GUSTAFSON PORTER

Gustafson Porter is based in London and has projects both in Britain and Europe. Gustafson Porter’s work expresses the sculptural qualities of site-specific, contextual landscape. Each design extracts a powerful sensory experience from the site’s distinct history, context and physiology to produce highly functional, liveable and sensual landscapes that combine intense site analysis, conceptual structuring and innovative application of proven construction techniques. The practice has three directors; landscape architect/artist Kathryn Gustafson, architect Neil Porter and architect Mary Bowman. Together with the other members of the office they provide a diverse range of expertise within the fields of landscape, architecture and urban design.

Kathryn Gustafson’s completed work in France encompasses a wide range of landscape projects: from parks such as ‘Fragments of Garden History’, Terrasson la Villedieu, Perigord; landscapes associated with major buildings including the headquarters for Shell, Esso and L’Oreal near Paris, and urban squares including The Square of Human Rights, Evry.

SPECIALIST EXPERIENCE

Kathryn Gustafson’s past and current work in public parks, civic spaces and infrastructure work provides Gustafson Porter with a number of areas of specialist knowledge including water retention basins and river embankment work; gardens or water features over building slabs and structures; pollution and soil remediation work; road, bridge and tunnel infrastructure works; specialist hydraulic installations; and specialist lighting and electrical installations.

Neil Porter’s architectural and landscape experience provides Gustafson Porter with specialist knowledge in the following areas; urban regeneration and planning studies; public architectural facilities including restaurants, an underground station and a museum working lift exhibit; pollution and soil remediation work, the provision of external cultural facilities, specialist hydraulic, lighting and electrical installations.

Mary Bowman has been director of a medium sized architectural design practice and has been an associate in a large practice responsible for various projects including the construction of the Bilbao Metro, concept design for Stratford Station-Channel Tunnel Rail Link, construction of Valencia Congress Centre, Duisburg Microelectronic Centre, Greenpark office development in Reading and a private residence and art gallery in the US.

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

The practice has three directors; Kathryn Gustafson, Neil Porter and Mary Bowman, and two associates; Sibylla Hartel and Max Norman.

Kathryn Gustafson has almost 25 years of management experience in the field of landscape from the 30 projects and completed work that she has participated in as a sole practitioner and in partnership. Neil Porter has 20 years experience managing building and landscape projects. Both directors are working on high quality, complex projects with varied time constraints requiring a broad range of skills. Mary Bowman has 16 years experience managing building, infrastructure and landscape projects.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Currently Gustafson Porter employs 16 landscape architects and architects, and 3 administrators. Each of the landscape architects / architects is assigned as project leader to each of the projects currently being carried out by the practice and has experience of running large or complex landscape projects.
KATHRYN GUSTAFSON
Director

PERSONAL
Born: March 31, 1951 in Yakima, Washington
Nationality: Resident in France since 1973
Profession: Landscape Architect
Languages: English and French

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS
- Licensed Landscape Architect, France
- Licensed Landscape Architect of the State of New York, USA
- Licensed & Chartered Landscape Architect, Britain
- 2001 Honorary Royal Designer for Industry, London
- 2000 Arts Council of Great Britain, Millennium Product Selection, EDF Pylon
- 1999 Honorary fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, London

EDUCATION
- 1979 Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Paysage, Versailles, France
  Diploma Landscape Architect from the Ecole Nationale du Paysage
- 1971 Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City, A.A.S
- 1970 University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

PROJECTS
- Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain - London, UK
- Crystal Palace Park Restoration - London, UK
- Swiss Cottage Open Space - London, UK
- Westergasfabriek Park, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- The National Botanic Garden of Wales, Great Glass House - Wales
- HM Treasury East and West Courtyards – London, UK
- Garden of Forgiveness – Beirut, Lebanon
- Museum of Fine Arts – Boston, MASS, USA
- Revelatory Landscapes, SFMOMA - San Francisco, CA, USA
- Broad Shoulder Garden, Millennium Park – Chicago, IL, USA
- Seattle Theater District – Seattle, WA, USA
- Seattle Civic Center - Seattle, WA, USA
- South Coast Plaza and Pedestrian Bridge – CA, USA
- Ross Terrace, American Museum of Natural History - NYC, USA
- EDF Electrical Pylons, France
- History of Fragments of Garden History – Terrasson la Villedieu, France
- Square of Human Rights - Evry, France
- Shell Headquarters - Rueil-Malmaison, France
- L'Oreal Headquarters, Aulnay la Barbiere, France
CURRICULUM VITAE

NEIL PORTER
address: Gustafson Porter,
Linton House, 39–51 Highgate Road, London NW5 1RS
tel: +44 (0) 20 7267 2005
e-mail nporter@gustafson-porter.com

PERSONAL
profession: Architect
nationality: British
date of birth: 29 November 1958

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
1977-80 BA Hons. - 1st Class, Newcastle University School of Architecture
1990 RIBA pt III and ARB Registration

GUSTAFSON PORTER – LONDON
1997 to present Joint director and designer with Kathryn Gustafson and Mary Bowman of a Landscape Architecture
and Design Practice employing 20 landscape architects and architects, in Kentish Town, London

2005 Custom House Quay, Dublin – the redesign of the River Liffey quayside adjacent to one of the cities most important monuments. Value £2 m.
2004 Old Market Square, Nottingham - the redesign of a 1930's square for events and market activities. Client: Nottingham City Council. Value £5 m.
2003 Battersea Power Station, London – a water field with balcony views placed beside a riverside walk. Client; Parkview International, Value £9 m.
2002 Shoreline Walk, Beirut, Lebanon – pedestrian promenade linking squares and gardens on the original shoreline. Client; Solidere, Value £5 m.
2002 - 2004 Memorial to Princess Diana, Hyde Park, London – a ring of granite textured to create water effects. Client; DCMS.
2001 Haqqat as Samah, Beirut, Lebanon – a garden symbolizing the shared history, landscape and culture of the Lebanese people. Client; Solidere. Value; £8 m.
2000 Civic Space, Swiss Cottage, London - a sculpted grass amphitheatre placed around a water feature. Client; London Borough of Camden. Value; £2.9 m.
1983 - 1997 Bernard Tschumi – Paris,

OTHER EXPERIENCE
2005 Member of the Design Review panel for CABE (Council for Architecture in the Built Environment)
1984 - 1987 Architectural Association - Unit Master to first year Unit 1
CURRICULUM VITAE

MARY BOWMAN
address: Gustafson Porter
Linton House, 39-51 Highgate Road, London NW5 1RS
tel: +44 (0) 2072672005
e-mail: mbowman@gustafson-porter.com

born: 4 November 1958
nationality: American
profession: Architect

EDUCATION

1990 RIBA pt III and ARB registration
1984-88 AA Dipl – Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London WC1
1976-80 BSc (Arch) – University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GUSTAFSON PORTER - LONDON

2002- present Director responsible for project management and design coordination for the
Swiss Cottage Development,
Treasury East Courtyard and the
Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain

WALTERS AND COHEN – LONDON

1999- 2002 Director of architectural design partnership.
Projects include
Holmes Place at Canary Riverside, Canary Wharf, London – £7.75 million.

FOSTER AND PARTNERS – LONDON

1988 – 1998 Associate responsible for various projects including the
detail design of the masterplan for Greenpark, Reading,
design and detailing of Valencia Congress Centre (£20 million),
design of Bilbao Metro from inception to completion (£20 million),
Duisburg Microelectronic Centre (£10 million),
a private residence and art gallery in the US.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2001 - present External Examiner, Chelsea College of Art and Design,
Interiors and Spatial Design Course, London
2000 – 2001 Unit Tutor to Intermediate Unit 5 at the Architectural Association,
School of Architecture, Bedford Square, London
This square forms the centre of the new town of Evry. It is bordered by the boulevard Coquibus, by the new Town Hall and the Cathedral by Mario Botta, and by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Part of the square is built over an underground public car park, which requires vehicular and pedestrian access within the square. The space is conceived for continuous and dynamic expression—for play, artistic performances, and other events. Priority is given to the pedestrian and the impact of the roads is lessened. The light-toned, granite paving is chosen to highlight the surrounding buildings. The grid pattern in white granite structures and gives scale to the square. Pools and jets of water and a grid of vegetation complete the square; lighting effects create a theatrical atmosphere.
The Westergasfabriek is a partially dismantled industrial site with vestiges of its layout intact. The existing buildings are monuments to the Industrial Revolution. The park acts as a contemporary exploration of this change and its impact on landscape types and forms. The future use of the park will be two fold, a green park environment and a cultural centre with indoor and outdoor activities. A central promenade ‘The Axis’ links the town hall with the Cite des Artist and a variety of spaces between. It serves as a central vertebra that carries the park’s functional requirements. The adjacent spaces give it a varied ambience. A great field slopes into a stone-lined lake which can be drained for large events and festivals. A mix of native plants and selected varieties express a dynamic between human needs and natural order.
In a constantly changing world, the challenge is to anchor one’s soul and the soul of a place. Our intent is to create a space which distills the essence of soul-keeping while allowing for evolution. For this site we have chosen to focus on Camden as a progressive community and patron of the arts. The design is centred around a sculpted landform and a sunken ball court. Because space is rare and a luxury, the same spaces can accommodate different layers of program, becoming spaces of tranquillity and activity. The sculpted land form and the terrace above the ball court become natural amphitheatres for community cultural events, while also providing respite and intimacy outside public life. The space thus strives to be “empty when active and active when empty”, one of the challenges of contemporary urban design.
The West Courtyard provides the central focus for Norman Foster and Partners refurbishment scheme for the Treasury’s office in Whitehall, London. The existing space, a former lightwell will be filled to a depth of two metres to ground level to allow for the introduction of shade loving plants and trees. The ground plane shifts level to form a series of terraces connected by a causeway which links the building’s major axis. The undulation in the ground plane formed from slate create a dished surface in the heart of the space, appearing to catch the rain and creating a reflecting pool.
The East Courtyard is one of a group of three external spaces within HM Treasury. The garden offers the potential for an outdoor gathering area for larger groups of people or quieter spaces for individual reflection. The inspiration for the creation of the individual gardens is a contemporary interpretation of the classical parterre. Clipped hedges are used to frame the principal route and enclose the more private garden spaces or outdoor rooms. The heights of the hedges have been sculpted in a manner to restrict and reveal views of the different garden spaces. Timber benches are integrated with low level hedges for conversation, reading or quiet contemplation. The ground plane is gently sloped to create a level change across this secondary route. A water rill runs the full length of three sides of the courtyard providing a gently splashing sound where the water enters and exits the courtyard and gently rippling shallow water will reflect the sky and surrounding plants. Ornamental plants and trees which thrive in a shaded environment have been chosen for their colour, leaf shape and interesting bark so that a subtle change in the character of the courtyard can be noted with the changing seasons.
The ‘Garden of Forgiveness’ is the winning entry of an international design competition held in March 2000. The Garden is envisaged as a symbol for unity following the divisions and destruction of the civil war. The aim is to emphasise the common ties of a people. A sense of collective identity forged from an image of a shared landscape. Our proposal makes reference to history, as well as timeless and contemporary symbols of Lebanon. Throughout the garden the archaeological remains of five successive civilisations are both revealed and re-interpreted in a new context. A sense of timelessness is imparted by using symbolical elements of the Lebanese landscape, while the contemporary interpretation of landscape centres on the creation of communal symbols. Overall the garden is in the tradition of the paradise garden, calm and uplifting, a place for both solitary reflection and communal togetherness, a symbolic focal point for change and healing.
The 'Shoreline Walk' is a sequence of spaces that trace the memory of the historic shoreline of Beirut. Following the 1975-91 civil war in Lebanon, the Beirut city centre was left devastated, the coastline had become a dumping ground - extending the land by more than 600m to the north. The ‘old coastline’ was lost buried under rubble. Now the refuse has been reclaimed and the new land is being transformed into valuable real estate. Gustafson Porter is creating a string of public parks which weave through the new city along the line of the ‘Old coastline’. The four squares link together to provide a pedestrian link through the urban fabric. Each of the spaces draws inspiration from the history of the site and reveals some of the character, textures and emotions of the pre-war city, creating inspirational and diverse spaces to stimulate essential urban activities and help to develop the vibrancy and vigour that was famous in the old city of Beirut.

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Estimated completion: 2010

Client: Solidere
The Old Market Square is the city’s guardian space, a safe haven, a place to regain energy, wait and meet friends, be diverted momentarily from one’s daily routines and to experience spectacular and well organized civic and cultural events. A dynamic channel of water enters the square from Chapel Bar leading visitors to the Water Terraces at the north west end of the square. Here one can sit on benches and steps and rest amongst water or under the dappled light of trees with a balcony view into the events and activities placed in the square’s unobstructed heart. A similar route of light is placed between Smithy Row and Friar Lane, leading to Nottingham Castle. These diagonal routes will enable access to specialist markets and popular events in the centre of the Square, whilst at the same time ensuring pedestrians easy access to all parts of the city centre. Art Works will be created in collaboration with artists as a textured surface inlaid with glass, metal or light undulating below the surface of the Water Terraces, whilst a ribbon of light will be suspended from the trams cable posts, framing the square at night and creating a rippling wave of light that passes ahead of moving trams and pedestrians.
Part of Chicago’s Millennium Park, this rooftop garden lies between a bandshell by Frank O. Gehry & Associates and an addition to the Art Institute of Chicago by Renzo Piano Building Workshop. The Shoulder Hedge, a giant, muscular topiary, encloses the garden on two sides and creates the illusion of solid “shoulders” supporting the silvery forms of the bandshell beyond. Two contoured planting “plates” are densely covered in perennial compositions of bold contrast. The Dark Plate’s volumes and textures express complex site history, and the Light Plate’s rising form and radiating color shows optimism for the city’s future.

Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Millennium Park, Inc.
City of Chicago
Completion Date: 2004

Collaboration with:
Piet Oudolf, Plantsman
Robert Israel, Theater Set Designer
For the renovation of the Seattle Opera House, a series of spaces will invite pedestrians from the busy vehicular streetscape of Mercer Street into the grand, indoor-outdoor lobby of McCaw Hall. The outdoor portion of the lobby, The Promenade, is on a rooftop and designed to be a welcoming public passage to the Seattle Center Campus, as well as a comfortable and inspired meeting place for opera patrons. With a series of glowing, transparent scrims floating overhead, three large, thin sheets of water shimmer over sloped paving in the center of the Promenade. These reflective, tilted water planes separate circulation and building entries from sitting and “people-watching” spaces. On the campus end of the Promenade, a cafe terrace and a tilted lawn create a gateway to Seattle Center.