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From the President

by Patrick Gay, ASLA

Happy Spring to all. It seems like it has been an unusually cold and wet winter this year in New Mexico, but we have a lot of exciting upcoming events to celebrate the warm seasons. The first will be a reception and lecture by Marc Treib in Santa Fe on March 26. NMASLA is excited to participate in Marc's lecture titled "Art Outdoors and In: The Sculpture Garden and the Museum", along with the NM Museum of Art and the Santa Fe Chapter of the AIA. For those of you that cannot get to Santa Fe, Marc will also lecture at the UNM School of Architecture and Planning on Monday, March 29. I would like to also encourage all of you to participate in our Spring poster competition celebrating Landscape Architecture in New Mexico. Work fast (we all know how to do that), as submissions are due the end of March. Finally, our big Spring event and Q1 for 2010 will be the Earth Day and Landscape Architecture Month celebration at the Albuquerque Bio Park in April. We will continue our chalk art competition with a focus on children's teams this year. Nick

Kuhn with ABQ Trees will be there to help spread the word, and seeds, to the kids. We will have a lunch presentation and subsequent tour from Bio Park staff and Sites Southwest's own Jill Brown discussing the planning, design, and implementation of the initial phases of the Japanese Garden. Thanks to everyone that has volunteered their time and hard work in making these events happen. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or all of these events soon.

As I write this letter, the State Legislature has just wrapped up its special session with an approved budget and a couple of capital outlay bills (HB5, SB1) to get us through 2010. We are still trying to sort out what the implications of this legislation will be to Landscape Architects and other design professionals this year, but obviously are hoping for the best. One issue that came up in the first legislative session, and may be revisited in the future, is a provision to combine the State Boards for Landscape Architects with that of Architects (HB220). While the Executive Committee of NMASLA are open to the idea and stand ready to help reduce

NMASLA 2008-2009
Executive Committee
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un-necessary government spending, we along with the AIA would like to be included in the discussion, decision, and planning of any such action along with our respective Board members. We will keep tracking this issue in the coming months and alert our membership with any new news.

Speaking of politics, it will soon be time for NMASLA Executive Committee elections. I call on all members to consider serving as an Executive Committee member or officer. Fresh minds and spirits keep our Chapter vibrant. As we look forward to working with our President-Elect Cathy Mathews next year,

please contact me, Cathy, or any one of our current Executive Committee members if you are interested in participating in the success of your Chapter in this regard.

Best wishes for a bountiful spring!
Pat

To comment on the President's message, please email responses to Pat:
pgay@sites-sw.com

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Harris Residence

Santa Fe, NM

by Edith Katz, ASLA

PROJECT STATEMENT

Professionally designed residential gardens in New Mexico have been dominated by a Euro-centric ideal in spite of the arid climate and inhospitable soils. Contemporary native and xeric principles of plant design, championed for their sustainability, too often result in a southwestern version of the English perennial garden. This project investigates the sparsely planted, gravel garden of hot arid

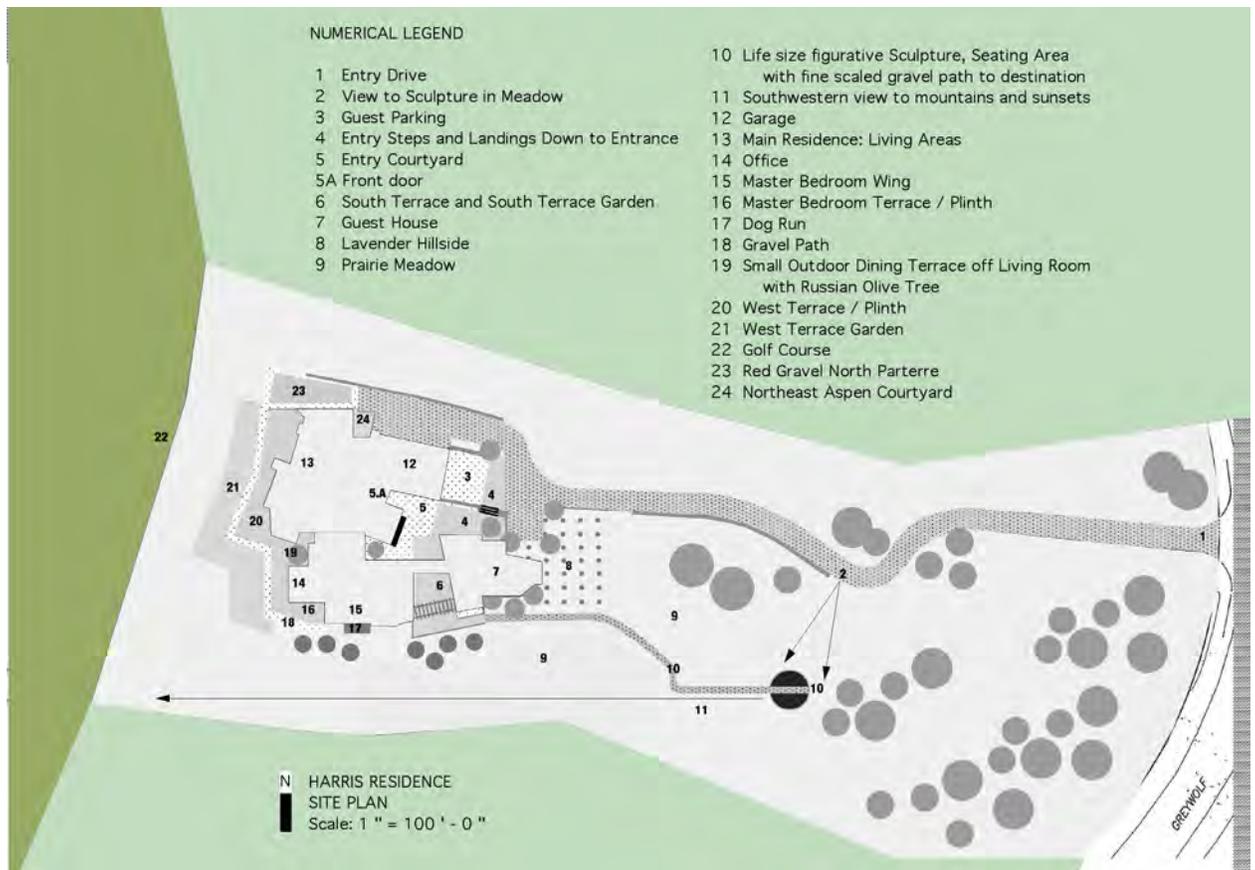
regions as a paradigm that combines sustainability with the potential for eloquent, visually exciting landscapes for this region.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

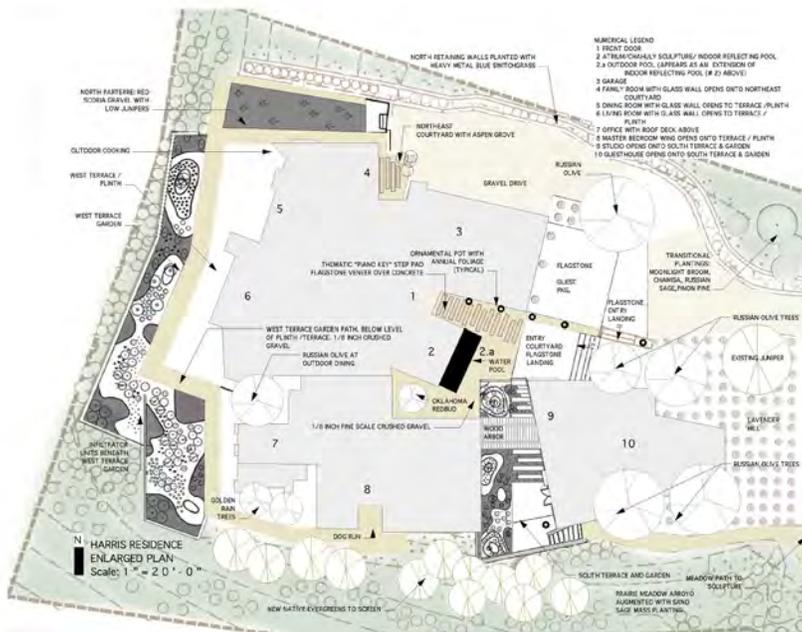
The garden paradigm explored in this project offers an ecologically sensitive approach to the creation of dramatic gardens that can hold their own within the vast high desert prairie of the southwest. This paradigm can have endless permutations with extremely iconic value for the region. Because water is conserved due to the gravel that functions as a mulch on top of the soils and around the base of the plants, mois-

ture from drip irrigation, as in this project, or natural rainfall is retained in the soils. However, since the gravel also absorbs heat, a palette of heat tolerant native or drought tolerant non-native plants that will thrive in this climate and condition is necessary. Some of these plants, yuccas, agaves, cactii, kniphofia, hesperaloe also happen to have dramatic, bold sculptural forms. A gravel garden can provide year round visual interest because of its colorful surface and the plantings that can be sparse are still effective. An additional attribute of sustainability for this project also

Site Plan for Harris Residence



"You have to get over the color green; you have to quit associating beauty with gardens and lawns.."



Harris Residence, Enlarged Plan

concerns water and is demonstrated in the storm water run-off system from the building roofs. Run-off is collected and directed to underground infiltration units that lie beneath the finish grade of the west terrace garden. The western terrace garden is constructed upon approximately two feet of fill on top of these units which themselves are filled with coarse gravel that allow the run-off to slowly percolate back down into the local water table. This water retention feature also creates an additional source of moisture for the plants located within this zone. "You have to get over the color green; you have to quit associating beauty with gardens and lawns; you have to get used to an inhuman scale" Wallace

Stegner. Wallace Stegner's quote regarding the western landscape is a provocative touchstone. Although surrounded, in fact, by the lawns of the golf course this project, like many around Santa Fe, ultimately have to transition to the vast natural spaces of the prairie, mountains and sky; a context with an inhuman scale of which Stegner speaks. Fusing the designed foreground landscape with middle and distant landscape layers can provide a spatial continuum that is breathtaking to behold. The search to solve the spatial transitional problems in this project resulted in the application of several unique strategies. First, the context of the golf course was given special consideration in the attempt to form a visual and formal

relationship to it. This cultural landscape of artificial undulating greens, tees and sand traps, provided interesting visual cues in the form of loopy shapes that became the graphic basis for a patterned, colored, gravel ground plane for the individual parterres within this garden. By referencing these golf course shapes within the gardens visual rhyming was created. Second, the trope of miniaturization, adapted from the Asian garden tradition, offered another effective strategy. By miniaturizing the random patterns of native evergreens of the mid-distant foothills in the placement of plants within the garden foregrounds, a subtle reduced scalar pattern from the visual field, almost subliminal, was made. This strategy fuses the foreground gardens with middle distant landscape elements and is most evident at the north red gravel parterre. Here, a group of junipers are placed in studied randomness to miniaturize the natural pattern of pinon pine and juniper forest seen directly across the way. This placement technique was also used in the location of the parryii agaves in the western terrace garden. Finally, tall verticals of the palm yuccas or the agaves in bloom frame distant views between their columnar forms and bring a human scale to the vast spatial field

from the standpoint of the observer. Original sources and material techniques were discovered during the process of exploring this gravel garden. The potentials for use of a patterned ground plane, constructed of different colored gravels, promised to offer exciting graphic possibilities especially when combined with planting design as a counterpoint to the patterning. This parti was studied and admired in the work of Roberto Burle Marx. His work in Brazil formed a precedent for this project, in particular his use of exotic, bold sculptural plants that increase the shape relationships of his designs even as they are overlaid upon richly patterned, frequently, mosaic ground planes. In this project, the patterns of loopy shapes were first observed in the golf course then re-searched in a 1950's book of

textile patterns from which the final pattern was derived. Collaboration with a metal worker resulted in a custom aluminum edging allowing exact replication from the garden plans of the curvilinear shapes as aluminum was the most malleable metal that also held its shape upon bending. The landscape contractor was able to trace the patterns on the ground, from detailed, dimensioned plans overlaid with grids, and locate the shapes exactly. Colored gravels were selected from common local materials, like the red scoria or lava rock, to less common green, blue-black and a very fine scale, 1/8 inch, creamy white gravel from Colorado that compacted beautifully for the areas with the most foot traffic. Located in an area of shallow native pinon pine and juniper studded foothills northwest of the city of Santa

Fe, the residence overlooks the grey-watered greens and tees of a private golf course and faces spectacular views to the western Ortiz mountains, Tetilla Peak, mesas, skies and sunsets. The landscape design developed all site relationships outside the building envelope including the outdoor entry water pool that appears to slide beneath the atrium glazing to emerge within the house as a reflecting pool beneath the Chihuly sculpture. The scope of work addressed the location of the entry drive as it sweeps past the prairie meadow; guest parking; the location of retaining walls that were required along the north, south and west to form level areas around the residence; layout and elevations of the walls and grades to form terraces, gardens and transitional spaces. The terraces and gardens were designed to provide continuous contact from within the residence to outdoor space each of which has its own character in response to the thematic intent to explore the gravel garden paradigm. Three major outdoor spaces exist that perform their own special function in relating to the interior programs of the house. One enters from the east into a courtyard that leads to the red steel and glass front door to the right of the glass atrium and suspended red glass Chahuly sculp-

Palm yuccas and agaves along the west terrace





Front Entry

ture. Here the first glimpse of the thematic gravel garden concept can be observed. The entry courtyard flows south to the terrace and garden that connects the main house with the guesthouse and is a place where guests have their own outdoor area or it can become a fluid extension of the entry courtyard for entertaining. The west terrace garden is located off of the main living areas of the house and is the largest and fullest expression of the gravel garden. This garden parterre is about two feet lower than the flagstone-veneered plinth

that forms a continuous outdoor platform on the western perimeter of the house for cooking, dining, sitting and relaxing. Two minor outdoor spaces also exist: one a small courtyard off the family room at the northeast corner is composed of gravel, 'piano key' step pads and deciduous aspen trees with low shrubs and daylilies. It is seen through a glass wall from the interior that gives the illusion of a lush, life-size terrarium just beyond the glass. Also, directly to the north is a single large gravel parterre

that transitions around this perimeter of the residence to the west. It is composed of an intense scoria red gravel with junipers arranged with studied randomness to miniaturize the pattern of the pinon - juniper forest of the foothills in the middle distance. Finally, to take advantage of this three-acre site, a path leads from the south terrace at the guesthouse into the prairie meadow, along an existing arroyo, to a destination where a life size figurative sculpture has been placed. From this point in the meadow, one can see the entire residence and long views to the southwest. The sculpture has been placed so that it also can be observed from the car, as one enters or leaves the residence along the driveway sequence. This project would not have been possible without the spirit of adventurous clients who loved contemporary art, desired a sustainable design and who also understood the potential for their landscape to be a work of art in itself. Combining these three aspirations together resulted in an exciting exploration that brought together a number of principles and influences into a unique synthesis.

edokatz@earthlink.net

Bottom Line Park Design

St. Francis of Assisi Park, Cuba, NM

*by Chance Munns,
MLA Candidate*

The purpose of kneading when making bread is to distribute the rising agent evenly, increase elasticity of the gluten and blend all the ingredients. Kneading is ultimately responsible for the overall texture and finished product. For Cuba, NM, kneading sustainable development strategies into their unfortunately high diabetes ingredients is essential to their

overall public health. Through public meetings and workshops held last December and January, SOCLAS is working to find solutions to Cuba's declining public health through built form. In collaboration with the National Park Service and the Step into Cuba Alliance, SOCLAS is determined to incorporate active living principles into the design of St. Francis of Assisi Park to influence the final texture of a future Cuba, NM. Recently, Cuba joined 50 other sites as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities initiative to reduce child-

hood obesity and promote public health. Strategies already under way include identifying safe routes to school, increasing the number of play spaces for children, extending pedestrian walkways, identifying ways to simplify access to fresh and healthy foods and starting community gardens that include youth participation. Although some strategies require regional solutions, such as extended trail systems and import of healthy foods, most can be implemented in the design of St. Francis of Assisi Park itself.

Sign from St. Francis of Assisi Park



The park, although underutilized, contains a variety of programs to keep visitors active including basketball courts, a baseball diamond and children's play structures along with a mile of walking trails. The 26 acre park also houses Cuba's only public recreation center equipped with a cardio room, free weights and an indoor basketball court. One of the reasons people choose not to take part in these free activities though is the lack of maintenance. Asphalt basketball courts are cracked and worn. Turf cannot be kept alive. The Eichwald Center is unable to stay open every day due to minimal staff and underuse. The Village of Cuba has little money to maintain St. Francis Park and now it is up to volunteers and the Step into Cuba Alliance to design, fund, build and maintain the park to prove the benefits to the community and promote a healthier Cuba.

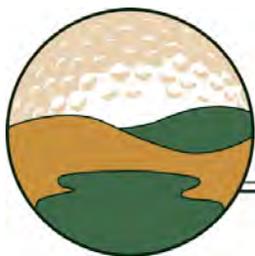
Since the Village has very little money and Step into Cuba is also working with limited funds, a plan for St. Francis Park must be framed in the context of time and phasing of projects. A single master plan just may not due since funding from grants and other agencies will come at different times for different purposes. St. Francis Park may take many years to develop but areas of the park can take on transitional uses that give the space purpose until funding is secured. As the park changes so will the people. Priorities will be changed. A new Village council will be elected. New materials and funding will become available but through our efforts now we hope to encourage active living, provide opportunities to educate, give life to great community ideas and deliver an overall park plan that can be used for long term planning in Cuba, NM.

By cutting in some student input, adding research knowledge of public health through built form, incorporating grant writing assistance and blending in a little extract of outside support SOCLAS hopes to contribute to Cuba's current and future needs. SOCLAS will be working on this project throughout the rest of the semester and any questions, resources or suggestions are welcome.

Please direct any comments or questions to Chance Munns

cmunns@unm.edu

“..SOCLAS hopes to contribute to Cuba's current and future needs. SOCLAS will be working on this project throughout the rest of the semester...”



Mountain West GolfScapes, Inc.

Chapter Events

NMASLA Poster Competition

Date: Extended to March 29, 2010

Theme: "Design in the Desert"

Size: 18"X24"

Prizes: 1st Prize \$250, 2nd Prize \$50

Note: For more information and to download the flyer go to:

<http://www.nmasla.org>

Select entries will be displayed at the 2010 Q1 event in the spring.

For more information, contact:

Susan Corban – scorban@mrwnm.com

AIA Santa Fe Lecture Series

Marc Treib/UC Berkeley Department of Architecture

Date/Time: March 26, 6:00 PM

Location: New Mexico Museum of Art's St. Francis Auditorium

Note: Marc Treib, professor of Architecture Emeritus, University of California Berkeley, is a noted landscape and architecture historian and critic. Treib has published numerous books on architecture and architectural landscape. All lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information go to:

<http://www.nmasla.org>

Private Members Only Reception for Marc Treib

Date/Time: March 26th 5-6pm

Location: Georgia O'Keeffe Gallery, New Mexico Museum of Art, on the Plaza in Santa Fe

Note: Mingle with members of the local chapters of NMASLA and the American Institute of Architects prior to Marc Treib's much anticipated lecture Art Outside and In – The Sculpture Garden and the Museum.

RSVP to: (505) 982-7799 ext. 1 or go to:

<http://www.museumfoundation.org/outdoorsandin>

Q1 Event ABQ BioPark

Date/Time: April 24th - Chalk Art Competition starts at 9:30, lunch, education session, and tours to follow.

Location: ABQ BioPark

Note: Celebrate Earth Day and National Landscape Architecture Month with the third annual NMASLA Chalk Competition and Education Session and Tours! The Albuquerque BioPark is hosting us again for a number of awesome activities, including the Chalk Competition, NMASLA Poster judging, delicious lunch, and an education session and tour of the Japanese Garden. We hope to see you there!

"Landscape Architecture in New Mexico" Gallery Exhibition

Date/Time: Gallery Entries due in June, Gallery Opening Friday, Sept. 10th (showing for entire month of September)

Location: UNM School of Architecture + Planning Gallery, Pearl Hall

Theme: Landscape Architecture in New Mexico

For more information contact

Amy Duckert at aduckert@mrwnm.com

Membership & Address Changes

Please email Amy Duckert: aduckert@mrwnm.com

Newsletter

The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning. Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor: Ryan Anderson ry.anders@gmail.com

Website

Have you visited the NMASLA Website?

Please check it out:

<http://www.nmasla.org/>

Want to show off your projects??? We are requesting project images or landscape images that anyone would like to have posted on the website. Please include a note with a brief description (name of project/landscape, location...anything else to explain the image). Now is your chance for Fame !!!!

2010

Q1

chalk competition + education session + tour

Celebrate **Earth Day** and **National Landscape Architecture Month**
with NMASLA and ABQ BioPark Education

NMASLA's
1st-Quarter Mtg.

@ the ABQ biopark

schedule of events

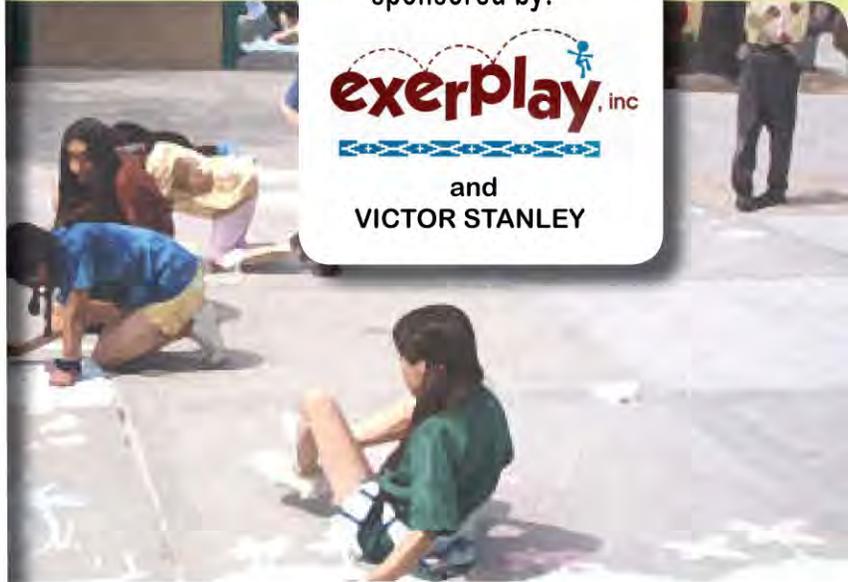
saturday APRIL 24, 2010

- 9:30-11:00: **Free Chalk Event (open to the public)**
on the plaza @ botanic garden/aquarium
- 9:30-2:00: **Poster Contest Voting (open to the public)**
on the plaza @ botanic garden/aquarium
- 10:00-2:00: **Children's Seed Festival**
@ botanic garden
- 11:00-11:30: **Chalk Art Judging**
winners announced + prizes awarded
- 11:30-12:30: **Box Lunch**
@ botanic garden showroom
- 11:30-12:30: **Education Session-**
"Master Planning the Japanese Garden"
@ botanic garden showroom
- 1:00-2:00: **Guided Tour**
japanese garden

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by april 16, 2010

Email or fax this form to Aaron Zahm:
azahm@mrwnm.com
505.265.9637

Chalk Event is FREE to everyone!

Lunch and education sessions are free to **NMASLA members**, but friends, family and colleagues are encouraged to attend for \$25 Kids under 12 are \$10 each.

Lunch, tour, and aquarium/garden admission are included. Payment is due at the event. Make checks payable to NMASLA.

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Company: _____

- yes I will be having lunch
- yes I will be attending the tour

box lunch order

- ham & cheese sub
adults _____ qty
kids _____ qty
- turkey & swiss sub
adults _____ qty
kids _____ qty
- vegetarian wrap
adults _____ qty
kids _____ qty



Design in the Desert

NMASLA Poster Competition 2010 Entry Form

name

company name

address

phone

address

phone

state

zip

email

Design requirements:

- 1 Design should reflect the theme *Design in the Desert*.
- 2 Design may include a quote.
- 3 Design must include the following text: - 2010
- *Design in the Desert*
- *NMASLA* as text or *NMASLA logo*
(email scorban@mrwnm.com for pdf logo)

Size & format:

Submit a *PDF of 18" x 24"*, minimum *300 dpi* resolution on a CD or DVD.
Label your disc "Poster Competition 2010" and your name.
Include a completed *entry form* with each design.

Prizes:

First place *\$250.00* & NMASLA will print *500 copies* of the winning entry
Second place *\$50.00*
Select entries will be *displayed* at an NMASLA-sponsored event and chapter website.

Deadline: *March 26, 2010*

Submit to:

Will Moses or Susan Corban
Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller
210 La Veta NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Note:

- 1 NMASLA reserves the right to add *sponsor logos* to printed posters.
- 2 You must be an *ASLA member* to enter. There is no entry fee.
You may submit *more than one* entry.
- 3 Entries will be *juried* by the NMASLA Executive Committee and by attendees at the NMASLA Q1 event. (date to be announced)
- 4 If you have *questions*, please email Susan Corban, scorban@mrwnm.com or Will Moses, wmoses@mrwnm.com.