

Important texts for landscape architecture from the last decade: Take 2

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# Important texts for landscape architecture from the last decade: Take 2

Bianca Maria Rinaldi

In 2008, *JoLA* asked the then members of its editorial board to each name three books that they considered the 'most influential or important . . . for Landscape Architecture from the last decades'.<sup>1</sup> Ten of their responses were published in the Autumn 2008 issue of the journal.<sup>2</sup> As the editors noted, while the proposed selections ranged across a variety of subjects, two seminal books recurred: *Recovering Landscapes* edited by James Corner (1999), which was mentioned three times, and *The Landscape Urbanism Reader* edited by Charles Waldheim (2006), which was mentioned twice, thus revealing the two books' crucial contribution to a different perception of the discipline and to a broader understanding of the role of landscape architects.

Twelve years and thirty issues of *JoLA* later, we asked a variety of scholars a similar question, but we limited their choice to one text only and added to that restriction a chronological boundary: Which book, published in the past ten to fifteen years, do you consider relevant for the current development of the discipline?

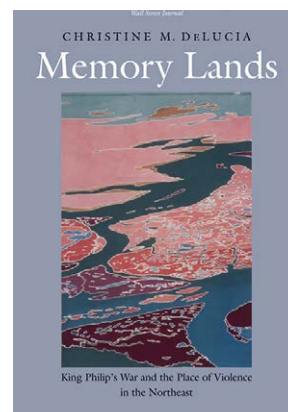
Issues of race, inequalities, politics, crises, ecology and, even garden history characterize the highly varied selection included in the review section of this issue of *JoLA*. While the selected texts continue to reflect the 'width of sources on which landscape architecture draws',<sup>3</sup> they also reflect the continuously expanding breadth of scope of landscape architecture. When read in these times of environmental and epidemiological crises, the selection seems also to suggest the necessity for a stronger collaboration among different disciplines to address the challenges our world is facing, to make it more equitable and resilient.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Martin Prominski, 'Important texts for landscape architecture from the last decade', *Journal of Landscape Architecture* 3/2 (2008), 84.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 85–90.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 84.



Christine M. DeLucia

**Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast**

ISBN 978 0 300201 17 8 | New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018 | 496 pp., 45 b/w illustrations | \$40 (cloth)

Review by Thaïsa Way

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Christine DeLucia writes in *Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast* that 'countless practices of placemaking hinge on invisible qualities, aspects of human connection to place that are not readily apparent to investigative eyes and leave no mark, or only transient ones; walking, moving, enacting ritual' (p. 18). In contrast, DeLucia offers a regional history of the landscapes of King Philip's War as it played out in southern New England through multiple and often conflicting narratives of place and memory. More broadly, she argues for grappling with histories that are immensely complex, so much so that there is no clear resolution. There is no easy answer to how we might interpret, remember or envision such landscapes, a quandary that designers are challenged to understand and actively engage.

King Philip's War, 1675–1678, is the colonialist name for a series of violent struggles between indigenous tribes and colonists (sometimes with tribes as allies) over access, use and inhabitation of land in what is known as New England today. DeLucia investigates the 'shadow' history of this war that spans from the early decades of the seventeenth century to present memories and memorials, and even contemporary attempts at reconciliation. She tracks the practices of placemaking through the concept of *memoryscapes*: