

## “Power to the...Landscape Architects!”



As of July 1, 2010, the State of Virginia recognizes that a Landscape Architect’s seal is valid on site plans and shall be accepted for review by state and local authorities. Through major efforts by local design coalitions and other design professionals, these new regulations allow more opportunities for Landscape Architects to utilize their education, technical and aesthetic background on projects throughout the State.

Clients benefit from Landscape Architects bridging the gap between Architects and Civil Engineers. On larger scaled projects such as a condominium community or school campus, the Architect and Landscape Architect mutually develop a Master Plan and then engage a Civil Engineer to complete the technical aspects of site development.

Landscape Architects initially develops a site plan with an eye towards both the aesthetic and pragmatic aspects of roadway layout, utility location and the siting of buildings. The Civil Engineer can then provide a more efficient use of their time since the framework of the site has already been designed. It is our experience that many Civil Engineers are quite receptive to this scenario of a “master planned” site so they can concentrate on the function of the site infrastructure.

For example, a land developer hires an Architect to design a building and the Architect hires a structural engineer to design the infrastructure - they then work together to complete the building plans. The same holds true for Landscape Architects and Civil Engineers. In the long run, projects are more environmentally sound, fitting better to the land. They also run smoother and more often finish within time and budget constraints. The following below is the actual language from the new law...

*“A. Beginning July 1, 2010, a person who engages in the practice of landscape architecture as defined in § [54.1-400](#) and who holds himself out as a landscape architect shall hold a valid license prior to engaging in such practice. Resulting site plans, plans of development, preliminary plats, drawings, technical reports, and specifications, submitted under the seal, stamp or certification of a licensed landscape architect, shall be accepted for review by local and state authorities, in connection with both public and private projects.”*

Contact RSLA Landscape Architects at (757) 410-2596 or by e-mail at [info@rsla.us](mailto:info@rsla.us) to learn more about our comprehensive site design services or visit our web site at [www.rsla.us](http://www.rsla.us).

