

John Bela



Partner & Director ASLA

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John is an urbanist and public space designer based in San Francisco. He combines a background in art, science and environmental design to create vibrant, dynamic, and resilient urban human habitats. A pioneer in user-generated urbanism, John has successfully completed many projects that involve radical new formulations of social space.

John joined Gehl — San Francisco as an Urban Designer and Landscape Architect. Prior to joining Gehl, he was a Co-Founder and Partner of Rebar Group, where he created some of the group's most ground-breaking and memorable work such as: Park(ing) Day, Parklets, The Panhandle Bandshell, The Civic Center Victory Garden, Bubbleway, Parkcycle Swarm, and others.

Prior to founding Rebar, as a Landscape Designer at CMG Landscape Architecture, John worked on complex projects involving substantial streetscape, infrastructure, and public space components such as the Treasure Island Redevelopment Plan, Mint Plaza, and the Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Plan.

John is a Senior Lecturer at the California College of Arts in San Francisco and a Distinguished Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds degrees in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design from the University of California, Berkeley; Biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts; and Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. John is a registered landscape architect in California. RLA #5678