

## **Preface**

Welcome to the sixth International Seminar on New Technologies of the International Master Program in Landscape Architecture (MLA) at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences.

In the 1998, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences founded new English language graduate programs in landscape architecture, design, and architecture at the traditionally agricultural campus in Bernburg and on the new campus in the neighbourhood of the Bauhaus in Dessau. The university also used the opportunity of the time to introduce the focus on applications of new technology in all these design disciplines. The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at Anhalt University is still the first international and fully operating English Master Program in Landscape Architecture in Germany. As of today, students from 21 countries in Asia, Africa, Australia, South and North America and from all corners of Europe are or have been enrolled in the MLA program in Bernburg. With the initial help of DAAD funding, a great network of international lecturers has been established in order to meet international standards for graduate education in landscape architecture.

The “MLA” has two main goals. The first focus of the Anhalt Master Program in Landscape Architecture is to learn, at the graduate level, to work internationally. The greatest opportunity of today is the international involvement of the profession. Already more than 1,000 students in two dozen German language landscape architecture programs in Germany graduate annually. The quality of landscape architecture education at German universities is more than outstanding. With more than 5,000 registered landscape architects, the German landscape architects are, aside from the United States, the largest national group worldwide. The overall national standards in landscape architecture are probably only higher in Switzerland. However, German landscape architects are still under-represented in international projects. The English language MLA program is trying to gap the language and other cultural barriers.

The second focus of the Anhalt MLA program is to use New Technologies to a great extend. Architecture is today, digital architecture. Architects are working worldwide, around the clock, sharing the same digital files via Internet. Anhalt is training its students to be the best traditionally and the best digitally. The graduate programs are a great opportunity to expose the students to the worldwide digital work environment. The conferences on new technologies in environmental design and planning are an integral part of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program (MLA). This annual conference helps focus each time on one of the many issues of these digital tasks for landscape architects. All the creative Internet partners working on similar research issues are here, able to meet each other in person. The

“virtual relationships” need to be grounded. As a side effect, the international graduate students in Anhalt will have the best opportunity to find personal contact to the “gurus” they know until now only because the highest amount of hits in search engines for certain virtual issues brought them to certain names. The MLA students can ask these experts questions directly on their final thesis research. These contacts may occur during the conference or while visiting the Bauhaus sites or during the excursion to the famous historical gardens in Woerlitz. Established personal contacts may then start long-term virtual relationships for the young professionals.

Holding this conference at this campus – where the Bauhaus is also located – is a gesture to all the international collaborators working with Anhalt on this concept of worldwide training. The great number of international speakers indicates the level of international awareness the program has already received, due in part to this series of conferences but also because of the outstanding quality of the international studio collaborations.

Holding this conference in Dessau also demonstrates the active partnership of the international Master Programs of Anhalt University in Architecture and Design – both located in Dessau, and Landscape Architecture, located in Bernburg. The Architecture Department in Dessau needs to be especially thanked for inviting the Bernburg based program to use this wonderful lecture hall.

I wish the international group of landscape architects and environmental researchers a pleasant and successful seminar in Dessau. You are always invited back to this historical location in Anhalt, Germany.

Dessau, April 2005

**Prof. Dr. habil. Dieter Orzessek**  
**President Anhalt University of Applied Sciences**