Overview
Current burial practices negatively impact our natural environment. Furthermore, by separating the dead away from vital city centers, we cut off awareness of our own mortality. Learn how our profession can lead the way towards re-imagining our relationship with death and give life to new green public space.

Learning Objectives:
- Explore how other cultures honor and remember death as well as the history of burial grounds in the U.S. and the role landscape architects have played.
- Learn alternative burial methods including benefits, challenges, and opportunities, and become familiar with the Green Burial Council Cemetery Certification Standards.
- Discuss the importance of creating sacred spaces for collective emotional release in the public realm.
- Understand how green cemeteries can become public spaces for celebrating the cycle of life.

Notes:

Presenter’s Bio

Maria Landoni de Rose, ASLA
PWP Landscape Architecture
Contact Info: marial@pwpla.com
Web: pwpla.com
Bio: Maria is a recent graduate with a Master in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley. Her thesis project, For the Rest, won a Student Award in General Design in 2015. For the Rest proposes the idea of bringing cemeteries back to the urban core becoming key pieces of the social and physical urban infrastructure. Since graduation, Maria has been practicing landscape architecture in the Bay Area, and continues to question how death and cemeteries can be transformed to invigorate life.

Patricia Algara, ASLA
Principal and Co Founder BASE Landscape Architecture
Contact Info: Patricia@baselandscape.com
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Bio: Patricia is a co-founder and principal of BASE Landscape Architecture as well as a lecturing professor at UC Berkeley, where she teaches “Designing for Difference,” a class that looks at social factors for designing public open spaces. As native of Mexico, Patricia’s interest in cultural identity and ceremony stemmed from celebrating Dia de Muertos. Since her time in the U.S., she has participated in creating multiple altars and celebrations of death. Her interest in honoring ancestors has taken her to Japan to study the Obon festival and recently to Peru and Bolivia to visit Inca and Aymara burial grounds.

Karla Maria Rothstein
DeathLAB, Columbia University
Contact Info: kmsri@lentenyc.com
Web: deathlab.org
Bio: Karla is an architect and an educator. Founder and Director of Columbia University’s trans-disciplinary DeathLAB, adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia GSAPP where she has taught graduate design studios for eighteen years. Her areas of research and design span the intimate spaces of urban life, death and memory, to intersections of social justice and the built environment. Karla is an active member of the Columbia University Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar on Death. Her essay ‘Reconfiguring Urban Spaces of Disposal, Sanctuary and Remembrance’ was published in ABC-CLIO: Our Changing Journey to the End: The New Realities and Controversies of Dying in America.

Cindy Barath
Funeral Director, Fernwood Cemetery
Contact Info: cindy@fernwoodcemetery.com
Web: fernwoodcemetery.com
Bio: Cindy has been a California licensed funeral director since 2011 and has worked at Fernwood Cemetery for five years. Her journey began at the renowned Hollywood Forever Cemetery, famous for its cultural events. Fernwood is one of the first green cemeteries in the country and has been helping families with natural burial since 2004. This means no grave-liners or vaults, no embalming or chemicals of any kind and only biodegradable caskets or fabric shrouds. In her experience with hundreds of burials, she has worked with a wide range of people of all different backgrounds, customs and religious faiths.
Session Outline
1.0 Introduction (Maria Landoni de Rose, 10 minutes)
1.1 Introduction to the session topic and panelists
1.2 Brief historical overview of cemeteries in the US and relationship with Landscape Architecture
1.3 Review learning objectives and session outline

2.0 History and Tradition: Sacred Spaces and Mourning (Patricia Algar, 15 minutes)
2.1 Traditional cultures: honoring ancestors
2.2 Present approaches to grieving and mourning
2.3 The potential of incorporating sacred spaces into the urban fabric
2.4 The role of landscape architects connecting life cycles into the civic space

3.0 Philosophy and Design (Karla Maria Rothstein, 15 minutes)
3.1 Columbia University: Death Lab
3.2 A changing paradigm in human burial: challenges and opportunities
3.3 Shifting social values and approaches to death and burial
3.4 Designing the civic-sacred

4.0 Case Study: Fernwood Cemetery and Hollywood Forever (Cindy Barath, 15 minutes)
4.1 Land acquisition and master plan
4.2 Green Cemetery
4.3 Preservation/restoration land and program
4.4 Community engagement and programs (LA cemetery)

References
Articles
http://www.beatree.com/

Books, Reports, Theses
  Web. 02 Nov. 2014.

Websites
http://www.deathlab.org/index.php
http://www.urbandeathproject.org/
http://greenburialcouncil.org/