School of Environmental Design

The School of Environmental Design is an academic and research unit within the College of Liberal Arts. Located in suburban Ambler, the School consists of two departments: Department of Community and Regional Planning, and Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. Its Center for Sustainable Communities engages in research to develop and promote new approaches to protect and preserve quality of life through sustainable development.

The long history of Temple University’s scenic 187-acre campus in Ambler incorporates more than a century of hands-on, student-centered learning; community engagement; and respect for the environment. In 1905, Jane Bowne Haines, a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, visited several colleges of gardening in England and Germany. When she returned, she was determined to create a similar institution stateside. During a horse and buggy ride five years later, Haines found the 71-acre McAlonan farm in Ambler. With financial support from fellow Bryn Mawr graduates, she purchased the property and, in 1911, founded the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, the only school of its kind at the time in the United States.

On June 16, 1958, the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women merged with Temple University’s Ambler Junior College. Ambler Junior College of Temple University was formed and immediately opened its doors to men. Three years later, the Board of Trustees changed the name to the Ambler Campus of Temple University.

During its days as Temple University Ambler, two significant traditions were established:

- The Center for Sustainable Communities hosted the first “EarthFest” event, an outdoor educational celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2003. Annually, a full day of interactive events and exhibits promote environmental awareness and the use of sustainable concepts, methods, and practices to protect and preserve our environment.

Like its predecessor, the School of Environmental Design is a respected innovator in research and education in social, economic, and environmental studies. It delivers high-quality graduate, as well as undergraduate and non-credit, education that meets the needs of the region and provides rewarding life experiences for students of all ages. Faculty, staff, and students are dedicated to improving the sustainability of Philadelphia, the greater Philadelphia region, and the larger mid-Atlantic region.

Programs

Degree Programs

- Community and Regional Planning, M.S. (http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/scd/sed/community-regional-planning-ms)
- Landscape Architecture, M.L.Arch. (http://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/scd/sed/landscape-architecture-mlarch)

Certificates

- Sustainable Community Planning
- Transportation Planning

Graduate Faculty

William J. Cohen, Associate Professor (Practice), Department of Community and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania.

Sasha Eisenman, Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., Rutgers University.

Jeffrey P. Featherstone, Professor (Research), Department of Community and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., Temple University.

Deborah Anne Howe, Professor, Department of Community and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Pauline Hurley-Kurtz, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; M.L.A., University of Pennsylvania.

Robert T. Kuper, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; M.L.A., Auburn University.

Baldev S. Lamba, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; M.L.A., University of Pennsylvania.
Lynn A. Mandarano, Associate Professor, Department of Community and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania.

Mary E. Myers, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh College of Art.

Michael Olszewski, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., University of Delaware.

Lolly Tai, Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, School of Environmental Design; Ph.D., Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh College of Art.