

Sarah A. Cowles



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 +995 595 00 55 31
 4 Kojori Street
 Tbilisi, Georgia

Education

- 2005 Harvard Graduate School of Design
 Master of Landscape Architecture
- 1995 California College of Arts and Crafts
 Bachelor of Fine Arts

Landscape Practice

2008- Director, Ruderal, Landscape Architecture and Planning, Tbilisi, Georgia.

- Racha Resort Master Plan, Racha, Georgia.
- Mayri Dilijan Resort, Dilijan, Armenia.
- Tkheldze Residence, Tsqneti, Georgia.
- Darchiashvili Residence, Tsqneti, Georgia.
- Bakhmaro Hotel, Bakhmaro Georgia.
- Betania Forest Garden, Betania, Georgia.
- Lopota Lake Resort, Lopota, Georgia.
- Gergeti Vertical Superblock, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Shuamta Gateway Tourism Master Plan, Telavi, Georgia.
- Lezhbadini Geodiversity Demonstration Landscape. Lezhbadini, Georgia.
- Veli Master Plan, Bakurtsikhe, Georgia.
- Tbilisi Urban Forest, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Gudiashvili Square, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Arsenal Oasis, Tbilisi Georgia.
- Zhvania Residence, Tabakhmela, Georgia.
- Bodbe Hotel, Sighnaghi, Georgia.
- Art Villa Garikula Sustainability Plan, Garikula, Georgia.
- Kvareli Lake Resort, Kvareli, Georgia.

2005-08 Landscape Designer: Tom Leader Studio

- US Consulate, Guangzhou, China.
- Shanghai University Hub, Shanghai, China.
- Villa Park Merced, San Francisco, CA.

2005-06 Landscape Designer: Conger Moss Guillard, San Francisco, CA.

- Hunters Point Naval Shipyard: Lennar Inc/SFRA, San Francisco, CA.
- Treasure Island Community Plan: Lennar Inc/SFRA, San Francisco, CA.
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Sculpture Garden, San Francisco, CA.

Academic Appointments

2016-19 Associate Professor of Practice, University of Southern California School of Architecture
 Los Angeles, CA. Graduate seminars, workshops, studios.

2009-16 Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture Knowlton School, The Ohio State University
 Columbus, OH. Graduate and undergraduate studios on disturbed landscapes; seminars
 and technical workshops; seminars on public art, environmental justice, and exhibition design.

2012 US Fulbright Scholar, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture. Tbilisi State Academy of the Arts,
 Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Led field school on landscape interpretation and mapping in Chiatura
 region; a workshop on mapping post-Soviet marketplaces; landscape architecture studio on futures
 for historic Hippodrome in Tbilisi.

2011 Visiting Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture. Sam Fox School of Art and Design, Washington
 University, Saint Louis, MO. Graduate site design studios, topography skills workshop, landscapes on
 structure technical workshop.

2009 Trott Distinguished Visiting Professor Knowlton School, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
 Prototyping studio on novel landscape technologies; studio on futures for San Francisco Bay Salt
 Ponds; seminar on devastated landscapes in contemporary art.

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Publications: Reviews

- 2019 Review, "This Land is Her Land." Review of Herlands by Keridwen Lewis, in *Landscape Architecture*, August 2019.
- 2019 Review, "Rights of Way." Review of Street Trees by Sonja Dümpelmann, in *Landscape Architecture*, March 2019.
- 2018 Review, "Depth of Field." Review of Dynamic Patterns: Visualizing Landscapes in a Digital Age, by Karen M'Closkey and Keith VanDerSys, in *Landscape Architecture*, May 2018.
- 2018 Review, "Takes on Lakes." Review of the Third Coast Atlas by Daniel Ibañez, Clare Lyster, Charles Waldheim, Mason White, in *Landscape Architecture*, March 2018.
- 2017 Review, "Go There" Review of Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary, by Jill Desimini and Charles Waldheim, in *Landscape Architecture*, August 2017.
- 2016 Review, "All that and More": Review, of *Is Landscape...?: Essays on the Identity of Landscape*, edited by Charles Waldheim and Gareth Doherty, in *Landscape Architecture*, December 2016.

Publications: Chapters in Books, Articles, Online

- Ongoing Ruderal.substack.com – editor-in-chief, author.
- 2025 "Building Biodiverse Urban Forests in the Post-Soviet City" in *SPOOL-Urban Forestscapes*. Authors: Ruderal: Sarah Cowles, Benjamin Hackenberger.
- 2022 "Broken Sources" in "JAE 76:2 Pedagogies for a Broken World", forthcoming.
 "Arsenal Oasis" in "What Do We Have in Common?" Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, forthcoming
- 2021 Ruderal Substack, ongoing blog site.
- 2020 "Unscene LA", in *Unscene LA*, edited by Wendy Gilmartin, Los Angeles Forum for Architecture
 "After Extraordinary Conditions", *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, July, 2020.
- 2018 "Market Imperatives", in *Archive of Transition*, edited by Klaus Neuburg, Sebastian Pranz, Wato Tseretelli, Niggli, Verlag, 2018.
 "Tooling Up", *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, August, 2018
 "Crisis Actors", *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, December, 2018.
- 2017 "Critical Lifting", *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, September 2017.
 "Austerity Measures", *Landscape Architecture Magazine Online*, July 2017.
 "The Low Flow" In *Art Papers*, January 2017.
- 2016 "Propagating an Idea", *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, January 2017.
- 2016 "Ruderal Aesthetics" Conference proceedings, ACSA Detroit, 2017*.
- 2016 "Bigger MPs (Management Practices)." In *Representing Landscapes: Hybrid*, Nadia Amoroso, ed.
- 2014 "A Line Constructs a Landscape." With Alan Smart. "Scapegoat 07".
 "We Come in Peace." First Tbilisi Triennial: Offside Effect. Metropolis M Books.
- 2013 "Chiatura: The Coarse Course." *Ground Up*. Berkeley, Issue #3.
- 2006 "Salvaged Terrain." *Architecture*: October 2006.
- 2005 Book review, *Drosscapes*, Alan Berger, Princeton Architectural Press, 2005, *Topos Online*.
- 2005 "Amplifying Resources in the Fallow City." With Margot Lystra. *Crit No. 61*.

Invited Lectures, Master Classes, and Seminars

- 2025 "The Fertile Section" lecture, Institute for Art and Architecture, Vienna, Austria.
 "First Landscape, then Program" lecture, Batumi Boulevard Conference, Batumi, Georgia
 "Critical Disturbance" lecture, KRUH, Prague, Czech Republic.
 "Feral Landscapes" panel, ASLA Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
 "Feral Corridor" workshop, Auburn University, Auburn University, Alabama, USA.
 "A Landscape Lexicon" lecture, Landscape Association, Tbilisi, Georgia
 "A Ruderal Practice" Hearst Lecture, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, California, USA.
 "Extemporaneous Landscapes" lecture, Terremoto LA, Los Angeles, California, USA.
 "A Ruderal Practice" lecture, Rapperswiler Tag, Switzerland

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Invited Lectures, Master Classes, and Seminars cont.

- 2024 "A Ruderal Practice" lecture, The Arctic University Museum of Norway and Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Art
- 2024 "A Ruderal Practice" National University of Singapore.
- 2024 "Tbilisi, unfolding" Ubani Center, Tbilisi.
- 2023 "Building Landscape Identity - Suburban to Soviet" BOKU, Hausederlandshaft, Vienna.
"Building Landscape Identity - Suburban to Soviet" Amsterdam Academy of Architecture.
- 2022 "A Ruderal Practice", University of Manitoba.
"A Ruderal Practice", Landscape Institute London.
- 2019 "Steer Into the Skid", Auburn University, Auburn, AL.
"Clay to Digital", Landform workshop, Auburn, AL.
- 2017 "Ruderal Aesthetics". ACSA, Detroit, MI.
- 2016 "Sylviculture: metaphor, narrative and aesthetics in forest gardens". Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA.
- 2015 "Critical Disturbance: Towards a Nonequilibrium Aesthetic". EDRA Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 "Surplus and Hazard". Center for Ongoing Research & Projects, Columbus, OH.2014
"Ruderal Aesthetics". EDRA New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 "Site Gags". Knowlton School of Architecture, Columbus, OH.
- 2013 "Erosion of Conformity: Radical Erosion Control Aesthetics". Dredge Fest, New Orleans, LA.
IECA Environmental Connection, Nashville, TN.
- 2012 "Ruderal Academy". First Tbilisi Triennial, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2011 "Fabricated Landscapes". Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Champaign, IL.
- 2011 "Garikula Art Village". Europe House, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Awards and Grants

- 2025 EUMies Prize: 2025 Nominee: Darchiashvili Residence, with Wunderwerk
- 2024 The European Prize for Urban Public Space: 2024 Finalist: Tbilisi Urban Forest.
EUMies Prize: 2024 Shortlist: Tbilisi Urban Forest.
EUMies Prize: 2024 Nominee: Betania Forest Garden.
Rosa Barba Prize 2024 edition. Nominee: Tbilisi Urban Forest.
Stretto Biennial, International Jury Prize: Arsenal Oasis
- 2023 Landezine International Landscape Award. 2023 Special Mention: Betania Forest Garden
Landezine International Landscape: Shortlisted in Public Landscapes category: Tbilisi Urban Forest
- 2020 Landezine International Landscape Award Special Jury Prize: Arsenal Oasis.
- 2019 US Fulbright Specialist, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture.
Free University, School of Visual Art, Architecture and Design, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
Developed curriculum for Urban Landscapes Master's program.
- 2018 Artist in Residence. American University in Iraq, Sulaymaniah.
- 2016 American Academy in Rome. Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture. "Surplus Gardens".
Named Alternate, 11-Month Fellowship.
- 2015 Graham Foundation. Grants to Organizations: Symposium, "This is a Test" With Dorothee Imbert.
- 2015 Finalist. Field Constructs Design Competition: TEXTEX.
- 2014 Voss Award. Knowlton School. Travel and research: Republic of Georgia.
- 2014 3rd Prize. Quarry Life Award. Heidelberg Cement: Kavtiskhevi, Republic of Georgia.
- 2012 Fulbright US Scholar Grant: Academic Year 2012-2013: Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.
- 2011 Faculty Grant. Ohio State University Office of International Affairs.
- 2009 2nd Prize. London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Hackney Wick and Fish Island Wallis Road Public Art Commission.
- 2007 Honorable Mention, Pamphlet Architecture 30. "Infrastructure" New York, NY.
- 2007 Wendover Field Station Artist Residency.
Center for Land Use Interpretation. Wendover UT.
- 2007 Honorable Mention High Density on the High Ground: Housing in New Orleans.

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Symposia, Speaker, Awards Juries

- 2022 LILA: Landezine International Landscape Architecture Prize, Jury Member, Ljubljana.
- 2016 Moderator and speaker, "Paper Session 4: Water Urbanism," Landscape As Necessity University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016 "THIS IS A TEST": Co-organizer with Dorothée Imbert. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- 2014 "Chiatura My Pride": Speaker. Poster. International Scholarship Symposium, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- 2014 "Dredge Fest": Speaker. New Orleans, LA.
- 2013 "Offside Effect: Arts Education after Bologna": Speaker. Center for Contemporary Art, Tbilisi.
- 2011 "Design Week": Lead critic. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2010 'On Ground': The Ohio State University. Moderator: John McMorrough: Speaker. "Fence, Ditch Repeat: The Cultural Landscape of the US-Mexico Border

Selected Exhibitions

- 2020 Arsenal Oasis. Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.
- 2018 Garden of Restitution. Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, Gldani, Republic of Georgia.
- 2016 Elusina Lazenby Experimental Forest. Banvard Gallery, Knowlton School, Columbus, OH.
- 2014 Bigger Darby. Banvard Gallery, Knowlton School, Columbus, OH.
- 2012 We Come in Peace. First Tbilisi Triennial, Europe House, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2011 Elegantly Wasted. Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA
- 2010 The Salt Mountain Disturbance. Artisterium, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia .
- 2009 Fence Ditch Repeat. Center for Land Use Interpretation, Culver City, CA.
- 2009 Snagged. Rubin Center, University of Texas, El Paso, TX.

Press

- 2025 Landscape Architecture Magazine, November 2025 issue. "Amid Tbilisi's suburban sprawl, Betania Forest stands out", Betania Forest Garden, by Jessica Bridger.
- 2024 Madame Architect: "Principles in Motion: Ruderal's Sarah Cowles on Cities, Landscapes, Inventiveness, and Rigor" Interview with Julia Gamolina.
<https://www.madamearchitect.org/interviews/2024/4/2/sarah-cowles>
- 2023 Landscape Architecture Magazine, April 2023 issue. "Range Rover", studio profile of Ruderal by Jessica Bridger.
- 2021 "Arsenal Oasis". Outsider Magazine.