

Melody Stein, RLA

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Licensed Landscape Architect in the State of Connecticut No. 001596

EDUCATION

- 2019 **Harvard University Graduate School of Design**
Master in Landscape Architecture, First Professional Degree with Distinction
Jacob Weidenmann Graduation Award for Outstanding Achievement in Design
- 2016 **Cornell University | College of Architecture, Art and Planning**
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Minor in Biological Sciences
Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022 - Present **Visiting Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture, Pratt Institute**
Course design and curriculum development of a semester-long soils and grading course
co-taught with arborist William Bryant Logan.
- 2022 **Landscape Architectural Mediums Primer Instructor, Pratt Institute**
Designed curriculum, coordinated and taught a two-week primer course for first-year
Masters in Landscape Architecture students. Presented daily lectures on themes ranging
from representation to design principals to introductory landscape history. Led technical
workshops and tutorials on sketching and site analysis, 3D modeling in Rhino, Adobe
Creative Suite workflows, and multiple physical modeling techniques.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - Present **Founder and Director, studio VISIT**
- *Cyprus Development*: Leads research and schematic design of a 2-acre development including residential, museum, and playground programs in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.
 - *Rochester Residence*: Planting design and installation administration for a residence in Rochester, New York.
- 2019 - 2022 **Senior Project Manager, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates**
- *Dorothea Dix Park: Play Plaza*: Managed and led planting design, soil placement, existing tree protection and reclamation for the 18 acre site. Coordinated mechanical and electrical engineering, and lighting, signage, and public art. Contributed drafting, detail development, and design through 100% Construction Documents.
 - *Johns Hopkins University*: Produced design studies that address circulation, traffic, and stormwater management priorities at masterplan and site scales. Created client presentations for Concept and Schematic Design phases for two project sites on campus.
 - *Green-Wood Cemetery*: Contributed to the design of a new courtyard within an abandoned tomb. Prepared client presentations, diagrams, and access studies.
 - *Obama Presidential Center*: Prepared design studies of grading, furnishings, planting, and site conditions. Led the design of the Entry Plaza. Drafted and coordinated Construction Document packages through the 100% CD phase.
- 2018 **Landscape Design Intern, SWA Group**
Participated in an ongoing research initiative focused on Los Angeles air quality and the potential for landscape-based pollution mitigation.

- 2017 **Landscape Design Intern, Inside Outside - Petra Blaisse**
Contributed to a masterplan proposal for De Klepperstee recreational park and housing complex in Ouddorp, Holland.
- 2014 **Production and Curatorial Intern, Storefront for Art and Architecture**
Conducted research used in the curation of the United States pavilion for the 2014 Venice Biennale of Architecture.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 **Field Notes on Design Activism**
Response to an invitation from the editors of Places Journal to share a perspective on the demand for change within the design industry. Published online by Places Journal.
- 2021 **Wild Rice Waters**
Exposé on wild rice harvest in Northeastern Minnesota. Published online by Places Journal. Audio version produced by Audm. Co-authored with Emily Hicks.

SELECTED LECTURES + ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- 2022 **Panel Moderator, 2022 AHRA International Conference**
Elemental Ground Panel. Convened at Pratt Institute.
- 2022 **Guest Critic, Syracuse University**
Emergent Publics. Professor: Lexi Tsien
- 2021 **Guest Lecturer, Cornell University**
Speculative Landscapes: Advanced Printmaking. Professor: Elisabeth Meyer.
- 2020 **Guest Lecturer, McGill University**
Advanced Landscape Theory. Professor: Rosetta Elkin.
- 2018 **Lead Teaching Assistant, Harvard Graduate School of Design**
Design for a Littoral Landscape. Professors: Rosetta Elkin and Robert Pietrusko.
- 2018 **Research Assistant, Harvard Graduate School of Design**
De-Naturing Preservation, PI: Danielle Choi.

SELECTED AWARDS + FUNDED RESEARCH

- 2022 **Urban Soils Institute Artist in Residence**
The Earth Below. In collaboration with Angela Moreno-Long. Presented at the 7th Annual Urban Soils Institute Symposium.
- 2022-2023 **NEW INC Y9 Member**
Incubating: *studio VISIT*. Collective Abundance Track
- 2019 **Landscape Architecture Thesis Prize**
Wild Rice Waters, co-authored with Emily Hicks. Harvard Graduate School of Design.
- 2018 **Penny White Project Fund**
Upstream. Summer fieldwork funding. Harvard Graduate School of Design.
- 2016 **Thai Studies Fund**
Between Rice and The River. Winter fieldwork funding. Harvard University Asia Center.
- 2016 **Goodwin Sands Memorial Award for Fine Arts Thesis**
An Index: Prelude and Postscript, Cornell University.
- 2015 **Frederic Conger Wood Fellowship**
Existence Tactics. Summer fieldwork funding. Cornell Institute for European Studies.