Mission Statement:

Our landscape architecture department is an innovative team committed to collaborative learning and discovery. We prepare the next generation of designers and scholars, working through the medium of landscape, to reinvent relationships among people, land, and technology. We are rooted in the American heartland and embrace (and incorporate are inclusive of) diverse ideas, cultures, and landscapes.

Vision

To create a rich, dynamic intellectual environment that fosters the highest quality teaching, and learning, research, and creative activity, and engaged advocacy within the college, across the university, and beyond.

To cultivate an inclusive culture that embraces diversity, encourages multicultural experiences, and nurtures different perspectives.

To position the department’s faculty, staff, and students as leaders in regional, national, and global contexts.

Values

We collectively believe in and value: innovation and creativity; disciplinary mastery and transdisciplinary engagement; individual and collaborative achievement; open inquiry and critical dialogue; diversity and change while respecting tradition. We believe in the advancement of technology to support the role of design in an interconnected world of unprecedented complexity.

We believe in landscape architecture’s intrinsic merit in society. Landscape architecture offers timely answers to big questions, helping us understand what it means to be human in the world. Rooted in ways of knowing that connect people, land, water and place, landscape architecture connects cultural and natural systems, and shapes new experiences. It fosters imagination and innovation, forming a critical foundation for artistic, scientific and social progress.

2019-2024 Aspirational Goal

Guided by our values, the department’s goal for 2024 is to position landscape architecture as a recognized discipline and identity integral to the mission of the college and university. In achieving this larger goal, the department shall also seek to:

- Give Landscape Architecture an identity at Iowa State University
  - Gain identity **in college** as leader in blue and green
  - Gain identity **among LA programs** as the leader in rural landscape architecture
    - Advocate for the Midwest landscape and underserved rural populations
ISU LA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

1. ENGAGE, REPRESENT, AND LEAD MIDWESTERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
2. DIVERSIFY DEPARTMENT AND CREATE INCLUSIVE CULTURE
3. REVISE UNDERGRAD & GRAD CURRICULA
4. CONTEXTUALIZE LEARNING EXPERIENCES (TEACHING & LEARNING)
5. SUPPORT FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP
6. INNOVATE THROUGH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Goal 1: ENGAGE, REPRESENT, AND LEAD MIDWESTERN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
1. Lead the conversation about rural landscapes
2. Increase the impacts and visibility of landscape architecture
3. Increase reciprocal connections between the academy, practice, and society

Goal 2: DIVERSIFY DEPARTMENT AND CREATE INCLUSIVE CULTURE
1. Increase the percentage of international, multi-cultural, and diverse students
2. Increase the percentage of international, multi-cultural, and diverse faculty and staff
3. Increase cultural competency and sensitivity to diversity
4. Strengthen resources to support well-being and success

Goal 3: REVISE UNDERGRAD & GRAD CURRICULA
1. Increase student recruitment efforts
2. Revise for contextualization
3. Revise for digital innovation and advancement
4. Revise for diversity
5. Revise for faculty support

Goal 4: CONTEXTUALIZE LEARNING EXPERIENCES (TEACHING & LEARNING)
1. Strengthen interdisciplinary activities
2. Consider staffing in experiential learning/Savanna Studio
3. Expand global content and opportunities
4. Increase student-driven learning, research, and engagement
5. Increasing place-based learning opportunities
6. Enter at least one ASLA or other national student award competitions per year

Goal 5: SUPPORT FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP
1. Increase time and support for faculty development, promotion, and advancement
2. Enhance a culture of research communication and collaboration between faculty
3. Create a department culture of recognition and provide support to do it
4. Increase research funding

Goal: INNOVATE THROUGH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
1. Improve technology facilities and access for faculty and students
2. Improve equity through technology facilities
3. Improve faculty knowledge and abilities