



LIZ LAGEDROST '09

GRADUATE DEGREE: Master of Landscape Architecture

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE: B.S. in Botany and Chemistry -
Miami University

CURRENT JOB: Walt Disney Imagineer

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

To be honest I had very little knowledge of what landscape architecture was when I decided to apply. I had friends pursuing architecture degrees, and was interested in the way in which they were being encouraged to think. I was also intrigued that much of their time was spent building models, something that I decided I must try. The decision came in the form of influence from a friend who suggested that, with my interest in architecture and my undergraduate degree, I consider looking into landscape architecture. At the time, I had never heard of the field, but nonetheless decided I would apply.

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

Though I came into graduate school with an understanding of plant ecologies and ecosystems, it was the art and literature courses taken as electives that had the largest impact on my graduate studies.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OSU FOR YOUR MLA DEGREE?

Ohio State was the only school I applied to. The small amount of research I had done on MLA programs indicated that OSU was a renowned school for the degree, and I was conveniently living in Columbus at the time.

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

I was hired as a designer for SWA in Los Angeles after graduating. I worked in the LA office for two years primarily in graphic production and design communication.

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

I owe my professional success to the challenges and encouragement I received from the faculty at OSU. My time at Knowlton was spent designing highly imaginative spaces that were grounded in narrative. I was pushed to think not only outside of the box, but well beyond it. I knew I came out of the program with a portfolio that was NOT going to get me hired by ANY firm or company, but WOULD stand out amongst the places where I wanted to be employed.

DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU HAD IN GRADUATE SCHOOL.

Towards the end of my time at OSU, I took a department elective entitled "Elegantly wasted like a Virgin" (hard to resist by name alone). The course focused on exploring abandoned landscapes and transforming the experiential into a physical manifestation. I remember standing alone in an abandoned former dump on a very cold January day and experiencing the sublime. This was rather profound, as the topic of my thesis was conceptually grounded in an interpretation of the American sublime. Aside from the transcendental moment, I came to realize that the places we remember and choose to return to, are those that make us feel. Those emotions inspire and illicit storytelling, which in turn fuels creativity.

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

I would expect a graduate from the program to have been challenged. Challenged in such a way that he or she would be able to confidently speak to and defend an idea. And with that confidence bring to the table a unique design perspective along with an eagerness to learn and to ask questions.