

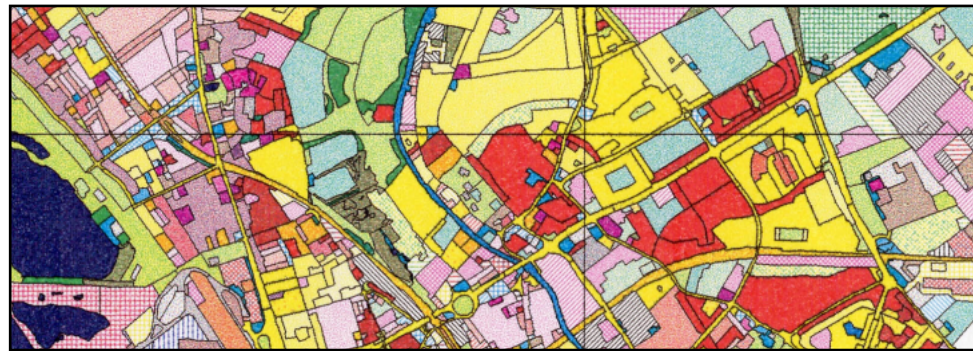
what it says about the household; useful too for life if you do not load observation with prejudice.

Seeing things on the ground is more than simply visual for you pass through sound-zones and smell-zones and pavement zones (fallen red mulberries in Georgian areas, the smell of fig trees in a neglected Victorian garden, the spray paint smell of a motor body repair works or sharp odours from black refuse bags) that help you to understand your environment. Given the advantages of Google Earth/Google maps, airphotos are extremely revealing and give you a better perspective. Back that up with Streetview on Google maps and who needs to go walkies!

Of the two methods of observation, only the bird's eye view of airphotos allow you to map the differences in purely analytical terms. What you lose in smells, scents and details you gain in an appreciation of layout and history. For one thing you immediately see into all areas behind the façade — the polite frontage. Backyards may be chock-a-block with crates and bins, or by contrast have a swimming pool or appear derelict. Walking and using airphotos makes the ideal combination — analysis on the airphoto with walking into the reality, to smell the privet hedges, the Italian cooking at 7pm and listen to

the sound of families packing the car, the heavy pulse of music or children in the park. [I remember how, in the 1960s, I walked through the architecturally celebrated Roehampton Estate, (progressive GLC Swedish style flats near Richmond Park). My route took me in and out of television sound-zones of the Z-Cars: dialogue and the theme tune each on a different television. It was one of those hot summer evenings when homeowners leave their windows open and the people of that estate were glued to the television. Memorable! I missed that episode and took a walk].

Armed with an airphoto based analysis of house types you can understand the infills and oddments, the houses clustered six up on a plot that was once a single family's big back garden, or the refined apartment block set back in trees called 'The Nursery', or the sharp difference between mock-tudor ribbon development with long gardens on the main road and the increasingly close packed housing clusters and estates to the rear.



If I seek to illustrate this I can go to one of several mapping projects we (my practise) did ten years ago. These images come from the whole area of North Liverpool analysed on screen aided by bits of historical research and old mapping. The colours which I cannot list in detail hint at more than 150 land use types including 34 housing types. Note the grainsize difference.

The town landscape experience to my mind, depends on grain/texture, age diversities, use difference, green quality and the level of unpredicted use—the unexpected. Of which more sometime.

BY

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Landscape Research Extra

53

May 2010



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Edinburgh College of Art Welcomes European Landscape Architecture students to Scotland for the first time

On the 15th-19th April 2010 40 students from 18 European countries will arrive in Edinburgh for the annual ELASA (European Landscape Architecture Student Association) minimeeting- entitled 'Back to Basics'.



Back to Basics will encourage students to revisit the skills, tools, and principles that form the core of the Landscape Architecture profession. In an attempt to leave the digital world behind students will dust off their pencils, seize their sketchbooks and be encouraged to get dirty, get stuck in and remind themselves



of the true experience of spaces and the qualities that make them special.

The programme will be split between the city of Edinburgh and the rural highlands around Aberfeldy and through a series of workshops, lectures and discussions they will work alongside each other exploring new and old ways of working as well as unparalleled cultural insights.

Workshops in Edinburgh will involve a collaboration with NEA (North Edinburgh Arts) and their programme of events entitled 'Your New Home' - a season of events encouraging people to create, build, learn and discover how they can make a difference to the regeneration of Muirhouse and Pennywell. Participants will redesign and build a public open space using 230m² of sculptural turf donated by Lindum. Throughout the day students will also benefit from lectures from horticultural experts from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Eelco Hooftman- Director of Gross Max and local photographer Michael Lindsay.

Within the rural surrounds of Aberfeldy and the Tay

Forest students will engage in a series of briefs which will be lead by leading artist Donald Urquhart and sculptor Lara Greene. The result will be a refreshing range of drawings, models and sculptures which will be displayed at a final exhibition to be held at ECA on April 19th.

From the perspective of participating students not only will this meeting allow a real insight into a new and different landscape world but also it provides the opportunity to forge new friendships and professional relationships with others from all across Europe.

Rowan Longhurst

For more information visit <http://uk2010.elasa.org/>
Email organiser Rowan Longhurst
rowanlonghurst@hotmail.com or
elasaedinburgh2010@gmail.com

Editor's comment

It is a delight to be able to illustrate LRE with such an attractive group of young people who seem so obviously to be enjoying themselves. Rowan Longhurst promises me a follow up report on his Elasa Meeting which will have taken place as you read this issue.

LEARNING THROUGH LANDSCAPES

Eileen Adams

My father was a bus driver in Greenock. I used to travel round the town, viewing the scene from the front window of the bus. In the Bridgend run, the landscape was framed as a series of views – of the Firth of Clyde and rolling hills, the shipyards, the municipal parks and bowling greens, the bomb sites and railway embankments. At the age of five, I probably had the environmental knowledge of a 10 year old, bike-owning boy. I also had a more intimate knowledge of landscape through playing in a variety of environments – in my granny's back green, in the sand-ponds, at the shore, up the park and in the brambles. At the age of seven, I was expected to run messages and look after a two-year old cousin. This meant that I knew every paving stone, change of level, wall, hedge, stretch of railings, clump of grass and puddle on the way from my granny's to the Co-operative.

The neighbour had a garden, but my granny had something much more exciting – a back green. The difference was the ways the spaces were used, the layout, the types of plants that grew there – and most importantly, what you were allowed to do there! As children, we thought gardens were boring. Adults

walked up and down the paths and admired the flowers, vegetables and trees. Or they tired themselves out digging, shifting, lifting, cutting, clipping, tying, sorting, collecting, piling, and moving stuff. The back green was different.

Adults only came out there to hang out the washing or to sit in a broken deckchair and fall asleep. This was the children's domain.

During my early years, the landscape of the back green was a setting, a focus and a subject for study. It provided all the resources for physical, social and imaginative play that I required – earth, air, fire and water. Digging up rhubarb and eating it with a home-made poke of sugar, stringing blankets over the clothes line to make tents, collecting stones, leaves, petals and seed pods for sweets or vegetables in our make-believe shops. Using wood from the shipyards to build wee houses. In summer, aunts and cousins were the audience for our back green concerts.

Weeding the potato or rhubarb patch was an excuse to get down and get dirty. We volunteered to cut the hedge so that we could work with dangerous tools, and to listen to the shears make a delicious and satisfying noise as they snapped shut. The clackety clack of the lawn mower was equally satisfying, but it did not last long, as the patch of grass had too many stones, so the blades were soon broken. Sweeping up leaves from the concrete outside the back door in winter, watching the tarmac path melt in summer and burning rubbish in the autumn marked changes in the seasons.

The Anderson shelter was a refuge from the rain, as well as a site of scientific enquiry, where we explored the world of the spider, the effects of water on metal and the magic of plant colonisation. The hut, out of bounds when my uncle was around, was a laboratory, where we conducted experiments with sawdust and oil, or an old gramophone or a joiner's vice. We did not have a sand pit – we had something which served the same purposes, but was much better – a coal bunker. The spirit of exploration and enquiry was nurtured and skills of experimentation and imagination developed in this loose-fit, loose-parts place, unkempt and dirty, full of possibilities and surprises.

My approach to the research for *Learning through Landscapes* was undoubtedly influenced by my childhood experience. What should children *experience* in school grounds? What should they *do*? What might they *learn* through self-directed study?

25 years later, new school building continues to ignore the potential of outdoor learning spaces. Where

they are given attention, containment and control continue to be key drivers in their design and use. Schools

Children are growing up in a world dominated by computer and television screens. It is even more important for them to experience landscape – to get cold, wet, dirty, challenged, surprised – so they develop intellectual curiosity about the natural world.

buy off-the-peg play equipment and bits and bobs from the garden centre, seeing the school grounds as a

place to colonise and clutter up with objects. Health and safety concerns limit what children are allowed to do and adult supervisors remove risk-taking and personal responsibility. Children are growing up in a world dominated by computer and television screens. It is even more important for them to experience landscape – to get cold, wet, dirty, challenged, surprised – so they develop intellectual curiosity about the natural world. It is important for them to learn how to learn, not by filling in worksheets, or following a learning programme designed by someone else, but by learning to think by themselves and to do things for themselves. The school landscape is a wonderful educational resource, but is wasted unless adults recognise its potential and permit children greater freedom to learn from experience.

EA

Dear Bud,

I am not sure if this is what you wanted, but I think my early experience as an urban child impacted on me quite considerably. Your invitation to write something has started me thinking about my encounters with landscape. Initially, my experience of landscape was framed by the front window of a bus, then it was dominated by first hand experience, through play. As a young teacher, I was anxious to explore new places, but it was still primarily the urban landscape that was my main interest. Now my experience of landscape tends to be framed by the window of a train. I experience it as a viewer of vistas, a spectator of the passing scene, a voyeur, peering into people's back gardens and people's lives. I see, but I cannot touch.

I met the Director of Learning through Landscapes at a conference in Cardiff last week. The Trust works hard to support schools' efforts to make better use of the outdoor environment. The week before, I attended a course in Hampshire on the use of the outdoor environment as an educational resource, run by a landscape architect. I am delighted that the work continues to develop.

Thank you for your kind invitation to write something. I was delighted that you made contact, Bud. I hope it will be possible for us to meet some day.

Best wishes, **Eileen.**

JAY APPLETON, POEMS



Jay Appleton, sometime Professor of Geography at Hull University, author of *The Experience of Landscape* and twice Chair of the LRG in the 'Seventies and 'Eighties, took up the writing of poetry as a retirement hobby, and some readers of LRE may be interested to

know that now, at ninety, he has five small collections in print, all available from booksellers or the publishers, Wildhem Press. Many of them touch on landscape among a wide variety of topics. Details from jay@jappleton.karoo.co.uk. *Editor's note we have carried several of these in LRE and I have the completed collection — so far! And the viburnum?*

REFLECTIONS ON THE ELC AND IRELAND: An open letter from Terry O Regan.



Dear All,
I almost missed that important moment of reflection at the Signpost of the Years – a look back at 2009 and forward to 2010 and just as importantly the opportunity to wish my landscape friends and colleague's good fortune, friendship, achievement and wisdom over the twelve months of year ten in the millennium of two thousand. I will blame the sequence of 'extreme for Ireland' weather over recent weeks featuring floods, deep frost, ice and snow – see attached little picture!

The little pictures are good for the soul and the big pictures for the head. Looking back at the big 2009 picture we had the March ELC conference and more significantly the October Workshop, we can now see that the ELC has made a brave leap onto the world stage. In a certain sense it has completed its education, left its alma mater in Strasbourg and entered the real world where it faces even greater challenges. But it has many friends and is young and full of energy, initiative and courage (if lacking a little on experience) – it will need them all and more besides! It has also entered many previously unvisited rooms in Europe and is sitting at strange tables – presenting it with even more challenges requiring new skills (it will need continuing professional development at the alma mater and elsewhere!). It has already demonstrated maturity and confidence in realising that it is not a case of what the EU can give to the ELC but rather what largesse the ELC can generously bestow on the EU. The EU needs the ELC more than the ELC needs the EU!

There were some difficult if hard lessons for some recalcitrant delegates (including yours truly) in Alnarp where exceptional organisation delivered the most efficient workshop to date. It has to be the organisational standard by which all future workshops will be measured. I think that it also might be accepted however, that we did lose some of the spontaneity, a little of the soul and a little of the inclusiveness that has so enriched past workshops and we must reflect on how this can be addressed because a diverse, integrated landscape with or without energy (renewable or otherwise) and **no soul** is not a good place to be. I am confident there are measures that can be added to the 'workshop fringe' that will redress this balance.

I trust that my rambling reflections manage to cross all landscape and language borders.

The very much changed economic landscape in Ireland will probably curtail my own future involvement with the ELC beyond the shores of Ireland (where there is much ELC work to be done anyway) but I do hope to make it to Florence for that important anniversary in October and hope to co-operate where possible in promoting the use of the 'Landscape Circle' to ground the convention in its real homeplace – the one it shares with us all..

Until I meet you all there I wish you a 'slightly late' Happy New Year,

Landscape Alliance Ireland,
Old Abbey Gardens,
Waterfall,
Near Cork City,
Ireland.

THE ALNARP SEMINAR: A summary.

On October 7 *The Nordic Landscape Research Network* (NLRN) and the *Landscape Research Group* (LRG) hosted a seminar, co-sponsored by the Swedish Heritage Board, that was concerned with **Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda**. It was held in conjunction with the *Council of Europe* (CoE) International Workshop on the *European Landscape Convention* (ELC) that was held on October 8-9, 2009, on the related theme of "Landscape and Driving Forces." The idea of the seminar was to provide a forum for about 20 senior researchers and doctoral students to present their ideas on the topic as a means of preparing for the CoE workshop. There would also be space for about 10 guests representing key organizations involved in the workshop. The results of the seminar were also to be presented at the workshop. **Kenneth Olwig**, professor in the *Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Heritage*, of the *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp*, which hosted the workshop, and **Tomas Germundsson**, professor in the *Department of Cultural Geography, the University of Lund*, which hosted the seminar, and Professor Peter Howard, LRG, *Bournemouth University* organized the seminar and prepared a short presentation at the workshop. This is the brief report presented at the workshop.

The first session was on the political landscape. The presentations elaborated the impact on the landscape in the continuum between the local and the global, and then identified some crucial questions in relation to often taken for granted concepts. We received presentations from different parts of the world discussing the ELC in a global/local context. One paper showed how the democratic process can manifest itself concerning landscapes issues, with an example from Denmark and the differing local/national/global interests concerning the restoration and reconstruction of a river course. Another example showed very clearly how both internal and external driving forces have given shape to a most restricted landscape of territorial conflicts in the Israel/Palestine region. One conclusion here is that the concepts of the global/European/national/regional/local involves not just spatial levels on the earth, but also socially constructed imaginations. And that they do play a role in this respect.

The second theme elaborated further on the question of global concern and environmental issues. One subject here was the call for a theoretical framework for an environmental history that addresses the global interdependency of different regional landscapes. Also, examples of investigations that demonstrate

what people actually do in landscapes and how they perceive it as treated. These are studies that are based on asking people about their landscape, and the results show that people often are attached to landscapes that for an outsider could be labelled as spoilt or uninteresting. A conclusion here is that investigations concerning people's perception of landscape are important, not the least against the background of the definition of landscape in the ELC. But also that such investigations are not that easy to make; to get an insider perspective takes time, and is not uncomplicated – you can hardly ask people 'How do you perceive this landscape?' As reflected in one of the titles of the papers, such studies reveal that landscape goes beyond concepts like environmentalism or localism, but rather that landscape should be a goal in itself, and not simply a means of meeting previous environmental goals.

The third session focused on regional experiences in relation to global driving forces. How are they unfolded in different settings, and how do changes in regional landscapes depend on different driving forces? We thus had a paper on how the marginalisation of agricultural areas and the growth of tourism changed the accessibility to mountain areas in Norway; new roads to go there but disappearing paths to walk the local landscape. Could historically inspired agro forestry be a way of enhancing landscape quality in different aspects? Can a diverse heritage landscape become an environmental good in order to assimilate and sequester carbon? Yes, probably, said the case study from Germany. There were also papers on the relatively limited impact of the environmental agenda on landscapes in Poland, and another on the complicated question of landscape and heritage in Russia. Such regional studies are very important in order to stress that even if we have the ELC, we do not have one European landscape.

The fourth session focused on landscapes and energy. Examples from Sweden, Italy, Spain, and France showed how aspects like life-style, personal preferences, morality, ownership, the understanding and belief of 'the public' and so on play a great and complicated role in the development of 'energy landscape'.

Our overall conclusion is that the concept of globalization, for instance in the expression 'global driving forces', must be understood not as a natural force but rather as an often rhetorical concept comprising a variety of processes and politics, expressing different power relations. A selection of the papers from the seminar is planned for publication in a special issue of *Landscape Research*, and we also hope to be able to publish the entire seminar in book form. **KO & TG see text.**

ANTHOLOGY

In LRE 52 page 11 'Listening Post' I was attracted to the landscape "*Coltura promiscua*" and going to a book I have always rated, namely Rene Dumont *Types of Rural Economy* Methuen and Co London 1957 (published first in French in 1954), I find the following at page 237 — remember the date of the book.

The Zenzalino estate covers an area of 3,750 acres in the Copparo commune north-east of Ferrara. Its buildings are impressive in the extreme, and include a private church, a castle and a park, 'which is not open to the workers; they prefer a joint of meat'. The drainage network is adequate, but only a third of the total area has been developed on the Bologna or cavalletto system, which is considered to be perfect. It consists of throwing the soil into low ridges about 20 yds. wide, leaving strips of ground about 4 yds. wide between them. These latter are occupied by vines in filarie, or rows, and maples, the former, as in Virgil's day, entwining themselves around the latter. This coltura promiscua or mixed-crop cultivation is not found in the irrigated areas, which are not suited to the vine, but is commonly practised over the whole of central Italy, where it reaches its greatest development on the holdings of the Tuscan metayers.

Another delicious piece of cultural landscape jumped out at me from the same book page 231:

From Milan to Cremona and beyond, the landscape is a pattern of rectilinear fields, most of them 5-15 acres in extent, bordered by irrigation and drainage ditches and by earth roads with lines of pollarded poplars, alders, and willows. Although sericulture has died out, the law forbids the uprooting of mulberry trees, and consequently they remain, but are kept very severely trimmed. The law seems un-wise in this respect, for even if the industry revived, which seems unlikely, the need would be for dwarf mulberries, which would permit two crops of silk a year. Before irrigation reached its present proportions, the fruit tree was a further element in the landscape, but today farming is dominated by the cascina where milk-production, on the basis of irrigated fodder crops, is the main preoccupation. These farms are generally over 90 acres in extent and average about 250 acres.

1954 to 2010: 55 years of development and change. How are these landscapes today? A way of exploring the idea might be to attend the PECSRL conference below. The call for papers closed in January but the conference is still there waiting for you.

LIVING IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES: PRACTICE AND HERITAGE

PECSRL 24th session 2010. Riga & Liepaja, Latvia, 23-27 August 2010

The EucaLand that is (the European Culture Expressed in Agricultural Landscapes) Network (<http://www.eucalandnetwork.eu>) is a new expert network that deals with the cultural and agricultural landscapes of Europe, promoting their consideration and use among their people and preserving their cultural heritage.

Agricultural landscape is a by-product of agricultural activities as nobody sets out to create it. Still, the result of unconscious intentionality of a minority, causes appreciation and enjoyment to many. The need to raise awareness concerning the values of agricultural landscapes comes from the transition into post productivist societies.

Following the successful special session in 2008 at PECSRL in Óbidos (Portugal), this time we would like to focus more on people living their everyday life in agricultural landscapes and dealing with heritage. With few exceptions every innovation becomes heritage, what is not functional and purposeful any more will decay. The aim of the special session is to understand how and why the people of Europe appreciate agricultural landscapes, what they regard as heritage, to what extent it is different from expert knowledge and what can we do to bridge these gaps.

The topics relevant to this special session concern: the perception of agricultural landscapes and their heritage by different demographic and interest groups; how approaches towards heritage in agricultural landscapes have altered; what people do to create, maintain and destroy heritage in agricultural landscapes; interactions between local stakeholders; local and global policies; whether different support mechanisms create new heritage; the possibility to sustain heritage in agricultural landscapes within nature conservation areas; what happens to agricultural heritage in urban sprawl circumstances etc.

Therefore we are welcoming theoretically informed papers based on empirical research, preferably on a comparative or European-wide context.

Abstracts (200-300 words) with author (s) affiliation (s) and contact information should have been sent to Anu Printsmann in January 2010. (*Editor regrets late announcement*). The length of the presentation will be 20 minutes + 10 minutes for discussion.

Organisers: Alexandra Kruse, PhD, coordinator of

the Eucaland-Network, Bureau for Landscape & Services, Germany; Michael Roth, Chair of Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning, School of Spatial Planning, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany; Anu Printsmann, Centre for Landscape and Culture, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University,

Estonia, e-mail: anu.printsmann@tlu.ee

Editor's note: For those who are not familiar with my style the image below is not necessarily connected with modern European landscape and the content of the PECSRL event. Think of it as decoration. And think again.



LOVER'S LOAN (sic)

Philip Pacey

The best and indeed most direct route to our son's girlfriend's allotment from the centre of Edinburgh is to cross the Meadows by Middle Meadow, cross the road and walk up past the row of shops (a grocer's, a greengrocer's and a bike repair shop) on Argyle Place, and then take the footpath – if you can find it – which begins halfheartedly on Sciennes Road but comes into its own on the other side of Hatton Place. It has a name, but does not anywhere reveal that name or declare itself in any way. It is enclosed by high walls on both sides, the wall on the right hand side initially incorporating tombs in the adjacent cemetery. The walls seem to have once had an inner lining of hedges, of which only some survive, neatly trimmed into blocks of foliage. Here and there trees lean over the walls and meet above it, making the lane almost tunnel-like, an urban holloway. A plum tree dangles its fruits invitingly – alas! They are not ripe yet. Apples peep down coyly, offering further temptation to scrumpers. At intervals the path – heading in an approximately straight line out of the city – is interrupted by quiet radial streets at right angles. A primeval or perhaps criminal instinct makes me want to choose my moment, to dash across the street without

being seen before gaining the cover of the lane again where it continues on the other side. Come to think of it, I'm probably living out a scene from Arthur Ransome's *Swallowdale*, in which the children, more than half wild, are reluctantly obliged to cross a tarmac road and are careful to do so unobserved.

Approaching Grange Loan, the wall on the right hand side of the lane is just low enough to afford me views of a cricket field if I stand on tiptoe. Cricket is not to be resisted, even when the only action comprises some young lads practising in the nets, one of them facing a cannon, a bowling machine loaded and fired by their adult coach who calls out what I take to be the speed of the oncoming projectile – 68, 69, 70! My companions have gone on but are waiting for me, beyond the end of the lane where although there is still no name or sign there is, astonishingly, a single stone column of surpassing grandeur, complete with a magnificent Corinthian capital and surmounted by a griffin – or is it a wyvern? (I should recognise it from my old school tie). It turns out that this column was one of two which survive, not *in situ*, from the nearby Grange House, demolished in the 1930s. Its presence here seems ironic in its unexpectedness, almost as if its role is to distract attention from the entrance to the lane, to disguise it with fancy dress.

From here it's not far to walk to the allotments, overlooked by Blackford Hill – and along one side by council flats – but themselves looking across to Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags. It seems extraordinary that it is possible to walk so far, from city centre to the periphery, in such safety (at least so far as traffic is concerned) and secrecy. I find myself imagining breaking a siege, sneaking in and out of the city undetected by a besieging army. And indeed, while a lane such as this is a delight to discover and to make use of, it is not without an inescapable *frisson* of the forbidden, and of danger. It is the kind of path which, in the countryside or on the coast, would be used by poachers and smugglers; here, it might be – perhaps has been – used by muggers, or drug pedlars, or by burglars to gain access to and egress from the well-to-do houses along much of its route. Sadly, despite its quiet passage through tranquil suburbs, the walls of the lane have in places been daubed with graffiti. One morning local residents saw what they took to be smoke billowing from the lane, and called the fire brigade – the 'smoke' was a cloud of spray thrown up by high pressure hoses utilised by the city's graffiti removal team!

And the name of the path? My title has given it away. The first part needs no explanation, telling of other users grateful for the discretion of a concealed way, while *loan* is a Scots word for a lane, particularly one leading to a meadow.

PP.

ANIMATED TOWNSCAPES

Brian Goodey

In the afternoon on the edge of the Cotswolds and there is an uncommon silence in the village. The garden view is etched with frost, beams of light catch the cornus and highlight the yew, and I have no need to refer to the grim smile of the TV forecaster who proposes ten more days of sub-zero temperatures.



On Saturday, deeper into the Cotswolds with rail steam billowing in sub-zero skies, it was evident that such unwelcome cold focused activity on places that might offer warmth ... towns and pubs specifically. A reminder that, for most, 'landscape' is reserved for the growing, or grown, season when more than the stray dog walker or intrepid New Year hiker occupies the paths and farmers move abruptly with field feed for their stock.

In avoiding any further diversion into the nature notes of the fuller newspapers, I pitch backward into the Post Office territory of my previous contribution.

My desk faces our local village street, and it too is more than quiet today. It is the first full working day after the Christmas and New Year season, and the first day when the village post office, three doors down in the terrace, is closed. Postmaster Tim has decided to sell up and move to Greece ... a sound move given today's weather. The house, bedecked with 'Post Office' sign and mailbox is sold as a house, the sign, like the safe, will be removed, and the decommissioned letterbox will, we are promised, be painted black.

Pause to watch a purposeful parker pass the window with a well wrapped package in hand. He'll be back in a minute – Now – having read the notice of closure. What follows might have more effect if I linked this to the demise of many rural post offices, which have gone for good. We are lucky, after a week of frantic activity in the former wine area of the local supermar-

ket on the next street, the post office will re-open with most of the same, recognisable, faces behind the counter. As a community we may lose little. As a most modest piece of townscape, we lose much.

Discussion with regard to the change has generally suggested that I will benefit from the move – 'no more pavement parking', and 'it'll be quieter now' is the general tone. Well, on street parking may well be easier, but in most respects the subtle move is a loss.

Distracted from the keyboard throughout the day I had a good measure of both the long and short-term patterns of activity within the village. Historic and contemporary postcards of the street are (as in most architectural photographs) strangely devoid of people, yet it was the patterns of movement that made the street. Years ago, when pensions required weekly collection, the Post Office was a gathering place well before opening – the doorstep where older villagers knew they would see their fellows. The Post Office remained (and may still offer) the major information exchange on births, deaths and marriages, robberies



and planning applications. The irregular pattern of official renewal and payment dates and the residue of religious festivals generated peak use - lines formed. The fact that most users carried their paperwork in their hands, and a sense of urgency on their faces, allowed this informal 'community watch' to sort the licenses from the birthday packages, the E-bay piles from the business paying in.

Local economic and networking life spilled into the street and gave a daily and weekly pace to townscape.

With the car, 24 hour shopping, the freezer and the Internet, visible time/space relationships, known to all, have largely vanished over a generation. We no

longer share the same clock, diary or timetable and *Kevin Lynch's title What Time is this Place?* is both more apposite and more confusing. A new language of time/townscape use is, of course, emerging with traffic peaks and the impact of the school run on parking and retail use evident at the most local scale. Meanwhile the walk to Sunday church, and even the ritual evening ramble to the local pub are in decline.

I have little doubt that this – implicit – regret for the decline of community-maintaining activities at the street level is generational. There are probably movement and activity rituals in urban space that I don't spot because I am the wrong age.

I certainly hope that this is the case, for townscape and landscape deserve to be animated by their own patterns, re-timed to a set of new activity clocks. Townscape and Landscape have always been four dimensional, animated by the patterns and demands of time. Few observers choose to enter the confusion of seasonality, or of daily use patterns that involve movement, but then few people moving within land and townscape consider the setting within which they programme themselves.

For me a bit of street-watching re-programming, for this community the shift by one street, for many communities a total re-structuring of space use and time-tabling as post offices, pubs and shops are pushed to the wall by car availability and the blurring of time by major retailers.

Those of the scientific, activist and media communities seeking immediate and proclaimable change resulting from global warming are quick to chart modest changes in the natural world. New introductions and shifts in the seasons are interesting, and help bring attention to the natural environment. But sequences of policy decisions derived from economic change have a similar impact on the form and function of townscape, and on the people who use it daily.

BG

Post offices as streetscene: Editor's postscript

Following Brian Goodey's article *'From Industrial Communities to Faceless Places'* LRE 51 pp 4-5 which explored Post Office buildings and spaces in Central London and the loss of identifiable places in towns I found it amusing to photograph the following post office back yard notice at Louth in Lincolnshire. And specifically this subsequent enlarged part frame:

Compare this with the soaring magnificence two

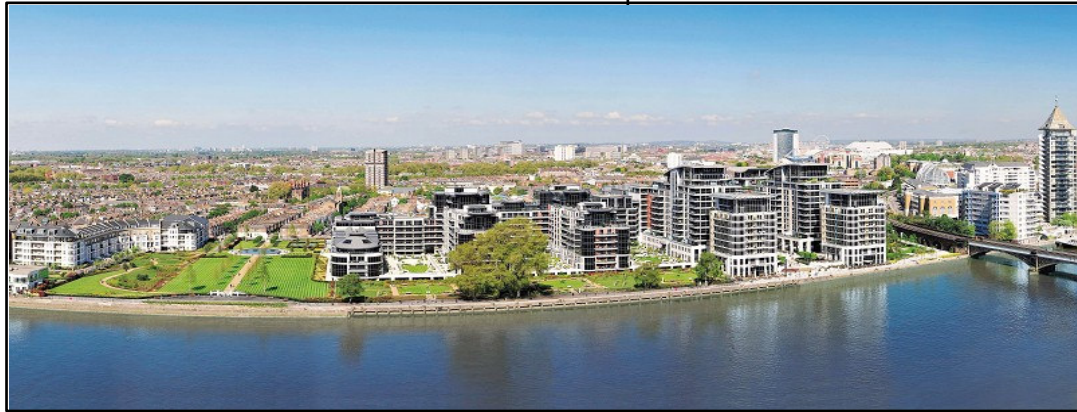


hundred yards away of the town's 15th century church and its historic if rather less than buzzing townscape. (It was a sunset on Sunday!)



BROADWAY MALYAN'S IMPERIAL PARK LONDON Now open! [A good press release].

Broadway Malyan's Imperial Wharf scheme for developer St George, has reached a major milestone with the completion of Imperial Park, the first new riverside public park of its size to be completed in over 50 years.
The completion of the new Imperial Park was for-



mally commemorated by The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Councillor Alex Karmel, who commented: "I am delighted to officially celebrate the completion of Imperial Park. This is an excellent example of successful public private partnership between London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and the socially aware developer St George. I am sure this new parkland will continue to grow and become a thriving part of our community."

Imperial Park, which provides over 10 acres of new landscaped open space, is part of Imperial Wharf, a premier riverside development providing 1,800 private and affordable homes, a hotel, 37,000m² of commercial space, a health and fitness club, restaurants, shops and community facilities. Located on a previously inaccessible, redundant brownfield site, the scheme has transformed the area into a thriving community.

Adding space, colour and character to Imperial Wharf, Imperial Park provides a variety of different environments for all to enjoy. The Sensory Gardens are a quiet haven in which to relax and unwind, with three uniquely planned spaces dedicated to the senses of aroma, sight and touch respectively. Each of the three quadrangles is complemented by low hedging, a grassed area for picnicking and ornamental trees such as eucalyptus and the himalayan birch. A key component of the scheme is a 385m walkway, lined with mature poplar and birch trees, which has opened up public access to the River Thames for the first time in

decades.

Facilities for all different age groups have been created, including play areas designed with Secure by Design and ROSPA guidance, exercise trails and a boating pond. All are set in a landscape framework that is wheelchair friendly and accessible to all. Imperial Park is built and maintained according to sustainable principles, from choosing plants that encourage biodiversity, to the use of hardwood benches and natural materials. Designed in close consultation with the local community, the scheme demonstrates

that visionary and considered landscape design provides a vital element in integrating any new development into the established environment. Location at a former British Gas site on

the riverside adjacent to 'Chelsea Harbour'.

This photo looks north. A post industrial landscape. Embarrassing to this editor that it can also be read on the web but it is good quality geographical information and a lovely picture. Its location west of the railway line and bridge (Gas works—top centre), is given below in a map dated 1940, when 'Imperial Gas Works' did not sound so curious.



POST INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPES — INSIGHTS FROM ART, GEOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

1st- 3rd September. London. Within the RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2010. A joint LRG / Landscape Institute day long session sponsored by Landscape Research Group (LRG) and the Landscape Institute (LI).

LRG takes an interdisciplinary approach to landscape, from wilderness to cities. If you are reading this you may know about us.

LI — the Landscape Institute is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape.

Art, geography and landscape architecture share a concern with the changing landscape. This session within the wider conference which itself attracts 1000 geographers seeks to explore the possibilities for a closer relationship between these disciplines, through an exploration of emergent ideas in both theory and practice. Our topic will focus upon the idea of 'post-industrial' landscape and ecology and what that means for 21st Century cities, farms, forests and waterfronts. We are encouraging joint papers from more than one discipline. The deadline for submissions is now past.

The themes of this session include, but are not limited to:

- Re-use/redefinition of industrial building/landscapes
- Post or neo-industrial? Changes to populations, land uses, values and ethics
- Second generation brownfield and brownwater: is creativity still necessary and why?
- Climate, invasives, transport and devastation (sic) - impacts on forests and industries?
- Geographic relationships: from history and theory to practice and new models.
- Testing tomorrow: new research questions (and funding) that reaches beyond the disciplinary divide to address questions of real change and impact. The possibilities of new ecological industries replacing traditional ones that could redefine the geography of the landscape (e.g. forestry)

Session organisers: Catherine Brace (Vice Chair LRG, University of Exeter), Brodie McAllister (Landscape Institute), Tim Collins (University College Falmouth). Please direct any questions to Catherine Brace (cbrace@exeter.ac.uk)

The views and opinions in this publication are those of the authors and the senior editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group. It is prepared by Rosemary and Bud Young for the Landscape Research Group and distributed periodically to members worldwide as companion to its refereed main journal Landscape Research.

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A REFLECTION ON URBAN MORPHOLOGY — EXPLORATION OF THE BACK STREETS

Bud Young

Set aside the notion that backstreets are ill lit, risky places, full of disease and hidden dangers. That was the old meaning of the word. Backstreets are where we live and front streets where we shop and travel by car or on the bus. So, to get the most out of your neighbourhood, when next out, walk the backstreets. Front streets, particularly if they carry a lot of traffic, are usually quite different from those that lie behind. My lively minded and energetic friends in London have this method of exploration down to a fine art. They walk in a series of elaborate patterns and circuits until they have really got the hang of the neighbourhood. It is something you do anyway if you have a very small flat and want to get out a bit.

It is satisfying getting to know an area in depth. It makes for a fulfilling experience of townscape and as interesting (if you keep your eyes, ears and nostrils open) as any ramble in the countryside. Remember the road names. It needn't be London. Jot down a few notes when you get home. Repeat the walk shortly afterwards so that it imprints on your mind. Discuss observations with your walk companion (memo to self locate companion). Develop your image based memory. Think how the street names were chosen. Encourage your children/scouts along and open their eyes. Useful for a GCSE project: history, geography, local studies, sociology, social classes expressed through property, access, front gardens in the suburbs and