployed college dropout keeping warm and reading on a winter afternoon, the book was an immediate revelation to a young man looking for a career path, seeking an endorsement of a holistic worldview of our environment, and searching for a practical way to improve the human condition. Reading the entire text that day, I resolved to re-enter college and pursue a degree in landscape architecture, a choice now celebrated with each passing year.

The fifth edition of Landscape Architecture: A Manual of Environmental Planning and Design is equally if not more inspiring. Co-authored by John Simonds and Barry Starke, the most remarkable thing about the book is the seamless melding of the old with the new. The editors retained the compelling line diagrams and sketches, the sidebar quotes, the balance of eastern and western design examples and anecdotes, and the comprehensive overview of all aspects of landscape architecture. They expanded the book’s reach and relevancy by adding or expanding numerous sections on topics such as urban agriculture, sustainability, circulation, low-impact development, and environmental remediation. The updated project examples and photographs highlight the breadth and quality of contemporary landscape architecture.

One of my favorite aspects of the book is the chapter titled The Visual Landscape, reminding us of the central role landscape architects play in making our world a beautiful place and demonstrating the methods by which that effect is achieved. That chapter also contains another aspect of the love I have for this book: the wry humor, such as that found on page 92.
The past decade has witnessed the fundamental development in the profession of landscape architecture. The continuing trend of globalization, urbanization and climate change have, more than any other time in the history of mankind, positioned the profession of landscape architecture as a unique and irreplaceable role. The new ideas and testing practices have demonstrated that landscape architects, if well prepared, can play a leading role in helping human kinds to adapt to and/or improve the changing environment. All these have been identified, elaborated and convincingly demonstrated in the 5th edition of Landscape Architecture: A Manual of Environmental Planning and Design (Barry W. Starke and John O. Simonds). This updated guide book for our profession, continues the legacy of its former editions, as being the most comprehensive introduction and guidebook to the profession of landscape architecture (the Chinese versions of the 3rd and 4th had become the most read among Chinese students and were largely considered as bible-like textbook for most LA programs in Chinese universities). Some of the most striking characteristics of the new edition, which set itself apart from the former ones, include the extensive coverage of some of the most currently discussed issues, such as brownfield remediation, urban stormwater management, productive landscape, urban agriculture, low-impact development design, biodiversity conservation, invasive species management, and new urbanism. While sustainability, ecological design and smart growth are some of the topics much widely discussed in the courses of landscape architecture and urbanism, this new edition has demonstrated in practice some replicable guiding solutions, through successful projects worldwide.

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