

Training at a high level landscape architects

For over twenty-five years the Versailles National School of Landscape Architecture, a public institution under the guardianship of the Minister of Agriculture, has formed government-certified landscape architects (dplg).

The Diversity of Landscapes

Le Blanc-Mesnil (Seine-Saint-Denis); the nature reserve of Lubéron; the neighborhoods of North Marseille; the preparation for tourists of the Ardèche gorges; the mining basin of the North; highway A 29, close to the Normandy bridge; the royal vegetable gardens of Versailles; the Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport: these are some of the landscapes that highlight, in their infinite diversity, the country of France.

Each Day, a Landscape to Construct

All of these landscapes present very different scenarios, ranging from charming abodes to exiled spaces, from rural landscapes to urban sites. But all constitute in their own scale the framework of life that has been left to us and that must be constructed every day by the landscape architect.

Because the object is diverse and constantly in fluctuation, in time as well as in space, because the object is living and irreducible to prescribed “recipes”, the landscape architect must have the virtuosity of a symphony conductor.

An up and coming profession

This profession is in essence multidisciplinary. The landscape architect must in fact work with an ensemble of public and private officials and work closely with other landscape professionals – engineers, architects, urban designers, building inspectors, gardeners, ecologists, historians, geographers, sociologists and conservationists.

Approximately one-third of landscape architects practice as independent

professionals, one-third are salaried in landscaping, architectural or urban design firms, and one-third are employed by the state, local administration, or any kind of organism in charge of land planning.

- **the first school of landscape architecture in France**
- **340 applicants competing for entrance in 2005**
- **45 admitted to the first year**
- **45 diplomas awarded each year**
- **4 years of study**
- **787 certified landscape architects graduated since 1945**
- **14 tenured professors**
- **200 part time professors**
- **60 administrative and technical employees**
- **7000 m2 of building surface**
- **9 ha of gardens and orchards**
- **a Mediterranean branch**
- **30 internships and 250 interns each year for continued study**
- **a certificate of advanced landscape studies (CESP) with one year**
- **a research laboratory**