



International Federation of Landscape Architects
Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes

Newsletter

IFLA

No. 83

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Community collaboration

Collaboration for a landscape architect comes in many forms. As we can see from the articles in this issue of *IFLA News*, we collaborate on a spectrum from eliciting community feelings and beliefs by way of a process involving no formal consultation or structured meetings, through more proactive meetings, charettes, and steering committees to achieve shared and negotiated outcomes, to community mobilisation at a district or national level.

Articles featuring different levels of community ownership have been contributed from the Americas (Cecilia B. Herzog on a collaborative team in Rio de Janeiro and Beata Dreksler rescuing a central Guatemala City park), and from Europe (Thomas Knoll on transnational collaboration). Others come from Asia and the Pacific: Iran (Mohammad Motallebi on national action on tree planting), Japan (Mayumi Hayashi on community input into urban reconstruction after earthquake devastation), New Zealand (Dennis Scott) and Australia. The issue is introduced by Greg Grabasch who describes two examples of engagement with local communities in the far northwest of Western Australia. Whereas interventions in the past in this region have tended to occur regardless of community wishes, a new approach has allowed local ownership of landscape developments and a better result for visitors alike. See also the epilogue on page 16.

To start, two questions (and answers) from IFLA President, Diane Menzies.

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Background: local sedimentary stones and soils from the Kimberley, Western Australia – see articles contributed by Greg Grabasch in this issue.

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IFLA News No. 84: Special Congress Issue (September 2009)

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Deadline for articles (500 -1000 words and illustrations) last day of the preceding month



From the President

If anyone has the question, "Who or what is IFLA?" The answer is – **You are.**

If you are a member of a landscape architecture association in your country, and that association is a member of IFLA, then you are a member of IFLA. If you are a member of ASLA, BDLA or CAAP, you are a member of IFLA. Your fellow members are from the Americas, Africa, Europe as well as the Asia Pacific region of IFLA.

If you are from one of the few countries where there is no landscape architecture association, then you may join IFLA as an individual member.

Another question: "What does IFLA do?" Above all, IFLA opens doors. It provides you with the chance to connect with landscape architects around the world, to work together, and to share resources and ideas, such as through *IFLA News* and *IFLA News Brief* (INB). In addition to conferences, a host of IFLA volunteers link up throughout the year on committees, working parties, and international task forces directed at specific goals.

These goals include:

- Identifying best practice tools and strategies for adapting to climate change.
- Promoting ethics and high education standards, and supporting the formation of university training and standards for landscape architects, and professional bodies in countries where they do not exist.
- Producing a Global Landscape Charter to act as a template for national associations to develop charters that promote the protection, planning, design and sustainable management of their national landscapes, and ensure the continued health and vitality of their landscapes and peoples.
- Promoting the profession in Africa, a region that has very few landscape architects for its size.

We welcome the interest of colleagues and we are happy to send *IFLA News* to anybody who requests it. We hope IFLA members will circulate this newsletter to others. If you do not already receive *IFLA News* directly, please contact our Executive Secretary, Christine Bavassa [admin@inflaonline.org]. She will put you on our database so that you receive *IFLA News* electronically.

Diane Menzies
President

North Western Exposure: Landscape Architects Wanted

Greg Grabasch

Principal, UDLA

AILA Western Australian Group

Landscape architects aim to provide healthy urban spaces. However, the profession is still coming to terms with its vital role within rural and frontier communities.

As a practising landscape architect in the North Western expanse of Australia (Kimberley and Pilbara regions), it is becoming incredibly evident that townships are embedded within a pragmatic lifestyle approach. This structured regime may have been born out of necessity, yet has developed to become the expected norm for any isolated regional Australian town or community.

There is a rugged naivety and purpose in this approach, much like a young bachelor using his new pad to grease his motorbike, scatter his dirty washing, and lay out his toolbox. As a generalisation, a bachelor is unlikely to consider the new window dressing that will filter the afternoon sunlight, and enhance the experience of reading a book on the carefully selected furniture. How things can change when a life partner shows up on the scene! In a similar manner, many North Western towns have acquired a rugged built form, rolling out engineered spaces that although highly practical, often lack attention to the design of social places for people to engage and inspire.

This regional development and spatial typology, evident within many Western Australia frontier towns, has continually escaped serious critique. Yet the media continues to report increasing social problems, cultural disparity, communities with low self-esteem, drinking problems, workers and professionals who would rather fly in and fly out than live and contribute to these communities.

The following descriptions and pictures within the Kimberley [see the next article on the Town Walk, Halls Creek, and last article in this issue on the Januburu, Six Seasons, Broome] indicate UDLA's constant learning curve towards providing engaging space within these rural Australian communities.



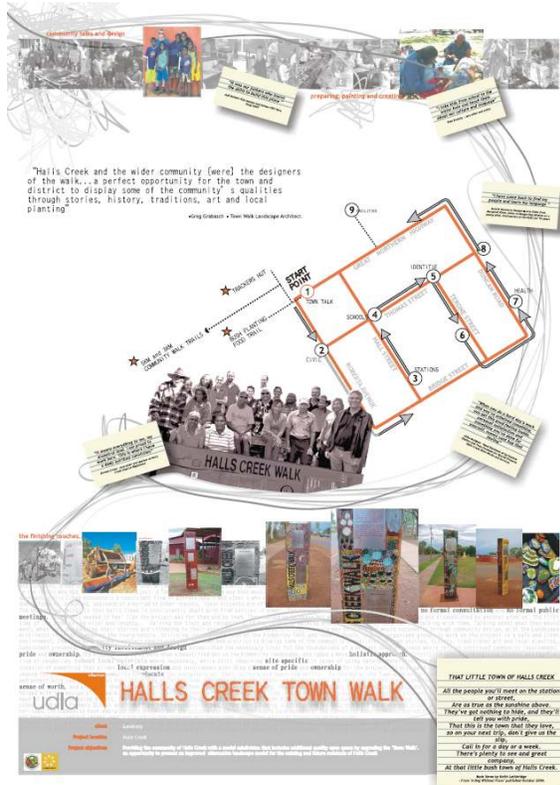
Town Walk Halls Creek, WA

Greg Grabasch

UDLA (urban design + landscape architecture)

Overview

Halls Creek is a busy service town for surrounding pastoralists, Aboriginal communities and travellers exploring northern Western Australia. Situated in the heart of the Kimberley and covering approximately 142,908 km² of predominantly desert and pastoral country, Halls Creek is a landscape of wide open spaces, magnificent natural attractions and rich Aboriginal and European history and culture.



Regrettably, Halls Creek receives predominantly bad press. For any real and positive change to occur, projects should be approached with local knowledge, deep understanding and a respect for the unique lifestyle and hurdles faced by this community. The LandCorp¹ residential development on the airport land at Bridge Street provided an opportunity for a whole of Government approach to social issues in the town.

¹ The Western Australian Land Authority (LandCorp) is the Western Australia Government's land and property development agency.

Typically, within a standard subdivision development, a percentage of land is allocated to public open space. In the case of Halls Creek, the relevance of a small park would have been lost on this remote town that has specific needs and concerns. A new opportunity was requested by community members that would enable local involvement, ownership and an attraction for tourists. A Town Walk became a perfect opportunity for the town and district to display some of the community's qualities through stories, history, traditional art, and local planting. The experience has shown that a collaborative process has played a large role in building a sense of pride and ownership for this project. Therefore, this unique opportunity has been seen to benefit the entire community.

A new approach

The design and planning of the project required a considered approach. Halls Creek encounters a consistent flow of professionals and others who propose new ideas that will supposedly improve the town. These projects are often full of promise. Unfortunately, due to funding, planning, approach, or a myriad of other reasons, they either never get off the ground or do not deliver the anticipated results. An underlying factor is that Halls Creek has been consistently dealt to by parties in power. Our project required a hands-on approach, which in this case included no formal consultation or structured meetings, allowing the best opportunity for local ownership and development.

Getting to know the locals

The first step of the process was vital and lengthy and required gaining the trust and recognition of the locals through walking around, meeting, greeting, discussing various opportunities. From hearing their stories and listening to local concerns it became apparent that the only way this project would succeed is through collaborative community design and implementation, with the landscape architects in effect becoming the low key coordinators.

Building ideas

Although the indigenous Halls Creek community has suffered much disturbance to its culture and traditions in the past, many elders and locals are helping others to rediscover traditional culture and history. Halls Creek also holds a strong history in mining and pastoral practices, and has significant historical locations that are worth highlighting within the landscape. From initial and ongoing discussions, a richer idea of the type of elements that could be incorporated within the town walk began to emerge.



Design and implementation

Signage

The myriad of unique and interesting stories was overwhelming. It became apparent that signage with a strong artwork component would be a useful tool in relaying this information to the wider community.

Firstly, in such an unforgiving climate and with the high risk of vandalism, robust materials were necessary, while still remaining site specific in terms of using natural materials that would weather sympathetically.

Totem poles made from bush timber were considered a suitable option. The softness of wood and use of a natural material encouraged a subtle gentleness to the landscape and a suitable base material for local paintings and signage.

Each totem pole represents a stopping point or station, with a total of nine themed stations around the town. The cultural paintings provide visual narrative, while brushed steel panels recessed into the wood communicate stories, quotes and information gathered from community discussions. This etched information offers an extra layer of detail and the formality of the steel adds a level of sleek professionalism to the organic post and free flowing images.

Artwork

Halls Creek is a hub for fine traditional artworks and a centre for indigenous community members to rediscover the skills of their ancestry. The Town Walk presented a prime opportunity to make a lasting display of these local talents. The totem poles were decorated by residents and students at Halls Creek District High School, Red Hill Primary School and Kimberley TAFE [Technical and Further Education College].

At the beginning of the Town Walk, the community designed and created a mosaic of intricately hand painted rocks. This mosaic sets out a stunning and unique map that is not only informative and breathtaking, but also clearly demonstrates the pride community members have taken in becoming involved in this project. In addition, this involvement provided a chance for elders within the community to educate the youngsters in their culture and to help them learn new skills.

By utilising already established groups such as the Kimberley TAFE, hospitals, language and resource centres and local schools, organised groups were able to work on the project in a safe and clean environment. Furthermore, these groups were able to undertake the works as part of their normal activities and curriculum.



Anna and pupils of Halls Creek District School



Celebrating the final totem



Greg and the High School group



Bush Garden

A local appreciation of traditional food gathering techniques and knowledge is recognised within Halls Creek and is seen as something that the local community would like to promote and educate. Therefore, a bush food garden located in a prominent position near the new hospital was a popular consideration in the overall design. Furthermore, the bush garden will cultivate exotic fruit trees to demonstrate the process and opportunity to grow a range of foods in this environment, and the associated health benefits.

Historical sites

Halls Creek itself has had many historical moments and it was considered important to renew these sites and put them on show. For example, the Trackers Hut, originally used by local police to house the Aboriginal trackers, is heritage listed and is a fascinating example of local history for tourists visiting the region. The Town Walk recognises these locations by leading visitors past significant sites and allowing them the opportunity to appreciate the important role Halls Creek has played in the development of the State.

Exercise trails

The community endures some very real health issues and formal solutions that work in more urbanised areas are not an option for the Halls Creek culture. Following discussions, the suggestion to provide two informal exercise trails was brought to light. This element of the Town Walk is more specifically designed for the locals than tourists and, like the bush food garden, promotes healthy lifestyle.

Outcome

Because the community have embraced this project, the outcome has been better than expected. Since the display and installation of the cultural artworks, many locals have further inquired as to how they may become involved in the process, such as getting their name, painting, story or footprint on the poles.

Not only did it provide numerous benefits throughout its design and construction, the Town Walk has ongoing benefits for the community in helping them develop a sense of pride in their hometown. The Town Walk encourages people passing through the town to linger and potentially learn more about Halls Creek. As the locals see tourists stop, read and appreciate the town walk, it encourages a sense of worth, and pride for the local people.

Through positive and ongoing consultation with the Community and Halls Creek Shire, this project has culminated in the design and implementation of a unique town walk experience.

Núcleo IVE – URB *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Cecilia P. Herzog

Landscape designer, Master in Urban Environmental Preservation, and Master (incomplete) in Urbanism, member of Núcleo-IVE-URB

Núcleo IVE – URB (Infraestrutura Verde e Sustentabilidade Urbana / Green Infrastructure and Urban Sustainability Group) is a forum to discuss, propose and educate about green infrastructure and urban sustainability in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Núcleo IVE – URB

Rio de Janeiro has one of the most impressive natural and cultural urban landscapes of the world. The skyline of the hills is remarkable. The contribution of landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx can be seen in most of the designed open spaces of the second half of the 20th Century. The city is an applicant for a UNESCO's World Heritage Cultural Landscape.

The natural landscape has been heavily transformed during the urbanization process: hills were razed; wetlands, rivers, lagoons and the seashore were landfilled; and rivers and watercourses were straightened and channelized. Ecosystems have been annihilated. The massifs remain partly covered by the Atlantic Rainforest, mainly due to the decay of the 19th Century coffee production industry and the subsequent reforestation with native vegetation species in order to restore water resources. The main purpose of landscape intervention was to sanitize the city, to landfill the wetlands, and to create land for construction. Last century, mobility of the private automobile was prioritized.

The urban area is mostly limited by its natural boundaries: the Tijuca and Pedra Branca massifs, and the Atlantic Ocean and Guanabara and Sepetiba bays. The city, as for most large metropolises, is unsustainable, with floods and landslides happening almost every rainy season. The air, water, and soil are polluted. If the hills were not forested this hot tropical city could be significantly (around 6°C) warmer.



Traffic is heavy due to the number of private cars that keeps growing at a rapid pace because of inadequate alternative transportation systems. The lack of proper social housing drives the lower income residents to build illegally in protected sensitive areas, which contributes to deforestation and pollution. Rio has a natural green infrastructure that could be enhanced with high performance, low impact urban design implemented in public and private developments, in renovations or new projects.

A new proposal: *Núcleo IVE-URB*

We are a multidisciplinary team of three landscape architects, four architects, two entrepreneurs, an environmental manager and an advertising professional. We created the *Núcleo IVE-URB* (Green Infrastructure and Urban Sustainability Group) in January this year, inspired by Professor Jack Ahern's lecture *Green Infrastructure: Concepts and Strategies for Sustainability*, which he presented in Rio in December 2008. We are collaborating to contribute to discussion of the city's sustainable development. We work and research in a wide array of spheres: bamboo housing construction and sustainable architecture, ecological landscape occupation research, planning and design, alternative urban mobility, sustainable construction methods and debris disposal, solid waste recycling and reuse, and environmental education and communication.



All paying attention to Jack Ahern's presentation

We have several long-term objectives:

- to research and propose possible sustainable design solutions for open space in order to restore landscape functions and processes;
- to influence urban legislation and public policies;
- to educate and raise public awareness of environmental issues (such as the city's remarkable and fragile landscape) and social issues;
- to support actions aiming to preserve and restore the Atlantic Rainforest and related ecosystem remnants;
- to contribute to lowering the city's emissions of greenhouse gases through its buildings;
- to design landscape with an emphasis on alternative ecological transportation modes;
- to encourage tree planting in urban open spaces and reforestation of degraded areas. We are closely related to the NGO *Amigos do Parque Nacional da Tijuca* / Friends of the Federal Tijuca Forest Park that supports the park administration and represents the civil society.

In a short period of time, we have already achieved a number of goals:

- The organization of six lectures on different topics related to urban sustainability, gathering more than 600 people.
- The development of a proposal for a Green Infrastructure plan for a drainage basin in a dense urban area, which will be presented at the IFLA World Congress to be held in Rio de Janeiro in October this year.
- The launching of a website meant to be a local reference on Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Development, focused on state-of-the-art international and local projects and related information. In addition to informing about lectures and other *Núcleo IVE-URB* actions, it is intended to be a forum to discuss urban sustainability in its diverse aspects.

Future

We are all active professionals who work voluntarily to bring new ideas and concepts to the city agenda. We are motivated by the successful outcome and enthusiastic public response to our activities. Monthly lectures on related matters are scheduled for the second semester with local and international speakers. Some *Núcleo IVE-URB* members have been invited to participate as keynote speakers in out-of-town seminars. We believe that our work can contribute to the discussion about effective urban sustainable growth and improvement in a developing country. For further information, see:

<http://nucleoiveurb.net/>

<http://www.amigosdoparque.org.br/>



The Great Gardens partnership

Thomas Knoll

Secretary General, ÖGLA
Austrian Association of Landscape Architects

INTERREG is an EU-funded programme that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects, enabling the regions to develop new solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges [http://www.interreg3c.net/web/home_en].



Eisenstadt's Orangerie

The INTERREG project on the park network called "The Great Gardens", which included the implementation of several tasks in seven parks, was finished in 2007. The main objective of this transnational European Union (EU) project was the creation of a network of parks to support, for instance, the preservation of historical park monuments, the development of a collective and relaxed way of tourism, and transnational strategic planning and regional development.

The recent cooperation of historic parks included the following seven partners in Austria, Slovakia and Hungary:

- Schloss Eckartsau, Lower Austria (Eckartsau Palace)
- Schloss Esterházy, Eisenstadt, Burgenland, Austria (Esterházy Palace)
- Schloss Fertőd, Hungary (Fertőd Palace)
- Schloss Marchegg, Lower Austria (Marchegg Palace)
- Schloss Prugg, Bruck an der Leitha, Lower Austria (Prugg Palace)
- Schloss Rusovce, Slovakia (Rusovce Palace)
- Schloss Malacky, Slovakia (Malacky Palace)

The park network's positive impact on the region continues today. Preservation as well as restoration, following historic precedents as closely as possible, were implemented in the parks. The parks appear well maintained and their infrastructure has improved significantly. New places for people to rest were installed, inviting the visitor to stay longer; paths and bridges were reconstructed; and new guidance systems lead and inform visitors in the parks of Eisenstadt and Harrachpark [Schloss Prugg].

The seven partners aim to continue infrastructure improvements in the parks. Further tending strategies in Eckartsau and Harrachpark are guaranteed by maintenance concepts. Maintenance of meadows through extensive forest management and grazing will also keep it free from undesirable growth. Security on paths will be ensured through tree care control and services. To further revitalize Eisenstadt's Palace Park, a masterplan has been developed that will guide the implementation of these measures until the Haydn-commemorative year in 2009.

The booklet, *Walk through the Palace Park Eisenstadt*, was published as part of the INTERREG project. This detailed publication offers an overview of the Palace Park Eisenstadt, identifies important sights, and provides information on the region and partner network.

To promote the park network a homepage was designed, multilingual folders produced, and garden tours offered. These folders are available in the languages of all the participating partners, as well as in English. They also provide information on "The Great Gardens" park network, on the transnational INTERREG project, as well as information on particular parks and characteristics well worth seeing. A map was included in the folder to help visitors to locate botanical as well as built features. For further information about the Great Gardens partnership, see: www.diegrossengaerten.at



On the raft, Carl Manzano, director of the Danube National Park, with landscape architects and other visitors



Collaboration at the heart of Guatemala City

Beata Dreksler

MSc, landscape architect

In Guatemala, there is always a problem with big landscape architecture projects. They are typically used as part of the package of election promises for citizens, but then government is not able to really manage and finance them once elected. This was the case with the Cerrito del Carmen (Mount Carmen) project. For many years this was a project that every new mayoral candidate proposed for development, but no one was able to manage a project of such complexity.

What is Cerro del Carmen? Before Guatemala City was even planned, there was a church, founded in 1620, one of the oldest in the country. Then, in 1776, Guatemala City was shaped and “drawn” from a point at Cerrito. This was the 0.0 point of the plan, the origin. Without doubt, it has a special historic and religious value. On the other hand, it is also the biggest park in the Historic Center area, and has always been a place where local families and visitors liked to spend time.

In recent decades, the whole quarter was devastated by criminals and gangs operating in the Historic Center, and this part of the area was forgotten by authorities. With the movement of people for new, fenced and secure districts, almost all neighbors deserted the area. Some still stayed, but most of the houses were sold or rented for cheap hotels used basically by prostitutes, and the park itself become a dangerous place of drug dealing, delinquency, and prostitution.

In 2003, a private foundation, Teoxche (meaning Wood of the Gods), was created. It was a group of people who wanted to work to bring life and beauty back to Cerrito del Carmen Park. The Foundation was created by Isabel Paiz de Serra who had always had a dream to see the park as she remembered it from her childhood. From the first moment, we knew that the only way we could move forward was by inviting local authorities and neighbors. We found out that there were many groups working in the area: the Church Committee (responsible for the religious activities of the church, especially during Easter), a local neighborhood committee, and a property owners committee. There were also some occasional cultural activities (including music, theatre and exhibitions) in the park, which were produced by an art group called *Manifestarte*.



At Cerrito del Carmen with the Teoxche Foundation, the City Mayor, Urbanistica and neighbors

The goals and points of view of the groups were so different. There were even very strong political and social differences. However, all participants agreed that Cerrito was the most important issue. The Teoxche Foundation knew that the project could be successful only with the agreement and approbation of the Municipality. However, the Municipality at this time had different proposals, one of them being the renting of a part of the park for fast food restaurants to create additional income for park maintenance, which, of course, it was entitled to pursue. The good factor was that in 2004 the Municipal government changed and the new mayor was much more open to cooperation with the Foundation and local committees. Additionally, a private architectural workshop, *Urbanistica*, was created and become a design office of the Municipality. It was the perfect moment to start the project.

First of all, we organized a charrette and invited all committees, local authorities, the *Urbanistica* office, and all neighbours and people who might be interested in revitalization of the park. We also invited representatives of the Conservation Office, the Police and the Municipal Guards.



A charette, organized and attended by Urbanistica and other participants



The charette was organized in the park, in big tents, and it lasted the whole weekend. Probably it was the first activity of its type in Guatemala. We divided all participants into groups and many new concepts and ideas were developed. It was a dream of what the park should be, joining its religious, historic, relaxation, and touristic functions. There was a place for Sunday's school of painting, a school of poetry, and a children's playground. And most importantly, the schedule of activities was created.

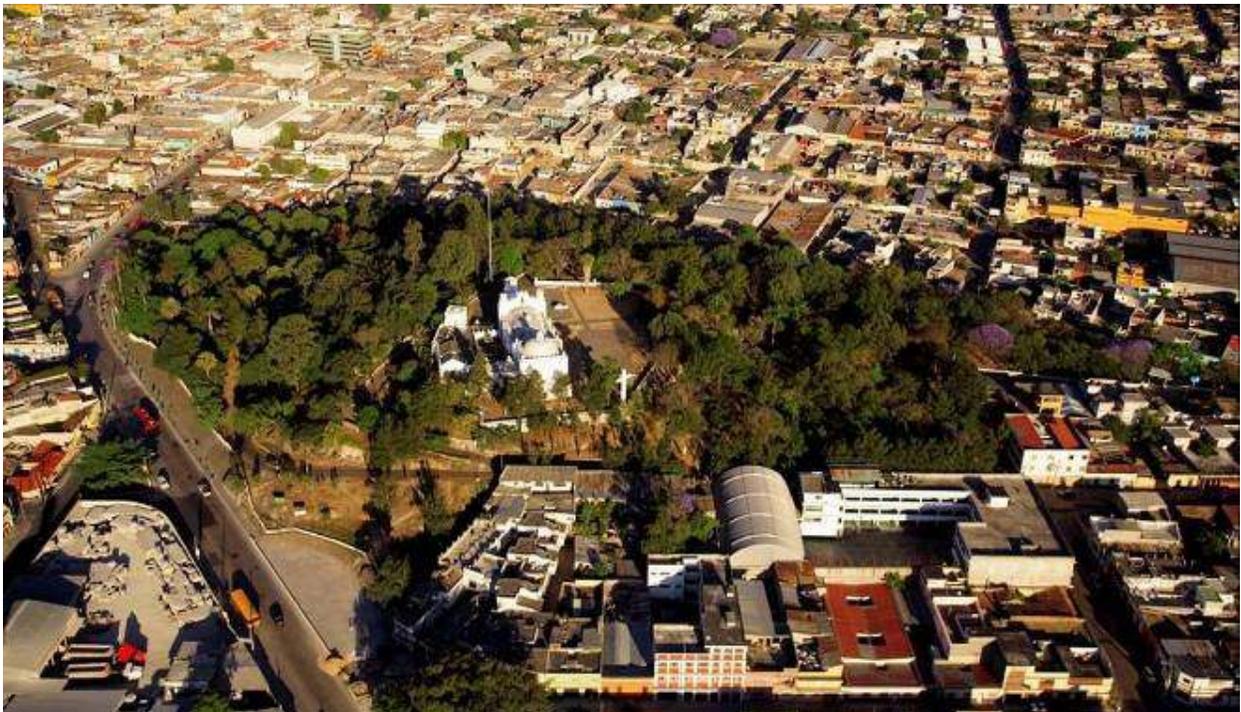
With the participation of neighbors and some private contributions, Teoxche started with concerts and cultural activities. Local committees organized activities for schools where students could participate in planting new trees and removing rubbish. Life started to come back to the park. However, a great deal of work was also done: capturing all available information and developing the Masterplan of the park. Formerly, there was always a lack of a full-time landscape architect, who could lead a design team and develop detailed designs for the whole area including the surroundings. Teoxche decided to attend to the most important and pressing issues like the children's playground, water and erosion problems, electricity, and security. The park was fenced, a new lighting system was implemented, the children's playground was installed, and a water system and new bathrooms was constructed. And with that, Cerrito del Carmen totally changed its façade and started to be a place to spend time, to walk, run, relax or play with children.

There was a huge amount of help from gardeners, plant nurseries and all kinds of donations and contributions. Thanks to them, the project is moving forward.

With this kind of work, many issues are attended to very quickly through the efforts of volunteers. On the other hand sometimes it is not clear who leads the team since there are so many organizations and neighbor committees involved. What is missing is an appropriate and comprehensive landscape architecture design. However, right now it is always easier to capture the funds and, after all, the most important thing is that Cerrito del Carmen is available again for neighbors and visitors.

In 2009 Diane Menzies and Carlos Jankilevich visited the area, shared their thoughts, and advised the best course to follow. Because of the lack of Government funds for landscape projects in Guatemala, it is usually more common to work within communities with private help and donations. It is also very important that neighbors become a part of these projects and "appropriate" them. There are other examples where this ownership of projects has happened. For instance, the Rio Sarstun Reserve where local communities help with construction, maintenance and attending to visitors, and are involved in the creation of new areas; participatory projects in the Historic Center and in many zones of Guatemala City; and projects for the rehabilitation of canyons (barrancos) in Guatemala City, which are organized with schools and universities. The good thing is that every time more citizens are involved, and interest grows in landscape architecture projects. Each time, the authorities give them space and time to air their opinions, to discuss and propose solutions.

Cerrito del Carmen / Mount Carmen





Community revitalization in Japan

Dr Mayumi Hayashi

University of Hyogo

In this issue of IFLA News, I will introduce some of the achievements following the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake that occurred in 1995, killing more than 6,400 people, making refugees of more than 300,000 people, and destroying 250,000 houses. Many professionals, including landscape architects and urban planners, worked together in collaboration with citizens on these projects. These efforts, which are continuing today, have been highly rated for their results.

Reconstruction after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake

The first project that I will introduce is the reconstruction of the area around the Japan Rail Rokko Michi Station. Plans for the reconstruction of this area were announced soon after the earthquake, but the local residents were surprised and became very angry. They did not agree with the plans to construct high buildings and a one-hectare park where they had lived for a long time. After a while, however, four community associations were established through the efforts of professionals, and the residents started to make their own decisions.

The city planning proposal did not receive approval from the citizens at first, and it was changed through submissions from the community associations. The original plan was for a big square park. The second plan was to make many small parks, and the final plan was to make a rectangular park with a reduced area of 9,300 m². The citizens still did not want to have a large park in such a dense area, but the new park of this size provides increased amenity to the neighborhood as well as fulfilling disaster protection functions.

Furthermore, an Institute of City Planning committee, in which I participated, presented the "Community Design in West Japan" award to this project. This was because the plan had not been made just for parks or buildings alone, but had been characterized by the consensus reached with citizens who participated in the basic planning association, chose design keywords and created "Environmental Design Principles." Design codes were agreed upon, for example, to use the Mikage stone that is produced in the nearby mountains.



Rokko Michi Park and its surrounding area

Community reclamation of the Hyogo Canal

The next example that I will introduce is that of the Hyogo Canal, which is in the Hyogo Ward of Kobe City. I introduced this project at the IFLA World Congress in the Netherlands in 2008. This canal, which is the longest in Japan, was once prosperous for timber storage and transport. The decline of the timber industry, however, caused this canal to be abandoned, and to become dirty with garbage and illegal dumping. Professionals and citizens worked together to hold a "canal regatta," and, as a result of related activities, the canal has become so clean that it now supports a pearl industry. Community activism resulted in flowers and greenery along this canal, and motivated young people in the community to participate in the efforts.



Residents stage big events at the park

Photos are by the Kobe City Council and the Network of Supporting Communities for Reconstruction after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, with which the author has been involved.

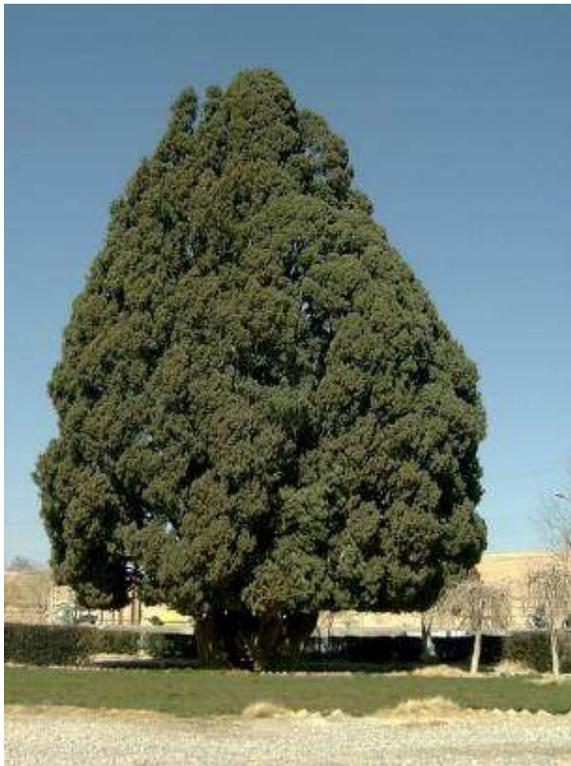


Hands and trees

Mohammad Motallebi

General Secretary-ISLAP-IRAN

Iran is dominated by arid and semi-arid regions. In Iran's history, therefore, trees have always been valued as a symbol of verdure and productivity. There are many convincing examples of the valued place of trees in Iranian culture apparent in works of the past. These include using the symbol of the tree in lithographs and reliefs belonging to different eras, using the tree patterns in carpets and kilims, allocating the major part of Persian Gardens for planting trees, considering old/ancient trees as holy in different parts of the country, and planting trees near the tombs of popular figures.



Iran's oldest tree, the cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) in the city of Abarkouh, Yazd Province, planted over 4000 years ago

It is interesting that this practice can be seen all round Iran and in all tribes and groups of people. For instance, in Kordistan, hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and oak (*Quercus brantii*) trees, in the south of Iran a species of fig (*Ficus bengalensis*), and in the centre of Iran one species of cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) are highly valued by people. This attitude towards trees led to the nomination of March 6th as the *Day of Planting Trees* in Iran. The aim is to promote the culture of planting trees and to raise public awareness of environmental issues.



On this day different activities are accomplished by the public, NGOs, governmental organizations, and municipalities. Governmental organizations and municipalities encourage people to plant trees by distributing free saplings. Environmental NGOs have some group activities for planting trees. People of different ages and from different social levels all participate. The appropriate places for these activities are usually suburbs and forest parks where enough space and the necessary infrastructure are made available for planting trees. Sometimes students plant trees at schools or in urban parks as well.

Celebrating this day has helped to cover vast abandoned areas around cities with trees. But choosing suitable places for planting and the selection of appropriate species have always been a matter of concern to landscape architects. This prevents a lot of money from being wasted while keeping the ecological balance of the area.

Although planting trees is an important and valuable effort in itself, not paying enough attention to negative impacts of some alien species may cause serious damage to the environment. For instance, *Prosopis juliflora*, has been widely spread in the south of Iran in recent years. This is an invasive species with a very strong and deep spreading root system. It sucks the fresh water dry where having enough fresh water for agriculture and native plants is a serious problem. Similarly, planting coniferous trees, particularly Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) and eldar pine (*Pinus eldarica*), in the central parts of Iran, has led to loss of indigenous species and has changed the texture and pH of the soil.

So although people's participation in planting trees is a valuable mobilization, decent planning and monitoring of this participation is also needed.



Mangawhai Structure Plan: a community development approach

Dennis Scott²

President, NZILA

Collaboration through local-level partnership approaches to the planning of communities is an emerging and significant manifestation of positive and proactive social change.

A recent example of this is the Mangawhai Structure Plan, a planning initiative formulated to provide a means for the Kaipara District Council and Mangawhai communities to manage the effects of growth. The Structure Plan promotes community, council and other stakeholder collaboration to “work together to create a better place to live, work, learn and play”. It is part of a long-term, community based management process using both informal and formal methods to achieve a collective vision.

Mangawhai is located in an outstanding coastal environment on the east coast of the Northland Region of New Zealand. With over 1.5 million people within one and a half hours’ drive, Mangawhai is inevitably caught within the sphere of influence of the urban areas of Whangarei to the north and Auckland to the south. These areas are generating demand for permanent and holiday living at coastal locations. It is a popular recreational destination, and experiences a large number of visitors during the peak summer holiday period. It is anticipated that the Mangawhai area will be the largest community in the Kaipara District within the next five years.

The transition of Mangawhai from an isolated seasonal beach holiday and rural farming community to a rapidly growing coastal urban centre poses a number of environmental, landscape and planning challenges including:

- the continuing rapid rate and character of residential subdivision, and continuing rural-residential subdivision;
- increased demands for (and on) reserves and open space, and beach and harbour access issues;
- maintaining landscape character and amenity values; and maximising landscape and habitat conservation, protection and enhancement.



Mangawhai aerial view

The Mangawhai landscape is characterised by a number of natural and cultural features, including:

- an open coastal beach and harbour system;
- estuarine and salt marsh ecosystems;
- steep cliffs and headlands; and
- distinctive settlement patterns comprising the Mangawhai Village, harbourside and coastal residential development and dispersed rural buildings.

A public consultation process identified community concerns over the rate and effects of continuing development growth. The public had an opportunity to input into the decision making process through three public meetings. Comments from meetings and feedback from public questionnaires, together with feedback and submissions from individuals and community groups established extensive and intensive widespread concern. The commonly held community perception was that the existing sense of place and attractive landscape character had been rapidly eroded. This collective community awareness created the catalyst for a collaborative planning approach to emerge.

A more engaging participatory process evolved. A Design Liaison Team (DLT) was established. This acted as a reference team and comprised representatives from other local organizations and interests, tangata whenua (Maori representatives), Kaipara District Councillors and Council landscape and planning consultants. The DLT served as a focus group to discuss and record matters arising from wider individual community group interaction and contributions.

Open day/workshops were held where residents could view planning proposals in a direct and interactive way. This approach enabled the DLT to draw upon the existing wealth, knowledge and expertise across all sectors and of individuals in the community. Refined information and planning and development proposals were presented at each of the successive open days in order to capture community input as the process advanced.

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Public consultation in progress

This approach also assisted in gaining community support and ownership of planning and development proposals in a consistent and helpful manner. In addition, education and understanding towards best practice techniques for managing and enhancing the landscape, together with the formulation of innovative design and development strategies, proved to be a valuable and positive outcome of the process.

In 2006, the Mangawhai Structure Plan received the Silver Award in the Pride of Place NZILA Awards (Planning Category – Planning and Environmental Studies). The judges made the following comments:

This Structure Plan expands landscape assessment beyond the status quo. It identifies clearly strategies for moving forward. The plan details a quality approach to an important New Zealand issue and looks at longer term planning through catchment management approaches. The plan is beautifully presented and a lot of emphasis has been placed on the integrated team (Design Liaison Team) approach and identification of the team and how they worked together; this has set a benchmark that should be adopted by others undertaking these sorts of projects. Sensitivity to the relevant contexts of the area is evident and visual material is used to illustrate ideas and processes based on integrated landscape management principles.

The adopted Mangawhai Structure Plan:

- Provides guidance to the Council and the community to assist with the implementation of the Long Term Council Community Plan (Annual Planning). This plan outlines intentions and policies regarding environmental, social and economic development by identifying areas for growth and appropriate development options.
- Assists community groups to identify potential enhancement projects, e.g. boardwalks and landscape restoration projects through an integrated recreation and open space planning approach.
- Facilitates community capacity building in order to design and implement locally identified project initiatives. This may involve joint partnerships that require a sharing of resources and decision-making.
- Enables developers to achieve improved environmental outcomes through the application of subdivision design and implementation guidelines.
- Enables improved business development planning for economic development, e.g. tourism services development through the rationalisation and enhancement of existing resources.
- Focuses infrastructure and service delivery, e.g. wastewater treatment, stormwater management, drainage and roading through integrated and innovative approaches to infrastructure planning.
- Identifies agreed green infrastructure elements and patterns to facilitate the implementation of cross-boundary and multi-functional landscape and community linkages and connections.
- Facilitates the protection of natural resources such as soil, water and the enhancement of ecosystem services delivery.
- Utilizes design guideline principles to implement improved development outcomes.
- Implements planning methods for addressing the loss of visual and landscape amenity.

For full viewing of the adopted document, visit the Kaipara District Council website:
www.kaipara.govt.nz



Januburu SIX SEASONS estate, Broome, WA

Greg Grabasch

UDLA (urban design + landscape architecture)

Broome is situated in a unique location in the Kimberley region in the northwest of Western Australia. It is on the edge of the desert within deep red pindan soils and broad white beaches. The Yawuru people, traditional custodians within Broome, continue a strong cultural and spiritual connection to “country”. For this reason, they were strongly considered and included within the development planning and implementation process.

Due to the unique natural landscape combined with a cultural and heritage rich pearling industry, there is a booming local, national and international tourism trade. Furthermore, the growth of the resource industry in the Northwest means Broome enjoys strong population numbers and ongoing development.



Michlo Corpus sharing culture

Overview

Context

To many, Broome has been marketed as a tropical paradise of palms and white beaches. Unfortunately, development that upholds this dream displays an ignorance of local environmental conditions and knowledge, often resulting in unsustainable landscape, and developments that are devoid of a local sense of place and ownership.

Site

Broome has a recognised land shortage for housing and in October 2004, a joint-venture agreement was reached between LandCorp and Rubibi [an indigenous community group] for the residential development in return for securing a significant portion of land for an Environmental Cultural Corridor (ECC). In addition, due to the development site being located in close proximity to the significant cultural landscape of Minyirr Park, through Minyirr Park management the Rubibi would continue to have valued input into the landscape planning. Therefore, LandCorp’s 35 ha residential development provided an opportunity for the overall design to integrate indigenous heritage and create a naturally and culturally sensitive outcome.

Through site specific and community informed design the development presented a valuable opportunity for the local community to celebrate Broome’s unique landscape. The approach was to encourage local participation and ownership, and to provide a unique experience for the visitor. By engaging local knowledge, materials and workforce, this plan ultimately supports the development of a budding Northwest landscape industry.

Concept

Indigenous knowledge, themes and site ecology have been incorporated through landscape and subdivision planning. The residential development was named Januburu SIX SEASONS by the Rubibi. Januburu is from the Yawuru language (literally our country), and SIX SEASONS refers to the distinct seasons that the locals reference for their cultural living. The following outcomes exemplify landscape planning inclusive of this cultural and local input.

Environmental Cultural Corridor (ECC)

Retention of a large east-west portion of natural landscape, known as the Environmental Cultural Corridor, achieved a number of the design principles. Natural bushland in and around the Broome Township currently serve as discrete trails and linkages. Furthermore, they provide a continuing connection to country with the conservation of local fruit and significant cultural vegetation. The ECC preserves this important cultural layer as well as maintaining important existing drainage lines.



Drainage

Site drainage is an important consideration, especially within the Kimberley region that experiences extreme conditions, from extended dry periods to large storm events. The urban water management objective for Januburu SIX SEASONS is to maintain overland flows off site in accordance to prior development. Tropical storm events and general drainage run-off that is not infiltrated close to its source, is directed into free form swale retention basins. The use of concrete V-weirs reduces concentrated flows, allowing infiltration and run-off at a lessened natural flow rate. Local stone pitching and dry stone walls are used as a sympathetic solution for erosion and protection for significant vegetation. Drainage outcomes are elegant and unobtrusive additions that have proven to be a simple and robust solution in dealing with significant and periodical run off events.

Open Space

The ECC is supplemented by additional areas of public open space that support both planning conditions for recreational use and the necessary drainage requirements. In total, Januburu SIX SEASONS sets aside approximately 10 ha of land (23.5% of development area) for various open space purposes.

The cultural and environmental design objectives are exemplified through the considered use of local materials. Use of lawn areas, for example, is minimal and opportunities to use a local lawn species (Roebuck Plains couch) provided a water wise, nutrient independent solution.

In general, the public open spaces within the development do not aim to achieve manicured lawns and tropical exotic plantings. They endeavour to reflect and enhance the natural condition by retaining and supplementing significant pockets of bushland vegetation. Both the passive and active recreational areas aim for a practical "sense of place" landscape.

Streetscape, heritage and environment

Streetscape, including road and verge design, is a primary public space within the urban fabric. The Januburu SIX SEASONS road network provided an opportunity to achieve further connection to local heritage and the environment. This space also forms part of the development's water sensitive urban design objective. Many landscape structures, local materials and forms were used for cultural interpretation throughout the development's open spaces.

A Timeline Garden consisting of flowering and fruiting vegetation grouped in seasonal array and an interpretive story telling mosaic provides a cultural and living entry statement.



Learning from drawing, in the pindan

This space sets the theme for the development, helping to provide an immediate connection to "country". The low-key entry statement includes bush sandstone boulders arranged for seating and a shade structure to encourage storytelling and educational opportunities. Beneath the shelter, set in a coloured concrete pad, is a mosaic artwork depicting the Yawuru six seasons. The locally designed artwork was coordinated and constructed by a team of Yawuru members and provided, along with design and planting works, an opportunity for local participation and ownership.

Another opportunity was the Iwarra wall, a free-form pindan rendered wall providing a structural drainage function shaped to reference the story of two Naji spirit sisters. In short, the wall symbolises Yuuru (snake) within Bugarregarre dreamtime intended to keep the sisters apart from each other. This is an understated feature, adding a unique and low maintenance streetscape solution that is well suited to its location.

Gravel banding and featured local planting is a common theme within the development's streetscape. These additions require little ongoing maintenance, withstand the unforgiving conditions, and are useful tools in enlivening a dry landscape. Furthermore, due to a centrally located airport, Broome is often viewed from above, when these aggregate features can be read as large locally inspired patterns on the landscape.



As an alternative to concrete footpaths, Januburu SIX SEASONS makes use of red pindan soils, a key element in the northwest. Januburu uses a rammed earth consisting of 5% cement stabilised, fine binding gravel and compacted pindan to create aesthetic and durable solutions for paths and rest areas.

Roads have been aligned to accommodate large event stormwater flow, directing large flows to compensation basins and living streams. The predominant north-south orientation of the road network maximises opportunities for breezes around buildings in response to local climatic conditions, whilst ultimately providing a high degree of legibility and connectivity. Roundabout intersections were identified as an opportunity for further subtle cultural references. Concrete pavers were chosen in six colours, referencing and interweaving relating to each of the six seasons recognised by the local indigenous community, to produce a simple, robust interpretive moment within the estate. Landscape input into the built form was recognised through the unique opportunity for LandCorp to provide front yard landscape rebate packages. New residents received a substantial grant to have their front yard designed and built in accordance with the design principles of Januburu. The grants have been popular particularly due to the site specific open spaces that inspire residents as to the potential of their own gardens.



Learning from Richard Hunter

Conclusion

LandCorp's Januburu SIX SEASONS residential development looks beyond the tropical, white sand dream and endeavours to create a sustainable connection to country. The understanding of space throughout and beyond the development demonstrates that an openness to be guided by site and local knowledge can have effective results in creating a robust landscape with a strong connection to country. On these terms, Januburu SIX SEASONS demonstrates a benchmark for sustainable, environmental and culturally responsive design.



Greg Grabasch on the mosaic

Epilogue

...In closing, our profession must take the serious step to positing the fact that landscape architects are more than space garnishers and tree huggers. Perhaps we can alleviate much of society's spatial disassociation, and in this way aid communities' perception of themselves and each other. Unfortunately, I believe our profession's "green" garnishing persona diminishes the opportunity to rise above this perception. I say this within the backdrop that new LA students are soon to undertake a 5-year degree, philosophising and grappling with how space ordering is beneficial to people, prosperity and the planet. However, I feel the profession's obsession with the above is letting the team down. Possibly too many LA's are being distracted by the detail, contemplating a bio-swale or a tree well amidst a four lane urban highway.