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Analysis of ASLA Awards: Building a Stronger Landscape Architecture Program

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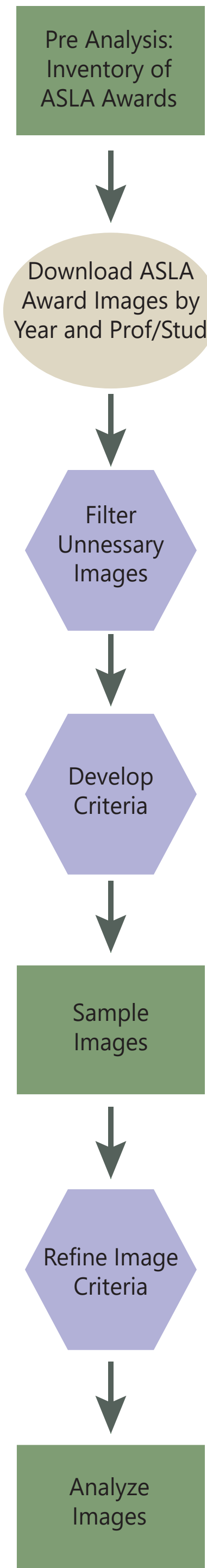
ANALYSIS OF ASLA AWARDS

BUILDING A STRONGER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Every year the American Society of Landscape Architects, otherwise known as ASLA, issues awards for exceptional designs and research in the field of Landscape Architecture. These awards include both Professional and Student awards. Our study analyzes 13,000 award-winning project images over the last 15 years to discover the common trends that create award winning projects. Recognizing these trends enables the USU Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning program, or LAEP, to set the bar high and help our students enter the field equipped to change the world. Our analysis of the creative flow, graphics, and styles in award winning projects can guide decisions for strengthening the LAEP program to benefit students.

METHODOLOGY



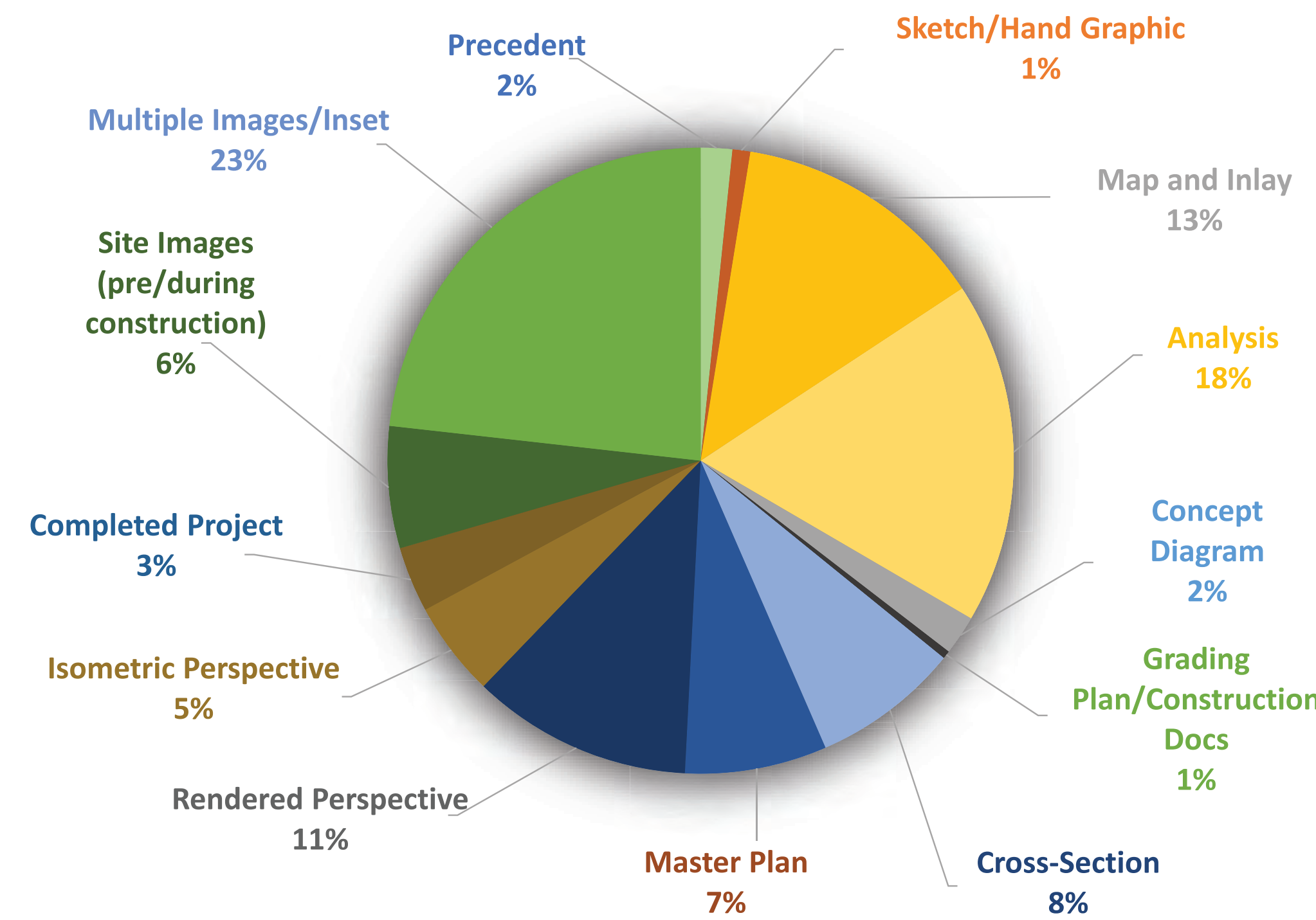
CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

- PRECEDENT: guides or examples from previous projects, includes structures, planting designs, pavers, etc
 - HAND GRAPHIC: graphics produced by hand, include but are not limited to children's sketches, hand rendered diagrams and perspectives
 - MAP INLAY: graphics using maps and depictions of areas around the sites
 - ANALYSIS: graphics portraying pre and post analysis of site and design aspects
 - CONCEPT DIAGRAM: diagrams that depict relationships between spaces, generally used for idea conception
 - CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS: written and graphic documents that communicate design and construction plans
 - CROSS SECTION: exposing a cut straight through a portion of the design to further illustrate the design
 - MASTER PLAN: a complete rendered diagram of the design and elements, usually rendered and from an aerial perspective
 - RENDERED PERSPECTIVE: a 3D snapshot of the completed site design, allows the viewer to experience and appreciate the site potential.
 - ISOMETRIC PERSPECTIVE: a 3D model on and oriented the plane to equal angles. Simultaneously shows cross sections along plane lines as well as use exploded isometrics to show multiple aspects of a design working together.
 - COMPLETED PROJECT: images of projects after completed construction
 - SITE IMAGES(pre/during construction): project sites before and during construction as well as images including people in the planning or building processes
 - MULTIPLE IMAGES: single downloads submitted to ASLA with more than one element of the previously defined images
- *Some images use multiple classifications

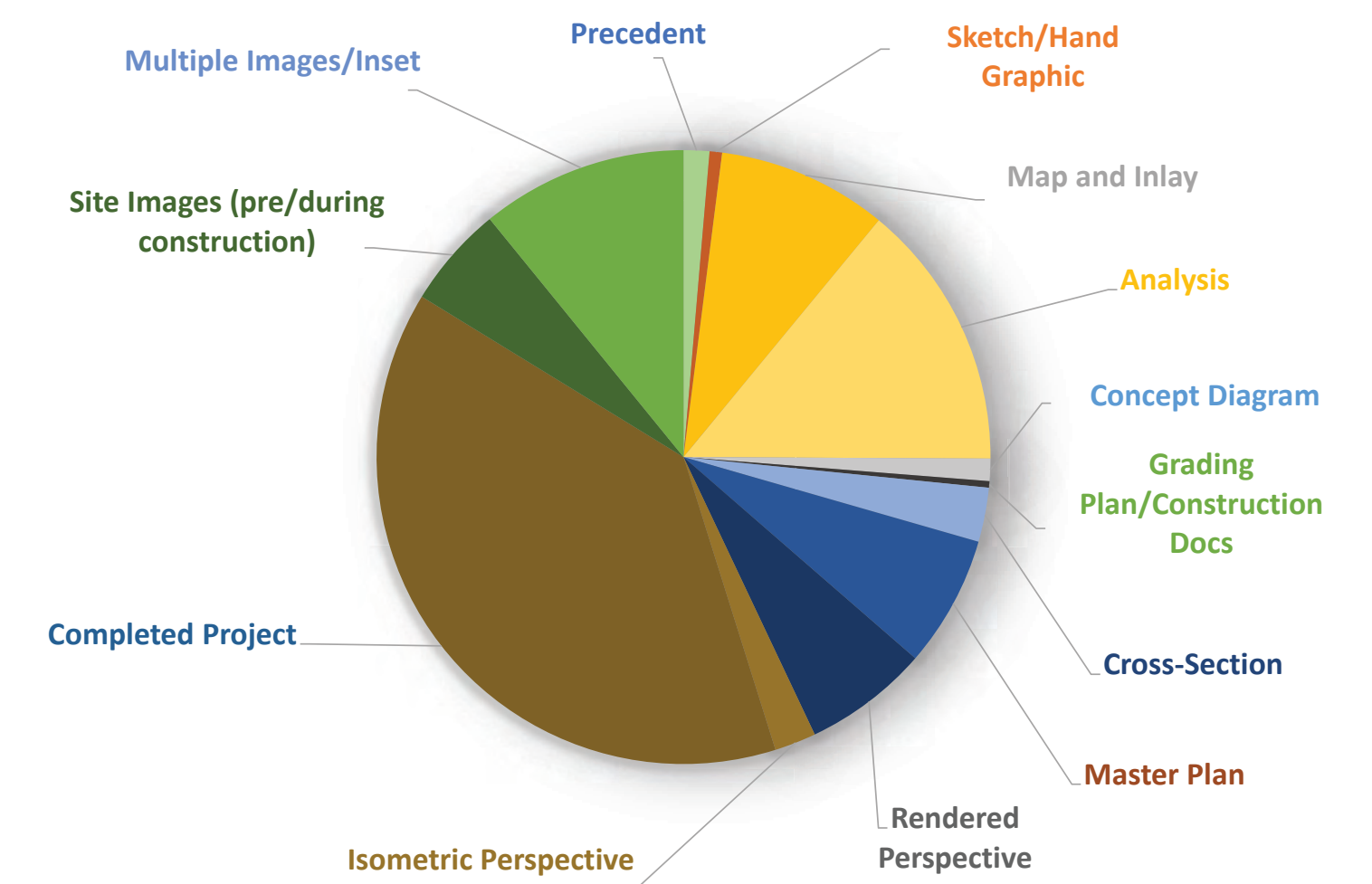


ANALYTICS

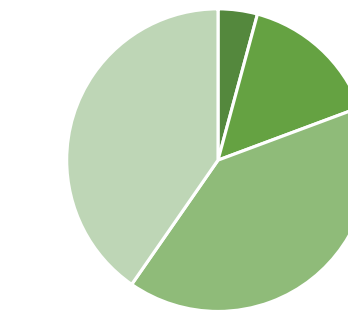
STUDENT - IMAGE TYPE DISTRIBUTION



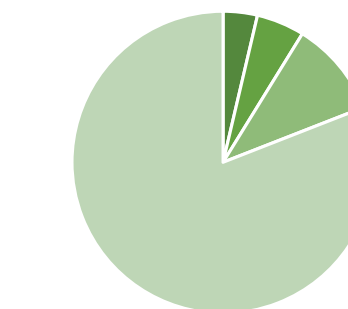
PROFESSIONAL - IMAGE TYPE DISTRIBUTION



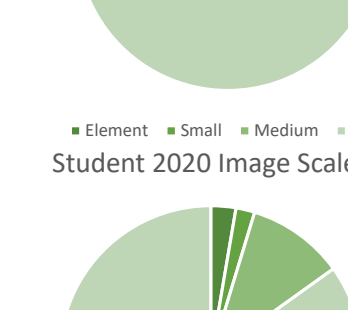
Student 2005 Image Scales



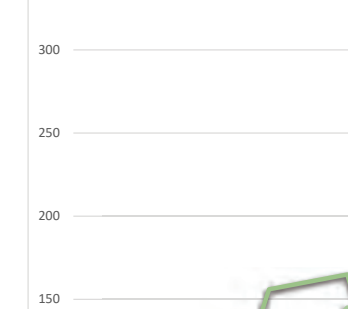
Student 2010 Image Scales



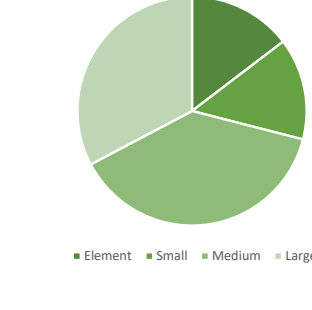
Student 2020 Image Scales



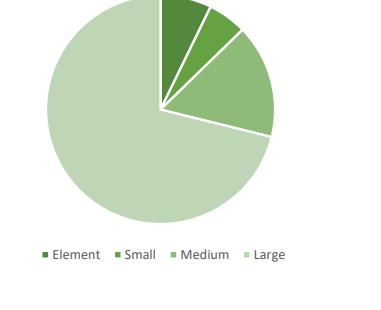
Professional 2005 Image Scale



Professional 2010 Image Scale



Professional 2015 Image Scale



Professional 2020 Image Scale

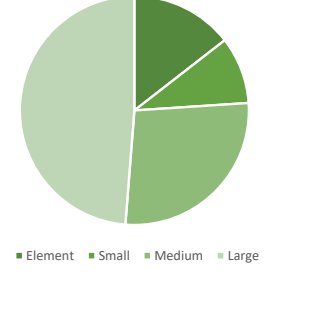


IMAGE TRENDS - STUDENT AWARDS

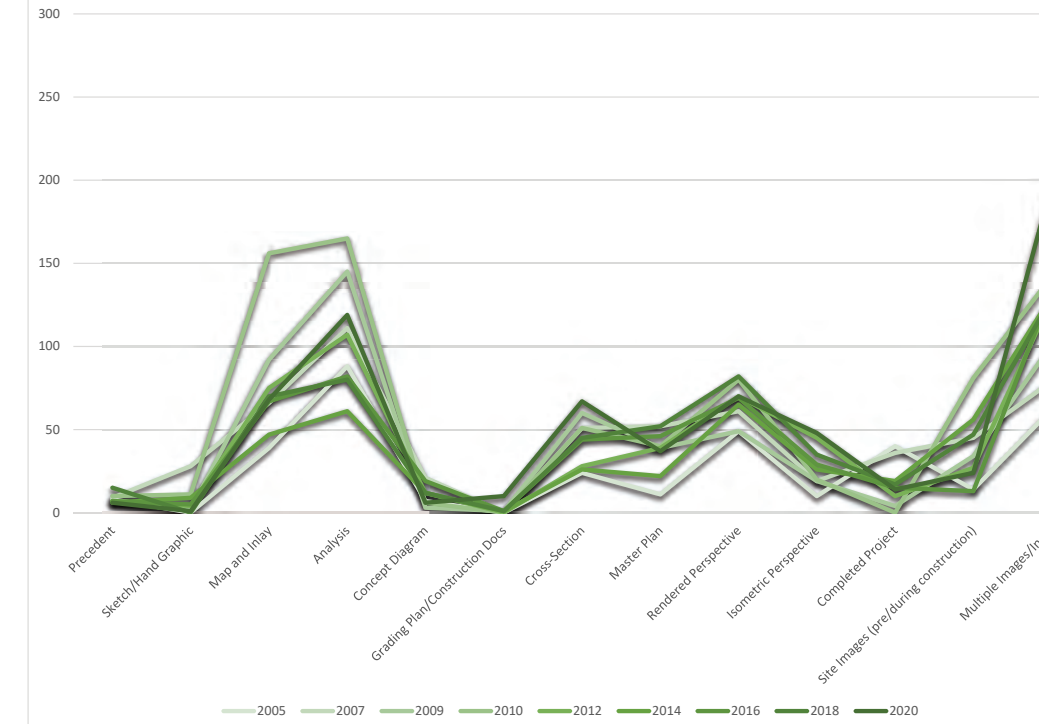
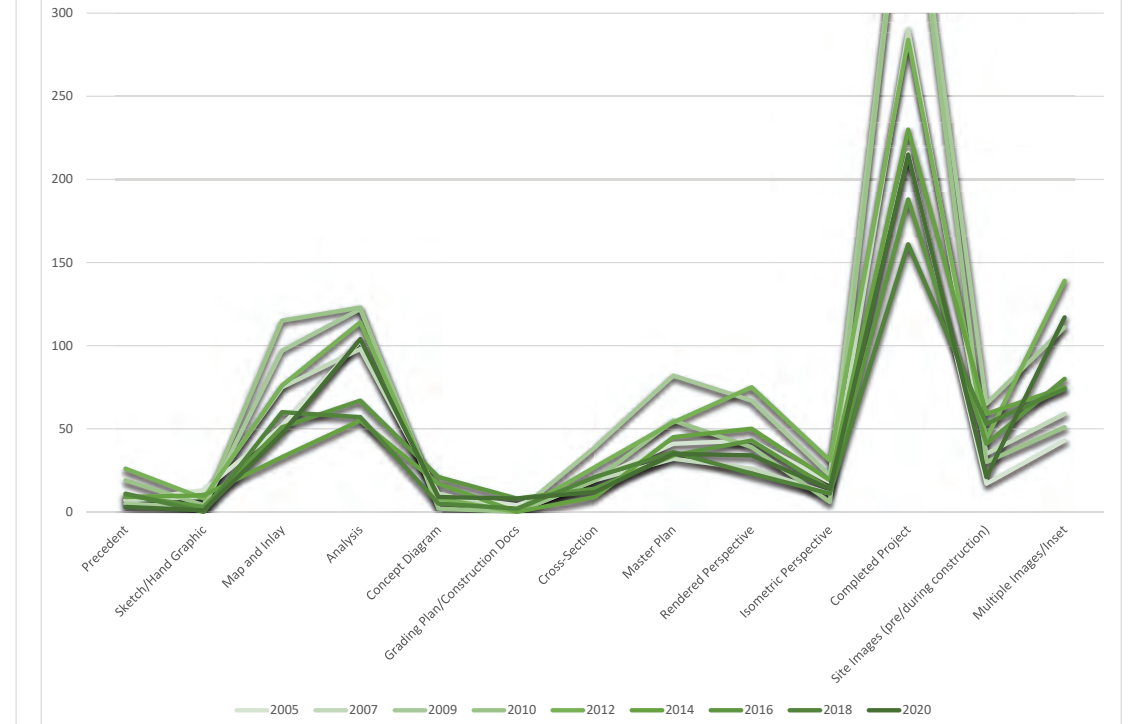


IMAGE TRENDS - PROFESSIONAL AWARDS



FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Our initial analysis has only scratched the surface! We plan to run analytics on the color palettes and saturation used in graphics, prevalent trends in graphic styles, as well as analytics on who has won awards and when. There is potential for this study to expand and involve professors from many universities, students, and the public to determine what mindset and expectation is present when Landscape Architecture is discussed. My favorite possibility is about to become a reality. We plan to create an image archive that is available to all Utah State Landscape Architecture Students in which all the graphics of award-winning projects can be accessed by 1- image type or 2-project year and award. This archive will give students access to the best examples from the last 15 years. It also allows students to be a part of initiating changes in the program for their educational benefit based on these examples. I have seen the benefits of being exposed to such a vast repertoire of high-quality graphics, especially since I categorized all 13,000 images individually. I have seen a vast effect on my desire to learn and my quality of production over the course of the last semester. My hope is that my many tedious hours of sorting will benefit my fellow students in a similar way!