

Jean Vissering Landscape Architecture

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RESUME

EDUCATION

Master of Landscape Architecture - 1975, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, American Society of Landscape Architects Book Award.

Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture - 1972, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. Cum Laude. Honors Thesis on Pedestrian Environments.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

Professional Consulting: Visual Resource Planning and Visual Impact Assessment Projects

- Currently providing independent review of telecommunications and electrical generation projects for the Vermont Department of Public Service under the §248 process.
- Research on aesthetic impacts of Timber Harvesting as part of study by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. Authored chapter in *Assessment of Timber Harvesting and Forest Resource Management: 2012*. The report updated an early study conducted by the University of Vermont in which I also participated.
- Assisted Town of Essex in development of a “conservation subdivision” process for rural areas of town to protect scenic and natural resources. Coordination with Brandy Saxton, project leader, and the planning staff and planning commission in the Town of Essex.
- Assist the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) develop guidelines for solar and wind projects on lands conserved with VHCB funding.
- Visual Assessment of the Antrim Wind Project in New Hampshire and testimony before the Site Evaluation Commission on behalf of New Hampshire’s Counsel for the Public.
- Aesthetic Impact Review on behalf of the City of Burlington on Act 250 Review of the proposed Champlain Parkway.
- Act 250 Review of Aesthetic Impacts on behalf of Goddard College for a proposed wood heating plant; the Act 250 permit was appealed to Environmental Court.
- Prepared a methodology for state review of visual impacts of wind energy projects with the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), *A Visual Assessment Process for Wind Energy Projects* including a 2-hour webinar for local, state and federal representatives around the US and Europe. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
- Prepared visual impact assessment for the proposed Lowell Wind Project, Lowell, Vermont for the Green Mountain Club.
- Visual Impact Assessment of proposed shopping center outside Brandon village, Vermont for Preservation Trust of Vermont
- Work with the Preservation Trust of Vermont in evaluating the visual impacts of a proposed commercial facility in Ferrisburgh.

- Visual Impact Assessment for Kibby Expansion Project on Sisk Mountain in Chain of Ponds and Kibby Townships, Maine (TransCanada).
- Visual Assessment of proposed Fuel Station, Convenience Store and Restaurant Facility for Friends of Ferrisburgh.
- Visual Impact Assessment for Georgia Wind Project as an independent witness for the Vermont Public Service Department.
- Visual assessment of the Deerfield Wind Project on behalf of Iberdrola. The project is proposed within the Green Mountain National Forest.
- Visual Impact Assessment for Granite Reliable Wind Park in Coos County, NH approved by the NH Siting Evaluation Committee, on behalf of Noble Environmental Energy.
- Visual Impact Assessment of the proposed Kibby Wind Energy Project in the Boundary Mountains of Maine on behalf of TransCanada (Approved by Maine LURC).
- Independent visual impact assessment of a proposed subdivision adjacent to Interstate 91 in Windsor Vermont District for the District #2 Environmental Commission.
- Visual Impact Assessment of the proposed Redington and Black Nubble Wind projects on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (Maine LURC concurred with my findings, project denied).
- Report as a member of the National Academy of Science Wind Energy Committee which produced a report, *Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects* (National Research Council of the National Academies 2007).
- Visual Impact assessment of a small wind turbine in Huntington for the Foundation for a Sustainable Future.
- Aesthetic review under §248 of the Vermont Electric Coop (VELCO) Northwest Reliability Project for the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.
- Assisted the Bennington Regional Commission and the Town of Manchester in a public information and review process by providing information regarding the aesthetic effects of the proposed Little Equinox Wind Energy Project.
- Scenic evaluation methodology and protection strategies for the Town of Huntington's Conservation Commission to be used as a tool for prioritizing conservation efforts.
- Visual assessment for the proposed Glebe Mountain wind project for the Town of Londonderry.
- Presentation to Scenic America's Board of Directors and Affiliates of the visual issues involved in wind energy development at their annual meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Visual assessment methodology for the Public Service Board, published as a brochure: *Siting a Wind Turbine on Your Property*; designed to encourage the sensitive siting of small wind turbines to protect scenic views.
- Prepared the report, *Wind Energy and Vermont's Scenic Landscape*, for the Vermont Public Service Department summarizing discussions among stakeholders concerning the visual impacts of wind energy.
- *Open Space Plan Views and Vistas Study* for the City of Montpelier's Conservation Commission. The Study recommended priorities for green space and open space protection.
- "Scenic Resource Evaluation Process": a team project to develop guidelines for Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' review of Act 250 projects.

Professional Consulting: Design and Planning Projects

- Landscape plans for Mayo Health Center in Northfield including walking path and outdoor sitting and entry areas.
- Design for the George Aiken Native Vermont Plant Garden viewed from the Statehouse cafeteria.
- Design of a ceremonial garden the Center for Victims of Violent Crimes to honor those who have been affected by violent crimes. The garden is located on State property near the State House in Montpelier and includes a plaza and accessible pathway.
- Design of numerous residential properties including supervision of construction.
- Work with the Trust for Public Land to facilitate discussions with stakeholders and illustrate options for the development and conservation of Sabin's Pasture, a 100 acre parcel in Montpelier. Designs illustrated a compact neighborhood approach for up to 300 mixed use and affordable housing units, recreation paths and storm water retention areas.
- Re-Design of City Hall Plaza in Montpelier
- Streetscape Design between bus shelter and Shaw's, Main Street Montpelier
- Street Tree Plan for Route 2 in Plainfield, VT
- Design for Martin Bridge Park for the Town of Marshfield; the park includes parking and handicapped access to a historic covered bridge, information about the natural and cultural history of the area, picnic areas, and trails connecting to the Cross Vermont Trail.
- Elm Court Park: a small pocket park and entry way developed by the Trust for Public Land and the City of Montpelier. The park includes a small plaza, sitting areas with native plants and a butterfly garden.
- Turntable Park, Stonecutters Way, Montpelier: design for restoration of an historic turntable, along with accommodation of recreational and theatrical use of a small park. (Designed in collaboration with the Office of Robert White).
- Randolph Family Housing and Templeton Court, landscape design for low-income housing projects in Randolph and White River Junction, VT.
- Plainfield Common, a public riverside park and small formalized parking area in the village center of Plainfield; this project involved extensive public involvement
- Streetscape Master Plan for Chelsea village: village plantings and other amenities for the village center's greens and streets, as well as for several parks and public areas.
- Street tree inventory and plan for the City of Montpelier.
- Conservation and development plans for landholdings in various towns.

Teaching and Workshop Experience

- Presentations and Courses at Kellogg Hubbard Library, Aldrich Public Library, Studio Place Arts (Barre), Stowe Garden Club and other venues.
- **1982 -1997: Lecturer (University of Vermont, School of Natural Resources and Department of Plant and Soil Science)**
Teaching and Advising: Courses included *Park and Recreation Design* (Recreation Management); *Landscape Design Studio*, *Colloquium in Ecological Landscape Design* (Plant and Soil Science), and *Visual Resource Planning and Management* (Natural Resources graduate level), and *Environmental Aesthetics and Planning* (Natural Resources).

- **1996: Faculty (Vermont Design Institute)**
Faculty facilitator for a summer workshop on finding patterns in rural landscapes and historic town centers which could be used as a planning and design tool.
- **1995: Lecturer (Norwich University, Department of Architecture)**
Course in Landscape Design, the first to be taught in the school.

Additional Experience

- **1981 - 1982: State Lands Planner (Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation)**
Preparation and coordination of all land management plans for the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; review of plans under Act 250 and Act 248 for aesthetic impacts; design services and related expertise to other Agency departments and to municipalities.
- **1978 - 1981: Park Planner (VT. Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation)**
Design of state park facilities including site analysis, working drawings, grading plans, construction details, planting plans, and supervision of construction. Reviewed plans under Act 250 for aesthetic impacts. Helped organize a new state lands management unit.

PUBLICATIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Assessment of Timber Harvesting and Forest Resource Management in Vermont: 2012, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, December 2014

A Visual Assessment Process for Wind Energy Projects, Clean Energy States Alliance with Mark Sinclair and Anne Margolis, contributing authors, May 2011

Minimize the Visual Impact of Turbines, Burlington Free Press, January 17, 2010

Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects, National Research Council of the National Academies, May 2007

Sabin's Pasture: A Vision for Development and Conservation, Central Vermont Community Land Trust, March 2003.

Siting a Wind Turbine on Your Property: Putting Two Good Things Together, Small Wind Technology & Vermont's Scenic Landscape, Public Service Board, December 2002

Wind Energy and Vermont's Scenic Landscape: A Discussion Based on the Woodbury Stakeholder Workshops, Vermont Public Service Department, August 2002.

Scenic Resource Evaluation Process, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, July 1, 1990. Guidelines to be used by the Agency of Natural Resources in reviewing visual impacts of development projects under Act 250.

"Impact Assessment of Timber Harvesting Activity in Vermont: Final Report-March 1990": a research project conducted by the University of Vermont on behalf of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. My focus was the visual impacts of timber harvesting.

"Landscapes, Scenic Corridors and Visual Resources": a chapter of the 1989 Vermont Recreation Plan which outlines a five year plan for protecting and enhancing scenic resources in Vermont.

"Healing Springs Nature Trail Guide": Guide for a nature trail at Shaftsbury State Park including text, illustrations (I also designed the trail and bridges).