

ISSUE

12

Designing Better Places

What you need to know

Landscape Typologies

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Kooroomba Vineyard Chapel

Awards

2019 QLD Architecture Awards - Darling Downs
Regional Commendation (Small Project Architecture)

2019 AIA Qld State Architecture Hayes & Scott Award,
Named Award for Small Projects for Small Projects.



It is impossible to separate landscape from architecture as it is more than just a setting; it is a way of connecting people and place. This e-bite looks at the range of creative ways you can explore incorporating landscape into your built environment. Overall there are four reasons why it should be always considered.

Environmental

It supports diversity of species, helps maintain a healthy ecology, purifying the air, filtering water, providing shade and reduces climate impacts to weather.

Improve amenity

A well considered landscape can dramatically improve the composition of its contextual urban and architectural setting adding colour, texture, shadow and form.

Provides outdoor recreation

Good landscapes can offer alternative ways to occupy outdoor areas. This increases the quality of the physical well-being of the local population giving them more choices for recreation and the chance to get social connections with other people using the space.

Positive influence on people's state of mind

Incorporating direct or indirect elements of nature into the built environment has been demonstrated through research to reduce stress, blood pressure levels and heart rates, whilst increasing productivity, creativity and self reported rates of well-being.



Landscape Typology #1

OUTDOOR ROOMS

Covered outdoor spaces in our relatively benign climate can become functional spaces that can be created for relatively lower cost but with maximum effect. Conceived as an outdoor “room”, they create memorable places that define the user experience and allow a greater degree of year round occupation. In thinking about these spaces, as you would furnish any indoor room, carpets can be plants, openings can be windows, lights can be skylights and garden edges can be furniture.

They can be technically challenging spaces to ensure the plant material can survive the unique environmental conditions.

Translational Research Institute

Princess Alexandra Hospital Campus, 2013
Wilson Architects + Donovan Hill, Architects in Association

Case Study : St Andrew's College Learning Hub

Large outdoor covered spaces can create a community heart for an institution. Making it highly flexible means it could be used for multiple events which only furthers its cultural significance.

This outdoor room at St Andrew's College can become the major civic place, setting up a generous threshold and entry into the building it serves. Outdoor fans, screened valence to reduce glare and heat, and a tiered scalloped seating for gathering, socialising or performing feels both academic and relaxed. Structural columns within the space also create opportunities for skylights and trellised plantings and become the 'furniture' to the room improving its composition and scale.



Case Study : Translational Research Institute

This memorable landscaped room contributes to the identity and workplace environment while adding significant space to the network of communal places within the overall Princess Alexandra Hospital campus. Framed within its great window, the outdoor room provides a civic place at the scale of a city and delivers respite from the intensity of research.

It was intended that the plant material selected for this primary research facility be of special scientific interest. Plants such as gymnosperms abundant in past ages but now represented by conifers and Cycads have been included, as has been a thicket of Pines and a Magnolia grove to represent the most primitive of the Dicofy Ledons.



Landscape Typology #2

INTERIOR LANDSCAPES

Perhaps the most technical of all of the landscape design typologies is the Interior Landscape. It is the most challenging and yet for the building occupants, the most rewarding. The ability of plant leaves and foliage to improve air quality and proven subsequent beneficial effects such as; performance, perception, and general health & well-being within internal spaces and workplace is today a well established and researched Science.

These landscape designs require particular expertise in the specification of appropriate soil types and interior plant selections suitable in low light environments. Light levels ideally should be computer modelled and impacts on energy efficiency understood.

Case Study : The Peter Coaldrake Education Precinct

Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove Campus, 2019

In this building, an interior landscape can be used as a beautiful way to negotiate major changes of level and to unify the spaces into a cohesive whole and act as a focal place within the heart of the building. Bathed in natural light and incorporating lush sub-tropical planting, the spaces adjoining the atrium support an informal community student space, an amphitheatre, event venue, a garden sanctuary or learning commons.



Case Study : Ipswich Resource Centre

The Resource Centre Building at the University of Queensland's former Ipswich Campus was designed to function as a united shop front, a place for interaction between students and the Ipswich community.

The long seat against the garden is a mechanical plenum drawing and filtering air through the plant material purifying the system. This lively dynamic of lush, natural, sub-tropical garden adjacent to quiet, reflective library spaces formed an unique and unexpected hub for the University campus.



Landscape Typology #3

EDUCATION LANDSCAPES

When designing education landscapes, consideration should be given to all external spaces with the potential to contribute to student learning or well-being. Covered spaces can support outdoor learning activities or social student territories at recess. Consider class cohort sizes when designing any range of seating. Explore opportunities for student work to be displayed or demonstrated. Water features can become a biology lesson. Large covered areas could become a robot war battlefield. Every square metre should at least be imagined for multiple uses and its potential to support learning.

All Hallows' School Landscapes

Catherine Court, Mary Place, Kiriani, The Terraces
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
Award (AILA): All Hallows' School, Places in the
Landscape: Second tier Landscape Architecture
Award for Cultural Heritage



Case Study : St. Andrew's Anglican College Master Plan

As part of the new Learning Hub the surrounding landscape attends to overland flow. Grassed recreational areas with a background of the adjoining conservation parkland create a beautiful and functional setting.

When considering the planning of built infrastructure within a campus, the landscape and external areas become extremely important in the creation of Student Place, the improvement of the building settings, the creation of safe shade and engaging recreational areas. Mapping and enhancing the visitors experience from the moment they enter the school and move through various places becomes an important element in developing both the school's character and functional spaces. St Andrew's Anglican College has been fortunate to be able to leverage views into a densely forested conservation wetland as part of its campus experience.



Landscape Typology #4

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

There is a richness to the idea of continuous occupation even though the use may change. The fingerprint of time reveals a culture worth remembering. The new work becomes part of longer story about the evolution of place.

Although strategies for heritage built environment are well documented, there is still much to learn in the development of heritage landscapes that require knowledge of horticulture and nursery supply history as well as garden design theory. There has been much research based around the preservation and adaptation of the historic built fabric this can't be said for heritage landscapes. The ever evolving, growing and often undocumented changes to heritage landscapes requires a more forensic approach that calls upon horticultural and research skills. Giving consideration to the landscape heritage can substantially improve a sense of authenticity and understanding to the historic setting.



Old Government House
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane



Landscape Typology #5

URBAN LANDSCAPES

The design of urban places for the movement of people within the landscape relies on a sensitive approach and balance between infrastructure and nature.

Ultimately we should imagine that interventions into these places enhance the experience of being outdoors and how they can be occupied in a range of ways for a range of diverse uses. Always find strategies to introduce shade and cover. Conceive the connecting walkways between buildings as an enhanced experience and not simply of getting between A to B.

James Cook University, Verandah Walk
Townsville, Queensland

Case Study : JCU, Verandah Walk

Townsville, Queensland

Verandah Walk South Node connects JCU Education Central and the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library across Waada Mooli Creek. The challenge was to design a 420m long covered walkway that integrates well on its site, without overwhelming visitors with its scale and length.

The design approach was to acknowledge the different landscape contexts in a site-specific response, including the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library, a heroically scaled building facing a generous open eucalyptus forest with dense landscape at the sides.

In response to the site, the walkway is designed to be two distinct parts with differing characteristics. At either side of the Library are sinuous curving paths with reflective soffit weaving through the more dense tropical landscape setting. At the end of each walk are two pavilions which offer shaded student study spaces that also reduce the summer glare.

The deliberately curved walkway with its cantilevered roof directs attention outwards to the landscape and the Library building, rather than focusing the user's view 'down the barrel' of a long straight path. The curved path provides the required wayfinding cues while creating an experience of 'journey', instead of 'destination'.



Awards

2019 QLD Architecture Awards - North Queensland Regional Commendation (Urban Design)

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) - Top Tier

Award for Excellence for Urban Design Project Team



University of Queensland, LAKESIDE WALK, ST LUCIA

Awards

2007 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA):
Commendation

Case Study : Urban Landscapes - Lakeside Walk

The Lakeside walk was an environmentally sensitive project constructing a boardwalk around the Lakes at the St Lucia campus. The fauna habitats are preserved on the west side of the lake whilst providing equal people access and recreation. The Lakeside Walk includes an elevated timber boardwalk

weaving through a bird breeding area, shelters, seating, drinking, lighting and security facilities. The project took special care to design the facility to standards for access by people with disabilities. An elevated boardwalk that traverses over the lake provides an intimate connection to the lake's ecology and includes a series of sandstone seating walls to rest and take in the view.



Awards

1988 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA):
Merit Award for Local Government - Townscape

Green Roof Case Study: Cathedral Square

Cathedral Square was developed as a major public park in 1988. It is essentially a green roof podium landscape constructed over two floors of basement car parks below. The park sprawls over one hectare providing a foil to St John's Cathedral on Ann Street.

The design extensively references Brisbane's garden heritage with a palate of subtropical foliage, flowering trees and bedding out gardens. It was one of the first roof top gardens that incorporated fully mature trees.

Landscape Typology #6

GREEN ROOFS

Now more than ever we need to consider countering the density of the city and the amount of hard hot surfaces with more green spaces. Invariably this means creating gardens over carparks and building roofs. With weather patterns changing in the heat-sink cities, opportunities for greening space can take the form of parks, pleasure gardens and urban farms shading the hard hot surfaces to minimise heat radiation and improve comfort.

However, this objective also has challenges in technical delivery to ensure the plant material thrives and does not cause issues with waterproofing and the structure.



Suncorp Stadium Plaza
& Landscape

Case Study : Suncorp Stadium Plaza and landscape

The stadium redevelopment included a \$1.5million landscape budget for hard and soft landscape. Wilson Architects was involved in the landscape design and documentation for the North and South Plaza, the surrounding Streetscape with the incorporation of art work, furniture, lighting, irrigation, drainage, retaining and all hard elements. Much of the concrete podium has gardens over occupied space to mitigate the impact of the scale of the facility in the middle of Petrie Terrace.

Case Study : Mincom Office landscape

The construction of Mincom's head offices in Brisbane has provided a substantial urban open space development within Brisbane's busy CBD. The site encompasses the heavily used Ann Street forecourt and streetscape which links over three stories to Turbot Street providing easy and equitable access through this part of the city. A public outdoor green roof plaza was developed at Turbot Street featuring fountains and amphitheatre and open areas allowing for pedestrian access and recreation. The plaza references the open space to the west of Turbot Street extending the green landscape fabric into the city.





Landscape Typology #7

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES

The most personal of all landscapes is the one that intimately reflects oneself. The residential landscape, with access to good nurseries and a green thumb much can be achieved. With a little more information about, botany, composition and a theoretical understanding of the built form great residential landscapes can be developed.

Even where the natural landscape is untouched, consideration of how the buildings can interact and connect becomes critical for the success of the residential garden setting.

Sunrise Beach House
Sunrise Beach, Queensland

Case Study : Residential Landscape - River House Brisbane

The house both captures and frames its landscape setting. The living room becomes an extension of two landscapes (one is the original treed riverbank to the South with expansive private views to the University and the river. The other is a walled landscaped courtyard to the North to create a curated private garden with native trees planted to the perimeter to become part of a landscape that is

spatially excluded from the courtyard but an extension of the wild riverbank plantings.)

The courtyard wall extends into and through the house to create a sense of being more part of a landscape than being part of a house.

The sense of suspension over the water is dramatised in the living spaces with no visible handrails to a view that dramatically falls away to the river. The ceiling become a counterpoint to the rawness of the concrete walls and floors and assists in reducing noise from early morning rowers being reflected up from the river.



WHY IS OUR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE DIFFERENT?

WilsonArchitects

564 Boundary Street
Spring Hill Qld 4000
Telephone +61 7 3831 2755
wa@wilsonarchitects.com.au
wilsonarchitects.com.au

HIGHLY INTEGRATED PRACTICE

Every landscape project we design looks at the outcome uniquely from two points of view. We examine how the landscape might inform the architecture and the architecture inform the landscape. This results in a unique and seamless project.

SITE SPECIFIC DESIGN

Each project relies on a detailed understanding of the site, its history and its physical attributes. Detailed research and understanding of site is central to our design process to produce unique site specific outcomes.

DESIGNING FOR THE HUMAN CONDITION

At the core of our work is an approach that centres around the human condition. Landscape can possess a transformative energy that can inspire and regenerate spirit. Our aim is to design places with inherent beauty that contributes to positive health and well-being outcomes.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

The contribution that plantings make to the success of the overall project is fundamental. Designing these landscapes requires a deep understanding of botany, ecology, soil science and landscape management to ensure success. We have collectively over 40 years of horticultural knowledge and experience to inform our design.