

2008
RESHAPING ROCHESTER!
Planning for the Public Realm

WALTER J. HOOD, JR.

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Walter Hood is Professor and former Chair of Landscape Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, and principal of Hood Design in Oakland, CA. Hood has worked in a variety of settings including architecture, landscape architecture, art, community and urban design, planning and research. He was a fellow at the American Academy in Rome in Landscape Architecture, 1997. He has exhibited and lectured on his professional projects and theoretical works nationally and abroad. His work was recently featured in the “Open, New Designs For Public Spaces, Van Allen Institute, NY, and his firm designed the gardens and landscape for the New De Young Museum, San Francisco with Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron. He is currently designing the landscape for the Autry National Museum in Los Angeles, CA.; designing an archeological garden within the context of the South Lawn Project at the University of Virginia, and developing a set of monuments and markers for a six mile waterfront trail in Oakland, CA.

Walter Hood’s published monographs: *Urban Diaries* and *Blues & Jazz Landscape Improvisations* illuminate his unique approach to the design of urban landscapes. These works won an ASLA Research award in 1996. His essay “Macon Memories” is featured in *Sites of Memory*, Princeton Press, 2001. Hood participated in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art’s “Revelatory Landscapes” Exhibition 2000-2001. He is currently researching and writing a book entitled *Urban Landscapes; American Landscape Typologies*. Hood is currently enrolled in the distinguished Master of Fine Arts Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in studio arts and sculpture, exploring the role of sculpture and urbanism. His area of teaching, the American Urban Landscape, is intertwined with his design work creating a didactic approach to the design of urban landscapes.

Hood’s work spans the range from local, community-based projects—such as Splash Pad Park, a converted traffic island alongside Interstate 580 in Oakland, California—to higher-profile commissions—like the grounds for the new de Young Museum in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park—which are earning Hood national prominence. Hood’s innovative public spaces are known for the way they embrace the essence of urban environments and for their links to urban redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization. With a design approach that blends landscape architecture, anthropology, history, ecology, and community advocacy, Hood’s landscapes balance an appreciation of the physical and social heritage of a site with observation and understanding of the contemporary needs and behaviors of its users.

Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street
Wednesday, June 11 • 7–9 PM