

# Lot Locher

INTERVIEW: Theresa Ramisch

Linking her experience in landscape architecture with urban climate adaptation, Lot Locher works on the initiative Amsterdam Rainproof (2013) – a network organization to make the Dutch capital robust against cloudburst events. Before returning to the Netherlands, she joined Gustafson Porter + Bowman as a project architect. Lot is currently looking into what is required to scale this and other successful network approaches to urban climate adaptation to a nationwide level.

## 1 CAREER STARING POINT?

No clear starting point: Every step counts... From education, to all work experiences, to returning to The Netherlands and bringing my design focus to one city and one topic

## 2 INFLUENCED BY?

People who act to make the world a better place

## 3 INSPIRED BY?

The non-planned transformation of cities and the rhythmical metamorphoses of nature

## 4 WHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

It is always public; it encompasses the aspect of time; you can work with the most versatile and beautiful element of all: water

## 5 DESIGN PRINCIPLES?

Process driven; integrated; accommodating change

## 6 WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL FOCUS?

Urban climate adaptation, sustainability, finite resources, and water

## 7 FORMULA FOR SUCCESS?

Critical listener, working interdisciplinarily; always looking for the experts

## 8 WHERE ARE YOU IN 15 YEARS?

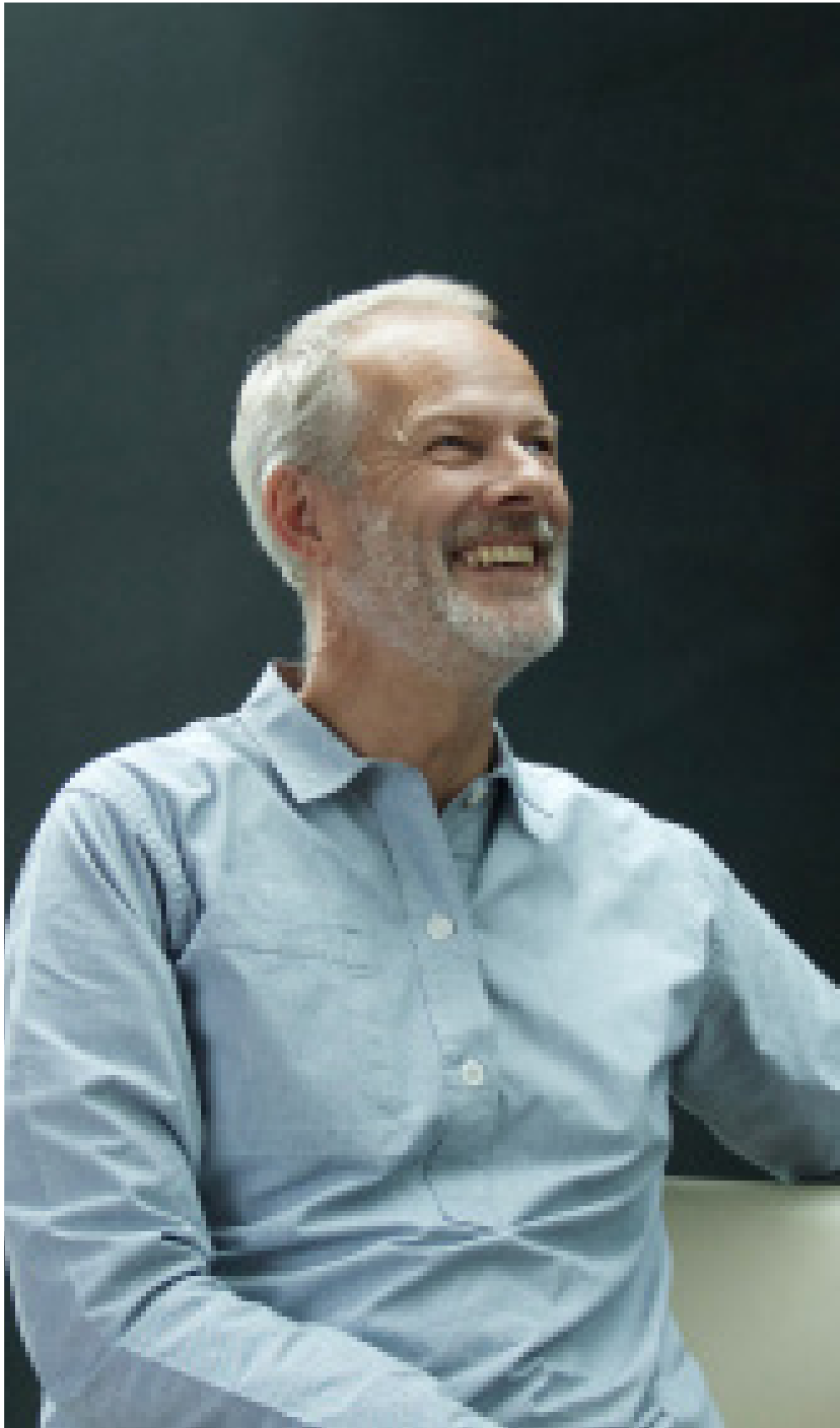
Working (inter)nationally to create climate robust, sustainable, and liveable cities

## 9 OBSTACLES FOR THE PROFESSION?

Old organisational systems



# Neil Porter



Photos: left Merlijn Michon, right Ella Porter

A Founding Partner of Gustafson Porter + Bowman (1997), Neil Porter has led the practice's defining projects like the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain or the Mezyad Desert Park in Abu Dhabi. Neil studied architecture at Newcastle University and the Architectural Association in London, where he subsequently tutored until 1989. As well as regularly joining national and international design juries and panels, he publishes and lectures internationally.

## 1 CAREER STARTING POINT?

When Bernard Tschumi asked if I would work on the Parc de la Villette. In Paris I met Kathryn Gustafson who assisted on the project.

## 2 INFLUENCED BY?

My influences are diverse: Madame Grés, Wassily Kandinsky, William Kent, Carlo's Mollino and Scarpa, many parks, gardens and spaces, of many periods – keep looking and learning!

## 3 INSPIRED BY?

Art and Artists

## 4 WHY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Landscape Architecture found me.

## 5 DESIGN PRINCIPLES?

Take the time to research the history and culture of the place for inspiration, always visit the site before thinking, never use the same idea twice.

## 6 WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL FOCUS?

Design, creative thinking and guiding younger designers in reaching their potential.

## 7 FORMULA FOR SUCCESS?

Listening, Looking, Learning.

## 8 WHERE ARE YOU IN 15 YEARS?

That is hard to predict – given my age I am likely to be working less, playing more and hopefully in a garden!

## 9 OBSTACLES FOR THE PROFESSION?

There are no obstacles if you think laterally.