

Che-Wei (Vincent) Yi

Thirteen years ago Vincent's family immigrated to the United States with the hope that he and his sister would have a better education and career opportunities. They labored through 12-hour work days, always stressing the importance of higher education. Through their sacrifice Vincent discovered his passion for landscape architecture. His upbringing also influenced his approach as a designer and the importance of giving back to those in need.

Working in the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Maryland revealed the urgent need in landscape design to aid in the revitalization of underserved communities. This area of design work is not as high profile as such projects as the High Line (a 1.45-mile-long linear park built in Manhattan) or Millennium Park (a public park located in the Loop community of Chicago) but is just as valuable and rewarding.

As a teaching assistant he worked with undergraduates at Baltimore's Sandtown-Winchester community in a master planning effort. He was inspired by the community leaders' enthusiasm and hard work to create an environment that will return the area to the once vibrant neighborhood. He also worked as a volunteer for other communities in West Baltimore to develop areas for gathering, play and relaxation. He initiated a relationship with Druid Heights CDC and plans on continuing this connection as a professional.

His completion of the Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland will provide the basis of his personal master plan to be a part of the urban community revitalization.