

POASLA EX COMM

LAWSON ASLA FELLOWSHIP CENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION

The Executive Committee of the Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (POASLA) and the chapter's HALS Liaison issue this Proclamation honoring and recognizing the centenary of Edward Godfrey Lawson winning the 1915 Rome Prize and being the first Fellow in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome, which was established and endowed by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

WHEREAS, the American Society of Landscape Architects was founded in 1899 to establish landscape architecture as a recognized profession in North America and with the express mission to develop educational studies in landscape architecture, and provide a voice of authority to the profession, and

WHEREAS, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (FASLA), a founding member and president the ASLA (1918-1922), and Ferruccio Vitale (FASLA), a member of the ASLA's Committee on Education and a trustee of the American Academy in Rome, appealed to the leadership of both institutions to create a Fellowship in Landscape Architecture at the Academy, to be endowed by the ASLA, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy in Rome was established in 1897 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905 to provide a post-graduate program for American students in architecture, painting, sculpture and classical studies to further their understanding of the fine arts while studying in Rome to refine their professional talents, and

WHEREAS, Edward Godfrey Lawson, receiving a Master's degree in Landscape Design in 1914 from Cornell's Department of Landscape Art, was the first landscape architect to be awarded the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture, established by the ASLA in 1915, and

WHEREAS, Edward Godfrey Lawson (FAAR '21; FASLA '38) documented the iconic landscapes and gardens of the Italian Renaissance during his tenure as the first ASLA-sponsored Fellow in Landscape Architecture at the Academy, recording these historic sites with over 600 hundred photographs and scores of detailed drawings and sketches, which served as metadata and reference material on Italian garden history for a generation of students in landscape architecture at both the Academy and at Cornell's Department of Landscape Architecture, and

WHEREAS, Robert Wheelwright, the founding editor of ASLA's official publication, *Landscape Architecture, A Quarterly Magazine*, celebrated Edward Lawson as "Our first Fellow" and lauded his efforts to document Italy's cultural landscapes as the "first fruits" of labor that would provide further understanding of Italian and European garden design and history to an audience of American practitioners, and

WHEREAS, Edward Godfrey Lawson, as a professor of landscape architecture at Cornell University from 1922 to 1943, mentored a generation of Cornell students in landscape architecture and prepared eight of them, including Michael Rapuano, Richard Murdock, Neil Park, Morris Trotter, James Lister, Robert Kitchen, John Kirkpatrick, and Stuart Mertz, to win the Rome Prize competition in Landscape Architecture at the Academy, during the period between the two world wars.

NOW THEREFORE, the POASLA Executive Committee and the HALS Liaison do hereby note this historic ASLA milestone, and be it resolved and proclaimed that it recognizes 2015 is the centennial anniversary of Edward Godfrey Lawson winning the prestigious Rome Prize at the American Academy in Rome, the first professionally trained landscape architect to receive this honor, established by the ASLA, and also notes the import of Mr. Lawson's myriad contributions to the profession during a period of remarkable growth, which had significant influence on American culture and urban design in the first half of the 20th century.