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**DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE ANNOUNCES TWO NEW PROJECTS:
*CLOSING THE GAP: RETHINKING GRAND ARMY PLAZA AND
PARK DESIGN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY***

The Design Trust for Public Space is spearheading two new projects: *Closing the GAP: Rethinking Grand Army Plaza*, in partnership with the Grand Army Plaza Coalition; and *Park Design for the 21st Century*, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

"We're inspired by Mayor Bloomberg's remarkable vision for a greener New York City," said Deborah Marton, Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space. "These projects will work on two different scales to address primary objectives outlined in the Bloomberg Administration's PlaNYC: our work with the Parks Department will demonstrate how parks all across the city can be built more sustainably, and then at the local level, we will improve the functionality of a historic Brooklyn transportation hub."

Closing the GAP: Rethinking Grand Army Plaza will transform Brooklyn's most glorious traffic circle by improving its pedestrian and bicycle conditions. Working with the Grand Army Plaza Coalition (GAPCo), the Design Trust will create a new plan for this majestic Brooklyn gateway, incorporating a green pedestrian zone and redesigned traffic flows. Members of GAPCo include the Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Prospect Park Alliance.

Mr. Rob Witherwax, Coordinator of GAPCo said, "Grand Army Plaza was wonderfully conceived by Olmstead and Vaux but has failed its purpose since inception. With the expertise and guidance of the Design Trust, we will create a plan that brings together all that is wonderful about the neighborhood, citizens, and visitors."

Park Design for the 21st Century will show how state-of-the-art materials and technologies to conserve energy, save water, and improve the visitor experience can be incorporated in New York City parks. As part of this project, the Design Trust will publish *High Performance Landscape Guidelines* – the third in the Design Trust's trilogy of groundbreaking sustainable design manuals – helping the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation bring its 29,000 acres of parkland into the 21st century. The Design Trust's previous works, *High Performance Building Guidelines* (1999) and *High Performance Infrastructure Guidelines* (2005) effected a paradigm shift in the way that New York City is constructed. These publications have paved the way for recent environmentally-conscious initiatives, including new local laws that encourage high performance construction.

The Design Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality and understanding of New York City's public realm – from parks and plazas to streets and public buildings. Since its inception in 1995, the Design Trust has successfully completed over two-dozen projects, improving the urban experience for all New Yorkers.

Unique among New York's non-profits, the Design Trust selects its projects through an open call for proposals. A jury of architecture, planning, and design experts selected the winning 2008 projects: John Alschuler, President, HR&A Advisors, Inc.; Laurie Kerr, Senior Policy Advisor on Sustainability, Mayor's Office of Operations, City of New York; Bill Menking, Editor, *The Architect's Newspaper*; Sylvia Smith, Principal, FX FOWLE Architects; and Claire Weisz, Principal, Weisz + Yoes.

For a complete project listing, to download Design Trust publications, and to get information about the project selection process, please visit <http://www.designtrust.org>

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