

SEPT09

LAND MARK



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AILA National Notes

AILA's National Climate Change Projects

The Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Program

The Commonwealth funded program, Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Program, has now entered the second year of its three years of operation. This second stage will be using the Landscape Principles developed through the first stage to develop CPD modules to assist the profession in dealing with adaptation and mitigation for climate change.

The Research Officer for this stage is Jane Tarran.

Climate Adaptation Tools for Sustainable Settlements (CATSS)

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects has currently started working on another Commonwealth funded project in partnership with the CSIRO and the International Federation of Landscape Architects to undertake a review of rating tools and strategies for climate change adaptation & mitigation in urban landscape planning, design and management.

This project (reporting in June 2010) involves evaluating climate adaptation and sustainability assessment tools which are either currently in use or under development in Australia and overseas, with an aim of recommending best practice exemplars for potential future adoption and support at both government and industry level.

The National Project Manger, Catherine Neilson, is overseeing this initiative.

National New Leaders Scholarship

Special announcements were made at the National Conference in Melbourne introducing two new scholarships (to replace former awards) for New Leaders within Landscape Architectures.

The two new scholarships are to be titled after two of the profession's leaders.

The first to be offered this year is the Bruce Mackenzie New Leadership for Landscape Architecture. The second to be offered in 2010 is the Jim Sinatra New Leadership Award in Landscape Architecture.

The two scholarships will be offered on a rotating basis with the first winner to be announced in conjunction with an event to be staged at the Gallery of Australian Design in Canberra—date to be confirmed.

A profile on Bruce Mackenzie has been placed online: www.aila.org.au/profiles

The award includes a travel/CPD scholarship to the value of \$3,000.

Submissions are now open: www.aila.org.au/futureleaders

Submissions close Friday 30 October 2009

The AILA Registration Scheme

The AILA's new national registration scheme is now well established. The major change this year was the extension of the mentorship period from six months to twelve months. This means that with the two years of post graduate practice (prior to applying to commence the mentorship), effectively the minimum period of practice for a graduate is now three and half years before being accepted as a Registered Landscape Architect.

The National Office is now exploring options to establish some online units that all applicants for registration will need to undergo and complete. The need for these units has been identified through feedback from mentors and assessors in previous rounds of mentorship. The units will address contractual and legal matters as well as other key practice and professional issues. These new units are planned to be introduced first in 2010 but will be added to over time.

Education Policy

The National Council has circulated a number of consultations paper on the possible make-up of a new Education Policy and Accreditation Standards.

The first consultation paper, circulated in April this year, was mainly well received with many members sending back comments and suggestions. Issues were raised collectively by programs through a special letter to National Council.

National Council again had some intensive debates on the issues raised and a second consultation paper was then circulated for final comments. This paper provided an overview of the comments received and also directions being taken in.

In response to particular matters raised, expert advice was sought to clarify issues and to identify the best way to deal with them in the context of the policy process.

National Council met in mid September and one of the key agenda items was the Education Policy.

Once a policy has been confirmed by National Council, adjustments will then be quickly made to the Accreditation processes to align them to the new policy and these will then be used for the accreditation of programs.

Wages Survey

The National Office has published online the 2009 national survey of wages, www.aila.org.au/surveys

Thank you again to the members who completed the survey.

The BEDP

The Australian Council of the Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) has been through significant changes this financial year.

As has been reported elsewhere, several key partners no longer saw their future advocacy efforts as being in association with the other partners within BEDP. This remains an unfortunate move.

However, the present BEDP partners have moved on and have been very active in advocacy and remain open to any or all of the former partners rejoining the BEDP some time in the future.

Given the current urgent needs for joint advocacy on the built environment in the context of Climate Change, it would certainly be of benefit to all (including our society and all the professions) to be able to present one joint voice on issues to all levels of government.

To paraphrase one of AILA's senior members:

"One can't help thinking there is too much parallel work going on in the area of the built environment and climate change, which seems to be a waste of resources, silos and an unproductive turf war about who should be leading us to a sustainable future.

A sad case in point is to witness the Green Building Council of Australia undergoing research in the area of rating tools for precincts and urban spaces when they could easily review and adopt the USA's LEED Neighbourhood...it is not a million miles from what we can use in Australia and the US Green Building Council and their partners have spent over a decade and millions of dollars getting to where they are.

All this messing around—time is getting short—we need to move on to providing solutions."

Footnote: Very soon the AILA will be represented by a newly appointed representative to BEDP: Robert Cooper, General Manager, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design CPG Australia Pty Ltd.

Gallery of Australian Design

The AILA has partnered with the AIA, National Museum and the University of Canberra to oversee the establishment of the Australian Gallery of Design – to be located in the POD Gallery at Commonwealth Place in Canberra. An official opening was in June and the AILA is looking forward to a diverse and engaging range of exhibitions about Design – in all its forms.

Sunburnt: Australian Practices of Landscape Architecture is an exhibition of contemporary Australian landscape architectural projects from the last ten years. The exhibition consists of large format images, project documentation, aerials, rainfall density table, and artist's books by Marian Macken.

Drawing on projects from five Australian states and the ACT, the exhibition curators have brought together 17 projects that demonstrate what the profession of landscape architecture is, what it does, and its impact on our public realm. It is a celebration of contemporary landscape architecture and its future directions.

The showing of this exhibition at the Gallery of Australian Design allows for a national audience and a national support of our profession which is fitting given that Canberra itself is a demonstration of 20th century Australian Landscape Architecture. The exhibition of **Sunburnt: Australian Practices of Landscape Architecture** at the Gallery of Australian Design is a forerunner to its international appearance at the Barcelona Biennale in 2010.

For more information, the gallery web site: www.gad.org.au

Dates: 15th September–18th October

For more information contact the curators: Dr SueAnne Ware and Julian Raxworthy.



A Publication of the
**Australian
Institute of
Landscape
Architects**

www.aila.org.au

Gallery of Australian Design Exhibition Proposals

The National Office would like to hear from members thinking about an exhibition. We are very interested in all aspects of DESIGN.

The AILA is a partner in the management of the space and will therefore pass on your proposals to the Manager—who is expected to be appointed soon.

2009 Margaret Hendry Talk

Presented by Bruce Mackenzie

DESIGN in the Landscape

The AILA had established the Margaret Hendry talk several years. For 2009 this talk is being presented in the Gallery of Australian Design—most likely on the evening of Wed 9th December.

The AIA ACT will present its talk (the Walter Griffin Talk) in the first week of December.

So there are two events for your CPD diary. And the AILA talk will conclude with the AILA ACT end of year Christmas party.

Watch for final dates and times in the national communiqué.

Future Council Policy Directions

Australian Landscape Principles: This work has been completed and has resulted in an online and hard copy pamphlet to be used by member for advocacy

Green Infrastructure: Linked to the above, a new pamphlet was completed in July and was also uploaded and circulated.

Landscape Architecture in Australia: a new advocacy pamphlet was published and joins the former two a suite of three to be used for advocacy.

Sustainable Settlement: The AILA took the lead with the BEDP partners to develop a key policy on Sustainable Settlement. This paper has been used for advocacy by the BEDP. The AILA will also be developing its own advocacy Sustainable Settlement pamphlet based on the larger document and with links directly back to the full version.

In conjunction with the BEDP, a new advocacy position has been developed on the National Registration of the built environment design professionals and another on Sustainability. Other papers being developed by Council will address the future directions being undertaken by the AILA in education and in developing research partnerships.

Policy papers can be accessed via the web site:
www.aila.org.au/policies

First Announcement

The 47th IFLA World Congress, Suzhou, China, 2010

The 47th IFLA World Congress will be hosted by International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) and Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture (CHSLA), supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China and Department of Construction of Jiangsu Province, and organized by Suzhou People's Government, in Suzhou, China, 28–30 May, 2010.

Theme Responding to Nature to Achieve Harmony and Prosperity
—Traditional Inheritance and Sustainable Development.

Sessions

- Session 1** Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Session 2** Eco-system Construction
- Session 3** Landscape Planning & Design
- Session 4** Landscape Architectural Education
- Session 5** Landscape Construction & Technology
- Session 6** Landscape Management
- Session 7** Landscape Plants

Program:

- 25 (Tuesday) May** IFLA Executive Committee Meeting, Student Charette
- 26 (Wednesday)–27 (Thursday) May** IFLA World Council Meeting, Student Charette, Registration
- 28 (Friday)–30 (Sunday) May** IFLA World Congress
- 31(Monday) May–1 (Tuesday) June** Post-congress technical tour to Shanghai World Expo and more.

Venue Suzhou International Conference Centre and Suzhou Central Hotel

Exhibitions and Fair IFLA Development Exhibition, World Cultural Landscape Exhibition, IFLA Student Competition Exhibition, China Landscape Architectural Achievements Exhibitions, China LA Education Exhibition and Landscape Architectural Industry Fair.

Call for Papers Deadline for Abstracts 30 November 2009
Deadline for full papers 31 March 2010

Congress Proceedings Publication May 2010

IFLA Student Competition **Theme:** Responding to Nature to Achieve Harmony and Prosperity
—Traditional Inheritance and Sustainable Development.
Registration and Submission deadline: 31 March 2010

Congress Website Working from 12 October 2009

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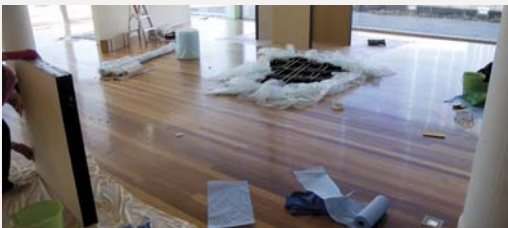
sunburnt

Australian Practices of Landscape Architecture

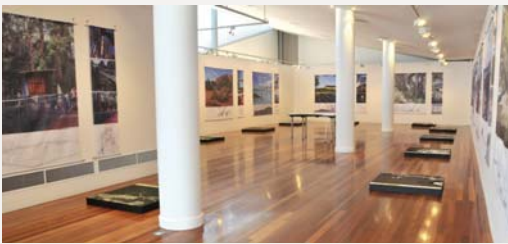
Sunburnt: Australian Practices of Landscape Architecture is an exhibition of contemporary Australian landscape architectural projects from the last ten years. The exhibition consists of large format images, project documentation, aerials, rainfall density table, and artist's books by Marian Macken.

Sunburnt is on exhibition in Canberra at the new Gallery of Australian Design (GAD). The exhibition has been curated by the RMIT Design Research Institute, Urban Liveability Program and the QUT School of Design.

www.gad.org.au



scenes from the installation



exhibition complete and ready for an audience



Dr SueAnne Ware shows Gary Rake (CEO National Capital Authority) around the exhibition



The Launch of Sunburnt in Canberra Gallery of Australian Design

Tuesday 15 September

Exhibition open till 18 October 2009

Photographs by Petra Wiesner



Gary Rake (CEO National Capital Authority)





Speakers: Dr Dianne Firth (Gallery Co-ordinator), Neil Hobbs (AILA National President), Gary Rake (CEO National Capital Authority), Dr SueAnne Ware (Exhibition Curator)

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night view



views of the exhibition opening

National Advocacy

<http://www.aila.org.au/advocacy>

In August this year a paper appeared titled, *Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities—Consultation Draft* as a result of a one day event here in Canberra; one in which the AILA has no role.

The following is the AILA's response which was also sent through to Minister Garrett with a request for an appointment to discuss the issues.

BEMP: Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities

The following is a response to the recent publication 'Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities—Consultation Draft', which was presented for audience discussion at the Built Environment Meets Parliament (BEMP) event held in Canberra on 12th August 2009.

As the document appears to have been presented (via this event) to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as a supposedly representative, industry-based consultative position on an issue of such national significance, The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) feels it is important to offer an alternative viewpoint for the Department's consideration.

It is the AILA's view that the *BEMP: Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities* could have been so much more—both in the manner in which it has been developed, as well as in the content it purports to convey as representative of the collected views of key stakeholder groups within the built environment, including design professionals.

To assist, key issues of concern have been detailed on the following pages:

1. Limited representative status of the BEMP Event

The BEMP is an event-based coalition of paying subscribers set up to lobby parliament at a particular time of the year on issues relating to the built environment.

As such it is not to be confused as being an organizational entity with the status or authority to devise and promote policy on behalf of either industry or built environment design professionals as a whole.

The absence of any clear consultative process for the development of the *BEMP: Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities* further undermines the credibility of the stated 'industry-representative' nature of the views expressed therein. This is a lost opportunity, resulting in a flawed document.

2. Consultative process of document development

The document, despite being labelled 'Consultation Draft', does not appear to have been produced with reference to a clear consultative process. It does not specify either the consultation framework within which it was developed, nor avenues for key built environment stakeholder groups to engage in review or analysis of what has been proposed.

Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental principle of any planning process, and indeed is even quoted as a "Model Planning Framework Principle" itself ("*Principle 3—Maximise civic engagement—strategic planning must advance community participation and civic engagement*", pg. 8)—yet it appears that this entire document has been generated without the most basic methodology of stakeholder consultation.

3. Systems thinking methodology

The lack of an underpinning consultation strategy in developing this document is immediately apparent in the limitations of its structural approach and content.

While there is emerging national and international consensus amongst built environment design professionals on the need for broader-scale, big-picture systems thinking when developing planning strategies for sustainable communities of the future, the *BEMP: Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities* unfortunately reflects none of this current awareness.

The 'targeted performance indicators' outlined in the BEMP document (pg. 13) propose a range of sustainability parameters—albeit extremely limited and poorly defined—which collectively determine sustainable communities for 'urban areas', classifying them under headings as either 'environmental', 'social', 'economic' or 'governance' issues.

The structure of the proposed strategic framework appears to infer that by simply 'measuring' individual indicators, performance benchmarks & targets can be established against which progress towards 'sustainability' can subsequently simply be 'added up'.

If only planning sustainable communities was that simple.

Unfortunately, however, the challenges involved operate across much broader spatial scales, and encompass far more dynamically complex expressions of built form:

"Human settlement in Australia occurs in small, large and also in sprawling interconnected communities. Individual communities may be in decline. They may be about to expand and join-up in a spate of rapid growth (as may happen on our eastern coastal strip). The size of a community may be inversely related to the size of its relative ecological footprint, or the damage caused to inhabitants—depending on its prevailing form of livelihood, sensitivity of environmental features, the specific impact of climate change there, and other sustainability parameters.

It is thus a narrow view to consider that the challenges of sustainable settlement in Australia relate only to so-called urban development."

(Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) National Sustainable Settlement Policy, 2009, pg. 7)

What the BEMP proposed framework does not accommodate is the complex reality of how sustainability influences *interact with each other across a range of landscape scales and settlement types*.

For example, how decision-making concerning energy, waste, water, transport, green infrastructure, public space and residential communities *both impacts upon and is influenced by* environmental, social, economic and governance conditions at site, neighbourhood, metropolitan, regional and national levels.

It also does not acknowledge that a collaboratively-based, integrative process designed to understand and creatively manage the dynamic nature of these interrelationships is crucial to developing meaningful, long term sustainability solutions for future communities.

The framework as set out in the BEMP document lacks any mechanism to examine the linkages and connections across different settlement scales between sustainability parameters.

Even more critically the document fails to acknowledge the role of design, technology and innovation in addressing the urgent challenges of retrofitting existing human settlements as well as creating sustainable communities of the future.

4. A 'Principled' approach to sustainable communities?

The stated objective of the *BEMP: Principles for Planning Sustainable Communities* is "*to provide a model, principles-based framework about the shape and form that strategic plans for cities and our communities should take.*" (pg. 4).

The term 'principle' is commonly defined as an important underlying assumption; a proposition which forms the basis of reasoning or action; a fundamental tenet or truth, etc.

As such, this document could reasonably be expected to articulate the critical values and aspirations which should underpin decision-making on the shape and form of sustainable communities of the future.

Unfortunately the BEMP document assiduously avoids this central issue, choosing to focus virtually exclusively on process and governance issues. As a result, its potential applicability and relevance to broader sustainability outcomes is immeasurably diminished.

It is AILA's considered position that, **at the most fundamental level, a principles-based framework for sustainable communities should rigorously address the essential reality that human settlements are complex, evolving social-ecological systems which are dependent on the health of their associated natural environments for ongoing sustainability.**

There are many examples of values-based approaches to planning which respect this basic interdependence and seek to build on its value for future generations—the Melbourne 'Principles for Sustainable Cities' provides an excellent Australian model, for example (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Principles).

The BEMP strategy would have been greatly assisted by referring to such approaches as part of a genuinely collaborative engagement process with the wide range of key stakeholders interested in promoting the development of truly sustainable outcomes within the context of the Australian built environment.

<http://www.aila.org.au/advocacy/>

Books being read and Recommended for your CPD

Professor Richard Weller's BOOMTOWN

The focus of this book fits in well with the new national policy on Sustainable Settlement.

As Richard said recently: 'According to the ABS the population of Australia could reach 42 million by 2056. Just as Boomtown 2050 dealt with one city and its predicted doubling. Where and in what form will an extra 21 million people live? You realise of course that this figure means we need to build 5 new Sydney's in the next 40 years!'

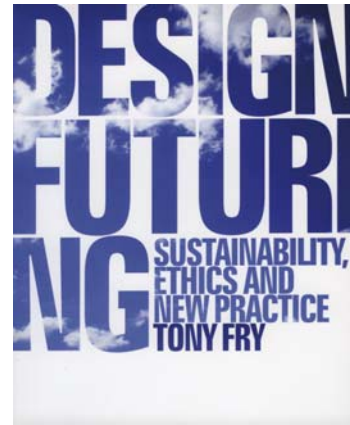
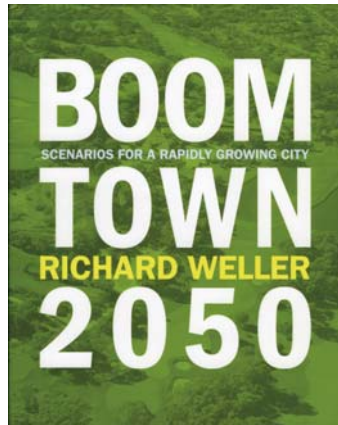
So we can tell you now where Richard's next research is heading...

Be great to hear from others about their research directions.

And following on from a recent ABC National program, we have picked up a copy of Design Futuring by Tony Fry.

A good read. Someone who is seeing the role of Design as centre to the solutions for our environmental issues. And again, as in the Sustainable Settlement policy, someone who sees that we have to move away from thinking in silos—and deal with the interrelationships and complexities.

Are there books being read within your practice? – make contact and let us know about them.



06

International Federation of Landscape Architects ASIA Pacific Region

John Easthope

On a recent trip to Korea for an Asia Pacific Region meeting and congress I had the opportunity to stay in Songdo, Incheon, a satellite city 45km from Seoul.

Songdo is one of three cities under construction each with a projected population of around 2.5m. The three cities to be developed as an International Free Economic Zone that would encourage expats to live in an accessible environment free from the language barrier.

The three cities Songdo, Yeongjiong and Cheongna are set to transform the old Incheon from a manufacturing based economy to a knowledge based one.

Each of the three major districts will take on a special function, Songdo will focus on the biomedical field and global education institutes: Yeongjiong will focus on transportation and logistics hub, and Cheongna will host a robot themed amusement park.

To support the future large population Songdo has invested a considerable amount of capital to provide the ultimate infrastructure, such inground services, roads and parks.

The city has been under construction for the last 3 years with the ultimate population expected to peak around 2020. This enormous commitment to providing facilities up front leaves the impression of a city with out soul.

Lots more online: www.aila.org.au/roamings



A city on landfill



Floating grasses

NZILA Conference 2010, 15-17 April
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

The Power of Landscape

The landscape shapes our lives and our culture.
It generates powerful feelings within us – feelings that easily ignite into controversy and debate.

Aimed at stimulating fresh thinking in dealing with contentious landscape issues,
The Power of Landscape conference will be of interest to planning and design professionals,
resource and environmental policy and decision makers, community and private sector interests.

Expressing the tensions X
Finding our limits X
Towards Resolutions X

Registrations open in October

www.nzila.co.nz/thepoweroflandscape
New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects 0800 THE NZILA (0800 843 694)

Land
scape¹⁰

The Power of Landscape
NZILA Conference
Wellington 15-17 April 2010



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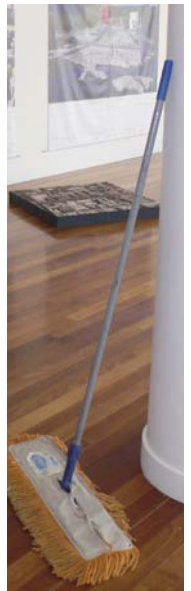
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