



BSLA

Boston Society of
Landscape Architects

The Massachusetts and Maine Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

February 7, 2020

American Society of Landscape Architects
Honorary Membership Nominations
c/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street NW
Washington DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Executive Committee,

The Boston Chapter of ASLA humbly and enthusiastically nominates Judith Nitsch, PE, LEED AP BD+C, founding principal of Nitsch Engineering, for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Judy is a leading civic voice in Boston and beyond; a national champion of allied design professions; mentor to several generations of younger design firm leaders, especially rising women leaders; a tireless supporter of students, educational access and excellence; and she has been an extraordinary collaborator, practice leader and technical civil engineering expert, especially in issues of stormwater design, resilience, and environmental concerns for an enormous array of projects for the past forty years. Judy's achievements will continue to make real and lasting contributions of national and international significance to the profession of landscape architecture for generations to come.

Civil engineering that advances landscape architecture

The firm that Judy began and built, Nitsch Engineering, is the leading civil engineering practice in Boston. Her firm has provided the civil engineering -- especially stormwater -- expertise for a vast array of local and national ASLA design award-winning projects, from the Boston Public Library Johnson Building Renovation (Reed Hilderbrand) to the John Olver Design Building at UMass Amherst (STIMSON), Brooklyn Bridge Park (MVVA) to the Duke University Campus (Reed Hilderbrand) to the Rogers Environmental Studies Magnet School (Mikyoung Kim Design). Furthermore, Nitsch Engineering are leading the way in environmentally progressive work, whether visionary master plans, like the Climate Ready Boston Resilient Boston Harbor Vision Plan (SCAPE) or influential, built, private sector projects, like Clippership Wharf (Halvorson), or larger public sector strategies, such as the City of Washington, D.C.'s ongoing effort to integrate green infrastructure into the District's urban streetscapes.

A model of a design practice leader as a civic voice

Judy demonstrates unparalleled energy for professional civic engagement, local to global. A registered professional engineer in 27 states, Judy serves as a peer in the U.S. General Service Administration's Design Excellence Program and is in her third term as a member of the U.S. Department of State Overseas Building Operations Industry Advisory Group. Judy has served as national president of the Commercial Real Estate Women Network, as president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts and president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE. Judy currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Boston Architectural College, on the board of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and has been part of countless design review juries, conference panels, and advisory committees, including the jury of the Boston Living with Water International Design Competition.

An extraordinary champion of future generations of design practitioners and firm leaders...

Judy and her firm have always supported up and coming practices of all of the allied architecture and engineering disciplines. She lives by the rule that it is important to share knowledge with next generations, and she has informally done this endless times at every event she attends. More formally, and again, exemplifying Judy's warm, welcoming, and interdisciplinary approach, Nitsch Engineering organized an evening workshop series about firm succession. Two generations of landscape and architecture firms in Boston were invited to attend and encouraged to begin or continue these important conversations about practice and the future of practice within their own offices.

Boston chapter president Ricardo Austrich, ASLA, reflects on a moment a few years ago "when Judy stopped by Halvorson's office and took our then junior staff members for lunch, including me. She was an inspired, engaging and warm mentor to everyone at the table. We all walked away feeling touched and respected. Since then I have continued to engage with Judy at her firm's leadership series and at ASLA conventions. Judy is a remarkable and supportive colleague."

...with especially exceptional, enthusiastic support of female leadership

Judy sets the highest bar when it comes to supporting women in the allied A/E professions. Nitsch Engineering is a regular winner of "top women-owned firms" and "top places to work" awards. Yet even more impactful than those inspiring accolades, many times a year Judy quietly creates meaningful and lasting interdisciplinary personal connections by inviting a female architecture colleague and a female landscape architecture colleague to dinner and a performance of some kind. As Kaki Martin, ASLA, (founder and principal of Klopfer Martin Design Group) describes, "in this relaxed setting, dinner conversation would be about work, as Judy listened and coached and challenged and cheered us in our practices and in our shared projects together." Shauna Gillies-Smith, ASLA (founder and principal of Ground, Inc.), adds, "Judy is a positive powerhouse on so many levels. She is a model to aspire to in the way that she has structured her firm for growth of her employees and very significantly in her direct outreach and advocacy for emerging and women owned businesses. My firm has benefited tremendously by the implicit and explicit lessons I have learned from Judy." Shauna and Kaki each recall Judy as a unique and instrumental mentor as they began their own firms, and a trusted voice to whom they can turn to with the thorniest questions of practice leadership. These landscape architecture offices are but two of many whom Judy has guided through the years.

As Gary Hilderbrand, FASLA, wrote to us about the prospect of Judy and this honor, "Anyone who knows Judy, or anyone who has occasioned to be in her audience, knows about the mountains of positivity and commitment she brings to the subject of women leading businesses. Let's let that sink in—it's powerful. But, when you put that together with her firm's intense focus on the aspects of our urban infrastructure that matter most to design and public health and well-being, you have the picture of a leader who has helped advance landscape architecture. Judy is a pathbreaking environmentalist and a tireless advocate for what's needed to perform environmental rescue in our cities. Her firm's current leadership and staff are stepping up to fulfill this legacy, and that, too, is a reflection of her tireless push. She's a fighter who has delivered and has figured out how to keep on giving."

As Judy retires this year, she leaves not only an exemplary legacy in the staff and projects of Nitsch Engineering, but also in the strong leadership of landscape architecture firms throughout our region, who are doing work around the world. For her contributions to the profession of landscape architecture in technical expertise and in mentorship across generations, the Boston chapter enthusiastically nominates Judy Nitsch for Honorary ASLA.



Ricardo Austrich, ASLA, Boston Chapter President



Kaki Martin, ASLA, Boston Chapter President-Elect



mikyoung kim design

February 4, 2020

Honorary Membership Nomination
Executive Committee for Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

ASLA HONORARY MEMBERSHIP LETTER OF NOMINATION FOR JUDITH NITSCH

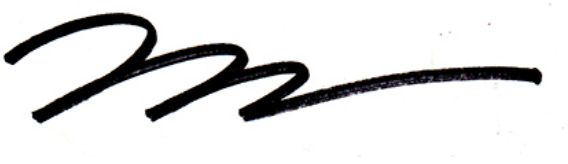
Nominator: Mikyoung Kim, FASLA

Dear Nominating Committee:

For the past forty years, Judith Nitsch has been a tireless advocate for site resiliency and green infrastructure in the city. Trained as an engineer, Judy has successfully built a 100 person firm headquartered in Boston with offices in Washington D.C. and various locations in Massachusetts. Her firm, Nitsch Engineering, is the largest woman-owned civil engineering firm in Massachusetts. For the past two decades, I have worked with her on projects that focused on site resiliency and stormwater management. Our collaboration began with a series of urban playgrounds, including the Rogers Environmental School. Her team's guidance in these projects helped us to develop schools that celebrates resiliency and sustainability. I have also been on numerous juries with Judy-including *the Living with Water Competition* in Boston and the U.S. General Services Administration's Design Excellence Program.

Judy is an active member of the design community in Boston. She is the vice chair of the Board of Trustees at the Boston Architectural College and serves on the ULI Boston/New England Advisory Board. In Boston, Judy's firm is the go-to civil engineering office for landscape architectural projects of all types and scales. Her life's work as both a community educator, researcher and practitioner has made her a unique leader in this region, with a personal and professional ethos grounded in social and ecological responsibility. The ASLA could find no better honorary member than Judith Nitsch to add to the Landscape Architectural community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mikyoung Kim', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mikyoung Kim, FASLA

February 7, 2020

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Washington DC 20001-3736

Re: Endorsement for ASLA Honorary Membership for Judith Nitsch PE

Dear Honorary Membership Committee,

I have been extremely fortunate to have known and worked with Judith Nitsch since the early to mid-1980s. She has been a collaborator, a friend, and a steadfast supporter of the landscape architectural community throughout this tenure. Nitsch Engineering is today recognized as a national leader in building better communities through innovation in design. The firm she built – Nitsch Engineering -- has led the way in cutting edge sustainable design practices.

I have come to think of Judy as an engineer in landscape architect's clothing. I regularly run into her very real smile at national landscape architecture conferences and education sessions. She is an educator in her own right having led dozens and dozens of education sessions to regional and national audiences. She is also an influential and respected member of numerous community organizations and boards of trustees.

Judy Nitsch always acts collaboratively with unparalleled integrity, in a disarming, enthusiastic, and caring manner. She started humbly and despite her accomplishments and accolades remains humble. I believe Judy Nitsch PE deserves to be honored with an American Society of Landscape Architects Honorary Membership. I know she would be thrilled to receive this award, and as she's retiring this year, it's especially timely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CH' or 'Craig Halvorson', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig Halvorson FASLA



6 February 2020

Gretchen Rabinkin
Executive Director
Boston Society of Landscape Architects
290 Congress Street, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02210

RE: ALSA Honorary Member Nomination of Judy Nitsch

Dear Gretchen,

It is my pleasure to send you this letter in full support of recognizing Judy Nitsch as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

I have had the pleasure of working with Judy, Founding Principal of Nitsch Engineering, for more than 30 years in a variety of capacities and numerous projects. When I think about Judy over that time period, many words come to mind, including Collaborative, Engaging, Respectful and Inclusive.

Judy NEVER does anything halfway, as witnessed by her lengthy list of accomplishments both professionally and as a volunteer. On a professional basis, Judy always try make each project better than the last, integrated with the Landscape, the Architecture and each of the respective disciplines. Good is not good enough! Exploring all design options and hearing from all parties is a requirement! Her work in the areas of Sustainability and Climate Change have been ongoing for years, well before these became project mandates. Infrastructure, Site Development and Storm Water System designs are always well integrated and coordinated with the teams of Landscape Architects she has worked with over 40+ years.

On a combined professional/volunteer basis I have admired Judy's effort in the sponsorship and promotion of women, introducing them to, and mentoring them in, the design professions.

On a more personal volunteer note, thankfully Judy agreed to Chair our recent, and successful, nationwide search for the new President of the Boston Architectural College. She was given full reign to oversee that process and she assembled a diverse and broad group of committee members that represented each of the design disciplines. In an effort to ensure a broad and inclusive search, she made sure the committee interviewed and considered candidates from inside and outside higher education. Happily, as a result of Judy's leadership, I can report that our new BAC President represents

all of the qualities, attributes and engaging enthusiasm that the search committee and BAC community were looking for!

Thank you for considering Judy Nitsch as an Honorary ASLA Member. This recognition and honor would be a clear acknowledgement of her consistent support and collaboration with literally hundreds of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Martini', with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard L. Martini
Executive Managing Director, The Fallon Company
Board Chair, Boston Architectural College

February 4, 2020

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636 Eye Street, NW
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Dear ASLA Honors and Awards Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to support Judy Nitsch for Honorary Membership and recognition by ASLA for her career-long contributions to our professions and the practice of landscape architecture as well as her ambitious development of sustainable sites throughout our country.

Judy founded her firm as a women-owned business over thirty years ago. She had a vision for what a progressive civil engineering firm could be—and was dedicated to her partnerships with landscape architects, architects, contractors, site subcontractors and clients to innovate and deliver new solutions. Judy is one of those remarkable people who lead by example and has always demonstrated that we all design and succeed together.

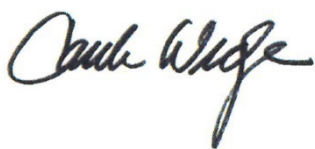
Her firm is an outstanding example of a progressive collaborator, and one that has been on the front lines of advocating for sustainable sites, progressive design for storm water, retention, reclamation and more. She is a leading voice in what our work can mean for the communities we serve.

Judy has accomplished a great deal as a business founder, practitioner and collaborator. And that is just the beginning of the long list of ways that Judy has served her community, her profession and our country. Judy has served her alma mater, Worcester Polytechnic Institute for over 30 years as a member and chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She has changed the face of that campus and landscape to be one of a progressive institute focused on sustainability and community.

I have served with Judy on the Board of Trustees for the Boston Architectural College, where she has held many roles -- from guiding academic affairs for landscape architecture, to fundraising, to board development. She also served as a vice chair of the Board, and most recently as chair of the Presidential Selection Committee. Judy brings passion and insight to everything she does. She participates in every aspect of the design community. She is a tireless advocate for women in the profession and collaboration across disciplines. Judy knows from experience that we all succeed together and can create remarkable communities by working together.

It is with great pride that I endorse the recognition of Judy Nitsch by ASLA with Honorary Membership.

Very truly yours,



Carole Wedge, FAIA, LEED AP
CEO, Shepley Bulfinch

SCAPE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DPC
277 BROADWAY NINTH FLOOR NEW YORK NY 10007
T 212 462 2628 SCAPESTUDIO.COM

February 7, 2020

Gretchen Rabinkin, Affiliate ASLA; AIA
Executive Director
Boston Society of Landscape Architects
gretchen@bslanow.org

Dear Gretchen:

I am writing to endorse the nomination for Judy Nitsch for Honorable ASLA status. Judy has been a knowledgeable project partner, a generous and enthusiastic mentor, and a friend to the entire SCAPE office. We are so pleased to have the opportunity to support her and welcome her into the landscape architecture family. One can hardly imagine a better candidate for this honor.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Orff', followed by a period.

Kate Orff, FASLA

CONTACT INFO

Judith Nitsch, PE, LEED AP BD+C

Founding Principal

Member, Board of Directors

Nitsch Engineering

2 Center Plaza, Suite 430

Boston, MA 02108

T: 617-338-0063

F: 617-338-6472

E: jnitsch@nitscheng.com