SKETCHUP EXTENSIONS

Improve your 3D workflow with these “TOP 10” ruby scripts.
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Visit us online at www.aslacolorado.org, or e-mail us at info@aslacolorado.org.

on the cover...

Daniel Tal, partner at BrightmanTal (www.brightmantal.com), demonstrates the full range of SketchUp renderings in this project example.

See Feature Article on page 7.
What an exciting year to look forward to as members of the Colorado Chapter of ASLA. I am personally very excited at the opportunity to show off all this amazing state has to offer as we host the 2014 ASLA National Meeting and EXPO in Downtown Denver. Thanks to those of you whom attended the kick-off meeting we had with the ASLA national planning team in early December. As you can imagine it takes a large group of dedicated volunteers to pull off a successful national meeting. If you are interested in getting involved please let me or any of our Executive Board members know.

It’s easy to get caught up in the feverish planning and preparation associated with the National Meeting, but I am equally excited for this upcoming year within our local chapter. In November we ushered in a great group of individuals making up your Executive Board and Council of Directors. I am very excited at the enthusiasm and fresh ideas this group is bring forward for 2014. Look for many great opportunities to collaborate, learn, socialize, and advocate for our profession.

Thank you to all who were able to make the 2013 Chapter Design Awards Event at the Four Seasons. I greatly enjoyed catching up with many good friends and making so many new acquaintances. It is also wonderful to see, year after year, the incredible work that is being done by firms throughout Colorado. Look for our annual Awards issue of Exposures later this year.

Finally a word about a good friend of mine and your immediate past president, Abe Medina. As you know, Abe served us all as acting chapter president for the past year and has been instrumental in bolstering our local chapter and spearheading many new initiatives including our social media campaigns, and the resurrection and standardization of this quarterly publication. Thank you Abe. Your legacy within the chapter and beyond will be felt for many years to come.

Robb Berg
2014 Chapter President
Whether it’s growing our businesses, enhancing our professional skills or simply getting the word about the importance of landscape architecture out to the public, ASLA is making remarkable progress advancing the profession. With the ASLA National Meeting and semi-annual Board of Trustees Meeting behind us, it’s a good time to reflect on the impact that ASLA has on the profession at large and your practice in particular.

**Getting Work** – Is your practice advancing a walkable community? If not, you’re losing business. The Society has successfully advocated in Congress for retaining funding for the inclusion of multiple use trails and other multimodal transportation solutions in the current reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act. This funding supports infrastructure that LA firms are uniquely qualified to provide on road and bridge design project teams. The Society has also created new research and specific construction guidance that promote green infrastructural solutions to meet tighter EPA water quality standards. Firms that can market their ability to incorporate green infrastructural improvements in site design projects are winning more jobs with developers and public agencies.

**Building the LA Practice** – ASLA helped fund the effort and provided vital support for achieving professional licensure in Colorado in 2007. By 2010, ASLA had helped licensure spread to all 50 states. This support has contributed to a higher professional standing for the landscape architects among our design team peers and corresponding higher salaries and fees for practitioners. The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (an arm of ASLA) sets standards and accredits all professional college programs in landscape architecture throughout the country and ensures graduates are well prepared to practice in the field. The Society’s Landscape Architecture Technical Information Series (LATIS) continues to publish vital continuing education materials of value to all existing practitioners to enhance their professional skills and abilities.

**Communicating LA Values to the Public** – ASLA’s Landscape Architecture Magazine has grown to be one of the most respected design and planning periodicals in the country. The magazine is read by a wide range of practitioners and the public alike. Together with the on-line newsletter “LAND” and blog “The Dirt”, and the Society’s presence on Facebook and Twitter, these media efforts further our profession’s vital contribution to the national dialog on land stewardship issues. ASLA National and Chapter Awards programs continue to feature the profession’s best work while the ASLA’s joint partnership on the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) is poised to take its place by the LEED Certification system as the recognized standard for measuring performance excellence in site design projects.

These are just a few of the Society’s activities and programs that are a huge professional resource and an excellent source of expanded opportunities for thousands of members and firms across the country. With membership in ASLA on the rise and momentum building for next year’s ASLA Annual Meeting in Denver, this is the time to get reacquainted with what ASLA can do for you. Make sure your first visit is to the national and chapter websites, [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org) and [www.aslacolorado.org](http://www.aslacolorado.org), for more information on what’s new and helpful to your practice, and equally important, how you can help the ASLA expand membership and continue its vital work for all of us.
EXECUTIVE BOARD & COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Executive Board is the elected governing body of ASLA Colorado and is chaired by Robb Berg, Chapter President. The board meets monthly. The Council of Directors is a larger appointed group that meets quarterly to support the board by providing support for association programs. The following is a highlight of the general chapter board and council activities since the last issue of Exposures.

September 2013. In September the Executive Board and Council of Directors met jointly. Marilen Reimer, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado briefed the board on local government “indemnification and duty to defend” language in contracts and invited ASLA Colorado to join a coalition of associations working to address the issue. Christopher Nims and Lori Catalano from the University of Colorado Denver briefed the board on the university’s mentorship program. The fall election results were presented and there was discussion about amending the bylaws to give the president authority to make appointments to fill vacancies and other issues. A bylaws committee was created. The document retention policy was discussed. Chris Perry, Chairman of the ACE Mentorship Program of Metropolitan Denver highlighted plans for the joint Legacy Project which will be featured at the ASLA National Convention in Denver in 2014. Final details concerning the End of Summer Social were discussed and plans for the next issue of Exposures magazine were reviewed. Committees were requested to submit their 2014 budget requests.

October 2013. In October the Executive Board met and discussed the “indemnification and duty to defend” issue. It was referred to the Government Affairs Committee for a recommendation. The document retention policy was discussed and proposed changes were made for consideration. The bylaws committee submitted its recommendations for changes which will be voted on in November. A fall Executive Board and Council of Directors planning retreat was scheduled. Plans for the ASLA National Convention in 2014 were discussed and an application process for committee chairs and co-chairs was discussed. The board also discussed a role for ASLA Colorado in assisting the September flood relief effort and it was agreed that the organization will support the Federal Emergency Management Administration and state efforts as appropriate.

November 2013. In November the Executive Board held a brief meeting prior to the new Executive Board and Council of Directors orientation and planning retreat, hosted by StudioINSITE. The proposed bylaws changes were approved. There were three changes to the bylaws as follows: 1) the president was given authority to make appointments to fill vacancies on the Executive Board, 2) the requirement for two candidates for each Executive Board position was removed, 3) the Executive Director was added as a nonvoting member of the Executive Board. The budget process was reviewed, a sample budget for the Awards Event was distributed, and committee chairs were asked to submit their budget requests for 2014 by December 1st. Mark Tabor provided a detailed Trustee’s Report and explained the role of the Trustee in ALSA National. The proposed document retention policy and schedule was approved. Plans for the ASLA National Convention in 2014 were discussed. The board agreed to move the monthly meeting to the second Wednesday in 2014 instead of the first Wednesday.

December 2013. In December the new Executive Board met by teleconference due to the weather. The new board took office after being installed at the ASLA National Convention in November. The 2014 Board and Council meeting schedule was distributed. Plans for the December Design Awards Event on December 12th were highlighted and it was agreed to extend the early bird registration deadline. Committee budgets were again requested and it was announced that the Budget Committee will likely meet in December to review the 2014 budget with a goal to approve it in January. The 2014 ASLA Colorado activity calendar was reviewed and committee chairs were asked to submit their calendar of planned events for 2014. A Board and Council contact sheet was distributed and members were asked to review their contact information and submit any changes to the Executive Director. Plans for the ASLA National Convention in 2014 were discussed and members were encouraged to attend the ASLA National Briefing on the 2014 Convention which will be held in Denver on December 11th.
SketchUp allows users and programmers to create their own tools, called extensions or plug-ins, by using the Ruby Script programming language. Extensions can greatly extend how SketchUp functions. Many are specialized tools that can save you hours of work or perform tasks beyond SketchUp’s native tool set. If you use SketchUp but have not tried extensions before, they are a must to check out.

If you are an active or even new SketchUp user, you should make the effort to learn and try extensions. The bottom line is this: extensions speed up the modeling process by hours, saving you time, energy and frustration. Extensions will allow you to get the most out of SketchUp and improve your models.

It is suggested that you read any of the instructions or watch the videos that accompany the extensions below before using them. These can be found at the point of download. That will insure the extensions will work for you.
SketchUp 2013 – Extension Warehouse

SketchUp 2013, the recent release from Trimble SketchUp, includes the Extension Warehouse (Window > Extension Warehouse). You will need to login with a Google account and then you can access all the extensions.

In previous SketchUp versions (like SU 8), you needed to manually install extensions usually by browsing to the root SketchUp program folder on your hard drive. For many SketchUp users this could be confusing if not difficult. The Extension Warehouse changes all that.

Much like SketchUp’s 3D Warehouse (where you can search and download models), the Extension Warehouse provides quick and easy access to custom tools. The Extension Warehouse allows users to search, install and manage extensions directly from a menu inside SketchUp.

SketchUcation Plug-in Store

Not to be outdone, SketchUcation, the popular SketchUp user forum (www.sketchUcation.com), has released its own version of the extension warehouse. Called the SketchUcation Plug-in Store, it allows you to browse over 600 (yes 600!) SketchUp extensions. You can install and manage all your extensions with this plug-in. Between SketchUp’s Extension Warehouse and the SketchUcation Plug-in Store, you should be able to find all the custom SketchUp tools you need.

The SketchUcation Plug-in Store and all the extensions are all free. Just register for free with SketchUcation, download the plug-in and start installing plug-ins.

You can find the SketchUcation Plug-in Store here: http://sketchucation.com/resources/plugin-store-download
Chris Fulmer SketchUp Extensions: CLF TOOLS

Chris Fulmer is a landscape architect and programmer. He has been a long time SketchUp user and has developed many extensions for use in SketchUp. Recently, Trimble SketchUp hired Chris as part of the quality assurance and development team. Aside from the great news of a landscape architect working on SketchUp, Chris has many extensions that are just awesome. Below are some of the tools he has developed that are worth installing and trying out.

Even better, many of these tools can be found in the SketchUp Extension Warehouse. Simply search for Chris Fulmer in the Extension Warehouse or look for CLF TOOLS. THANK YOU CHRIS!!

CLF - Scale and Rotate Multiple

This excellent tool replaces the Ruby Script Randor. Scale and Rotate Multiple, among other things, allows you to randomize the scale and rotation of selected objects and components. It’s IDEAL for randomizing vegetation size and positions. It is a must have script if you are modeling site plans with vegetation.
**4 | CLF - Color By Slope**

Color By Slope is a SketchUp slope analysis tool. Select your surfaces (best suited for a terrain model), input two color values and this extension will color the selected faces based on their slope. While it won’t color slopes based on specific grade values, it’s a quick and easy way to view terrain grades for fast studies.

**5 | CLF – Color By Z**

Color By Z will color selected faces and even better, terrain, based on elevation. Select the terrain mesh (not the group but all the loose faces), select two colors and the extension will color the surfaces based on their height, displaying surfaces with a gradient of color from highest to lowest.
CLF – Shape Bender

Want to create complex forms and shapes with a simple click? Shape Bender does the trick. Contort and conform a shape to curves, arcs or just about any other form. Simple to use and powerful in results, you can bend ramps and walls to fit specific site plan spatial forms as just one example.

RIGHT: On the top is a simple ramp and wall. The ramp and wall can be bent with the Shape Bender extension to match the arc. The result (bottom image) is a curving sloping wall and ramp.

Vali Architecture Series
Instant Fence and Instant Wall

Chuck Vali, an architect by practice, programs SketchUp extensions for “beer money” (as he says it), and has created powerful and must have plug-ins. He previously brought us Instant Road, Instant Roof and Instant Grade. He has two new scripts that are a must have. These low cost extensions can save you many hours of modeling. You can find these scripts at http://www.valiarchitects.com/sketchup_scripts

The two scripts listed on the following page automate the creation of complex fences, gates, retaining walls and more. Simply draw lines and edges, combine them into a group and activate the scripts. You then choose from dozens of different types of fences or walls. The extension will automate the creation of the selected object along the selected edge, using the edges as a path.
RIGHT: **Instant Fence** allows you to select edges, then select a specific fence type. The extension will automate the creation of the fence along the selected edges.

LEFT: The extension creates the selected fence along the drawn edges.

RIGHT: The **Instant Wall** extension, like Instant Fence, will generate different wall types from selected edges.
Selection Toys

Provides a wide range of selection modifiers, filter out all edges, faces, etc. Let you quickly select similar objects with similar properties such as material, layer orientation, etc. Also let you select similar instances of the same Dynamic Component.

Tools

Select Edge Loops — (J, U, D)

Access Tools — Selection Tools — Select Edge Loop

This select tool will pick out the loops of a face. Using the normal select modifier keys you can simultaneously toggle their selection loops and either the bounding edges of a face or a hole in a face.

Components

Select Instances — Select all the instances of the selected component.

Select Active Components — Selects all the instances in the current work space (Excludes everything that's nested inside other components etc.)

Select Active from same layer — Selects all the instances in the current work space of the selected component inside the same layer.

It is found on the Extension Warehouse; don’t be overwhelmed by the menu. This extension is worth exploring to the fullest. Read the documentation! You won’t believe how this script will help organize and interact with SketchUp model objects and components. While you’re at it, check out the other scripts by ThomThom, who provided us with Selection Toys.

TopoShaper by Fredo6

Last but not definitely not least is TopoShaper. This phenomenal tool can be considered “From Contour” on steroids. TopoShaper will allow you to generate a grid or mesh terrain as opposed to TIN or triangulated irregular network which is what the Sandbox FromContour generates. A mesh terrain is much easier to work with allowing for better sculpting or alteration of terrain surface when using other terrain tools like Instant Road, Artisan and even the Sandbox Smoove Tool.

FOUR STEPS TO TOPO USING TOPOSHAPER

STEP 1: Import and select your contour lines and activate terrain TopoShaper

STEP 2: TopoShaper will enter the “CLEANSING” phase of the operation. The extension will indicate where missing contour data can be repaired and help you interpolate missing contour information. This can be a quick or long process depending on how refined you want the final terrain to appear. During this stage, you will be presented with a large flat grid representing your terrain. This is intended to make it easier to select and fix contour areas.
Step 3: TopoShaper will now show you a preview of the final terrain. This will be in a mesh terrain form. At this stage you can adjust the mesh grid creating a small or large gridded terrain surface.

Step 4: After confirming the grid spacing and are happy with the how the terrain appears, select generate terrain which will provide you with the final result.

Check out Toposhaper on SketchUcation: http://sketchucation.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=323&t=52039
It can also be accessed using the SketchUcation Plug-in Store extension. It does take some getting used to but is not hard to use. The script was created by Fredo6, who has created a bunch of extensions for terrain modeling.

Daniel Tal is a landscape architect who has published two books on SketchUp: Google SketchUp for Site Design and Rendering In SketchUp. Check out his website: www.brightmantal.com
The American Society of Landscape Architects Colorado presented 18 Professional Design Awards on December 12, 2013, at the Annual Awards Event which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Denver. The award recipients listed below will be highlighted in a “Special Edition” of Exposures to be issued later this year.

### General Design Over $500K

**Merit Award**
- Design Workshop Aspen for Castle Creek Campus
- Civitas for Salt Lake City Public Safety Building
- StudioINSITE, LLC for Semper Fidelis Memorial Park

### General Design Under $500K

**Honor Award**
- Dig Studio and AECOM for Stapleton Conservatory Green Visitors Center

**Merit Award**
- David Kahn and Brian Cook for Burke Park Outdoor Classroom

### Planning & Analysis

**President’s Award of Excellence**
- Michael Albert for Jerusalem to Jaffa

**Honor Award**
- Design Workshop Aspen for Lincoln P Street Corridor Master Plan

**Merit Award**
- Design Workshop Aspen for Edgewood
- Design Workshop Aspen for Wichita Midtown

### Land Stewardship Award
- Logan Simpson Design, Inc., for Our Lands, Our Future

### Residential Design Over $100K

**Honor Award**
- Bluegreen for Lines on Castle Creek
- Design Workshop Aspen for Tiehack Retreat

**Merit Award**
- Bluegreen for Spectrum Garden

### Residential Design Under $100K

**Honor Award**
- Blu Design Group and Atalya Kozak for Mid-Century Modern

### Residential Community Design

**Merit Award**
- Design Workshop Aspen for Basalt CCRC
- Design Workshop Aspen for Valle Las Plamas

### People’s Choice Award
- Dig Studio and AECOM for Stapleton Conservatory Green Visitor Center

### Supplier/Contractor of the Year
- CPS Distributors, Inc. for Contributions to the Profession

### Volunteer of the Year
- Chris Silewski for Contributions to the Profession

### Legislator of the Year
- Senator Rollie Heath for Contributions to the Profession
upcoming EVENTS

| JAN. | Planning for the 2014 National Meeting & EXPO is underway. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at info@aslacolorado.org. |
| FEB. | ProGreen Expo at the Denver Convention Center. February 11-14, 2014. This year’s program includes one full day of sessions geared specifically for landscape architects. www.progreenexpo.com |
| MARCH | Sustainable Water Management Conference. March 30 - April 2 at the Curtis Hotel, Denver. Learn more at www.awwa.org |
| APRIL | National Landscape Architecture Month. Watch the ASLA Colorado calendar for events. |

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