



# 5 female architects in their LANDSCAPE

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Atelier Vierkant is honored to collaborate with such a large number of architects. In this magazine we present five female landscape architects with their work, their way of designing a space, a garden, a terrace. Some of their projects require a particular shape, a special form that goes beyond the lines of the standard collection. In collaboration, we create new forms often used as anchoring elements in the project. Architects are welcome in our *atelier* to discuss the design for a particular project, to develop the right form and to finalize the prototype into the required shape. They are and will always be a fundamental source of inspiration in our work.



*Marta Fry Landscape Associates*

San Francisco  
USA



*Bet Figueras*

Barcelona  
Spain



*Tanja Casparis, Zingg Gartengestaltung*

Domat/Ems  
Switzerland



*Ana Esteve, AE Land 1988*

Barcelona  
Spain



*Charlotte Rowe Garden Design*

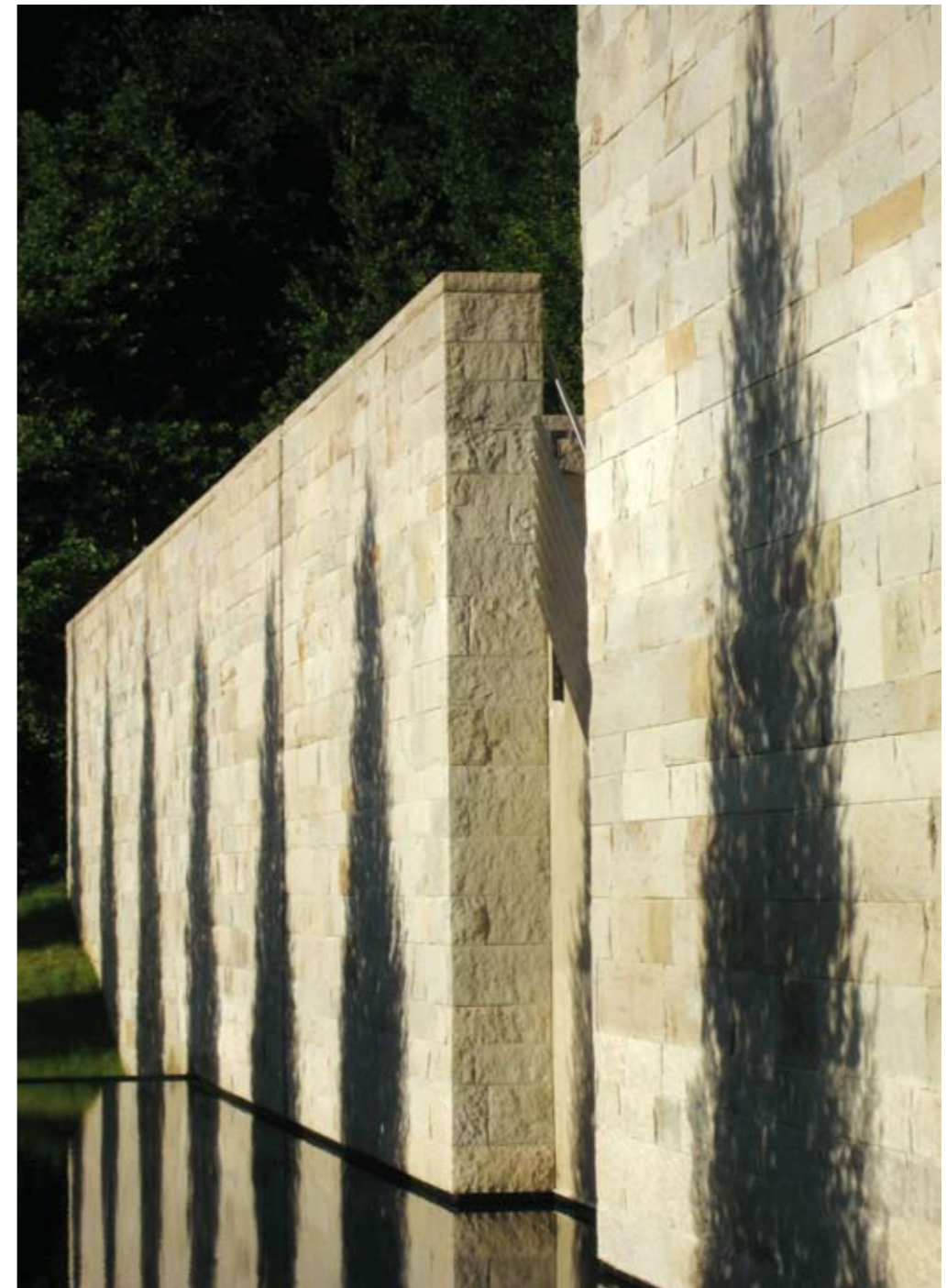
London  
UK



# Marta Fry Landscape Associates

San Francisco, USA

MFLA Marta Fry Landscape Associates is a San Francisco-based urban design and landscape architecture Studio established in 1990 by Marta Fry. Believing that landscapes are one of the most potent and lasting forms of cultural expression, Marta leads the Studio in the exploration of the intersections and complex relationships between environmental, social and cultural systems. Trained in landscape architecture and urban design, Marta graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Design with a master's degree in landscape architecture coupled with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Planning. For Marta, the field of Landscape Architecture encompasses the interweaving of art and science and provides an opportunity to work on widely diverse scales, from larger master planning visions and designs for urban





infill and re-development districts to finer-grained singular design commissions such as hospitality and residential design. This contrast of scales and project typologies provides for a stimulating environment of creative acrobatics. Based in San Francisco, the native Californian finds the Bay Area fertile grounds for exploration and innovation. Marta describes her environment as “a region with a rich history of invention, in some ways it still resembles the “Wild West” in which one can explore, investigate and re-invent themselves and their vision. It’s a place that supports that, after much travel and residency on the eastern seaboard, I find this unique to the West Coast, it’s a fertile and creative environment that transects disciplines and coupled with San Francisco’s cultural diversity, it’s provides a rich milieu from which to draw.” For her, California continues to be a creatively emergent and progressive environment.

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The MFLA Studio is interested in the exploration of new materials and applications but the underpinnings of her Studio’s work utilizes the most elemental forms, materials and expression in a minimalist manner. One such project currently under renovation is the iconic 1970’s four-towered Bonaventure Hotel located in downtown Los Angeles. Originally designed by John Portman, the massive hotel provides the MFLA Studio with a bold palette of sculptural concrete and glass. Her design process of “stripping down” this mid-century behemoth to its basic elemental structure or bones provided MFLA with a canvas in which to build a fresh and appropriate palette of surfaces, textures and an organic overlay, feeling strongly that this overlay was required to temper the concrete, glass and metal surfaces. Atelier Vierkant vessels were introduced into the project in a number of applications. Strongly vertical, vessel seriality and repetition reinforces the entry porte cocheres while the use of massive lower bowls anchors the hotel entries, scaling and modulating the pre-existing architectural elements.

The vessels’ organic character and natural coloration of the clays in earth-based whites, greys and blacks and the hand molded patterning and texture provided her with a depth, richness and organic fabric in which to layer and build upon. Planted with boldly textured bromeliads, yuccas and succulents, the organic character of the vessels contrasts and balances the boldness of the horticultural forms.



Nestled at the base of Sonoma Mountain this 160-acre site represents an eight-year collaboration of site planning, master planning, vineyard and orchard planting, ancillary structure development and the most recent completion of the Main House. A strong agricultural vocabulary was developed, relying on the repetitious strength of patterned windrows, hedgerows, vineyards and orchard grids. "Domestic landscapes" were developed by Marta's interventions within the greater agricultural landscape. The project represents an assemblage of buildings within a carefully modulated landscape, a modern villa framed in an agrarian setting".



On a much different scale, a single family residential Victorian in San Francisco, provided the MFLA Studio with a "landmarked" or heritage façade and a new, reinterpreted modern interior. Jamie White, the project's designer, respected the historical richness of the period architecture and developed the landscape to complement and build-upon a reinterpreted composition of layers, organic, textured and dynamically geometric.

"horizontal patterned vessels  
as accent and anchoring elements"

Developing a rich tapestry of surfaces, Chinese Yangtze limestone, salvaged from villages during the Three Gorges project, was used as the paving field, intersected with etched black limestone "stitching". A vertical water-wall sluice "folds" onto the ground plane and spills into a shallow reflecting pool. The garden, designed to be viewed primarily from one of the numerous balcony levels, provides a rich and minimal composition of stone, water and greenery. Atelier Vierkant vessels were introduced as accent and anchoring elements; terminating axes, lining balconies and providing privacy screening.

[www.mflastudio.com](http://www.mflastudio.com)

