

2002

These bamboo presented themselves between temple and garden in Kyoto's Saiho-ji, prelude and postlude to the moss garden itself, a short walk from the six trees on the cover of *The Language of Landscape*. Now, months later, they glow from my screen: downy green, blue, yellow green, grey. Colors tell culms' age: siblings, sprung from common roots; grove of grass, bamboo.

October in Japan was magical, a fairy tale. The Cosmos Prize for contributions to "the harmonious coexistence of nature and humankind" came as a wonderful surprise in July; the ceremony and festivities in October were magnificent and gracious. Details are on the Cosmos website, along with the commemorative lecture (www.expo-cosmos.or.jp).

While Basho's journeys were guides to landscapes of Japan in season, to shrine and temple, rice and bamboo, cicadas' song, Seamus Heaney's essays and poems were a primer to Ireland in May: from the shrill polemical landscapes of Belfast to those of whin, peat, lough, and strand, clachin and famine, in Inishowen, on the Isle of Doagh. An exhibit of photographs, some from Japan and Ireland, opens in April in Portland: www.aucocisco.com.

The West Philadelphia Landscape Project continues to unfold in unexpected ways, its stories ripe for telling. My course at MIT this spring explores how some of these stories may be told, their lessons passed on through the medium of the World Wide Web; follow the link on my homepage later this winter (web.mit.edu/spirn). The book on Mill Creek has morphed into three books. Now to find the time to write them...

Best wishes for the new year.



Grove of Grass. Anne Whiston Spirn. 2001.

2002

January

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December

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