



201 E. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601
LurieGarden.org • (312) 228-1004

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Shannon Nichol Lectures: Ordinary Landscapes

Landscape Architect for Lurie Garden returns to Chicago to discuss the pressures to “go big” in design vs retaining complexity, idiosyncrasy, and natural nuance in a designed landscape.

Landscape architecture has not been immune to the pressures in recent decades to “go big” or “world class” to register an effective visual impact within this challenging, grandly scaled setting. In this talk Shannon Nichol, founding partner of Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN), will encourage “going small and going slow” to create a different type of placemaking that suits both residents and visitors.

Twenty years ago creators of Millennium Park chose the young Seattle landscape architecture firm, GGN, to design a garden for the park. Many proposals for the space suggested formal tidy gardens which replicated the typical expectations of what public gardens should look like. The design by GGN was chosen because, paired with Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf, their vision was for a space where people and wildlife could enjoy a naturalistic garden in a space that was infused with the city’s history, inviting but also shielded from the busy city.

GGN’s work incorporates often-forgotten local ecologies and daily vernacular into prominent urban sites. GGN’s design process, which continues to utilize hand-drawing as a design tool heavily, will be shown, providing insight into a design firm working to retain complexity, idiosyncrasy, and natural nuance in the designed landscape. The importance of native plants, resurfacing and repairing the unique, and the multi-thousand-year evolution of plants and animals in each place, will be discussed at this lecture.

Shannon Nichol will be lecturing at the Chicago Cultural Center on Wednesday, January 30, 7:00pm-8:30pm. This event is free, but registration is required at lurigarden.org/events.

Assets for this release can be downloaded here: <http://bit.ly/2QDBVNY>
The web version of this release can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2D1y49D>

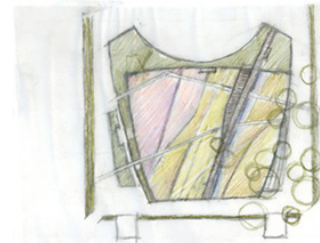
Lurie Garden is a beautiful urban garden designed to invite community members and visitors to experience, enjoy, and learn about nature. The garden is maintained in an ecological-friendly manner in order to provide the maximum benefit to wildlife and act as a model of green space management. Lurie Garden, located in the southeast corner of Millennium Park.

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Shannon Nichol was the Lead Landscape Architect on the Lurie Garden project, with her Gustafson Guthrie Nichol partners Kathryn Gustafson and Jennifer Guthrie.



One of many sketches for GGN’s design for Lurie Garden. GGN’s design process relies heavily on hand-drawing.



Shannon Nichol visited the garden along with plantsman Piet Oudolf last summer to review the garden and discuss updates.