



Martha Cecilia Fajardo P.

President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects

Born in Colombia, Martha studied Architecture in the University Piloto of Bogotá, after which she moved to England and studied in the Master degree course at Sheffield University, obtaining her Landscape Design Diploma in 1981.

Her nexus with the landscape architecture matters officially began in 1982 when, after her university training, she returned to Colombia and founded the Colombian Society of Landscape Architects (Sociedad Colombiana de Arquitectos Paisajistas—SAP). Martha was appointed its first President, serving for a period of 6 years, the same year she founded the private company Grupo Verde Ltda.

Grupo Verde Ltda is a firm dedicated to the professional practice of Landscape Architecture and Environmental planning, with emphasis on Urban Design and Planning. It is made up of a group of interdisciplinary professions: Planners, Urbanists, Architects, Urban Designers, Engineers, and specialists of Geology, Plants Taxonomy, under the leadership of the Landscape Architects. Since its founding, the firm has been engaged in projects varying greatly in size and requirements.

Martha has been a strong defender of the profession's role and has been active in the professional practice field, with her husband, the Japanese urbanist and landscape architect, Noboru Kawashima. The firm is one of the pioneers in the country, producing designs and directing projects from concept to completion and construction. The office was fully involved in the Open Spaces projects of Bogota Transformation.

Martha maintains an active involvement with the International Federation of Landscape Architects. In 1984 she attended for first time the World Council of the XXIIInd Congress, in Siofok, Hungary, a time and place where she met members who have influenced her life ever since. From 1988 to 1991, she served as the IFLA Vice-president of Western Region, completing her term at the IFLA World Congress in Cartagena, Colombia. Martha continued her involvement with the organisation as IFLA Western Region Newsletter Editor from 1997 to 2000.

On October 6 2002, in Riga, Latvia, Martha was elected IFLA President becoming first women president and first from the emerging world. In 2004 in Taiwan, she was re-elected for a further two years and completes her term at the 43rd IFLA World Congress 2006, which is being hosted by the American Society of Landscape Architects in Minneapolis, USA. ◦