

September 29, 2024
Center for Cultural Landscapes
<https://www.arch.virginia.edu/ccl>
Lsibookprize@virginia.edu



Contact: Sneha Patel, Director of Communications, UVA School of Architecture

PRESS RELEASE

The Center for Cultural Landscapes (CCL) at the UVA School of Architecture is pleased to announce that Associate Professor Rosetta Elkin's 2022 book, *Landscapes of Retreat* (K Verlag) is the 2024 winner of the Landscape Studies Initiative's J.B. Jackson Book Award. The John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize is awarded to the author of a book published within the past three years on a subject pertaining to landscape studies. There are no restrictions with regard to period, topic, or author's nationality. Only books based on original research and those that break new ground in method or interpretation are considered. The purpose of this prize, awarded annually since 2011, is to reward contributors to the intellectual vitality of garden history and landscape studies. Elkin will receive a \$2000 cash prize and participate in a public discussion about her book with Professor Elizabeth Meyer at the University of Virginia in the Spring 2025 semester.

This year's jury included continuing members, Professor Emeritus Kenneth Helphand (University of Oregon) and Professor Elizabeth K. Meyer (University of Virginia) with a newly added member, Associate Professor Sarah Lopez (University of Pennsylvania). This was Helphand's final year as a juror. He won the inaugural JB Jackson prize for *Defiant Gardens*, in 2007 and has volunteered his time as a juror since 2008. It is with bittersweet feelings that we thank Helphand for his exceptional leadership, participation, and discerning expertise over the past sixteen years, and especially for his counsel during the first three years of hosting by the University of Virginia's Center for Cultural Landscapes. We continue to be grateful to the generosity of Elizabeth Barlow Rogers for transferring her Foundation for Landscapes Studies' annual J.B Jackson Book Prize

and David Coffin Publication to the UVA Center for Cultural Landscapes three years ago. This year, our jurors chose one prize winner for the JB Jackson Book Prize, and three finalists to cover today's breadth of landscape studies publishing. These awards celebrate recent (2021-2023) scholarly publications of landscape historians, historical geographers, urban historians, and art historians involved in landscape studies and the environmental humanities. Collectively, we sought books with landscape as a central topic and an innovative research method clearly explained. We were drawn to books that "taught us a lot" about the author's process of discovery and were beautifully written as well as produced. Finally, we were inspired by books that examined the material and social processes through which landscapes came into being, evolved, and changed.

Details about the 2025 UVA CCL's Landscape Studies Initiative Book Awards will be available in October on the CCL website.

<https://www.arch.virginia.edu/ccl/awards-and-publications/book-awards>.

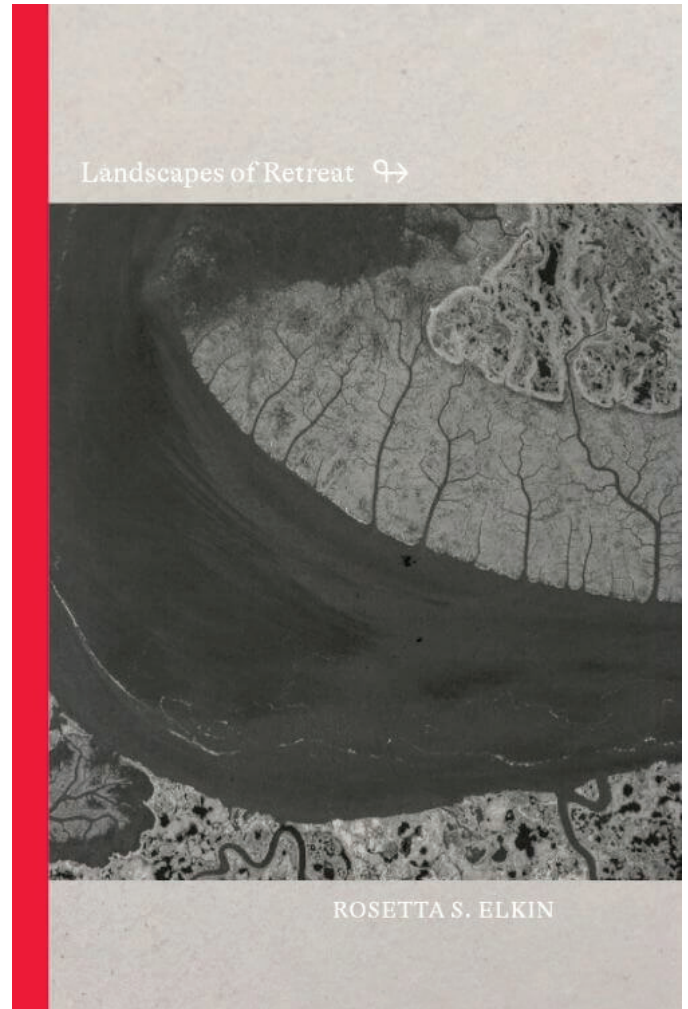
Submissions for books published between 2022 and 2024 are eligible for the J. B. Jackson Book Prize, nominations are due May 1, 2025.

Authors who need pre-publication funding, such as travel and photography, are encouraged to apply for the David Coffin Publication Grant, submissions are due January 1, 2025.

Professor Meyer welcomes inquiries about the awards program at Lsibookprize@virginia.edu.

Landscapes of Retreat

Rosetta Elkin
Associate Professor, Pratt Institute
K Verlag, 2022



“Landscapes of Retreat are portraits of climate adaptation. Retreat is found in the land that is left behind as settlement patterns shift due to a changing climate. The term landscape refers to the earth animated by the aliveness of creatures and organisms, and the term retreat suggests that human patterns are not fixed but might also be enlivened. Featuring in-depth field studies from Nijinomatsubara Forest/Japan, Maule River/Chile, Niugtaq Village/Alaska, Langtang Park/Nepal, and Gaspésie Peninsula/Québec, the stories in *Landscapes of Retreat* suggest that communities are more likely to adapt to change when the

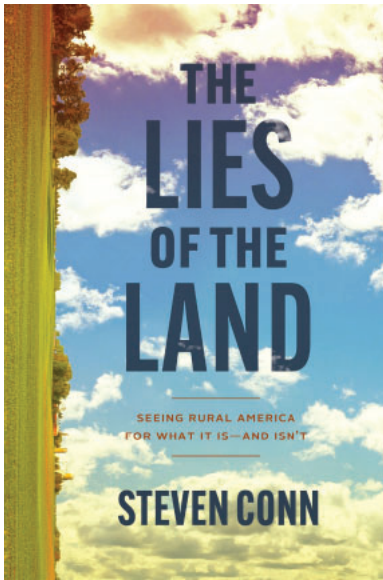
landscape is appreciated, so that retreat can be valued. The results cut across history, fieldwork, citizenship, and geography in order to rethink and rework ‘change’ as a means toward shared climate futures.

Rosetta S. Elkin is an Associate Professor and Academic Director of Landscape Architecture at Pratt Institute, Principal of Practice Landscape, and Research Associate at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.”

- K Verlag

The 2024 JB Jackson Finalists are:

The Lies of the Land: Seeing Rural America for What It Is- and Isn't

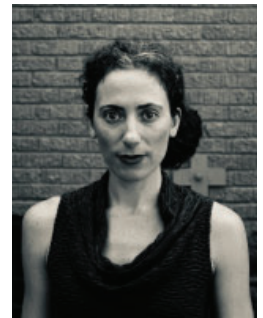
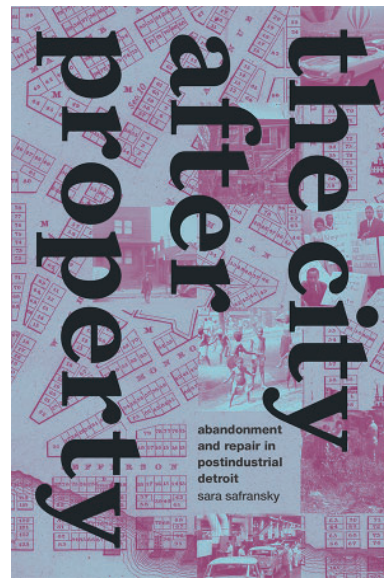


Steven Conn
Professor, Miami University
The University of Chicago Press, 2023

“It seems everyone has an opinion about rural America. Is it gripped in a tragic decline? Or is it on the cusp of a glorious revival? Is it the key to understanding America today? Steven Conn argues that we’re missing the real question: Is rural America even a thing? No, says Conn, who believes we see only what we want to see in the lands beyond the suburbs—fantasies about moral (or backward) communities, simpler (or repressive) living, and what it means to be authentically (or wrongheadedly) American. If we want to build a better future, Conn argues, we must accept that these visions don’t exist and never did.

In *The Lies of the Land*, Conn shows that rural America—so often characterized as in crisis or in danger of being left behind—has actually been at the center of modern American history, shaped by the same forces as everywhere else in the country: militarization, industrialization, corporatization, and suburbanization. Examining each of these forces in turn, Conn invites us to dispense with the lies and half-truths we’ve believed about rural America and to pursue better solutions to the very real challenges shared all across our nation.”
- University of Chicago Press

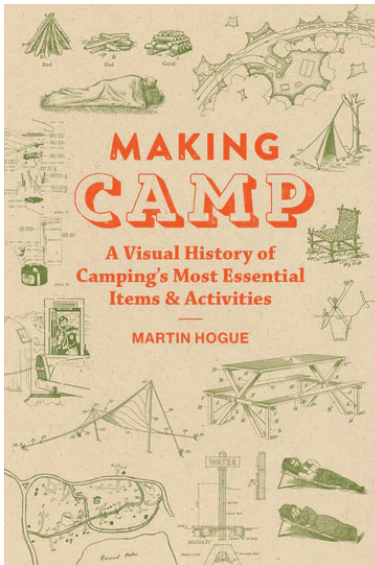
The City After Property: Abandonment and Repair In Postindustrial Detroit



Sara Safransky,
Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University
Duke University Press, 2023

“In *The City after Property*, Sara Safransky examines how postindustrial decline generates new forms of urban land politics. In the 2010s, Detroit government officials classified a staggering 150,000 lots—more than a third of the city—as “vacant” or “abandoned.” Analyzing subsequent efforts to shrink the Motor City’s footprint and budget, Safransky presents a new way of conceptualizing urban abandonment. She challenges popular myths that cast Detroit as empty along with narratives that reduce its historical decline to capital and white flight. In connecting contemporary debates over neoliberal urbanism to Cold War histories and the lasting political legacies of global movements for decolonization and Black liberation, she foregrounds how the making of—and challenges to—modern property regimes have shaped urban policy and politics. Drawing on critical geographical theory and community-based ethnography, Safransky shows how private property functions as a racialized construct, an ideology, and a moral force that shapes selves and worlds. By thinking the city ‘after property,’ Safransky illuminates alternative ways of imagining and organizing urban life.”- Duke University Press

Making Camp: A Visual History of Camping's Most Essential Items and Activities



Martin Hogue
Associate Professor, Cornell University
Princeton Architectural Press, 2023

“There is a satisfying immediacy about the prospect of establishing an encampment for the night—clearing the site, erecting the tent, chopping wood, building a fire and cooking over the live flame—that suggests a meaningful connection to landscape, place, and the rugged life of backwoods adventurers. Each summer 40 million Americans take to the road in search of this powerful experience of nature. Serviced by extensive networks of infrastructure and populated with specialized gear, each of the nation’s 20,000 campgrounds and their 900,00 ‘lone’ campsites functions as a stage upon which these cultural fantasies are performed, often in full view of a nearby audience of fellow enthusiasts.

Making Camp examines the evolution of this spatial setting by tracing the origins of its feature components: the campsite, the campfire, the picnic table, the map, the tent, the sleeping bag, as well as water delivery and trash collection systems. With so many of these elements in place as the visitor arrives, what few aspects of the craft remain that provide the camper the sense of agency that they are making their own camp? The book is supported

by a rich collection of archival materials that help illustrate the radical transformation of this mythical American ideal ever since the practice first took hold of the public imagination in the wilds of the Adirondacks 150 years ago.” - Martin Hogue

Details about the 2025 UVA CCL’s Landscape Studies Initiative Book Awards will be available in October on the CC website.

<https://www.arch.virginia.edu/ccl/awards-and-publications/book-awards>.

Submissions for books published between 2022 and 2024 are eligible for the J. B. Jackson Book Prize, nominations are due May 1, 2025. Authors who need pre-publication funding, such as travel and photography, are encouraged to apply for the David Coffin Publication Grant, submissions are due January 1, 2025. Professor Meyer welcomes inquiries about the awards program at Lsibookprize@virginia.edu.