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**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES TO OPEN MAJOR EXHIBIT ON
IMPORTANT MODERNIST LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT DAN KILEY**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Dan Kiley*, a major exhibition organized and traveled by the Cultural Landscape Foundation (*TCLF*) in Washington D.C., September 9 – December 30, 2016 in both the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture and the Gallery of Photography. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 7 from 5 – 7 p.m.** and the galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries' website at TheSheldon.org. *The exhibition is made possible in part by Joan and Mitchell Markow and Christner, Inc.*



Gallery Talk: Tuesday, December 6, from 6 – 7 p.m., Ron Henderson, Professor and Director of the Landscape Architecture Program, Illinois Institute of Technology, will speak on the landscape architecture legacy of Dan Kiley, admission free, but reservations are required. Call or email Paula Lincoln at plincoln@thesheldon.org or 314-533-9900 x37 to reserve your seat.

One of the most important landscape architects of his generation, Dan Urban Kiley (1912-2004) worked with equally significant architects, such as Eero Saarinen, Louis Kahn and I.M. Pei, to create internationally acknowledged Modernist icons. His design legacy is substantial, influential and, like the broad swath of our Modernist designed landscape legacy, ephemeral. The exhibition honors Kiley and his legacy, and calls attention to the need for informed and effective stewardship of his work, and by extension, Modernist landscape design.

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By design, this exhibition is not an exhaustive survey, however it manages to illustrate the breadth of Kiley's design vocabulary and how his collaborations synthesized architecture and landscape architecture into elegant artistic statements. The exhibition features 45 photographs by 23 noted artists including Marion Brenner, Todd Eberle, Millicent Harvey and Alan Ward, that document the current state of 27 of Kiley's more than 1,000 designs including: the Miller House and Garden, Columbus, Indiana; the Art Institute of Chicago South Garden, Chicago, Illinois; and one of his final residential projects, Patterns, a garden for Governor and Mrs. Pierre S. "Pete" du Pont IV in Delaware. Alan Ward, who photographed three sites in the exhibition said, "I am challenged to render the subtle beauty of these landscapes in photographs and, at the same time, inspired as a landscape architect."

"When the 100th anniversary of Kiley's birth came and went in 2013 – and nothing happened – The Cultural Landscape Foundation decided to mount a tribute to this great Modernist landscape architect," said TCLF Founder and President, Charles A. Birnbaum. "We have received tremendous support from the artists, who donated their time and work, and many members of the design community who underwrote the exhibition and helped TCLF's Kiley gallery guide Kickstarter campaign exceed its goal by more than 20%."

The exhibition in St Louis is organized thematically, featuring public spaces and plazas, museum gardens and sculpture parks, libraries and universities, and private gardens. The catalogue, which presents Kiley's projects chronologically, provides a brief history and documentation of each site (and corresponding site plan), along with excerpts from recollections recently gathered from Kiley's colleagues including Gary Hilderbrand, Elizabeth K. Meyer, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, Kevin Roche, Michael van Valkenburgh, Charles Waldheim, Peter Walker and Harry Wolf. Lengthier entries including the complete text of the recollections are available on [TCLF's website, www.tclf.org](http://www.tclf.org).

Also included are several photographs of the St. Louis Arch grounds (The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial) by award-winning St. Louis photographer David Johnson, who is making a national name for himself. The Sheldon Art Galleries has also augmented the exhibition with additional material on Kiley's Arch grounds, including a large plan of CityArchRiver's revitalization of the grounds, which restores some of Kiley's original plans that were never realized.

The photographs in the exhibition are both documents and works of art in their own right. Sheldon Art Galleries director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales, said, "The exhibit showcases some of the best photographic artistry in the technical field of architectural photography, but also reveals a level beyond the technical in many of the works in the exhibit, which translate Kiley's expressive landscapes into poetic works of art."

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The Cultural Landscape Foundation, which showcases endangered landscape architecture yearly in their “Landslide” exhibition series, used the Kiley exhibit to prompt questions and discussions about responsible stewardship, which is central to TCLF’s mission. While some Kiley designs are dying quiet deaths, others are extremely well maintained or require modest attention to once again achieve their brilliance. What the exhibition cannot illustrate are Kiley designs that have been lost or severely altered, such as Lincoln Center in New York, NY and Dulles Airport, outside Washington, D.C., which architect Jacquelin Robertson says was, “in some ways the most lyrical piece of large-scale landscaping that I know of in this country.”

Fortunately, what remains undiminished is Kiley’s great influence. As his former colleague Peter Ker Walker wrote in a recent recollection: “The legacy of Dan Kiley is that his work demonstrates how place informs life and how life in turn gives meaning and value to place. That he has done with art, grace and good humor to the lasting benefit of all.”

In St. Louis, the exhibition was made possible in part by Joan and Mitchell Markow and Christner, Inc. The national tour of the exhibit is made possible by more than one hundred organizations and individuals including: Presenting Sponsors: The Davey Tree Expert Company and Victor Stanley, Inc.; Exhibition Partners: the Boston Society of Landscape Architects and the Boston Architectural College; Media Partner: *Landscape Architecture Magazine*; and Educational Partner: the American Society of Landscape Architects; and The Hubbard Educational Foundation.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), a non-profit established in 1998, connects people to places. TCLF educates and engages the public to make our shared landscape heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries’ spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music art and history and children’s art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance to the Galleries are provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency and by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: *Jefferson National Expansion Memorial St. Louis, Missouri*, landscape design by Dan Kiley, photograph © David Johnson, 2013, courtesy The Cultural Landscape Foundation.