



KARLA SALMANS '11

GRADUATE DEGREE: Master of Landscape Architecture

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE: B.S. in Business Marketing -
Arizona State University

CURRENT JOB: Project designer for MKSK

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Prior to pursuing my MLA, I was working as a project manager for a marketing firm. At the time, a local landscape architecture firm was my client. During meetings, I found myself wanting to discuss their projects instead of their projected three-year marketing plan. I began to rethink my career path, started researching landscape architecture and found myself applying to Ohio State's MLA program.

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU FEEL MOST PREPARED YOU FOR AN MLA DEGREE?

I am well aware it is quite uncommon to have a business degree in our field – I have yet to meet another practitioner with one. However, though the core of our profession is design, we are, in fact, running businesses. My business knowledge is a great asset for my project management duties. Additionally, my marketing education, professional speaking skills and networking abilities are instrumental for business development.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OSU FOR YOUR MLA DEGREE?

I would love to have a profound answer to this question, but my honest response is proximity. I was an older student and my roots were already growing in Columbus. I was fortunate to find a great school so close to the place I called home.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE MLA PROGRAM?

I was hired by MSI (now MKSK) shortly after I graduated.

HOW DID YOUR TIME IN THE PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Design school affords freedom to learn concepts and philosophies which teach you to be a designer. You are then able to take that knowledge, blend it with real-world applications learned in practice and translate it to a workable design.

DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU HAD IN GRADUATE SCHOOL.

Traveling to Shanghai, China for ten days with my studio – experiencing cultural differences and how it translates to the landscape was an invaluable design lesson.

WHY WOULD YOU EMPLOY A GRADUATE FROM THE MLA PROGRAM AT OSU?

Graduates are often eager to learn the day-to-day tasks of practicing landscape architects and how they can expand their design and construction knowledge. This combination makes for an enthusiastic, hard-working entry level employee.