



WEBINAR RESOURCES: RESEARCH 101 FOR PRACTITIONERS

This is a compilation of resources to accompany the LAF webinar “Research 101 for Landscape Architecture Practitioners” held on November 5, 2025. Resources are selected to be accessible and applicable to practitioners. The webinar recording and more information can be accessed [here](#). Resources will not be updated.

Core Landscape Architecture-Oriented Resources for Research

Recommended resources for basic research skills to support practitioner understanding of research methods and theory.

1. [Landscape Architecture Research: Inquiry, Strategy, Design](#) by Deming and Swaffield, 2011.
 - *What's it about?* A “practical, single-source guide to successful strategies for landscape architecture research” that provides a framework for advancing better design thinking aimed at practitioners and students.
2. [“Design as Research in Landscape Architecture”](#) by Nijhuis and de Vries. *Landscape Journal*, 2020. (Open access)
 - *What's it about?* Core academic article on research *through* design – “a research method in which spatial design plays the leading role” – that explores the concept for both academics and practitioners/design processes.
3. [Research in Landscape Architecture: Methods and Methodology](#) edited by van den Brink, Bruns, Tobi, and Bell, 2016.
 - *What's it about?* A more academically oriented but highly useful book on framing and designing research, including priorities for the research within the discipline in coming years as it connects to professional practice.
4. [Design Research for Urban Landscapes: Theories and Methods](#) edited by Prominski and von Seggern, 2019.
 - *What's it about?* Book aimed at practitioners with an interdisciplinary lens that explores design research concepts and examples.

Practice-Based Research

Select further reading and viewing on practice-based research:

1. [“Practice-Based Research Now: Purpose, Approach, and a Proposition”](#) by Barnes, Domlesky, Harvey, Hwang, Kramer, Mendenhall, Plumb, and Popowsky. *Landscape Journal*, 2024 (Open access)
 - *What’s it about?* Passionate personal statements about importance of research from leading practitioners, a description of 21 design firms’ approach to research, and a call-to-action for research in professional practice.
 - Additional discussion and Q&A with the article’s authors in LAF-hosted webinar [“Practice-Based Research Now”](#), 2024
2. [“Research in Landscape Architecture Design Firms”](#) by Ryan. *Landscape Journal*, 2023 (Requires subscription/\$19 per-article fee)
 - *What’s it about?* Findings from interviews with 12 design firms who promote research as part of their services revealing research types conducted, motivations, methods used, and perceptions of research skills needed by employees.
3. LAF-hosted webinar [“Design Research What Is It and How Is It Changing the Field of Practice?”](#) with Burkholder, Deming, and Nanda, 2022 (LA CES/HSW approved when passing a 10-question quiz as of writing)
 - *What’s it about?* Panel presentation and dialogue about the term “design research” with examples of research in action.
4. *Landscape Review* special issue: [Convergences of Practice and Research](#), edited Lawson, 2023 (Open access)
 - *What’s it about?* This issue of the Oceania-based journal focuses on bridging academia and practice, with intriguing provocations followed by valuable examples from practice. “Research, Janus, practice” by Downton is particularly recommended as food for thought.

Resources from the Landscape Architecture Foundation

LAF programs and free resources to support research in practice:

1. [How to Develop a Research Question](#) resource
 - *What’s it about?* Short and accessible LAF guidance on crafting a clear and focused research question, with references and further reading.
2. [How to Start a Collaborative Research Conversation](#) resource

- *What's it about?* A two-page guide to facilitate direct conversations among academics and professionals and help set the stage for effective research partnerships.

3. [Deb Mitchell Research Grant](#)

- *What's it about?* A \$25,000 grant opportunity that supports a research project that is relevant and impactful for practice and can be completed in a 12- to 18-month period.

4. [Case Study Investigation](#)

- *What's it about?* A unique research collaboration and training program in which LAF funded faculty-student research teams work with leading practitioners to document the impacts of exemplary, high-performing landscape projects and produce Case Study Briefs for LAF's *Landscape Performance Series*.

5. [Landscape Performance Series](#)

- *What's it about?* Website and set of resources featuring a wide range of landscape performance research with actionable findings and insights for practitioners.