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James Melsom (B.Hons Architecture, MAS Landscape Architecture ETH Zurich) has taught and conducted research since 2007 at the Chair of Landscape Architecture of Professor Christophe Girot at the ETH Zurich. He heads the Landscape Visualization and Modeling Lab (LVML), focused on the design and digital simulation of landscape processes and teaches landscape design at both the postgraduate and undergraduate levels. A regular contributor of conferences and design workshops, parallel to his roles at the Chair, he works as a registered Landscape Architect in Switzerland (BSLA) and in collaborations throughout Europe and Asia.

Jörg Rekittke is a skilled nursery gardener. He studied landscape architecture at the Technical University Berlin and l'École nationale supérieure du paysage Versailles and received his doctorate from Aachen University. He worked as a landscape architect in Berlin and Cologne and was cofounder and art director of Lenné3D GmbH. Since 2009, he has been Associate Professor in the Master of Landscape Architecture program, National University of Singapore. He also held positions at Aachen University and University of Wageningen.

Marcus Schmid, born 1950 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, studied architecture at the ETH Zurich, receiving his diploma in 1979. After working on both architectural and infrastructural projects within various firms in Graubünden, Schmid joined Konzett Bronzini Partner in Chur in 1999. He is a member of the Society for the Art of Civil Engineering (ETHZ) and the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA).

Every given site is specific and successful landscape design must respond to its given features. This means that before proposing a transformation of the site, one needs to understand its form. This issue of *Pamphlet* argues that it is impossible to design landscapes without a thorough knowledge of field instruments. These instruments measure the geometry of the land, observe and describe physical features, and finally help to conceive the “Topology” of a landscape. *Field Instruments of Design* assesses what they actually measure, what they reveal, and how they have long influenced the course of landscape architecture.

