

Milk Ponds and Butter Mountains: Narration of Urban Settings through Integral Landscapes

Jerry van Eyck, ASLA

[!Melk](#) New York

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Trained as a landscape architect and industrial designer, Jerry van Eyck's hybrid education has given him an unusual breadth and depth of knowledge that he applies to every project under his purview. His hybrid education has contributed to a portfolio comprised of a wide range of scales for venerated public spaces, gardens, parks, and urban masterplans. With an expansive breadth and depth of skill, he approaches each commission as a balancing act on both the macro-scale and micro levels. He investigates how public spaces fit into the larger context of a city's fabric and the urban experience, and then conversely turns his focus onto the basic elements of materiality, ornamentation, pattern, and distinguishing details in each project.

Jerry graduated Cum Laude from the Eindhoven Design Academy in 1992 and founded IRONYX, an Office/ Laboratory/ Workshop for Architecture Design. Over the next 7 years he managed and designed projects across Europe, many in collaboration with West 8 Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, from Rotterdam. In 1999 Mr. Van Eyck traded his own practice for full employment at West 8 and later became a partner in 2002. In February of 2010 Jerry left West 8 to join forces with Urban Designer Evan Rose and together they founded !melk.

To date, Jerry has collaborated with and led international teams on award-winning projects and competitions including: London's Jubilee Gardens, the 100 acres of Park for the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, One North Park in Singapore, Lincoln Park in Miami Beach, and the Pier 57 Masterplan in New York. One of his earliest involvements with West 8, Schouwburgplein, or "Theater Square," in Rotterdam, continues to be a model for contemporary urban square design, with custom furniture, iconic crane-like lights that park users can operate, and a trademarked hardscape pattern that has remarkably withstood the test of time.

In 2007, while he was a partner at West 8 he was the project director of the winning team working on the international design competition for the remaking of New York's Governors Island Park and Public Space. While still with West 8, Jerry was the managing principal for the masterplan stage of this prestigious project. Architect magazine quoted Jerry as identifying Governors Island as "the un-Central Park' for its nonurban condition and 'a sleeping beauty' for its untapped potential." In his vision, the new park will become not only a connection to its city as a lively retreat, but also a natural sanctuary.

Jerry is a guest professor and critic at design schools around the world, enabling him to spread his joy in the unexpected interplay of people and their environment. On April 22, he will deliver his presentation "Milk Ponds and Butter Mountains," a distinguishing portrayal of his most critical works as a landscape architect and master planner. He will illustrate his holistic approach to design and detailing by sharing how methodical research and analysis of urbanity can compliment and balance the designer's intuition.