Welcome to the Annual Charles H. Burger Memorial Lecture!

This annual lecture is named in honor of Mr. Charles H. Burger, NC State University, MLA Class of ’80, who died as the result of an automobile accident on Christmas Day, 2006. For 30 years, Charles was a practicing landscape architect in Hillsborough. He taught for many years both at the School of Design at NC State University and the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Charles touched many students and faculty over the years with his teaching that focused on the craft of landscape architecture. His specialty and emphasis was landscape architectural design and construction.

It is our pleasure to welcome this year’s speaker, Dan Pitera, FAIA, Executive Director, Detroit Collaborative Design Center at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Pitera will present his lecture, “Syncopating the Urban Landscape: More People, More Programs, More Geographies.”
In music, to syncopate means to take the stronger, more dominant musical notes and make them weaker, and at the same time to take the weaker notes and make them stronger. In Detroit as well as many other cities around the world, something akin to this process has been happening organically over decades, if not longer.

Syncopating the Urban Landscape works to direct this shift, and not let it simply happen. In the eyes of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), the goal of a Syncopated Urban Landscape is to amplify the weaker notes—give them room to grow and to reinforce a new dynamically balanced city that is equitable, ecological and inspirational.

The lecture will use the work and research of the DCDC to illustrate the issues outlined above. The DCDC practices under the premise that designers should expand their clientele, where they work, and the types of projects they engage. This does not mean that we exclude people who typically build or hire an architect, urban designer, landscape architect, or planner. The DCDC works to include more people, more programs, and more geographies in the process. We are advocates for people who are typically left out of design and place-making decisions. The DCDC widens the undertaking beyond some people to include all (or more) people.

With this said, we often hear that civic engagement means we have to abandon the tools that make great architecture, landscape and urban design and accept mediocre products. Our work is grounded in the position that people in the city are the primary catalysts for urban innovation. We are guided and governed by the question: How can people be key operators in inspiring and creating new ecological, equitable and beautiful urban environments and spaces? With this position, we develop meaningful and productive methods of community participation, where community expertise is blended with discipline expertise—where communities and designers work as partners.

“What you do not know (especially in the beginning of a project) is a good thing. Let the process guide your thinking.”


Dan Pitera, FAIA is the Executive Director of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013-2014. Dan co-led the Civic Engagement process for the Detroit Works Project Long Term Planning initiated by Mayor Bing in 2010. On January 9, 2013, Long Term Planning team released its decision-making framework titled: Detroit Future City.

Mr. Pitera was a 2004-2005 Loeb Fellow at Harvard University. He was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 2010, an honor bestowed to only 3% of all American architects. Under his direction since 2000, the Design Center won the 2011 and 2002 Dedalo Minosse International Prize and was included in the US Pavilion of the 2008 and 2012 Venice Biennale in Architecture. The Center was awarded the 2011 SEED Award and the 2009 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Design Excellence for the St. Joseph Rebuild Center in New Orleans. The Design Center was the recipient of the NCARB Prize in 2002 and 2009 and was included in the international exhibit/conference ArchiLab in 2001 and 2004 in Orleans, France. Mr. Pitera was a resource member for the 40th and 43rd Mayor’s Institute for City Design (MICD) and a facilitator for the MICD 25th anniversary in 2011. In 2011, Mr. Pitera gave the keynote address at the Planning Institute of Australia’s National Congress and the Keynote address in Lisbon to Portugal’s equivalent to HUD. He has co-authored the book, Syncopating the Urban Landscape: More People, More Programs, More Geographies and co-edited the book, Activist Architecture: The Philosophy and Practice of the Community Design Center. In 1998, Mr. Pitera was the Hyde Chair of Excellence at the University of Nebraska. He has lectured and taught extensively throughout the North America, South America, and Europe. He likes “fallout shelter” yellow...
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Go to: [http://design.ncsu.edu/academics/landscape-architecture/events](http://design.ncsu.edu/academics/landscape-architecture/events) to view recent lectures by:

- **Gina Ford**, ASLA, Sasaki Associates:  
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- **Paul Morris**, FASLA, President and CEO of the Atlanta Beltline:  
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- **Justin Martin**, author:  
  “Fredrick Law Olmsted: the Accidental Renaissance Man.”

- **Daniel Winterbottom**, FASLA, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington:  
  “Sticks and Stones May Heal our Bones: Rebuilding Community.”

- **Annette Wilkus**, FASLA, RLA, LEED, AP, SiteWorks:  
  “Building New York’s Next Generation of Parks.”

- **Kenny Helphand**, FASLA, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Oregon:  
  “Larry Halprin: Performance Artist.”

- **Gary Findell**, FiNe Construction Solution:  
  “A Landscape Architect in Haiti – Cultural Challenges in Building Community ... or Anything Else.”

- **Robin Moore**, Hon. ASLA and **Nilda Cosco**, PhD, The Natural Learning Initiative, NC State University:  
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- **Jeff Carney**, AIA, AICP, Director LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio:  
  “Delta Building: Design in an Indeterminate Landscape.”

- **Gary Hilderbrand**, FASLA, Reed Hilderbrand:  
  “Visible|Invisible.”

- **Matthew Urbanski**, ASLA, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates:  
  “New Parks for the Reinvented City.”

- **Charles A. Flink**, FASLA:  
  “WalkBikeNC: The Evolution of North Carolina Transportation.”

- **Matthew Tomasulo**, Walk [Your City]:  
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- **Warren T. Byrd**, Jr., FASLA, Nelson Byrd Woltz:  
  “Meandering with Purpose: Research, Practice.”

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