



Job Prospectus
Assistant/Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

Director
Natural Learning Initiative
NC State University Raleigh, NC

The Opportunity

The [Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning](#) (LA+EP) is accepting applications for a full-time, tenure-track or tenured appointment at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor and Director of the [Natural Learning Initiative](#) (NLI), to begin August 15, 2021.

The successful candidate will lead design studios and/or seminars, advise graduate/PhD students, and actively participate in scholarship and engagement activities related to environment and behavior (E&B) within the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. The selected candidate will also lead the [Natural Learning Initiative](#) by developing a robust research agenda, continuing certificate programs, building partnerships and collaborations, managing NLI staff, and obtaining external funding.

This is a 9-month position with the opportunity to work over the Summer supported by grants and projects.

Minimum Experience and Education

- Terminal degree in Landscape Architecture or a related field (e.g. Architecture, Horticulture, Urban Design, Environmental Psychology, Parks and Recreation).
- Ability to teach in a studio setting.

Essential Job Duties

The successful candidate will lead design studios and/or seminars, advise and recruit graduate/PhD students, and actively participate in scholarship and engagement activities related to environment and behavior (E&B) within the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning.

The selected candidate will also lead the [Natural Learning Initiative](#) by developing a robust research agenda, continuing certificate programs, building partnerships and collaborations, managing NLI staff, and obtaining external funding.

Preferred Qualifications

- PhD or Doctoral Degree.
- Proven record of obtaining competitive extramural funding.
- Evidence of academic impact (established record of peer reviewed publications).
- Evidence of successful teaching/mentoring of graduate students.
- Focus on environment and behavior with knowledge of children and family environments.
- Experience managing projects and/or teams.
- Familiarity with and commitment to the Land Grant institutional mission.



How to Apply

All applications should be completed online at <http://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/138831> and received by February 1, 2021 for full consideration although applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

Attached documents must be in PDF format. Applications should include a curriculum vitae; a statement of intent, including the candidate's teaching and scholarly interests (upload under 'Other Document'); a portfolio of scholarly and teaching work; and a list of 3 references. Note that portfolios may be submitted as "Other Documents." Please do not submit materials via email.

Inquiries can be emailed to Nikki Evans, University Program Associate at anevans3@ncsu.edu.

NC State provides equal opportunity and affirmative action efforts, and the university prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation that are based upon a person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, gender identity, genetic information sexual orientation or veteran status.

About the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

The [Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning](#) is a vibrant, award-winning community of scholars residing within the College of Design at North Carolina State University, which is a public, land-grant university based in Raleigh, North Carolina.

We emphasize evidence-based inquiry and design thinking in the classroom, our scholarship, and outreach activities. We enjoy collaborative relationships in the College with allied departments of Architecture, Art and Design, Graphic and Industrial Design, Ph.D. in Design, and Doctor of Design programs; and outside the College of Design with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; the College of Natural Resources; Horticulture; Public Administration and Engineering. The Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning offers an LAAB accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree and an undergraduate Minor in Landscape Architecture.

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is a STEM-designated degree and fully accredited program that prepares graduate students for the rigors of professional practice, research, leadership, and community engagement. Students combine critical design thinking with creativity, and passion to address diverse landscape architecture and environmental planning projects.



Our mission is to teach, learn, research, and apply state of the art practices that create innovative and resilient landscapes focused on human and ecosystem health, safety, well-being, social equity, and quality of life. As supporters of the New Landscape Declaration, we emphasize evidence-based inquiry and design thinking that positions students and graduates to engage with and propel the landscape architecture profession into the future as it evolves in response to environmental and societal imperatives.

We prepare the next generation of landscape architects to engage challenges and opportunities focused on:

- Landscape dynamics and resilient design;
- Community planning and design;
- Design for children and families;
- Research and evidence-based design strategies; and
- Emerging digital design tools for representation, simulation, and evaluation.

The image is a screenshot of the NC State College of Design website. At the top, the text "College of Design" is displayed in a large, red, sans-serif font. To the right of this text is the NC State logo, which includes a red silhouette of a wolf and the text "THINK AND DO THE EXTRAORDINARY The Campaign for NC State". Below the main header is a horizontal navigation menu with the following items: ABOUT, ACADEMICS, ADMISSIONS, RESEARCH, STUDENT ENRICHMENT, ALUMNI, GIVING, and NEWS. The main content area features a large photograph of a group of people in a studio or classroom setting, gathered around a long table covered with architectural plans and models. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the photograph, containing the following text: "Our MLA Program is now a STEM-designated degree!" followed by a paragraph: "The CIP Code of the NC State University Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning program is officially changed. We now offer a STEM-designated MLA degree! This will allow our international graduates to engage in Optional Practical Training (OPT) in the US for up to three years." Below the photograph, the page is split into two colored sections: a dark grey section on the left with the text "Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning" in white, and a red section on the right with white text that reads: "Landscape architects combine critical design thinking, planning and design, and knowledge of physical and social sciences, to engage situations of landscape involving health, safety, and wellbeing."

The [Natural Learning Initiative \(NLI\)](#), an initiative within LA+EP, is dedicated to evidence-based design thinking applied to naturalization of everyday environments of children and families that lead to a healthier, socially integrated society that protects and restores biodiversity. The NLI was launched by Professor Robin Moore and Dr. Nilda Cosco at NC State and has engaged in research, professional development activities and design assistance for twenty years.

About the Natural Learning Initiative

The Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) was launched by Professor Robin Moore and Dr. Nilda Cosco, in January 2000, dedicated to the idea that evidence-based design thinking to improve the quality and naturalization of everyday environments of children and families can lead to a healthier, socially integrated equitable society that protects and restores biodiversity. The initiative was named after Moore’s book, Natural Learning, and an action-research philosophy of community design dedicated to NLI’s strategic mission:

“Creating environments for healthy human development and a healthy biosphere for generations to come.”



Please refer to “Backstory” (right) for more information.

NLI’s “global thinking, local action” philosophy responds to the urbanization of Planet Earth, inspired by the global framework of Sustainable Development Goals, the Social Determinants of Health, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Nature-Based Solutions.

NLI collaborates with others to create healthier habitats, across the trajectory of childhood, beginning in infancy, through age 17. Engaging children with nature early in life offers experiential learning leading to understanding of human dependency on the biosphere, which, across generations, may promote an inclusive culture of caring focused on conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

NLI is a transdisciplinary, cross-sector organization, employing evidence-based design expertise to impact children’s wellbeing at the intersection

NLI Backstory

Moore came to the U.S. in 1964 for graduate studies in city planning at MIT, with an architecture degree (UCL, Bartlett School) and three years of architecture practice. Interested in urbanization and cultural development, related to childhood, health, and landscape, he was mentored by Kevin Lynch and Donald Appleyard. His graduate research thesis resulted from working with African American public housing tenants to create a “community commons” on a 1/3rd acre vacant lot sponsored by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. With volunteers he built the commons and studied the children’s behavioral responses. Results were published in Planning for Play (1968), Landscape Architecture Magazine (1973); and Psychology and the Built Environment (1974), the first UK environmental psychology volume.

Land Use Consultants (LUC). Returning to the UK (Fulbright requirement), Moore joined the London-based interdisciplinary conservation planning, ecological science, and landscape design firm to work on urban landscape bio-restoration in UK cities with extractive industry legacies.

UC Berkeley. Moore joined the multidisciplinary Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning as Assistant Professor of Urban Design (1969), solidifying a research focus on the intersection of human development, urbanization, childhood culture, and environmental learning. He implemented the “Childhood Use of the Urbanizing Landscape” (CUULS) project, conducted with children 8-12 years old in neighborhoods along a transect of the Bay Area from San Francisco to rural St. Helena. Results were published in Ekistics, 1980. The CUULS methodology was further applied in a study of neighborhoods in three contrasting UK cities (London, Stevenage New Town, and Stoke-on-Trent).

of built environment design, public health, outdoor play, environmental learning and education, recreation, leisure, and conservation, particularly in ecologically barren communities—assisting them in creating environments for healthy human development.

NLI is dedicated to disseminating its knowledge base to all those supporting children’s successful development as unique individuals and as contributing members of society, in childcare centers, schools, parks, residential developments, streets, museums, botanical gardens, and nature centers—including the policy systems that drive these institutions.

NC State, as a land grant institution with the motto “Think and Do the Extraordinary,” aligns with NLI’s theory of action, emphasizing the synergy of linking people with each other and resources, including student engagement, partnerships across disciplines, unmatched research support, extraordinary teaching/learning resources, and connections to off campus organizations serving children and families.

NLI delivers services in four areas: Design assistance, research and evaluation, professional development, information dissemination and communications. Comprehensive projects combine all four in multiyear scenarios.



NLI impacts professional practice by creating opportunities and policy tools targeting design, urban planning, public health, and education (early childhood, K-12, and higher ed.), to help transform practice in children-environment design and programming.

NLI creates demonstration sites that serve research, documentation, and training activities using compelling empirical and visual evidence to inform cross-sector, collective impact in child development systems.

Re-naturing school yards. At UCB, Moore co-founded the student-initiated, interdisciplinary, undergraduate course, IDS 120, linking landscape design and environmental education, taught by cross-campus faculty. Moore engaged students in the naturalization of schoolyards and related outdoor curricula, including the 10-year “Environmental Yard” project, at Washington Elementary School, downtown Berkeley.

Stanford. Leaving UC Berkeley in 1977, Moore taught in the Urban Studies Program, co-founded the interdisciplinary group, **Inquiring Systems** with UC Berkeley colleagues, cofounded the San Francisco-based **People-Environment Group**, conducted an urban childhood international study, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, and cofounded the interdisciplinary, Berkeley-based design, planning, and communications firm, Moore Iacofano Goltsman (MIG).

NC State. Joining the landscape architecture faculty in 1982, Moore published *Childhood’s Domain: Play and Place in Child Development* (1986–UK-CUULS study) and co-authored, with Washington School Principal, Dr. Herb Wong, *Natural Learning: Creating Environments for Nature’s Way of Teaching* (1997).

CUD and PhD program. Moore co-founded the Center for Universal Design (CUD). As Director of Training and Dissemination (1989-1993), he led the foundational study of children’s environmental accessibility that informed the ADA dimensional standards for children. He chaired the CUD Academic Policy Committee (1996-2000). As chair of the College of Design Faculty Senate, Moore fought for and co-founded the PhD in Design Program (1999).

Teaching. As studio instructor, Moore introduced pedagogical innovations to the landscape architecture “Dix Studio” (using the future Centennial Campus site),

NLI collaborates with local, state, national, and international organizations, to provide evidence-informed programming, design, and management services/resources in creating high quality demonstration projects, which also serve NLI research and evaluation goals.

By the numbers:



NLI Design Institutes (two-days lectures, panels, and hands-on workshops)	17	under/graduate students employed	50+
Growing IN Place Annual Symposium (design for urban children and families)	11	doctoral students	17
Certificate Programs (participants to date: 800 approx.)	2	post-docs	3
Webinars	∞	visiting scholars/scientists	4

NLI has evolved through several strategic development phases, as in the chart on the next page.

CURRENT PHASE 4: Strategic Plan Components (2019-2023)

The goal is to scale up the reach of NLI’s evidence-driven expertise in children and family environments nationally; to transfer knowledge to impact urban/rural children and family outdoor environment policies and regulatory standards; and disseminate successful models and strategies, delivered through online professional development events and programs using the NLI website as a resource hub. NLI’s organizational structure is being enhanced to support this goal.

plus community-based, interdisciplinary studios on social-ecological and communication themes across multiple contexts. He developed an annual fieldwork-based course, **Human Use of the Urban Landscape**, and a variety of courses addressing community-based design processes, including design programming for residential, educational, and recreational development. He currently teaches the interdisciplinary, experimental course, **Biophilic Design: Strategies for saving the planet**.

Children’s Rights. Cosco and Moore met through the International Association for the Child’s Right to Play (IPA). Moore was president for three terms. Cosco represented Latin America. Both were involved in the effort to get the child’s right to play (Article 31) included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, adopted by the UN, 1989). Moore was also active in the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA), cofounded “Childhood City” and the *Childhood City Newsletter*, which evolved into the peer-reviewed journal, **Children Youth Environments**. In 1983, Moore was elected EDRA board member and chair (1986).

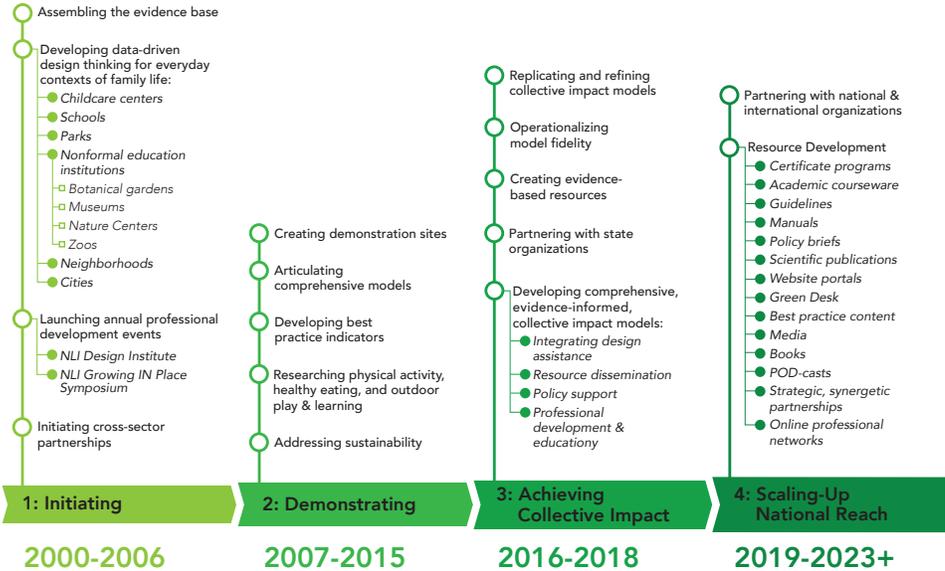
GUIC. With backgrounds in children’s rights, Cosco and Moore participated in the interdisciplinary, eight-country, UNESCO-sponsored **Growing Up in Cities** (GUIC) participatory action research (PAR) project and directed the Buenos Aires field research component, published in *Growing Up in an Urbanizing World* (2001). They created a master plan for the vast Buenos Aires **Ecological Reserve**, at that time threatened with development. They collaborated with a national workers union on design of the **Ecological Village**, a countryside vacation destination for union members, and with UNICEF-Argentina to design **Planeta UNICEF**, a children’s museum.

Projects in the US included the Hamill Family Play Zoo, Brookfield Zoo, outside Chicago, the **Parks and**



NLI STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PHASES

Design Assistance | Research | Professional Development | Dissemination
 Creating environments for healthy human development and a healthy biosphere for generations to come



Scaling Up National Reach

Objective: Leverage NLI’s body of work to create a resource hub of research and professional development resources to drive evidence-based best practice implementation.

Model Fidelity - includes core definition, model policy & policy briefs, implementation guidelines and manuals, research reports, best practice guidelines, case studies, licensing templates.

Content Database - includes compilation, analysis, and presentation of design project and education program metrics.

Resource Development and Dissemination - includes certificate programs, institutes, webinars, courseware, website portals, The Green Desk, videos, PODcasts, scientific papers, print publications, and end user info-resources.

Archival Documentation - includes pre-NLI works, pre/post digital era print documents, drawings, and audio/visual media executed in close collaboration with NC State Library system

Enhancing Organizational Structure

Objective: Establish a sustainable organizational structure to conduct applied research, create professional development and training systems, and deliver evidence-based projects and programs based on successful implementation models.

Organizational Structure - multi-disciplinary team fosters relations with national professional organizations to adapt and adopt evidence-based environment-behavior practices.

Manual of Procedures - ensures fidelity of the NLI mission and operational execution over time.

Talent Development - includes internal training and individual mentoring, partner development programs, and NLI alumni engagement.

Business Plan - includes growth and development rationale, strategic five-year budget, endowment plan, and sources of financial support to create a stable financial base.

Recreation Master Plan, Durham, NC, and **Blanchie Carter Discovery Park**, Southern Pines Primary School, to create a shared space in an underserved neighborhood. Publication in the *NYTimes*, prompted Cosco and Moore to cofound the Natural Learning Initiative (NLI, January 1, 2000), to pursue the mission: “Healthy Human Development and a Healthy Biosphere for Generations to Come.”

Cosco’s degree in psychopedagogy (learning theory and processes), from an Argentine Jesuit University, with a tradition of fieldwork in low-resource communities, combined with a wealth of design thinking on child and family environments, facilitated the launch of NLI’s services to low-resource, minority communities. NLI collaborated with Heritage Park public housing residents, downtown Raleigh, to create the “Natural Learning Area” intergenerational commons, based on ideas from young residents.

Cosco’s doctoral studies in landscape architecture at Herriot-Watt/Edinburgh University, on environmental factors and early childhood physical activity, was supervised by Catharine Ward Thompson, leading researcher in human health and landscape. Cosco’s PhD (2006) expanded NLI’s research opportunities. The NIEHS-sponsored study of childcare outdoor spaces and physical activity was published in *Environment and Behavior* (2014). Teamed with NC State parks and recreation colleagues, NLI led the **Parks for Kids** study in Durham, NC, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

NLI’s website and this document tell the rest of the story to date.

About NC State

NC State University began as a land-grant institution grounded in agriculture and engineering. Today, we're a leading public research university that excels across disciplines.

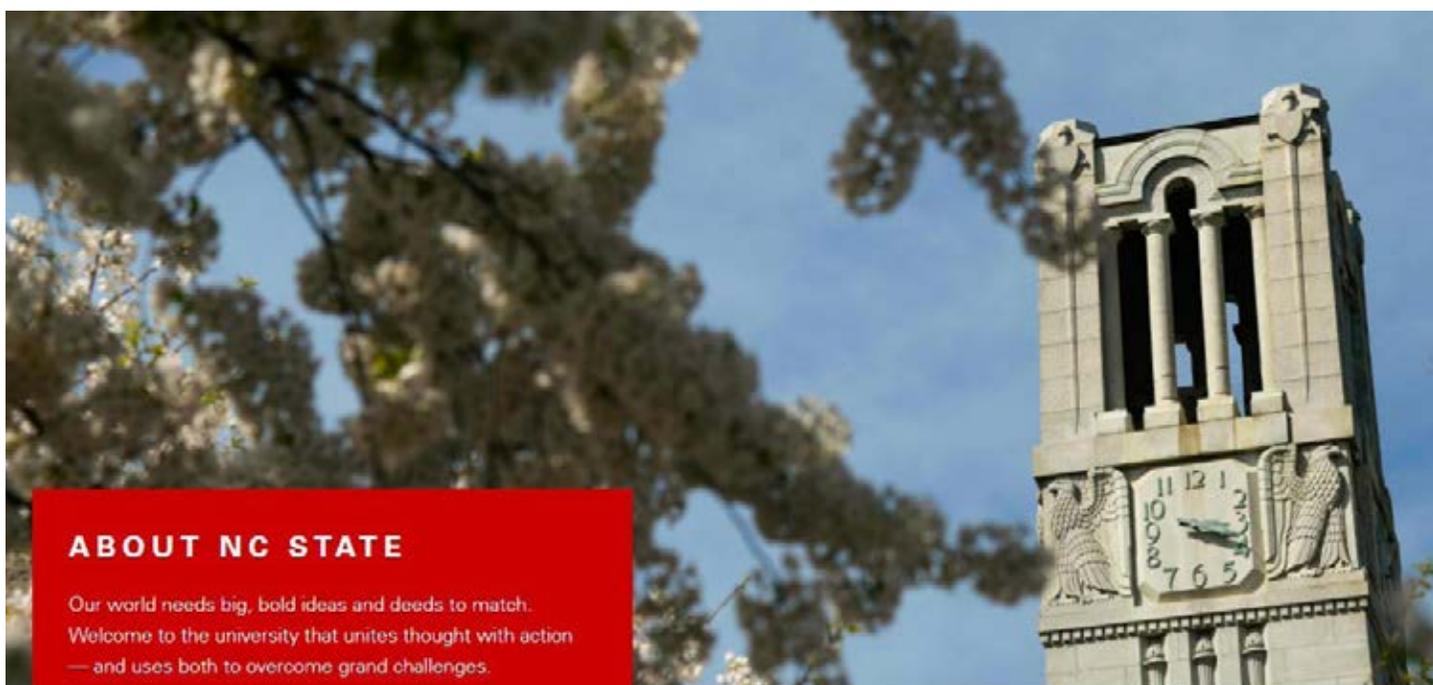
NC State is a powerhouse in science, technology, engineering and math. We lead in agriculture, education, textiles, business and natural resources. We're at the forefront of teaching and research in design, the humanities and the social sciences. And we're home to one of the planet's best colleges of veterinary medicine.

Our more than 36,000 undergraduate and graduate students learn by doing. They pursue research and start new companies. They forge connections with top employers and serve local and global communities. And they enjoy an outstanding return on investment.

Each year, NC State adds [\\$6.5 billion to the statewide economy](#), equivalent to creating more than 90,000 new jobs. That represents significant return on investment for the citizens of North Carolina in the form of research advances, innovative technologies, successful companies, skilled graduates and new jobs waiting for them.

Our 9,000 faculty and staff are world leaders in their fields, bridging the divides between academic disciplines and training high-caliber students to meet tomorrow's challenges. Together, they forge [powerful partnerships](#) with government, industry, nonprofits and academia to remake our world for the better.

NC State is leading efforts to curb [nuclear proliferation](#), develop a [smart electric grid](#), create [self-powered health monitors](#), help farmers confront [climate change](#) and build [a new American manufacturing sector](#). Our award-winning [Centennial Campus](#) is home to more than 70 public and private partners – as well as the innovative [Hunt Library](#), which [Time magazine](#) has dubbed "the library of the future."



ABOUT NC STATE

Our world needs big, bold ideas and deeds to match.
Welcome to the university that unites thought with action
— and uses both to overcome grand challenges.

About Raleigh and North Carolina

It all happens in one of the best cities in America. A top spot for job-seekers and tech professionals, Raleigh is nationally recognized as a leading urban center:

- No. 2 easiest city to find a job (Forbes, 2015)
- No. 2 hot spot for tech jobs (Forbes, 2016)
- No. 3 best city for young professionals (Forbes, 2016)
- No. 13 best place to live (U.S. News & World Report)
- Best big city in the Southeast (Time, 2016)
- Selected as a Google Fiber expansion city

With Durham and Chapel Hill, Raleigh anchors the Research Triangle, a national hotspot for high-tech enterprise. The top companies in the region – including IBM, Cisco Systems, SAS Institute, Biogen Idec and GlaxoSmithKline – are among the country's best employers. They also lead the way in hiring new NC State graduates.

More than 130 years after its creation, NC State continues to make its founding purpose a reality. Every day, our career-ready graduates and world-leading faculty make the fruits of learning and discovery available to people across the state, throughout the nation and around the world.

