

Trends in Technology and Materials Columns in Landscape Architecture Magazine: 1978-2017

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1 ABSTRACT

This study examines the development and evolution of the landscape construction column as a component of *Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM)* from 1978 to 2017. It is the first longitudinal study of technical columns focused on materials, technologies and construction methodologies and their contributions to trends within the profession. Several questions will be addressed: How have the columns changed and evolved? Has their frequency and content related to the “materials explosion” that has swept through the building industries over the last two decades? Finally, how has *LAM* documented this evolution to help establish the practical approaches associated with these new materials and technologies? To answer these questions, column runs have been grouped into “eras” based on such factors as subject matter (materials, construction or technology / software), and approach (traditional vs. sustainable materials and/or construction methods). The ‘eras’ and their time-frames are “Traditional Materials and Construction” (1978 – 1991); “Traditional Materials and Explosion” (1992 – 1995); “Non-Material” (1996 – 1998); “Sustainably Influenced Materials Explosion” (1999 – 2004); “Ecology & Sustainability” (2005 – 2010); and “Assumed Knowledge” (2011 – 2017). The study concludes with a summary of the impact of the technology columns. Perhaps, most importantly, this article offers a critique on how *Landscape Architecture Magazine* can look to its past to address how it might position itself moving forward with the coverage of landscape materials.

1.1 Keywords value

Landscape Architecture Magazine, landscape construction materials, sustainable materials, sustainable construction, landscape architecture profession