



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP
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A MASTER PLAN FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

Dear Minister

I write on behalf of the members of the NSW chapter of the AILA.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the growing national advocacy body representing 2500 active and engaged landscape architects, and promoting their crucial role in shaping the world around us. AILA provides its members, based in urban and rural Australia, and overseas, with a wealth of continuing professional development and support services, and positions landscape architects at the forefront of developing the policies that shape our towns, cities and regions. AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. Alongside government and allied professions, AILA works to improve the design, planning and management of the natural and built environment. www.aila.org.au.

The eastern half of Sydney has evolved over more than 200 years within a landscape of outstanding natural beauty to incorporate a unique network of open spaces, cultural attractions and iconic landmarks of world renown. The western half of Sydney, which incorporates the North West and South West Growth Centres and extends approximately 10 km from east to west, will undergo comparable urban growth but within a matter of decades.

The speed at which this growth will take place provides great opportunities to incorporate the knowledge about good urban planning and design to create places that contribute in a fundamental way to the health and well being of communities while maintaining healthy natural environments. However, to achieve this outcome will require a well conceived inclusive process that seeks input from a diverse range of perspectives and expertise.

The western half of Sydney sits within a landscape that reflects a distinctive combination of landform, vegetation, rivers and creeks together with cultural values associated with both indigenous and non-indigenous communities. The woodland landscape character of the Cumberland Plain is the endemic vegetation which, although all but depleted, has an iconic and beautiful quality. The Nepean River and associated Penrith Lakes clearly define the western boundary with the Blue Mountains forming a unique scenic backdrop. The Western Sydney Parklands with its balance of recreational and ecological values forms the eastern boundary.

However, there is very little vision as to how the western half of Sydney will become a great, liveable and attractive city in which the distinctive landscape character forms an overarching framework.

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Canberra for example, with around 500,000 people has a master plan, a designed approach which is progressively developing into an attractive and liveable city with open space, landmarks and a sense of civic pride. The western half of Sydney incorporating the Growth Centres needs a similar master plan to provide a vision of a city in which a connected network of public open spaces, cultural values and natural systems are carefully integrated.

The time is ready for this plan. We now know much of what is needed: Badgery's Creek Airport, the road and rail network, employment lands, a corridor for an outer Sydney motorway, freight terminals, precinct plans for residential release areas and an extensive flood zone. However, these elements individually do not make a city nor establishes a desirable character in which people want to live.

The NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects recommends that the NSW Government commences a master plan process for outer Western Sydney. This would provide design direction for a liveable, sustainable and productive city in the Cumberland Plain landscape. A city that in time will rival and in some ways achieve better urban quality and sustainability than eastern Sydney, with high quality open space; an all pervading urban forest providing cooling, character and beauty; and interconnected communities, cultural landmarks and places that its residents can be proud of. Such a master plan has its precedent in Walter Burleigh Griffin's designs for Canberra, now proving so effective and valuable.

A master plan supporting the NSW Government Plan for Growing Sydney, will enable all the infrastructure commitments to be linked, integrated and incorporate the Sydney Green Grid in more detail to achieve an outcome greater than the sum of the parts. Its implementation will be achieved through the projects lead by government and developers. Its cost will be far outweighed by the benefits of having agreement, consistency and clarity for all sectors and by the wider economic benefits of the creation of a beautiful place to live and work that makes a major contribution to community health and well being.

AILA members are ready to help in this master plan, provide design direction and give life and realism to the Government's aims.

We would be happy to meet to discuss this matter further and how landscape architects can assist in creating a great place to live; with communities that are strong, healthy and well connected; ensuring Sydney is a sustainable and resilient city that protects the natural environment and has a balanced approach to the use of land and resources. Our Chapter Manager, Catherine Scheen, would be happy to make arrangements with your staff. (catherine.scheen@aila.org.au or 0424 184 469)

Finally I attach the list of recent AILA NSW award winners for your information.

Gareth Collins



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NEW SOUTH WALES 2015 AWARD WINNERS

Sydney's highly anticipated Barangaroo Reserve and a world-class plan for Parramatta City River, are two of 20 landscape architecture projects and professionals recognised for outstanding innovation and design at this year's Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture (AILA) New South Wales Awards.

McGregor Coxall, in partnership with Parramatta City Council, was awarded the prestigious New South Wales 2015 Medal for Landscape Architecture, for their bold vision to revitalise the city foreshore of the Parramatta City River into a vibrant public space. The compelling and innovative strategy reactivates the river corridor, connecting it to the city centre through open spaces, access ways and structured quarters.

The recently revealed Barangaroo Reserve received its first official accolade, with Peter Walker and Partners, Johnson Pilton Walker, Stuart Pittendrigh, Ron Powell and Tract Consultants given the NSW President's Choice Award for their collaborative and sustainable approach to the new oasis. Honouring the natural landscape and materials, including Sydney's famous sandstone, the team have transformed the space to immerse visitors in the heart of Sydney harbour with a visual, emotional and historic connection to the reserves and headlands.

Other standout projects awarded include ASPECT Studios for their Alumni Green enlivening Sydney's University of Technology and HASSELL for their redevelopment of both Darling Harbour and Sydney's light rail. Sydney's surrounding suburbs and regions are also home to award-winning projects, including the Sutherland Shire Council Design Services' *Cronulla Esplanade and Seawall upgrade*, and the world-class Wylde Mountain Bike Trail – a collaborative project between GroupGSA and Western Sydney Parklands Trust.

The awards also recognised the profession's future leaders, with Alexander Georgouras from Spackman Mossop Micheals Studio receiving the state's Graduate accolade, and Allison Sainty and Brinlee Pickering receiving the Future Leaders Student Awards.

The full list of project award recipients for the 2015 AILA NSW Landscape Architecture Awards are as follows:



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AILA NSW 2015 Medal for Landscape Architecture

McGregor Coxall in partnership with Parramatta City Council for The Parramatta City River Strategy



Award for NSW President's Choice in Landscape Architecture

Peter Walker and Partners, Johnson Pilton Walker, Stuart Pittendrigh, Ron Powell and Tract Consultants for the work on Sydney's Barangaroo Reserve



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Award for NSW Public Practice in Landscape Architecture

Sutherland Shire Council – Design Services for Where the Shire meets the Sea; the Cronulla Esplanade and Seawall upgrade



Award for Residential Designed Landscapes

Stuart Noble Associates for Quay Apartments



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Award for Urban Design in Landscape Architecture

HASSELL for the Sydney Light Rail



Award for Urban Design in Landscape Architecture

KI Studio for Nepean River Green Bridge, Penrith-Concept Design Vision



Award for Urban Design in Landscape Architecture

HASSELL for the Darling Harbour Precinct

What was Phillip's broadscale approach to the landscape?

Phillip's landscape responses are recorded as summarised reports to government. Only by analysing his & other eye witness accounts; the maps and charts by his teams; chronologically, and as a collection; and through a landscape planning and analysis lens, can Phillip's true contribution be understood.

RESEARCH APPROACH: a mixed method of enquiry into:

1. Mapping from 1788-1792
2. Archival research
3. Field Observations
4. Natural science information
5. Recent relevant works

Phillip's contribution to Sydney, and its region, through a new lens is important because later governors' particularly Macquarie and his architect Goswami are largely credited with being its place makers through their tangible legacy of public works.

In truth they built upon the formulation of deeper patterns of thinking by Phillip as evidenced in his orchestration of new settlements at Sydney, Norfolk Island, Parramatta and Tonguehole. His decisions were informed by examining the country; extensive site visits overland and / or excursions by boat. His assessment teams surveyed and sounded local and regional waterways; his landscape observations analysed as broadscale conceptualizations.

Planning Report - PLAN 9018 Thro' the eye of the Governor 1788-1792. THE LANDSCAPE PLANNING LEGACY OF GOVERNOR ARTHUR PHILLIP

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Supervisor: Dr. Cameron Logan
Unit Coordinate: Assoc Prof. Nicole Gurrán

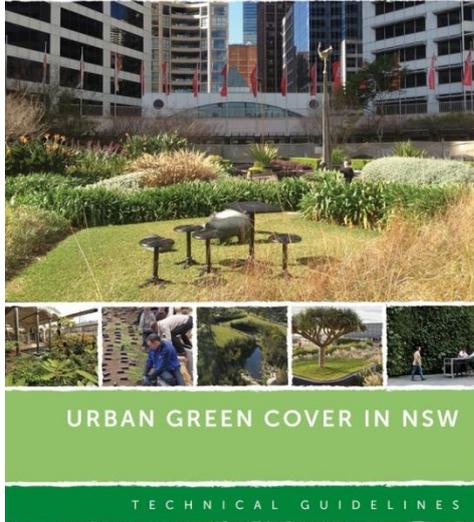
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND PLANNING

Award for Research and Communication in Landscape Architecture

Christine Hay for The Governor's Gift, Phillip's Landscape Vision Research Paper



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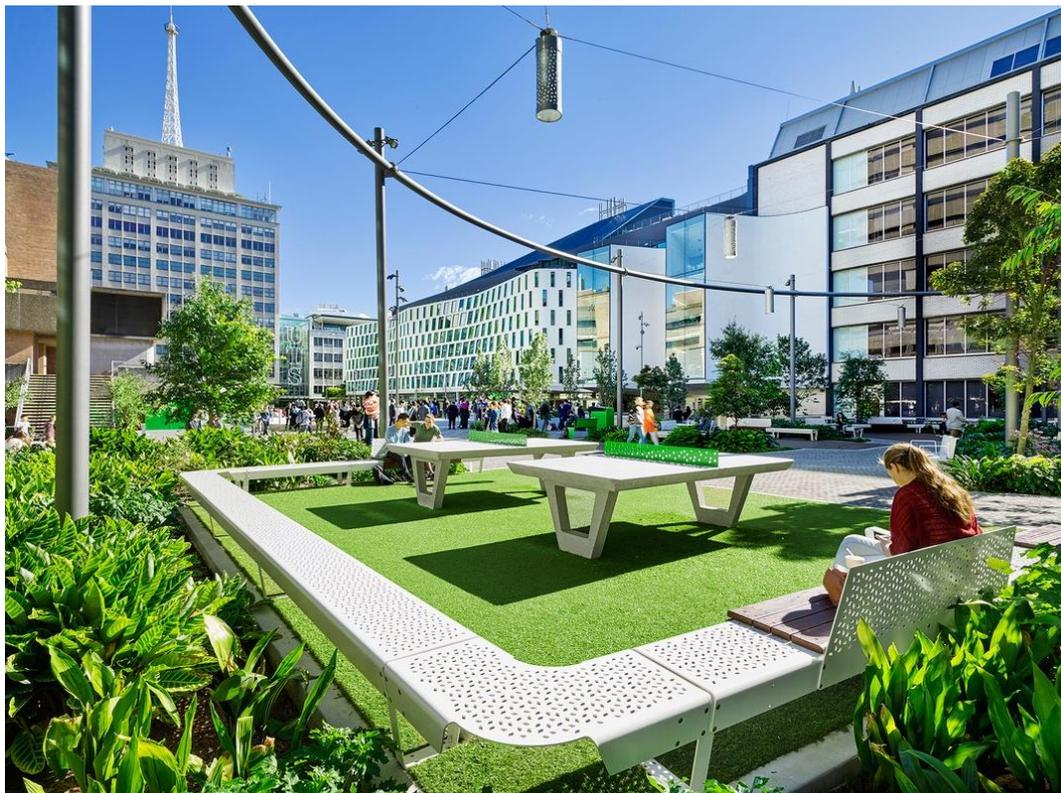
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Technical guidelines for urban green cover in NSW

Award for Research and Communication in Landscape Architecture

NSW Government Architects Office Landscape and Urban Design Group for Urban Green Cover in NSW Technical Guidelines





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Award for Design Excellence in Landscape Architecture

ASPECT Studios for the UTS Alumni Green



Award for Design in Landscape Architecture

GroupGSA in collaboration with Western Sydney Parklands Trust for the Wylde Mountain Bike Trail



Award for Design in Landscape Architecture

KI Studio for the Glenfield to Leppington-Integrated Art and Heritage Strategy



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Awards for Design in Landscape Architecture

Stuart Noble Associates for Edmondson Park



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Award for Design in Landscape Architecture

Tract Consultants for Garangula Gallery



Award for Design in Landscape Architecture

Jeppe Aagaard Andersen and Turf Design Studio for Chippendale Green