Hydraulic Landscapes

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Water has shaped the human landscape as profoundly and powerfully as it has the geological landscape. Whether visible in the built urban environment, or invisible in underground or remote locations, the material architecture of water diversion and management has posed parallel technological and cultural challenges. The engineers, planners, architects and patrons, civic or private, who have commissioned, designed and built these systems have faced different problems during different times and places. With these challenges come historical questions. What have been the benefits and costs of redirecting vast water supplies for agricultural, industrial, recreational and urban use? How do hydraulic technologies change landscapes or our perceptions of landscapes, whether industrial or agricultural, urban or cultural?

Papers for this session will consider how 'hydraulic landscapes'--around the globe and from antiquity to the present—have transformed human civilization, politically, environmentally, economically, culturally and socially. Studies of non-western regions and pre-modern topics, and projects that focus on cultural and social aspects, are especially welcomed.