

APR07

# LAND MARK



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# 01

## Evolutionary success Mark Fuller, AILA National President

Evolutionary success is not about having the very best adaptation for a particular environment, but instead comes from being the best equipped to deal with change. A specialised relationship with a particular habitat is fine until the equilibrium shifts and there is a need to adjust to a new set of circumstances. When this happens the nimble generalist will be better equipped with more opportunity to develop new skill sets.

Landscape architects are expert generalists: and these are times of rapid change. Is our ecological niche suddenly opening up?

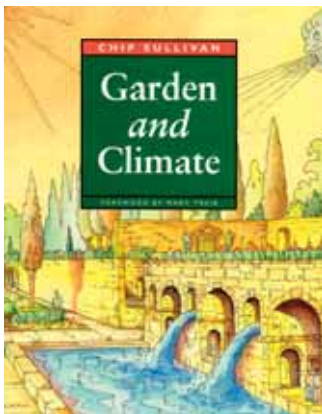
Not many years ago a major project I was working on went ahead without underground water storage, in spite of recommendations, as this was deemed too expensive at the time. The owners are now, predictably, dealing with water supply problems. Today, in this environment of pretty much permanent water shortage, that original value judgment would almost certainly not have the same result. Suddenly "sustainability" – whatever that might actually mean to each of us – is on everyone's lips. Australia is waking up fast to the need to consider, in particular, water management and with that, the use of other resources as well. After years of languishing as primarily the title of a government department, and secondly as a useful place to throw stuff, the environment as a place to live (for ever) has rapidly gained public currency.

No other profession is at the forefront of understanding the connectedness of land and people; of the interrelationship of positive environmental management, long term value and good design. As they say, this is our profession's "sweet spot". I have just come back from the Middle East where, although the jaw-dropping madcap schemes of some developers in the region grab the headlines, leaders in our profession are spearheading developments which take very seriously the challenges of establishing sustainable communities throughout the world's fastest growing region. China and India are similarly embracing a new agenda. The phenomenal pace of change in these countries has its own evolutionary outcomes: the best idea wins.

Closer to home we have never before had so many Landscape Architects at influential positions in government and the private sector in this country, all starting to effect real change. The AILA's Landscape Charter aims to support these efforts, to be a line in the sand, a rallying flag for the profession to consolidate our role in this debate and draw attention to our successes.

The spotlight of public interest in Australia has finally swung around to our field of operations. Let's not be blinded by the beam: let's use it to show what we can do.

## Landscape & climate – views from the research desk Edwina Richardson AILA



A new book arrived in the post yesterday at the AILA office. For me a new book creates a frisson of excitement, anticipating what new ideas or story may be revealed within the covers. This treaty needed to be good as it had been flown here from the US.

Chip Sullivan's 2002 *Garden and Climate* documents how ancient gardens of the Mediterranean and East moderated their microclimates. He found that the more extreme the climate the more ingenious the landscape solutions employed. Techniques used include cooling earth seats, subterranean rooms, cryptoporticus (underground corridors protected from the sun), bosquets (outdoor room planted with trees), garden pavilions, aerated water devices and more.

The book is divided into four sections based on the elements: Fire, Earth, Air and Water and has a considered balance of text and exquisite black and white line drawings. There is much detail to be observed here in the plans, sections and elevations, such as at Villa d'Este, Italy. At the end of each element, Sullivan creates a hypothetical contemporary garden design employing these principles. This is an important book as its ideas can be adapted to Australian landscapes.

A recent survey of members regarding the professions' ability to adapt to climate change revealed some interesting findings. Almost half of those surveyed held a reasonably optimistic view of new university graduates, believing that they were 'somewhat skilled' in responding to climate change, whilst one third considered them 'unskilled'. Whatever the answer, our profession needs to become well versed on the topic of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Tim Flannery's (2005) book *The Weather Makers* is a good starting point to understanding climate change science.

The concept of climate change has been incorporated into a handful of CPD activities and design studios. In 2005 RMIT ran a vertical studio (with 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students) developing solutions to sea level rise and coastal communities. This was a collaborative project between RMIT, local councils and a state environment department. At the University of Canberra during 2005–2006 casual Landscape Architecture staff ran 'Creating more sustainable

gardens for the Canberra region'. This two hour seminar was open to the public, profession and students and interweaved strategies for responding to climate change.

What is clear from the survey is that many agree that sustainability needs to underpin all landscape architecture projects, gone are the days when projects will receive accolades on visual appearance alone.

Sullivan argues that the classical formal gardens he studied were not only beautiful but combined functional climate modifications. He sums up the purpose of his book:

Many new and exciting opportunities lie ahead for the creation of garden forms that not only conserve energy, but are also works of art and places of spiritual renewal. By describing and detailing little-known inventions of our ancestral garden designers, I hope to generate both new ideas and modern adaptations of old ones – tools with which to build modern gardens that help save and preserve our natural environment while enhancing the spaces in which we live and work. My vision for the future foresees the flowering of new passive garden communities and the retrofitting of existing communities for the reduction of energy consumption. This vision could be a first small step in a strategy for moving our culture toward the creation of a more sustainable environment by incorporating the principles in this book into the planning and design of new communities. (Sullivan 2002, xvii).

So despite the frequent flyer points this book could earn, it was worth it, providing thought provoking ideas to be explored in university design studios and landscape offices.

### References

- Sullivan, Chip (2002) *Garden and climate*. McGraw-Hill. New York.
- Flannery, Tim (2005) *The Weather Makers*. Text Publishing.
- Chip Sullivan's website: <http://www.gonzogardens.com>



A Publication of the  
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Landscape  
Architects**

[www.aila.org.au](http://www.aila.org.au)

# AILA National Announcements

At the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AILA National Council, the discussion focused on the AILA as the professional recognition body for landscape architects within Australia. As a result of the Council's decisions at that meeting, several changes are being introduced in mid 2007 including changes to the processes for membership applications and the nomenclature used to identify AILA full members.

## Proposed changes to the nomenclature for full Members

Those who are presently Associates of the AILA (AAILA) are to be re-classified as Registered Landscape Architects (AILA or FAILA).

The term Associate (AAILA) is to be no longer used as the nomenclature for full AILA Membership. All Associates (AAILA) are to be reclassified as Registered Landscape Architects (AILA) in mid 2007 at the time of this year's renewals.

This removes the former nomenclature of 'Associate' and the acronym AAILA and replaces it with the more universal and easily understood professional status of being a Registered Landscape Architect, using the acronym AILA.

Using the term 'Registered' will then align the profession easily with other professions and reduce the chances of confusion by agencies seeking to employ 'registered' professionals and consultants.

The above changes are subject to constitutional changes – see the back page for notice of that meeting

### Reasons for the change:

Agencies are looking to the profession to provide an easily understood status of professional recognition that they can use alongside that being provided by other professional groups. The term 'Registered' is the most accepted in Australia. For instance, agencies establishing competitions have struggled to understand the relationship between the Associate and the Registered Landscape Architect. Most now use the term "registered with the relevant association/institute" as their terminology for identifying professionals.

The reality is that clients and those running competitions, despite many marketing attempts, have not understood why the AILA has two layers of membership (ie Associates and Registered Landscape Architects).

However, the registration scheme has identified that the AILA needs to ensure that there are processes for providing the professional recognition and that agencies need to have confidence in those recognition processes.

By moving to this one nomenclature for all fully recognised members, agencies will have a much easier means of recognising, and therefore employing or choosing for competitions, AILA landscape architects as their preferred consultants.

## A new emphasis on CPD

As part of the renewal process in 2007 and beyond, all full members (registered members) will be required to supply basic information on their on-going CPD. Registered members will be encouraged to use an online process to renew their membership, complete CPD requirements and pay annual fees in mid 2007. (hard copy to be also available)

That is, there will be a requirement for all registered members to annually supply basic details on their professional development. It is planned to have an online system that not only records CPD but also encourages all landscape architects to seek new opportunities for CPD and to consider CPD as life-long.

The other factor to be recognised is that many professionals are mentors to others and/or continue to have life-long mentor relationships with their colleagues.

### What changes will there be for present Registered Members?

Present Registered Members will hardly notice any changes except we aim to have a different annual CPD reporting process. All full members will have to undertake this reporting process at the time of the mid year renewals.

The other change is that the former separate registration fees will no longer apply. All members will be subject to the same annual fee scales.

### Fellows

Please note that there will be no change to the status of Fellows – being an honour bestowed on full members. Beyond 2007, all Fellows will continue as Registered Landscape Architects (FAILA) and be required to fulfil the same requirements as other Registered Landscape Architects.

### How does this affect Graduates, Students and Affiliates?

The categories of membership, Graduates, Students and Affiliates, are not affected by these changes to full membership. The exception being that graduates will now have new processes to plan for when they are considering applying for full membership – to be recognised as an AILA Registered Landscape Architect.

## 2008 Membership Applications

Changes are being introduced to the application processes for full membership. A new mentoring process is to be introduced whereby applicants will need to register in August to participate in a mentoring scheme. The process is to be completed in time so that the resulting documentation would then be included with the application for Membership in February of the following year. The 2007 applications for full membership have now closed. The 2008 applications (excluding senior entry) for membership will require participation in the mentoring scheme to commence by August this year. More details online.

For more comprehensive information on the above AILA changes:

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

## Using the title landscape architect – European Perspective

Landscape Ireland, the magazine for the Irish Landscape Institute, reports on an interesting meeting of European landscape architecture associations. The meeting heard of the diverse experiences of the profession throughout Europe. There are those countries where landscape architecture is undeniably strong such as Netherlands, Denmark, the UK and Germany to the frightening story from Spain where confused legislation makes the title landscape architect redundant.

The stories from the associations and institutes vary and their advice is timely. A representative from Denmark said "do not use protection, use the power of your knowledge of the landscape". A UK representative spoke of the link between landscape architecture and UK legislation that addresses the wider concern for the environment and quality of life. Added this is the legacy of Sir Jeffrey Jellicoe's lobbying that has resulted in legislation whereby every town had to have a landscape masterplan, which in turn brought status and benefit to the UK profession of landscape architecture.

Recommended professional reading:

<http://www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com>  
and follow their magazine links to:  
Landscape Ireland Winter 2007

## Changes to AILA Project Awards 2007–2008

### New Category: Land Management

In previous years there has been a project award category for Environment in Landscape Architecture. This category has been removed for 2007–2008. The new category of Land Management has been introduced for all national and state awards for 2007–2008.

### Environmental Emphasis Across All Awards

An AILA priority is to highlight through the awards the importance of the environmental considerations undertaken by members in their project works.

Submissions must include statements in regard to the ecological rigour adopted for the project (ie biodiversity, energy conservation, water management, use of local materials, community benefit) – measures taken during construction and the long term management regime.

More details online:

[www.aila.org.au/awards](http://www.aila.org.au/awards)

# 02



Confronting Heathrow yet again made our entry into Madrid all the more stunning. How can an airport be made to be such a pleasurable experience?... by excellent design it seems, enhanced with a playful flamboyance. Note the colours of the spectrum used as a persisting theme. Barajas Airport, Lord Richard Rogers...



## Spice and Spectacle in Spain and Morocco



Can a landscape architect ever be simply on holiday when confronted with work from the great designers of the world? The creativity of Rogers, Calatrava, Foster and Gehry mixed with that of history, of the 'old world', made demands on the senses to supersede the expectations of mere holiday-making. Recording the wonder and indulging in it over time justly rewards the effort. Dare I ask, do we go back home to rest?

I was especially impressed by the significance of contemporary design experienced alongside the acknowledged treasures of a distant past...  
*Bruce Mackenzie*

Bruce Mackenzie's Roamings also available online with useful links:  
<http://www.aiala.org.au/roamings/mackenzie-spain.htm>



The diversion to Bilbao in northern Spain's Basque country provided so much more than just the star attraction, Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum, part of old Bilbao's revival plan. To be found were riverside promenades, a joyful fountain, a sculpted canine in full leaf and a Calatrava bridge spanning the river in splendid style. Contributing to all was the metro system by Lord Norman Foster (not illustrated) and the delightful tramway, a space age treat and an inspiration for all car-oppressed city dwellers. The regular 10 minute service has attracted 3 million passengers during its 3 years of gradual expansion. For the explorer interested in urban design and landscape this visit had much to offer.



Such a big story is the drama illustrated below, of the Medina at Fez, Morocco, a labyrinthian composition of endless corridors, sometimes mean alleyways, tunnels and miniature paved squares negotiable only by donkeys (and people!). The seemingly innocuous donkeys did all the heavy work, carrying merchandise, raw materials and even the putrid garbage of the tightly condensed community. This 13<sup>th</sup> century walled city houses 400,000 people who live, work, shop and play day to day. It houses proudly the world's oldest university. See the tiny kindergarten tucked into a small cave-like recess alongside the 'carpet emporium' and a tourist taking a keen interest in the welfare of the beasts of burden. Check on the right, the Medina detail revealing its myriad satellite dishes. Imagine too, within this relic Casbah, the commonplace presence of new-world television sets, computers and mobile phones!





The forms of the Guggenheim Museum within and without, challenged all conventions. Voluptuous titanium-clad surfaces gleamed and responded accordingly to the times of day and night. The popularity of Gehry's work is understandable but for me a question arises as to whether this should lead inevitably to a proliferation of what, in a single circumstance, presents such a truly unique event? Obviously I will have to seek out more of the Gehry creations wherever they happen!

Bilbao's green tramway corridor with its thin steel rails barely apparent, could be a charming introduction to any city. With touch-screen electronic stylishness at each tram stop and tramcars pleasingly configured and detailed, what better way to visit a Guggenheim Museum, old downtown or the new shopping centre?



Of special interest for me was the orientation of tracks to the kerbside instead of the middle of the road. This simple deviation from the norm appeared to leave trams and motor traffic relatively free from conflict. In the old city quarter two-way and one-way roadways each functioned in uncomplicated fashion alongside the single or double tramtrack layout set adjacent to the building lines.



Great stories from our excursions not touched upon within these two pages are Barcelona and Gaudi, the traditional pavements of Spain and Portugal, Moorish architecture and its associated delightful, elegant and disciplined designs with water. Above, however I choose to show examples of a playful modern artform from the creative buskers of La Rambla, Barcelona's colourful and entertaining pedestrian boulevard. On the left the tourist intent upon a close inspection of a statue soon found herself engaged in pleasant conversation with the 'bronze'. And on the right a pile of discarded rubbish includes the busker himself, somewhat disorienting in his upside down state with hand outstretched always ready to accept any potential gratuitous consideration.



# Establishing a New Paradigm of Design

## Gweneth Newman Leigh



For years, the front lawn has been an institution of the suburban subdivision. Its acceptance as the paradigm of residential design has been espoused since the mid 1800s, when accomplished designers like Andrew Jackson Downing and Frank J Scott defended the lawn as a democratic medium that should be available to everyone. Taking a look at modern day housing developments, its success is apparent: every homeowner is still granted a piece of turf paradise. However, with global climate change making headlines and water resources becoming increasingly scarce, it is becoming obvious that we need to find new paradigms of landscape planning and design which become as accepted – and expected – as the front lawn, but which are more in tune with twenty-first century environmental conditions and concerns.



To be fair, many Australian states are beginning to introduce stricter environmental planning regulations and develop trial subdivisions which demonstrate sustainable building and development practices. However, it isn't clear that there is a high enough incentive for the majority of developers to change and independently adapt these new methodologies as long as homeowners are still willing to purchase properties which meet the norm of fifty years ago. From the standpoint of private developers: if the formula works, why change it?



Some communities have begun to decide that the formula doesn't work. Christie Walk, a medium residential development in Adelaide, is one of them. Initiated by the organization Urban Ecology Australia Inc (UEA) the development was led by Paul Downton of Ecopolis Architects, who focused on tapping the ideas of the local community as a way to determine the development's design strategies. What resulted was the evolution of a prototype community which seeks to maximize lifestyle while minimizing environmental impact, all within a modest budget.

Whether community initiated developments such as these are realistic and sustainable models for future development patterns remains to be seen. At Christie Walk, most of the residents consulted were passionate about sustainability; a different group may have resulted in a very different outcome. However, the importance of communities such as these exists in their efforts to challenge outdated standards and push for design solutions that better respond to modern day issues. Through them, a new paradigm of design can begin to take shape.

(For more information about Christie Walk, see <http://www.aila.org.au/projects/SA/christiewalk/default.htm>).



Photographs: Christie Walk

## Built Environment Design Professions Action Agenda

The Built Environment Design Professions Action Agenda leaders group meets for the first time in Canberra this week. The first task for the leaders group, under the chair of Warren Kerr (current BEDP Chair) will be setting up a range of working parties to address and review the key issues identified as vital to the action agenda.

Action Agendas were announced in 1997 as part of the Government's *Investing for Growth* statement. Following an evaluation of the action agenda process, in 2003 the Government renewed its commitment to Action Agendas as a central element of the Government's industry strategy. This whole of government approach provides access to senior officials across government who help develop practicable solutions to industry issues and concerns.

BEDP was successful in mid 2006 in its application for an action agenda specifically for the design professions.

### Action Agenda Exemplar Project

With the first meeting of the Built Environment Design Professions Action Agenda leaders group happening this month, BEDP is planning to support the Action Agenda with an Exemplar project that is a practical demonstration of excellence in built environment design. The challenge for us now is to find the project that not only includes all our disciplines, but will assist all our professions to take the next leap forward in improving the way we deliver our services. The exemplar may involve the use of advanced computer techniques and interoperability to improve coordination and interaction between the professional disciplines involved in any construction project. With this in mind, the BEDP board will be workshoping the concept later this month.

### BEDP Year Book

BEDP's 2006/07 *Year Book* is our biggest yet at 100 pages. Again this year support for the Year Book came this year from the industry's major players – the public sector has increased presence as do a range of Top 100 companies. It is worth repeating that this is indicative of the profile that BDP enjoys within industry and government.

BEDP National Office has provided copies of the year book to all regional committees and has undertaken a mail out of the publication to federal, state and territory members of parliament, local government and major industry firms. Copies of the year book can be obtained by emailing BEDP national office – [contact@bdp.asn.au](mailto:contact@bdp.asn.au)

### Industry Research Project

The Industry Research and Development Board has advised that the BEDP application for funding under the Industry Cooperative Innovation Program (ICIP) to develop a Performance Enhancement Roadmap for the Built Environment Design Consultancy Industry has been successful.

The Board has approved grant funding of 50% of the total project expenditure of \$110,000. The project will comprise a substantial research component that will identify key areas of activity and potential within the built environment design sector both within Australia and in the export markets. The built environment design consultancy industry will be, for the first time, developing a truly national strategic view of the future for this industry.

# Hobart Waterfront International Design Competition

Julie Stoneman, AILA Tasmania Group President

The international design competition for the 'city hall axis' within Hobart's Sullivans Cove has been a powerful catalyst for discussion amongst the people of Hobart. The competition was developed with the intention of generating a wide range of ideas to improve the waterfront thus potentially informing existing regulatory documents. Over 280 entries were received and 28 of these have been on public display showcasing a broad range of strategic design approaches stretching the imaginations of all who visit the exhibition.

As a landscape architect practising in Hobart I thought the jury's response was finely attuned to the complex forces at play within the cove and as a result a great number of the entries were considered by the judges as being far too imposing for a city that is very intimate in scale and rich with a diversity of activity. As a result the winning schemes generally proposed relatively small scale interventions, reorganizing the waterfront to rationalise parking, simplify and reinforce the existing urban form and to emphasise the importance of new public open spaces for non prescriptive activities, thus encouraging maximum flexibility of use throughout the seasonal fluctuations of activities that the cove encounters.

I believe that for any revitalization of the waterfront to be successful, the design interventions need to offer a range of opportunities for people to be able to choose to experience small and intimate spaces

or the grand and expansive, highly activated zones or the quietly reflective, and to create a mix of these experiences that amplify the powerful existing qualities of the cove including the visual connections to the often sublime landscape beyond. And at the heart of it "the waterfront needs to maintain its democratic nature" as one of the judges Catherin Bull articulated. The fact that it is currently an area where all people are drawn down to experience its dynamic edge is something that is very precious. It is of vital importance to maintain and strengthen this ongoing creative use of the waterfront by all its users.

The jury report is well worth reading as it gives a set of 10 design principles that they feel are a crucial foundation for any proposed changes in the cove. These principles give a somewhat different weighting to some of the analysis put forward in the competition brief and place far greater importance upon the public domain. This is a powerful position for the jury to take and one that I fully support. The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority now has the challenge to reconsider the processes through which they progress these principles within any planning process, and to ensure the application of these principles over time with a commitment to high quality outcomes.

To view the Jury report and all of the entries visit:

[www.hwidc.tas.gov.au](http://www.hwidc.tas.gov.au)



# 06

## Order of Australia: Nick Safstrom FAILA Bill Chandler

It was a pleasure to hear that Nick Safstrom received an Order of Australia in the recent Australia Day honours list. I have known and worked with Nick for nearly three decades. During that time our relationship developed from acquaintance, to *colleague, to friend and mutual mentor*. My experience of Nick as a person, and my knowledge of his skills, involvements and contributions leave me in no doubt that the honour is well-deserved.

With formal professional framing in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Nick made a very significant contribution to the practice of those professions in Australia. However, it was more than just technical skills he brought to the *task*: the love of his parents and his Christian upbringing no doubt shaped his commitment to people and underpinned the values and qualities of his work.

We worked together as Directors in the *innovative* Loder and Bayly Consulting practice, first in Melbourne and then also in Brisbane. He brought a strong level of creativity to the team – in landscape architecture, urban design and business management. In his work, Nick played a key role in reshaping urban and regional areas across

Australia: West Gate Park in Melbourne, numerous shopping centres and residential areas, Litchfield National Park in Northern Territory, and waterways in central Brisbane, to name just a few.

Nick was unstinting in his voluntary work and leadership, particularly the National Trust of Victoria, as well as of rising to the top of the top of his profession, becoming National President and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

Throughout this time Nick had a very intense interest in, and commitment to the natural environment of Australia. He travelled in the bush and countryside – usually with his easel, pastels and brushes. What a great preparation for transcending a severe stroke where, with the support of Heather and his characteristic sense of courage and strength of will, he has continued to travel and sketch his experiences of the Australian landscape

Husband to Heather, father to Carl and ALIA, musician and painter, gardener and church member, landscape architect and urban designer, Nick Safstrom has made, and continues to make a great contribution.



Nick (centre) with leaders in the National Trust organisation, Simon Molesworth and Dianne Weedon



# 07

## National Special General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

CAN No 008 531 851

**4.00 pm, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**AILA National Office**  
Open System House,  
218 Northbourne Ave Braddon ACT 2612

### Agenda

- Meeting attendance, apologies and proxies
- President's Report (Mark Fuller FAILA – National President)
- Motion to put changes to the constitution
- General Business

The AILA has called for a special general meeting to bring about changes that have been proposed by National Council.

These changes address the change of nomenclature of the full membership title from Associate to Registered Landscape Architect as well as to bring the whole constitution's language up to date.

The appointment of proxy forms (for those unable to attend) should be returned to the National Office prior to the Special General Meeting or handed to the secretary at the meeting. These are available online or direct from the national office.

Please note, with elections every two years, the next national elections will be at an AGM later in 2007

A pdf copy of the constitution and information on the changes are online:

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



Front cover: Guggenheim Museum, Spain  
Photograph: Bruce Mackenzie



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The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

### AILA National Council 2005–2007

President – Mark Fuller FAILA (Registered)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice president – Neil Hobbs FAILA (Registered)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jennifer Neales AAILA (Registered)  
Treasurer – Debbie Saegenschnitter AAILA (Registered)  
Secretary – Kirsten Bauer AAILA  
John Easthope FAILA (Registered)  
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