

APR04

LAND MARK



In this issue

- 01 Refining the Registration Scheme Tony Cox
- 02 Submissions for Awards
- 04 A future for landscape architecture
- 05 Vic & Tas 2003 Design Awards
- 06 Tasmanian visit

- 02 2004 National Conference
- 03 Yarralumla Nursery – A Potted History
- 05 Postcard from Coastal Victoria Tim Hart
- 06 Adelaide Bushtops Project
- 07 Postcard – A day in the Life of Jim Sinatra



Caldew Park Playground

Another one of those small local sites that on the surface probably look like just another playground. However, as is the case with this one, they come packed with layers of wonderful stories about how the project was developed, community involvement and the challenges that had to be overcome by landscape architects.

Tecton Projects, Hobart City Council

Refining the Registration Scheme

AILA National President Tony Cox

The AILA National Council has recently been considering the ongoing operations of its Registration Scheme. Last year there was considerable debate both at National Council and through state group meetings about the operations of the scheme. More recently Council had to consider some legal advice received just before Christmas 2003 as well as some information from the Registration Board in relation to finances and the predicted viability of the scheme.

National Council wishes to stress that a process for registration of landscape architects is to continue. The question that the National Council is considering is what form best suits the needs of the profession as well as those of public and private clients across all states.

At its meeting at the end of March in Canberra, National Council will be considering the issues and proposing a model for registration that will:

- Ensure the long term financial viability of a landscape professions registration scheme.
- Clearly define the current status of the scheme within the corporate structure of AILA.
- Over time deliver a large pool of registrants that will ensure the relevance of the scheme to client groups.
- Deliver a system that is more accessible and desirable to AILA members, while retaining a high level of independent assessment for members to become registered.
- Clearly define the basis for registration as opposed to Associate Membership.

The refinement of the registration scheme is to be undertaken over the next few months and will include a period of review and consultation with the membership. Registration continues to be a critical issue in the development of the profession. I urge you to make your position clear to National Council. It is intended to implement an agreed registration scheme before mid year. To this end, Council will be debating models for a refined registration system at its national meeting in Canberra 26th & 27th March. This will be followed by member review. Throughout this process, Councillors wish to ensure that confidence in the registration scheme is maintained and extended.

In relation to the above, and as result of recent decisions by the Council, some interim arrangements have been implemented immediately. The National Council has already agreed to the following:

- That the operations of the Board are to be reduced as an interim measure until the new agreed process of registration is in operation.
- That there is to be an immediate reduction of the Board membership to three, being the three present registered landscape architects on the Board.
- That the processing of any new applications for registration is suspended until the refined scheme is in place.
- That for those registrants who are due to renew their registration by the end of this financial year, they have been notified that the period of registration is to be extended till mid August. These same registrants were informed that it is expected that they will still have to supply details of their CPD at that time. It is anticipated that renewal notices will be sent out in June/July once the scheme has been confirmed.

Until the refined registration scheme is in place, most current activities of the present Registration Board are being suspended. In particular, as part of cost reduction strategies, the National Office is to immediately take over administrative and financial tasks in relation to registration.

Finally, I must emphasise that these actions and cost saving measures are not meant to indirectly or directly imply any criticism of the present Board. In fact I wish to thank the current Board for successfully overseeing the establishment phase of the Registration Scheme. Through the efforts of the Board, the following has been achieved:

- A high take-up of registration in the initial years
- Establishment of a financial surplus to enable the registration to continue through the tough years always envisaged at the cessation of the 'grandparent' clause
- Fully repaid the original AILA establishment loan
- Growing recognition by legislators and some client groups of the value and relevance of the AILA sponsored scheme as a leader in professional regulation

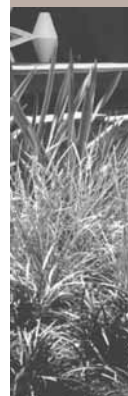
The next phase in the Registration Scheme seeks to consolidate these results and build on them to ensure the long-term viability of Registration. Registration should continue to develop as a process for professional regulation that is understood and valued by all Landscape Architects and their clients. It is important that as many members as possible are actively involved in the discussions over the coming months.



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

www.aila.org.au

FREE WORKSHOP Using Recycled Organics in Major Developments



Learn how to use recycled organic products for landscaping in major development projects to conserve water; reduce fertiliser use and erosion; improve aesthetics and enhance plant establishment.

Workshops will be held in April and May 2004 and will suit landscape architects, landscaping contractors and engineers.

Book your place now!

Visit www.resource.nsw.gov.au and go to "What's New" to view the workshop program and access details on how to register, or phone Labibeh Barhoumeh on 02 8837 6045.



Department of
Environment and Conservation (NSW)

THE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2004

Download the information and forms: www.aila.org.au/awards
National Jury announced: www.aila.org.au/2004nationaljury

The AILA Landscape Architecture Project Awards promote and advance the profession of landscape architecture by:

- Fostering public awareness and recognition of the work of landscape architects;
- Encouraging good practice by members of the landscape profession;
- Creating local, regional, national and global recognition for Australian Landscape Architects.

Categories

- Design
- Planning
- Environment
- Research and Communication

Levels of Awards

The National Award in Landscape Architecture:

One award for Excellence from any category may be selected by the judges for this award which acknowledges outstanding achievement in landscape architecture.

Within each of the four categories, the following levels of awards may be granted:

Award for Excellence in Landscape Architecture

This is the highest award within each of the four categories. **One** outstanding project from each of the categories of Design, Planning, Environment, and Research & Communication may be selected by the judges for this Award which acknowledges outstanding achievement in the category.

Merit Award in Landscape Architecture

This award may be awarded to projects deemed to be of a meritorious nature within any of the four categories.

Commendation Award in Landscape Architecture.

This award may be awarded to projects deemed to be worthy of commendation within any of the four categories.

Under normal circumstances, to submit to the national awards, **a project must have been submitted to a previous state awards.** National project submissions will not be accepted on projects that have not been submitted to a state award.

Entry forms ARE NOW available ONLINE through www.aila.org.au/awards

The fully completed project entry forms, fees and materials as stipulated are to reach the National Office by Monday 3rd May 2004.

Entries to be submitted to:
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
GPO BOX 1646
Canberra ACT 2601

The Awards Presentation will be held at the award dinner, Friday 1st October, as part of national conference in Brisbane.



Mawson sculpture on Hobart wharf

02

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS now open
www.aila.org.au/2004
200 MILE CITY
...designing a sustainable urban future

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
National Conference
29 Sept–2 Oct 2004 Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

The "200 mile city" refers to the future reality of one city stretching from the Tweed in Northern NSW to Noosa in Queensland, enveloping the region's most valuable assets – its coastal landscape, open spaces and local communities.

The reality of the 200 mile city exists elsewhere in Australia, the broader Asia Pacific region and throughout the world.

This conference will look at past, present and future ways to deal with the environmental, cultural, social and economic implications of this phenomenon.

Speakers from across Australia and around the globe will challenge accepted norms and suggest sustainable outcomes and innovative site responses that create new forms of green within our ever-growing urban environments.

The conference themes and discussions will be highly relevant to government, planners, architects, landscape architects, developers and any other stakeholders interested in the sustainable development of our future urban environments.

Conference details now online: www.aila.org.au/2004

03



Hobart Place Redevelopment, West Civic Canberra
DSB Landscape Architects, Canberra

The site for the staging of the inaugural ACT awards cocktail evening, 26th March 2004

Yarralumla Nursery – A Potted History

The concept of Canberra as a garden city has always been an important aspect of the overall program for the National Capital's development. Early in the city's history it was realised that trees and shrubs would have to be raised locally if the garden city concept was to be achieved.

Origins

The first government nursery was established in about 1911 on 3 acres of sandy alluvial soil at Acton on the site of the National Museum and the first trials to establish suitable species were planted there during 1912 and 1913.

Thomas Weston, the first Superintendent, recommended that the nursery move to Yarralumla and work was started in 1914, the first plant being produced in 1916. The production nursery occupied more than 28 hectares (70 acres). Until the early 1970s some of this area was used for the Parks and Gardens research department and the Department of Health Plants Quarantine. Another 130 hectares (330 acres) was to be used for various permanent plantings. All of this larger area became part of *Westbourne Woods* (now Royal Canberra Golf course) or Weston Park.

Plantings

Many of the mature trees seen around the nursery date back to experimental planting by Thomas Weston including the first results of the hybridisation of *Eucalyptus* species. The windbreaks and entrance borders were planted between 1915 and 1920. An experimental orchard with a large range of varieties was planted in 1916–17. The Heritage Listed "English Garden" forms a large part of what is now the southern boundary of the nursery

Functions

The chief roles were to:

- propagate and supply plants for public landscaping in Canberra, tenants and owners of houses in Canberra and rural leases
- conduct research into plants suitable for the region
- supply potted plants and cut flowers as requested for government institutions in Canberra
- supply seed and plant material to research institutions and government nurseries outside Canberra.

As the nursery grew it became a large and fundamental part of Parks and Gardens and the development of Canberra as a whole.

Yarralumla Nursery is now operated by the ACT Government as a self funded business enterprise and comprises two sites: 10 hectares (25 acres) at Yarralumla where plants are propagated, wholesale plants are dispatched and where the retail garden centre serves the general public; and 21 hectares (52 acres) at the Pialligo annexe where deciduous trees are propagated and grown on in-ground.

Research

Both Thomas Weston and later Lindsay Pryor had policies for actively seeking seed and plant material for trials to establish which plants would be most likely to succeed in the Canberra's harsh climatic and soil conditions. Although early figures do not exactly reflect the situation there has been steady increase in both the numbers and percentage of native species grown at the nursery. As much local material as possible was collected locally. The nursery was also in regular contact and exchanged material with, a number of interstate and international institutions. This included commercial nurseries, government and municipal nurseries (eg. forestry commissions) and overseas collections (eg. botanical gardens and private collectors).

Plant Issue

The Plant Issue Scheme was started to help turn Canberra into a Garden City. It was hoped that private citizens would take advantage of the free availability of plants to create their own gardens. By controlling the species available, the planners wanted to create a link between the public landscapes of the city and private gardens. The Plant Issue Scheme started in 1930 with no limit on the number of plants. It was modified in 1956 to limit leaseholders to 20 trees and 60 shrubs. This was reduced to the present issue of 10 trees and 40 shrubs in 1960. The issue was stopped for political reasons in 1979 but was reinstated in 1981. Currently, plant issue is available to every new block of leasehold land in the ACT.

Highlights

The number of people working at Yarralumla Nursery peaked at 70 in the 1940's. The nursery now has 25 permanent staff.

It is estimated that Yarralumla Nursery has grown 50 million plants in its 85 year history. At present, 500,000 plants are being produced each year. About 1,500 species are propagated of which approximately 50% are Australian natives and 50% are exotic.

In the late 1970s the nursery pioneered the direct sowing of Australian Trees (principally *Eucalypts*) into specially designed tubes. This process has now developed into a state of the art process using specially designed containers that produce a stable, high quality root system. The nursery now produces approximately 80 species by this technique. Many of these are propagated each year especially for Landcare groups and rural plantings.

Customers of the nursery now include the general public, new home owners (plant issue), private contractors, rural land holders, state Governments and councils and the ACT Government.

The nursery still collects a large portion of its own propagation material. The bulk of this is collected from the local region. This is to ensure that species grown will be suitable for this region's severe climatic and soil conditions.

In 1991, the nursery was placed on the interim register of the National Estate joining *Westbourne Woods* in recognition of its of its role in beautifying Canberra.

In 1993, the nursery boundary was relocated to place the English Garden outside in the general parkland of Weston Park.

In 1995 Yarralumla Nursery became only the second nursery in Australia to achieve certification as a Quality Assured Company to the International Standard ISO 9002.

In 1996 the nursery underwent a major restructure to improve its efficiency and maximise opportunities to expand into new markets.

In 1998 the nursery introduced the first line of a series of rare and threatened Australian species. Some of these have been released in conjunction with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) and the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens. The growing and sale of these plants not only serves to promote awareness of rare and endangered species but also assists in funding projects to help **preserve** them by royalties paid to the ANPC and Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens.

1998 also saw the beginning of the monthly Australian Plants Market and Information Day. On this day a number of local Australian plant growers can be found at the nursery selling their specialist lines and offering free advice. This market heralded the "Plants Local to the ACT Region" section of the Garden Centre.

In the year 2000, the nursery exported a number of Australian species for the European Market. This has continued with a large order of *Eucalypts* in 2001.

The Nursery has coordinated the purchase and supply of much of the plant material used in the Floriade Festival in Canberra each spring.

Since the early 1990s, the nursery has been pro-active in removing plants identified as environmental weeds from its plant list. This was formally recognised in the year 2000 with it being awarded "Bush Friendly" status by the ACT Government.

In addition to its other functions, Yarralumla Nursery is a valuable training ground for horticultural apprentices. In 2001, the number has increased to eight apprentices.

In 2001, The Nursery won the Outstanding Employer of a Woman in a Non-Traditional Vocation at the ACT Training Excellence Awards.

Yarralumla Nursery exerts an influence on Canberra's scenic beauty far in excess of its size. Through the propagation of many millions of trees and shrubs subsequently planted in the National Capital, it deserves credit for much of the charm of the city's streets, parks and private gardens.

Laurie Cullen, is an AILA affiliate, Yarralumla Nursery Manager and the Nursery is sponsoring the 2004 AILA ACT Student Award

A future for landscape architecture

The education debate

A report from the AILA national council's education committee

During 2004, the National Council through the education committee, Penny Allan (NSW), Kirsten Bauer (Vic) and Hilary Hamnett (SA), is encouraging discussion about university education for landscape architects. The committee is holding forums with some of the state groups and aims to develop a vision statement for education as well as influence the directions of the AILA's education policy and the accreditation processes.

There have been a couple of forums already and below are some thoughts in note form that have resulted from these meetings. These notes are the beginning of the process and have been supplied not to be definitive but rather to indicate the directions of the debate. Of course, the National Council members directly involved welcome comment and feedback and hope to have a forum near to you as soon as possible.

A pertinent quote

The contribution which landscape architects can make at this point is immense and pivotal. Landscape architecture addresses both the built and the cultivated environment. It thinks about city as well as countryside; housing as well as agriculture; cultural history as well as nature conservation. With their sense of scale and breadth, landscape architects are particularly well placed to deal with the fundamental questions of how the land should be used – if at all. It places and shapes buildings and infrastructure. It deals with connection and movement. It is the general start point from which the particular specializations can proceed.
(Kim Wilkie i.2000)

The sort of focus questions under consideration:

- What key social, cultural and environmental issues need to be considered by Australian and all countries?
- Ideally, what are the professional models, processes and modes of operation that should be adopted to deal with these key issues?
- What areas of expertise should we focus on to deal with these issues? eg: Master planning for new communities, infrastructure, urban renewal.
- What do landscape architects have to contribute?
- What are the 'thought processes and approach' of the landscape architect?
- What are the core skills that define a landscape architect?

Notes on the profession

- Landscape architects have a key role of working with communities to work through issues of dealing with the Australian landscape.
- There is much work to be done to increase the comprehension of the profession across governments, local, state and national.
- Landscape architects are involved in many different fields, and rather than try to define the profession it may be useful to expand it – or even dissolve it as a definable entity
- Because of changes to the procurement process, it's becoming more difficult for Las to supervise construction of their work. This makes it difficult for us to learn from our mistakes
- Landscape architects tend to be involved as part of large multidisciplinary teams – working as lead consultant is a less relevant goal than learning how to collaborate effectively
- Within the smaller states that have a small economic base, landscape architects find their profile limited by the fact that much of the project work tends to be small and lacking a profile that is easily promoted.
- Practices in a smaller state and those in metropolitan areas that rely on smaller projects, require a high turn-over of smaller jobs as the projects usually have small budgets. These landscape architects have to operate and survive in an environment dominated by higher profile public works undertaken by larger firms.

- With the growth in approaches in urban design, landscape architects could be seen as the natural leaders in urban design.
- Landscape architects are well placed to occupy more of the positions of project managers. Clients need to become more aware of what landscape architects bring to these roles.
- In smaller states, there is a concentration of the profession within the capital with very little regional practice even though many of the issues are regional/ remote.
- The pivotal role landscape architects are starting to be play in dealing with environmental issues, needs to be promoted so that it becomes more recognised by relevant/influential clients.
- More needs to be done to build links between government & the practices & the universities.
- There are opportunities for landscape architects to be better represented within local governments throughout Australia.
- Is the profession in Australia being limited by being supplied with graduates solely based on 'design based' education?
- University programs need to ensure that landscape architects graduates are empowered with a point of difference, a unique way of seeing the world and can demonstrate a broad-based approach.
- The profession through AILA still has more potential to shape public and government opinion through awards programs, journals and other promotions. The real task is to increase the comprehension of all aspects of the profession not just the glamorous projects.

Notes about the Graduates

- There is pressure for graduates to be more skilled
- The profession is now fully computerised, and graduates must be skilled to operate in this environment.
- The most useful skills in a graduate are an enquiring mind, an ability to work with people and good problem solving abilities.
- Graduates have to be quickly cost effective because of capital investment required for computer hard and software etc.
- Need for graduates to:
 - Be enthusiastic about the profession.
 - To have an interest in theory of landscape architecture.
 - To be computer literate (CAD and other skills).
 - To have a knowledge of and interest in natural systems and plants.
 - To have a knowledge of and interest in construction.
- Graduates need to be prepared for a range of occupations that Landscape Architects can occupy such as project managers, planning officers and policy officers with state and local government.
- Graduates need to have developed "A View of the World from the viewpoint of Landscape Architecture.
- Graduates need to value design thinking, the design process, and have a design perspective, even though the work may be of an environmental/ management nature.
- Graduates who have worked in a practice while studying have noticeably better skills than those who don't.
- Graduates need to be prepared for demanding levels of responsibility in local government jobs.

Some of the issues with university programs in Australia

- Defining **Design**: – is it a particular approach to problem solving and a way of seeing solutions, which is much broader than the readily used definitions that focus on aesthetics/creating shapes/ patterns etc?
- At present they are all seen as being 'Design Based' and usually linked into schools of architecture.
- Should the seven Australian programs be based on a range of landscape architecture disciplines (as well as design) and such as Garden Design Forestry and Agriculture and others?
- Should the program provide for a holistic work environment or should it be specialising?
- There was a general discussion about the need for flexibility within the program – ie for student to be able to design their courses and that the curriculum should be broad and allowing students to specialise either post grad or in the second half of their undergraduate degree. The problem seemed to be not that students weren't prepared enough once they graduated but that they are steered too far in one direction
- There was also discussion about the need for a very strong and rigorous first year program – which would teach students the basics, well
- Are there enough programs, or too many?
- Are schools distributed best for the profession (ref Tasmania) – what is the relationship between local needs of the profession and provision of program.
- How would specialised schools best operate within and across Australia?
- Need to allow for diversity of route into landscape architecture – mature age students, range of background and experience.
- Programmes should generate connections with other external organisations eg NGOs – both for intellectual and financial benefit.
- Consultation with landscape architecture academics is vital to ensure policy is realistic.
- Nationally there is still a need to link the work being done by the seven accreditation panels. While there is no money to pay for an Education Officer, the task will still be carried out through the work of the National Council education Committee and National Office.
- The National Committee members are to try to meet with the panels and where possible also with the faculty heads.
- There remains a shortage of landscape architects qualified to teach in the university programs – several universities still experience a lack of qualified staff.

state postcards 05

A Postcard from Coastal Victoria

Tim Hart

AILA Vic Group President

During the recent New Year break, I visited a number of Victorian coastal towns. In this – The Year of the Built Environment, my holiday experience highlighted the significant development pressures that are being placed on our coastal environments and left me questioning how effective landscape architects are in influencing this process.

Many Victorian coastal towns have undergone something of a *Seachange* led resurgence. The lure of a more relaxed lifestyle and the beach environment has meant that the population in some coastal towns has increased up to 30% in the past 5 years. A boom in property values has further spurred the development process, however it seems that many local councils have failed to implement sufficient planning controls and development guidelines to positively influence this change. It also seems that many developers have imported a "suburban" approach to the development process, thereby creating the same type of built environment that many residents have tried to leave behind.

Two recently constructed housing estates that I visited were integrated with large golf course developments. Both developments were constructed on rural fringe / farmland with direct beach access. Although different in their image making, both developers had missed the opportunity to build on the essential qualities of their locality or landscape context.

This imported or themed approach to landscape appears to underlie many residential developments and is perceived to be critical to the marketing success of a project. This approach however sits uncomfortably in a naturally powerful and evocative coastal environment that is very marketable in its own right. One must question the logic of diminishing the qualities of the very setting potential investors have come to enjoy.

The two developments were quite different in their adopted design style but both appeared to set themselves outside of their landscape context, rather than attempting to integrate with the indigenous coastal landscape. This approach was exacerbated by the use of standard detailing, and streetscape design common to many outer suburban housing estates with roll over kerb and channel, formal exotic avenue plantings and ornamental landscape treatments. Most disappointing, particularly in this ideal environment, was the lack of any integration of water sensitive urban design initiatives.

Although these developments offer good access to open space and recreation opportunities, they are manifestations of an enclave typology that lacks permeability or connectivity to adjacent developments and facilities. In addition due to their fringe locality, access to services is very poor, with residents entirely reliant on car access.

The construction of this type of golf course and residential estate is currently booming in parts of North America. While they are not new to this country, if a similar level of development occurs on a per capita basis in Australia, they represent a significant opportunity for landscape architects to positively influence the quality and form of these developments.

This type of high profile project, with their significant budgets, should showcase the role of our discipline in providing solutions that are cognisant of their context and demonstrate the benefits of integrated environmental design solutions.

We must ensure that our skills are not stifled by the misguided power of marketing, particularly its narrowly scoped lifestyle and image making approach to design.

Issues with Submissions to AILA Victorian and Tasmanian 2003 Design Awards

Over two weekends in 12 October 2003, the Victorian award jury assessed 67 projects submitted for consideration in the 2003 AILA Victorian and Tasmanian design awards. The awards process is comprehensive and to a large degree standardised throughout the nation. **One major change has been that state awards now incorporate the use of site visits (when practical) whereby jurors go on site to review submitted project. However Victoria and Tasmania are still the only group that give entrants the option to make a face-to-face presentation to the jury.**

A number of issues were raised this year during the review of awards submissions and the jury felt that a discussion of the most pressing may benefit AILA members. The issues to be discussed in this article are:

- 1) A project worthy of an award,
- 2) Appropriateness of written documents and exhibition/presentation panels, and
- 3) Presentations.

Note that, the following is not intended to be a critical review of the awards criteria, the process or material submitted to last year's Victorian and Tasmanian design awards. The aim is to give potential entrants to any AILA awards an idea of what a jury may look for during the review process and to demonstrate the importance of putting together a good awards package.

The first issue, 'a project worthy of an award', caused tremendous debate. It was the opinion of judges that many of the submissions under review simply met their brief and were not distinctive in any way to receive an award. It was also discussed that every project one works on at a minimum should meet their brief and produce quality work; this is a basic standard in landscape architecture. **However, this is not enough to receive an award. As part of the award selection process, jury's look for a submission that:**

- Has gone beyond, rewrote or extended the brief in some way,
- Creates new relationships between design elements, spaces, ecosystems and people, and
- Adds to the knowledge base of landscape architecture.

This is not intended dissuade professionals from submitting a project for consideration of an AILA award. But if one is thinking of submitting a project, it is being suggested that consider removing yourself from any personal attachment felt toward the work and assess it in relation to the above. In this review you may find other qualities that may make it a candidate for an award – but review it, critically.

The second issue relates to written documents or panels submitted. Many of these were so well graphically designed they were extremely difficult to read. Please understand that these are used as a primary means to assess a project. If material can not be read and relevant information on the project not found, it is simply put to the side. Also, remember that we are designers our selves and can look past the 'wow' of the graphic – refrain from going over the top.

Finally, many of the entrants that submitted work accepted the option to present their project and it is thought by many that this is a valuable component of the Victorian and Tasmanian design awards. However, a number of the presentations last year were terrible. In many instances professionals presenting did not follow a logical sequence, waffled on, did not talk about the project, spoke negatively about the work, did not know anything about the job (i.e. covering for someone) or fumbled endlessly on the computer displaying individual photographs of the submission. During the presentation the judges look for:

- Succinct explanations of the project such as how it meets the awards criteria and why it should win an award,
- Clear graphics, photographs and drawings of any material presented, and
- A demonstrated knowledge of the project.

Please spend some time putting together a well thought out presentation and then maybe practice it on your colleagues! Ask for critical questions and then respond, be prepared as the jury will ask the hard questions. If you plan to use a computer make sure the presentation works, is in a presentation format (e.g. Power Point presentation), self contained (i.e. on a CD) and you have back up plan if equipment fails.

It is hoped that this short discussion of issues raised by judges during the 2003 Victorian and Tasmanian design awards will benefit you in the preparation of next year's submissions. If you as an entrant of past awards have criticisms about any of the above or the awards itself write in and let us know.

Also, special thanks to the 2003 Victorian and Tasmanian jury members for all their volunteer efforts in October and for those that provided comments in the formation of this article.

Cheers!
Beau Beza
BSLA (Davis) MUP (Melb) ASLA
Lecturer in Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning
The University of Melbourne
Tel. Direct: 03 8344 7191
Fax: 03 8344 5532
Email: beaubb@unimelb.edu.au



Migration Wall within North Hobart Cultural Park
Tecton Projects, Hobart City Council

Adelaide Bushtops Project

Landscape Architects are at the forefront of a complex and exciting project in Adelaide, integrating a wide range of environmental elements into a unified project, to benefit the whole community. The landscape design profession is collaborating with the environmental biology sciences and building construction professions in the Adelaide Bushtops project.

What is a bushtop garden? It is a recreation of a particular ecosystem, in this case of the Adelaide Plains, on top of a building in the CBD to create a habitat for plants, animals, birds and insects to breed and to pass through the city. The aim is to produce a series of these bushtops forming corridors throughout the CBD linking to the surrounding parklands, with each bushtop having a slightly different ecosystem, so that a broad range of endangered and locally extinct species may be reintroduced to the parklands. These breeding ecosystems have the advantage of being isolated from the ground plane, thus eliminating the usually expensive fox and cat proof fencing.

The average commercial high rise building will support a true ecosystem with animals up to the size of bilbies in a small colony. The offspring would be relocated once they are self-sufficient to the nearby parklands. The introduction of manufactured habitat such as bat boxes would also form part of these bushtops. Small bats are important in the built environment as their major source of food is mosquitos, thus helping the health of constructed wetlands.

The project has been taken up by a partnership of the SA Government's Greening Cities program, BioCity Centre for Urban Habitats, Fifth Creek Studio Landscape Architects, and private building owners. The potential for a demonstration monitored bushtop project is currently being investigated and undertaken by this partnership.

The demonstration bushtop would have several linked purposes:

- Establish the benefits to our urban environment in terms of natural habitat, biodiversity, water use and reuse, thermal insulation qualities, visual impact and reduction of the urban "heat island effect"

- Demonstrate that bushtops in the CBD are affordable, attractive and functional
- Provide opportunities to demonstrate, research and refine current and new roof garden technologies and their benefits within the Adelaide city environment
- Indicate the potential for creating bushtop wildlife refuges and corridors within the urban environment, especially suitable for species at risk
- Investigate the potential for using endemic species of flora and fauna to create a model for Adelaide rooftop gardens
- Link with secondary and tertiary education institutions to further extend the research, education and learning potential for these bushtops, eg managing reintroduced species, and providing a visual display at footpath level via video to educate the general public
- Provide knowledge and capacity building for design professionals in the built environment
- Provide water reuse through retention and bio-retention systems

Another aim is to develop bushtops for light weight metal deck roofing systems. Research into this area so far has developed a roof garden system that could support a grassland or a sand dune ecosystem, which is representative of the semi arid zone on the northern Adelaide Plains. If this system becomes operable and economic this would open up the opportunity for a large proportion of commercial buildings being capable of supporting bushtop ecosystems. This would have a considerable environmental effect on the urban environment and biodiversity of our cities.

Graeme Hopkins
SA State President

Note: Graeme Hopkins designed and conducted an initial bushtops construction studio with University of Adelaide Landscape Architecture students in 2003. With the help of ecologists, botanists and zoologists from BioCity Centre for Urban Habitats, the students produced a number of possible design concepts. The University of Adelaide is no longer involved in further research in this area.



The now very popular skate park within North Hobart Cultural Park Tecton Projects, Hobart City Council



A report from the Executive Director on issues raised recently in meetings with the Tasmanian Group

State Licensing System:

The Tasmanian government has introduced a system whereby all those involved in built/construction over a nominated amount need to be licensed against an agreed list of building categories. While two categories are for Architects and Engineers, there is no identifiable category for landscape architects. The engineers and architects have applied to run their own categories under the auspice of their own arrangements.

The only options for Tasmanian Landscape architects are: To register as a 'builder – project manager' or as 'builder', or worse still, all relevant projects will need to include an architect, engineer or builder who has been licensed. The harder and preferred option is to go back to government with a request for a change in the legislation so that there is a identifiable category for landscape architects.

AILA Profile in Tasmania:

The Tasmanian Group is discussing shared arrangements with the PIA and RAIA, whereby the PIA and AILA would buy and share services from the RAIA once it has moved office in late 2004.

As the Tasmanian AILA Group is so small and has no local university program, there is a strong case for some extra financial administrative supplement from the National Office to assist with the costs for the limited services to be purchased.

Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Tasmania (Hobart):

In order to increase the profile of the profession in Tasmania, one key factor is to have an accredited program at the Hobart campus of the university. While it may seem that the state is too small to justify such a program (or part of a program), it is a catch 22 situation: no program and therefore low profile – or – low profile therefore no program!!

It is being recommended that actions by national council may be required to urge the re-establishment of the program at the Hobart campus. This program should maybe not follow the predictable route and link to architecture, rather pick up on a niche market and link to another faculty, eg geology or heritage management.

AILA State awards

Another key profile raiser for the group would be to stage their own state awards. Again, at present with the group's low numbers, this may seem difficult. However, the partnership with the Victorian Group, while it delivers a program of awards for the Tasmanian Group, it does not deliver a profile locally to the necessary agencies, to clients, to the local media nor to sponsors.

Discussions have started on partnerships with PIA, and/or with an extended arrangement with the Victorian Group. The Tasmanian Group were also interested in the progress of the ACT Group who are about to stage their own inaugural ACT awards program.

Landscape – Heritage Conference

Some ideas were discussed about staging a joint Victorian – Tasmanian regional/small-national conference (2 days maximum) in Hobart in 2005.

The focus would pick up on the niche interest that Tasmania could offer – heritage landscapes. National assistance would be dependent on the financial outcome of the 2004 National Conference. Other limited admin assistance could be provided by the National Office.

Advocacy – Hobart Waterfront Project

The state government has been holding a series of consultations about developments along Sullivan's Cove – the main Hobart Waterfront. While the process has all the formal indications of being inclusive, participants have been left with a clear feeling that the main aim is to sell off sections of the waterfront.

Being a small group, the Tasmanian AILA group feels that before too much is decided (rushed through), that the whole site would benefit from a comprehensive masterplan. The Tasmanian Group hopes to put together a submission as soon as possible.

Postcard – A day in the Life of Jim Sinatra

Emeritus professor Jim Sinatra recently visited Taiwan as a juror for the Chi-Chi Earthquake Memorial Competition. The other final stage jury members were Peter Walker (The Principal of Peter Walker and Partners Landscape Architecture Incorporated), Peter Cook (Chair man of Bartlett School of Architecture, University college London), Neil Leach (The Professor of The Architectural Association in London, The Professor of Dessau Institute of Architecture in Germany), Han Pao-The (The Principal of Hanguang Architect & Associates), Chang, Shyh-Dean (The Professor of Department of Architecture & Urban Design, Chinese Culture University, Taiwan), and Wang, Ming-Hung (Professor of Department of Architecture, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan).

The government established the 921 Earthquake Post-Disaster recover Commission, after the massive earthquake struck the island of Taiwan near the centrally located city of Chi-Chi on the morning of 21st September, 1999. The quake, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, hit just seven to ten kilometres below the Earth's surface and deformed that part of the island instantly. In the quake and its aftershock, an estimated two thousand people died, more than eleven thousand were injured.

"The 921 Earthquake Post-Disaster recovery commission planned this competition to establish a memorial space that provides

a fresh impetus of harmonization between nature and human beings in the disaster area. The memorial is to thaw the frozen moments of tragedy in the minds of people who lived through the disaster while serving as a reminder to those who have fading memories of the event yet lead on a direction of further development in the disaster area." (Statement from the Memorial Competition Publication). The Grand Prize Winner was the CKPR group and the group members were Tsai-Her Chen (Taiwan), Eve Robidoux (Canada), Jung Yoon Kim (Korea), and Yoon-Jin Park (Korea).

Jim says the following about the winning scheme. "A beautiful setting of a bamboo grove to define and commemorate the victims of the Chi-Chi Earthquake. The scheme takes great advantage of the sloping grade to give it a powerful position to go up and into. The quality of light flickering through the memorial bamboo grove reinforces the reflections that people will feel as they are moved through this compassionate memorial to the Chi-Chi victims. Details, as the bamboo wall to place commemorative flowers and the victims' names in the paving field, make this scheme a moving memorial."

China Times 05 Feb 2004

For more information, please visit <http://ccemc.921erc.gov.tw>

07



The award winning Victoria Cross Memorial, Hobart
Tecton Projects, Hobart City Council

AILA National Council 2003–2005

President – Tony Cox AAILA (Registered)
1st Vice president – Penny Allan AAILA
2nd Vice President – Jennifer Neales AAILA
Treasurer – Debbie Saegenschnitter AAILA
Secretary – Kirsten Bauer AAILA
John Easthope AAILA (Registered)
Hilary Hamnett AAILA
Naomi Kavanagh AAILA
Neil Hobbs AAILA (Registered)
Niall Simpson AAILA (Registered)



LANDMARK is produced by:
The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

AILA State Group Contacts

ACT AILA Group President
Paul Bombardier FAILA
GPO Box 1228
CANNBERRA ACT 2601

NSW AILA Group President
Penny Allan AAILA
NSW AILA Secretariat
PO Box 655
LANE COVE NSW 2066
02 9420 9297
AILA.NSW.GROUP@bigpond.com

NT AILA Group President
Kenneth Kirkman AAILA
GPO Box 3359
DARWIN NT 0801
08 8999 4585

QLD AILA Group President
Cathy Girard AAILA
QLD AILA Secretariat
PO Box 3259
SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101
07 3864 4900
emma.stubbings@raia.com.au

SA AILA Group President
Graeme Hopkins AAILA
GPO Box 1584
ADELAIDE SA 5001

TAS AILA Group President
Patricia Barwick AAILA
GPO Box 374 - D
HOBART TAS 7000

VIC AILA Group President
Tim Hart AAILA
VIC AILA Secretariat
PO Box 18025 Collins St East
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
03 9650 1898
ailavic@raia.com.au

WA AILA Group President
Stuart Pullyblank AAILA
PO Box 3229 Broadway
NEDLANDS WA 6009

ISSN 1328-5181

Managing Editor

Paul Costigan
Telephone: 02 6248 9970
Facsimile: 02 6249 7337
email: ailanat@aila.org.au

Disclaimer

Unless otherwise stated, the views expressed in this publication are not to be regarded as the official opinions of the above named organisation.

Copyright

Is retained by the original authors and project designers.

Production

LG2 designers
Phone: 02 6286 3039
Email: lg2@lg2.com.au



Cover photograph:
A sculptural piece placed within a small landscaped park, A J White Park, in Sandy Bay, Hobart. We hope to feature more of the stories behind these projects that are small on budgets, full of initiatives and are very important to the local residents and communities.

Artist: Keizo Ushio

Project by Tecton Projects Hobart City Council

All photographs except 'Hobart Pace'
by Paul Costigan