

TOM LEADER STUDIO

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Tom Leader Studio

Tom Leader Studio (TLS) was formed in March 2001 for the practice of landscape architecture. TLS seeks to investigate and build upon the unique, inherent qualities of cities and their landscapes. In so doing, TLS seeks to provide a link between emerging ideas and practices and the concrete need for their realization in physical space. Community involvement and design collaboration is central to TLS civic projects such as the new 19 acre Railroad Park in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Here TLS worked closely a large number of civic stakeholders for five years, managed a large team of local consultants, and formed a productive collaboration with KVA.

As the practice has grown over the last ten years, it has sought a balance between speculative work, competitions, and exhibits, with the constructed work that is now being realized. In 2002, the firm exhibited the Fresh Kills Landfill project and created a related installation at "Archilab" in Orleans, France. The TLS "Shanghai Carpet" project has been featured in exhibits including the Museum of Modern Art's 2005 "Groundswell" exhibit on international landscape design and at the Vitra Design Museum. TLS exhibited several projects, including a temporary park for the Fresno Museum of Art formed with rented scaffolds, in the 2006 "Design Life Now" Triennial at the Cooper Hewitt Museum.

The landscape, art and architecture collaboration, "Pool Pavilion Forest", completed in 2007 with artist James Turrell, was featured in the New York Times Magazine and received a 2009 ASLA Honor Award. A monograph of the firm's work "Tom Leader Studio: Three Projects" has been recently published by Princeton Architectural Press. In 2010 three significant built projects reached completion, including Railroad Park, the Stanford School of Medicine in California and the Stanford Academic Art Walk. The firm won 2009 ASLA Honor Awards for Pool Pavilion Forest, Stabiae Archaeological Park in the Bay of Naples, Italy, and Park Merced in San Francisco. Current work includes a community art center in Emeryville, CA, a U.S. / Mexico Border Crossing in Calexico, CA., an 18 acre Veterans Hospital Campus in Denver, numerous site design and planning projects in southern China, as well as a new city outside Delhi, India. The firm has been published in the *New York Times*, *ID Magazine*, *Landscape Journal*, *Topos*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Praxis*, *A+T*, and *Competitions*, and *Land Forum*. Please see www.tomleader.com for more information.

Tom Leader, Principal

Tom Leader is a California native with Norwegian roots in the village of Fisher, Minnesota. He received a BA from UC Berkeley in 1978 and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1983. The following sixteen years were spent as a partner in the firm of Peter Walker and Partners, designing and building numerous award-winning projects throughout the U.S. and internationally. Two projects under his direction won national ASLA Honor Awards — Longacres Park in Seattle, Washington, 1994, a pioneering wetland park and bio-filtration system, and a planning award for Asahikawa Riverfront Park, 1998, on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

In 1996, Tom Leader won the San Francisco Prize in a competition for the design of Philip Burton Federal Plaza leading to a related exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMoMA) in 1997. In 1998, he was awarded a year-long Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome, focusing on the 3,000 year history of "sedimentation". He has been featured in two exhibits at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art including the 2001 on-site installation "Coastlines" as head of a collaborative team for the exhibit "Revelatory Landscapes" with Anu Mathur and Dilip da Cunha. SFMoMA has acquired several of "map construction" works for their permanent collection. Tom Leader has served as a panelist for the Mayor's Institute on City Design, an AIA Regional Urban Design Assistance Team in Springfield Ohio, and the NEA Design Arts & Policy Panel. Tom Leader Studio (TLS) was founded in 2001 and has been continuously involved in international competitions since, including Fresh Kills Landfill, NYC in 2001, Shelby Farms Park, TN, in 2008, and the 2002 Master Plan Competition for the World Trade Center site. Tom Leader lectures frequently and has taught at Ohio State University in 2008, where he served as the Glimcher Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Art, humor, and irreverence play a role in the TLS culture as well. TLS produces on-site temporary installations most recently including "Snagged", in 2009, at the Rubin Center Gallery at the University of Texas, El Paso concerning the U.S. / Mexico border. In 2005, "Break-Out" a spatial riff on screen doors, rural life, and Johnny Cash, was featured on NPR Morning Edition. In 2010 TLS was pleased to receive an annual "Tom Waits Award" from FASLANYC for "Break Out"