Kim Ahern
Landscape Architects

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KIM AHERN, Principal

Kim Ahern has practiced landscape architecture for over 30 years and has worked with a wide variety of clients from public agencies and developers to private homeowners and non-profit businesses. Before opening her own practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1987, she worked for companies in the Boston area as well as in Rhode Island, the Caribbean, and Athens, Greece. She holds a Bachelor in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon and a Master of Arts in Education from the Rhode Island School of Design. For the past 27 years her office has been based in Littleton, Massachusetts, where she works out of the restored 200 year-old post and beam barn on her property.

Design Statement

The planting design approach is always focused on the uniqueness of each place and its context-- respect for existing conditions and reuse of existing outdoor elements whenever possible. Each landscape design embraces the concept of using a palate of plants and materials that will provide year-long visual interest, be as low maintenance as possible, and require little or no additional irrigation after establishment. The site design strives to compliment the building, the neighborhood, and to be a beautiful landscape at the time of installation and as the plants mature over time.

The three primary goals for the design of any project, large or small, are:

First, to produce the best and most beautiful spaces possible;

Second, to be respectful of, and to take clues from, the context of the site--physically, culturally and ecologically--all of which drive the development of the design; and

Third, to listen carefully to the client, to understand their needs, and to help translate that into a reality.

Education

Rhode Island School of Design, Master of Arts in Education

University of Oregon, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

Centre Audio Visual de Langues Modernes, Vichy, France. Diploma in French Language Study

Pratt Institute, Finland, Continuing Education. Study tour of the works of Alvar Aalto

Harvard University, Advanced Visual and Environmental Design

University of Geneva, Switzerland. Diploma in French Language Study

Registration & Memberships

Registration: Massachusetts #742

Registration: Rhode Island #171

Shade Tree Committee, Town of Littleton, MA	1993-present
Umbrella Center for the Arts, Concord, MA/ceramic artist	2007-present

Jury, Teaching Experience and Awards

Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association Annual State Award for Excellence in the Field of Design of Facility for the Acton Miracle Field, Acton, MA, 2013

Award of Excellence for Arsenal Street Vest Pocket Park, Watertown, MA. Watertown Chamber of Commerce, 2002.

Letter of Commendation from the Littleton Superintendent of Schools and the Littleton School Committee for the design the Children's Reading Circle and garden, Shaker Lane Elementary School, 1999.

Restorations/95 Conference, speaker, Boston, MA, 1995.

Radcliffe Seminars in Landscape Architecture; Instructor - Design Process/ Studio, Critic & Student Advisor, 1979-94.

Moss Grid Garden, New England Flower Show, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Third Place Award, 1992.

MIT, Cambridge, MA, Guest critic, Architecture Design Studio, 1991.

Boston Society of Landscape Architects, Awards Juror, 1990.

Rhode Island School of Design; Landscape architecture design critic and graduate teaching assistant to Leonard Newcomb, former Chairman of the Landscape Architecture Department, 1985-86.

Experience prior to establishing Kim Ahern Landscape Architects

Sert Jackson and Associates	William D. Warner, Architects & Planners	Sasaki Associates
Carr, Lynch, Inc	Mohammed al-Sabek Planners, Athens, Greece	Benjamin Thompson and Associates