

landscape architecture

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One Roof's Green Acres
The Library of Congress Goes Underground

The 2010 ASLA Student Awards
Drawings a Contractor Could Love
Shelter from the Slump



Mitchell Cookas
Director of Sustainability for Solution Blue,
Saint Paul, Minnesota

BA, Environmental Design, University of Minnesota; MLA, University of Minnesota, 2008

ORIGINAL CAREER GOAL: I wanted to design golf courses. That's how I got into landscape. Then I realized the golf course design industry is very small and hard to get into.

WHY SUSTAINABILITY? With each new project I worked on, I recognized the importance of maintenance and sustainability. Creating a landscape (or structure or building) that requires minimal ongoing care, resources, and money became very important to me.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW: I mostly do landscape architecture design and some marketing and business development. I'm working with clients and owners and collaborating with architects, schools, and watershed districts to keep water on site, close to where it falls, and disconnecting old storm systems. Decreasing the loads on old infrastructure is a main goal, as is promoting infiltration. Stormwater where we are now is where we were a decade ago as far as water supply. But there is still a need to conserve water, and owners' operational costs are a big driver of that, especially given the economy.

Cookas works to keep water where it belongs.



Macallen Building, Boston, MA;
Product Shown: Hanover® Aqua-Loc®

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WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST?

ASLA offers 17 professional practice networks (PPNs)—organized networks of landscape architects dealing with specific topics such as landscape/land use planning, housing and community design, and therapeutic garden design.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
636 EYE STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20001-3736
202-898-2444 • FAX 202-898-2285 • WWW.ASLA.ORG