Defining Landscape Democracy
A Path to Spatial Justice

Edited by Shelley Egoz, Karsten Jørgensen and Deni Ruggeri, School of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Landscape and Society, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway

This stimulating book explores theories, conceptual frameworks, and cultural approaches with the purpose of uncovering a cross-cultural understanding of landscape democracy, a concept at the intersection of landscape, democracy and spatial justice. The authors of Defining Landscape Democracy address a number of questions that are critical to the contemporary discourse on the right to landscape: Why is democracy relevant to landscape? How do we democratise landscape? How might we achieve landscape and spatial justice?

‘I have rarely found so many theoretical and methodological reflections unified in one volume. From this point of view, the book has the potential to become a standard teaching resource, also due to its clear and comprehensive structure.’
- Alexandra Kruse, Norwegian Journal of Geography

‘“Land belongs to someone but landscape belongs to everyone” sums up for me the message at the heart of this important book. Politically the world is at a crossroads and landscape, be it through the European Landscape Convention or as urban space occupied by a new wave of activists, literally forms a stage for playing out conflicts. I believe that the book is needed right now as a starting point for a new approach to landscape for the twenty-first century.’
- Simon Bell, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia

‘This international collection of papers has its roots in multiple interpretations of democratic principles. All its authors share the view that people who are affected by design and planning decisions should be included in the process of making those decisions. In sum, the authors expand the traditional boundaries of landscape thinking in theory and practice to make this an invaluable contribution for all audiences.’
- Henry Sanoff, North Carolina State University, US

‘The world we inhabit is increasingly created by developers unconcerned about justice, facilitated by governments fiddling while democracy smoulders. This anthology searches for ways to reverse this trend. The contributors pose questions seldom raised in the making of the city. By asking the right questions they provide uniquely hopeful alternatives that show how to bend the arc of the universe towards justice.’
- Randolf T. Hester, University of California and Center for Ecological Democracy, US