

CELA Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominee: **Clare Cooper Marcus**

Professor Emerita of Architecture and Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning

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Biography

Clare Cooper Marcus is Professor Emerita in the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a prominent educator in landscape architecture and architecture and a pioneer in the field of social issues in housing, open space design, and healing landscapes. She is the Principal of Healing Landscapes, a consulting firm that specializes in researching the effectiveness of restorative landscapes in healthcare settings. She is internationally recognized for her research on the social and psychological implications of design, particularly urban open space, affordable housing, outdoor space in healthcare, and environments for children and the elderly. Marcus has been recognized for her work with awards from the Progressive Architecture, Landscape Architecture Magazine, American Institute of Architects, American Society of Landscape Architects, Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA), Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, American Horticultural Therapy Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Clare Cooper Marcus was born in 1934 and raised in a north London suburb. She received her undergraduate degree in historical geography from University College, London and a Masters in urban and cultural Geography from University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She returned to England to teach cartography at the University of Sheffield, and worked as urban planner at the Ministry of Housing and London County Council. She returned to the US and earned a second Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley in 1965. She participated in counter-culture movement in the 1960s at Berkeley, joining in the student strikes, and agitating for free speech. She was inspired by the writings of Catherine Bauer Wurster on housing programs and Jane Jacobs on urban place-making.

Marcus worked for several years as a research associate in the Institute of Urban and Regional Development at the University of California at Berkeley and began teaching in the Department of Landscape Architecture in 1969. Her course on Social and Psychological Factors in Open Space Design was popular among undergraduate and graduate students alike. She held a joint appointment in the Department of Architecture where she taught seminars on social aspects of housing design, environments for the

life cycle, and sense of place. She collaborated with many of her former students in writing articles and editing books.

Her book, *Therapeutic Landscapes: An Evidence-Based Approach to Designing Healing Gardens and Restorative Outdoor Spaces* (2013) was co-authored with LAEP alumna, Naomi Sachs (MLA '99). *Iona Dreaming: The Healing Power of Place – A Memoir* was published in 2010. She has also authored/co-authored/edited numerous publications, including the books – *Easter Hill Village: Some Social Implications of Design* (1975); *Housing As If People Mattered: Site Design Guidelines for Medium-Density Family Housing* (1986), *People Places: Design Guidelines for Urban Open Space* (1990), *House as a Mirror of Self: Exploring the Deeper Meaning of Home* (1995), and *Healing Gardens: Therapeutic Benefits and Design Recommendations* (1999) was co-authored with LAEP alumna, Marni Barnes (MLA '94). Marcus lives in Berkeley, California and holds joint British and American citizenship.

Marcus was married to the landscape architect Stephen Marcus with whom she has two children, Jason and Lucy. Since retiring from full-time teaching at Berkeley, Marcus has published four books, more than 30 articles, and has lectured and consulted in Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Iceland. She teaches regularly at the Chicago Botanic Garden on healthcare garden design.