

landscape
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landscape
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group

Contributors
 Brian Goodey
 Paul Tabbush
 Owen Manning
 Philip Pacey
 Charlotte Wilkerson
 Crista Ermiya
 Bud Young

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This Must Be The Place — Current exhibitions seen and unseen.

Initially, the Watercolour exhibition at Tate Britain (running until 21 August) seemed an essential venue for this occasional column on art exhibitions not to be missed. The medium and landscape are closely entwined in public memory, from the massed output of field artists – box and pad in pocket – to the 1950's living room standbys of Rowland Hilder. But as several reviewers have noted, curatorial brilliance was required to marshal meaning into the availability of periods, styles and methods by which 'water-tinted-with-colour' hits a surface. Could any exhibition of say Oil Paintings or Etchings, survive without geographical or chronological constraints?

Spurred on by the accessible BBC1's programme 'Sheila Hancock Brushes Up: The Art of Watercolours' ... a long way from the company of Peter Jones and Miriam Karlin ... I will take in the Tate before it closes. It is likely however that I will regret the limited appearance of Ravillious, Burra and Heron whose time spans I know and whose images are better enjoyed in one-man shows.

So I preferred to spend my gallery time at an exhibition close to **townscape** — rather than **landscape**, in a medium where I want to learn, and on a subject which disturbs major issues as to the way in which professionals



analyse and instruct on the view of towns and cities. In terms of landscape this was a journey from Peter Ashley's *Cross Country*¹ — awaited — through the fringe worlds of Farley & Roberts' *Edgelands*² to a truly urban context.

*London Street Photography 1860-2010*³ — running to 4 September — is a generously contained, chronological, exhibition in the bowels (probably street level) of the Museum of London. The selection, largely

drawn from the Museum's collection, is exceptional in several ways. There are very few well-known images, no stars or personalities, and **an emphasis on townscape with Londoners**.

Through the work of some sixty photographers several themes emerge, though are not forced by display or catalogue. Children occupying and manipulating space are a ready target, but show the continuity of space use. Urban spaces as, usually, quietly

contested areas for display of class, affiliation and fashion are evident at all periods. But what is really interesting is the way in which the camera relegates built form to backdrop. This city really is its people.

'Scapes' (land, water, sea or town) traditionally have sought to omit human vitality from their representation, and much of their analysis. Complicit in the plot to depopulate our 'images of space' one still meets an uneasy tension when photographing in public places. It seems that things have calmed down since I was ushered out from the open air post-war Coventry shopping precinct as it was 'private' -- and 'I couldn't photograph people' -- but the tension lingers on.

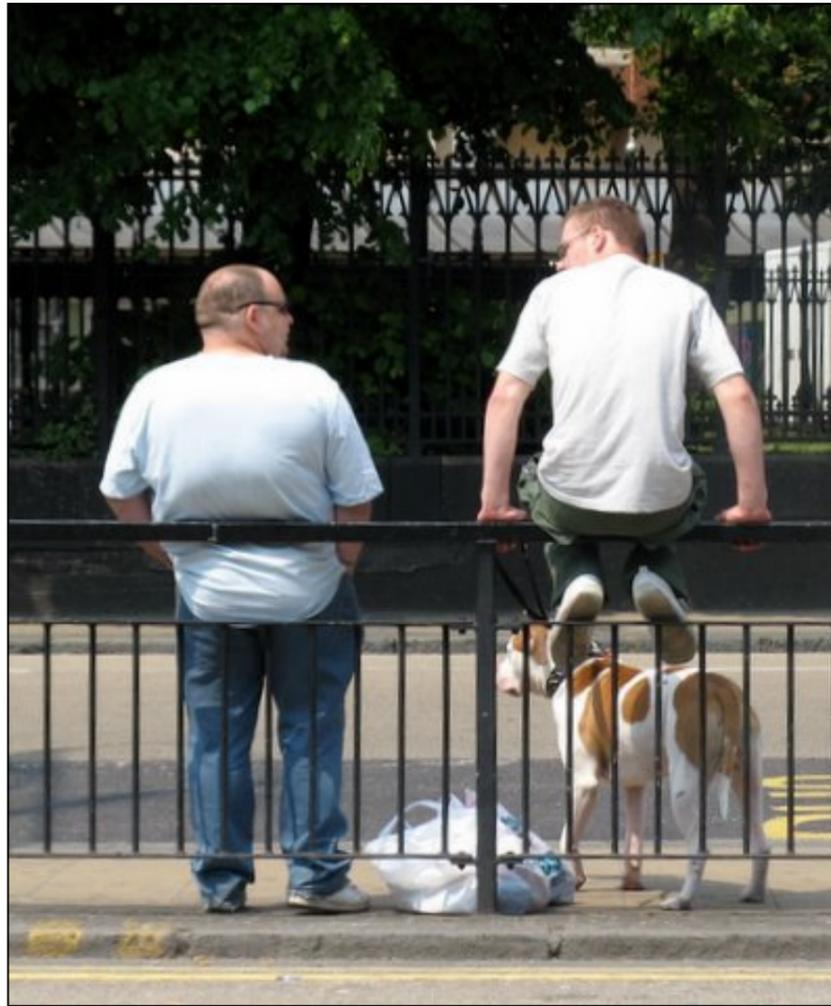
Whilst the viewer can comfortably enjoy the historic images, the final section, with colour prints, raises complex issues of the role of street photography today but still, documentation wins out over artistic contrivance.

As the much photographed celebrities pose daily in selected night time locations, so the uncelebrated react more and more against any photographer who would 'steal their face' in an urban setting. I myself have spent far too long trying to code the characteristics of townscape, dropping any human images at the first opportunity, so to me this exhibition was a reminder that more than 50% of the urban image is of flesh and bone, authored by parents and culture rather than by architects. Here the photographer remains the best researcher.



Bill Brandt — not included here — is quoted (1948) as stating that 'London is something too complex to be caught within a set of views or by any one photographer' recalling Lewis Mumford's description of the city as 'man's most complex creation'. Photographs such as seen in this exhibition however alert us to both the breadth and detail of such complexity.

I strongly suspect that the relative quiet of



the exhibition allows the sort of disturbing contemplation which the promoted audience density of Tate Britain may not. I will get to the Tate before closure and so must you -- but do take in the Museum of London for its exhibition and much more.

Notes

Peter Ashley (2011): *Cross-Country*, Wiley: see also his *Unmitigated England* (2006) and *More Unmitigated England* (2007). The author's profile on 'Blogger' deserves a landscape assessment.

Paul Farley and Michael Symmons Roberts (2011) *Edgelands: Journeys into England's True Wilderness*, Jona-

than Cape: poetic evocation and dissection of edge city and spaces left over.

Mike Seaborne & Anna Sparham (2011) : *London Street Photography 1860-2010*, Museum of London & Dewi Lewis Publishing. Exhibition catalogue which includes one of the best contemporary images of 'Wimbledon Bridge' by Seaborne as well as the

bravado is perhaps somewhat premature. Nonetheless there is a kind of anger mixed into my emotions as I dig – anger at the soil for being so heavy, anger against the sinister white roots of couch grass, the indestructible roots of mare's tail, my predecessor's Jerusalem artichokes lurking deep in the soil, the low entrance gate against which I cut my head open (my predecessor was much shorter than I am), the pigeons waiting to descend like locusts on anything I try to grow, the slugs, the weather – and Dylan Thomas's lines come to mind: 'Do not go gentle into that good night, /Rage, rage against the dying of the light'. Cultivating an allotment strikes me as being a good way of raging against the dying of the light; a good way, too, of making oneself awkward rather than surrendering to old age and mortality.

Lately I have been reading an extraordinary (and possibly overlooked) book, **Defiant Gardens*, by Kenneth Helphand. Subtitled 'Making Gardens in Wartime', the book is an extensively researched account of gardens which were begun and - insofar as fortune smiled on them – maintained in the most desperate circumstances, as an act of defiance – against the enemy, against one's captors, against deprivation, against temporality – it makes no sense to make a garden on ground where a shell might fall at any moment, but to do so is to portray Death and Destruction as bullies, to be mocked, cheeked and stood up to come what may. Chapters are devoted to trench gardens in the 1st World War, gardens in the Jewish ghettos in Poland in the 2nd World War, gardens created by Prisoners of War and internees in Europe and Asia during the 2nd World War; and gardens created by Japanese internees in the United States during the 2nd World War. A final chapter touches briefly on more recent gardens created in the Gulf War, in the wake of September 11th 2001, and in Iraq. An account of what has survived of all these gardens is very brief, since the answer is virtually nothing, apart from photographs such as those chosen for inclusion in this book, and some rocks painstakingly relocated by Japanese internees making gardens in their camps in the American desert. Derek Jarman's garden in the shingle at Dungeness, though not a wartime garden, is accorded an honourable mention for its continuing defiance of the elements (and of his mortality).

Perhaps all gardening is defiant, or has a touch of defiance about it. It is often said that wise gardeners work with rather than against Nature. Gardening involves a degree of acceptance of the natural cycle of growth and decay, of soil and climate, and yet by definition there is more to it than just watching Nature take its course. Much gardening, not least the cultivation of food, involves imposing order on Nature. The

earth is *obliged* to yield crops; plants are made to stand in rows; certain plants are 'forced'. 'Defiance may oppose environmental conditions, the extremes of climate, difficult topography, or lack of soil, water, or even plants', writes Helphand. While this applies to many of his defiant gardens, they also have other obstacles to overcome: 'Defiant gardens resist not only environmental difficulty but also social, psychological, political or economic conditions. The gardens can offer an assertion, a voice for the voiceless, and involvement for the disenfranchised'. In some circumstances defiant gardens have provided food for the starving, enough to let them live for another day..

I rather think even that is not all. By creating defiant gardens humans reclaim their place in Eden. Our gardens argue on our behalf – look, they say, see how we flourish in stony ground; see how determined are the people who have created us. Have they not earned the right to be readmitted to Paradise? Even as we accept that our gardens are short-lived, when we sustain an unending battle against weeds which we know will win in the end, when we make a garden that is likely to be blasted to smithereens at any moment, defiant gardens contain an implicit demand, on behalf of our children and successors, and on behalf of all humanity – that beyond the temporal lies Eternity; that our labours should not be in vain.
PP

*Helphand, Kenneth I. *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime*. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2006

THISTLES ON MARDON DOWN

It has always been clear grazing on this gently sloping piece of moor, a place that looks out to Exeter and Honiton which is miles away. Sometimes it is invaded here and there by bracken. But now it is a haze of thistles some tall, like gangly boys, some



short, well formed, compact, the very essence of a hundred patriotic Scotsmen. From 5000 plants one million seeds to float elegant as stars in the wind; further infestations. Bad news! And then a whirr of wings as a flock of goldfinches come in to land. Bright flashes of yellow. Thistledown their favourite seeds. Who put out the call? There must be forty of them.

BY

LRG PRIZE SCHEME UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATIONS & PROJECTS OF 2009

Seven dissertations/projects were submitted. Five Board members graded the entries with the following recommendations:

Category A. Undergraduate dissertation or project showing academic research and sophistication on the topic of landscape as it relates to science, planning, art or design.

First Prize of £250 is awarded to Greg Mahon, University of Manchester for his placement project entitled: '*T3 Forecourt Project (and the) Perception of Space and Place.*'

The Highly Commended Prize of £100 is awarded to Victoria Drummond, University of Manchester for her dissertation entitled: '*Preserving Rural Heritage: A Case Study of Dry Stone Walls in the Uplands of England and Wales.*' [Victoria's summary will be published in LRE 60](#)

Category B: the best undergraduate dissertation of 2009 showing original academic analysis and conceptual sophistication on the topic of landscape as it relates to theoretical issues in fields such as history, philosophy or geography.

First Prize of £250 is awarded to Charlotte Wilkerson, University of Cambridge for her dissertation entitled: '*Lyon in the Nineteenth Century: Landscape and Iden-*

tity Politics in the shadow of Revolution.'. [See on for Charlotte's summary.](#) The Highly Commended Prize of £100 is awarded to Gregory Llewellyn, Queen Mary College, University of London for his dissertation entitled: '*Modernism and the residential high-rise: Did the architect's vision lead to social dystopia? the case of Trethick and Balfron Tower.*'

MASTERS DISSERTATIONS

Seven dissertations were submitted, the categories and prize money being the same as for the Undergraduate Prizes. To date three have been assessed, two are currently being assessed and two are awaiting assessment.

KEY KNOWLEDGE FIELD DISCUSSION IN THE GREAT TROSSACHS FOREST AND LOCH KATRINE

[14/15 June 2011 A report] by Paul Tabbush

Landscape decisions – questions for research

Thirty-one invited professionals and academics gathered at the Forestry Commission's David Marshall Lodge near Aberfoyle to discuss issues of sustainable landscape management and decision-making. The meeting, organised by Paul Tabbush, was sponsored by LR, the Institute of Chartered Foresters and Forest Research, and hosted by Forest Enterprise, and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. In this short article, Paul Tabbush outlines the main themes, and preliminary conclusions.

Delegates were asked: "How do 21st century ideas influence land management in the context of the iconic landscape of the Trossachs National Park? Plans for the creation of new woodlands, and the management of existing woodlands are subject to public engagement, and negotiated with a wide range of stakeholders. How can we ensure that the outcomes are in the public interest? How do current processes address the flow of economic, environmental and social services from landscapes, and ensure that a balance is maintained?"

The celebrated landscape of the Great Trossachs Forest is famous for its natural beauty, but while the mountains and hills are the result of natural forces, everything else, including Loch Katrine and its surrounding "ancient" woodlands and open land, is the

result of human activity; this is a deeply cultural landscape. As the group cruised along Loch Katrine on “The Lady of the Lake” Coralie Mills (dendro-chronologist) and Mairi Stewart (Research Fellow in Social History and Forestry at the University of the Highlands and Islands) gave a commentary on the wooded landscape on the south shore of the loch. What we see is the result of 250 years of sheep farming, described as ‘wood-and-pasture’ rather than ‘wood-pasture’, to distinguish this system from the more intimate management of woodlands for grazing animals familiar for example in the New Forest of Hampshire. Some of the ash trees had been dated back to the 17th century, making these the oldest known dendro-dated ash trees in Scotland.

(http://www.dendrochronicle.co.uk/ Blogdocs/ Katrine_report_summary_Mills_Quelch_Stewart_2009.pdf)

The first stop at Loch Arklet highlighted the issues faced by managers in arriving at landscape decisions, where a multiplicity of organisations and individuals have knowledge, make claims and have views. Proposals for the establishment of new native woodland had met initially with stiff opposition from local people who feared that the identity of the landscape would be lost.

Questions of how to manage community engagement and the relative legitimacy of different stakeholders are among those that must be addressed in order to diffuse conflicts and arrive at sustainable solutions.

The Forestry Commission has recently produced guidelines and principles for public engagement: ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Principles_of_public_engagement.pdf/\\$FILE/Principles_of_public_engagement.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Principles_of_public_engagement.pdf/$FILE/Principles_of_public_engagement.pdf))

The final field stop overlooked an area of forest near Loch Chon that had been the



Area for proposed new woodlands around Loch Arklet

subject of a landscape plan for over 10 years. Landscape Architect Nicholas Shepherd explained the plan to restructure the forest.

Restructuring must now take account of the many functions of landscape, including its cultural identity, and the effects of structure on wildlife. It was clear that the brief given to planners necessarily reflects current policy discourses, and the swings of fashion in these might be mitigated through wider stakeholder involvement.

An evening talk by Richard Oram (Professor of History and Politics, University of Stirling) presented many insights into the cultural and political history of the area, and how this has led to the landscape of today. This raised questions concerning

the balance between the conservation of historical meaning and the development of landscape as a reflection of the ideas and activities of its current population, and how tensions between these can be reconciled.

There followed a discussion on 15th June in Blair Drummond village hall and this was structured around three questions; a brief summary of conclusions against each of these questions is presented below:

1 Contested Meanings

The meaning of landscape, in the context of management and conservation, is rarely fully agreed upon by all parties. The same area of land might be an ancient battleground, a semi-natural woodland, part of a sheep farming landscape, the refuge for certain rare species of wildlife, and an example of a valued habitat. There are many discourses developed in different disciplines and interest groups and in popular culture, each with a claim on the landscape. For instance, a complex history of scientific and cultural debate underlies the current preference for ‘native’ species and assemblages of species. Similarly, ideas of what is aesthetically pleasing in the landscape (and the more recent concentration on ‘affordances’), represent a ‘discourse coalition’ used to justify certain interventions in the landscape. Although win-win solutions can often be identified, there will often be a need for compromise. What is the legitimate route (or routes) to achieving these compromises? Do attempts to find legitimate compromises conflict with elements of the power landscape, and how may such conflicts be resolved?

Conflicts

- Official discourses e.g. of the value

of ‘naturalness’, aesthetic landscape or biodiversity can conflict with each other and with lay discourses

- Meanings do not necessarily conflict, but are often complex. What are often contested are the landscape management objectives
- The proposed forest expansion in the Trossachs will conflict with deer. There is a popular perception (misconception?) that deer and open spaces represent a natural state
- Designations tend to pre-empt discussions on landscape decisions, and these can be biased. For example, there is no protection for cultural soils, or of the setting of archaeological features. This is a result of focus on site rather than on landscape
- Woodland expansion can conflict with heath preservation. Sometimes woodland SAC can conflict with heath SAC (e.g. necessity to return a native pinewood to ‘favourable condition’ – allowing it to expand naturally onto heath. In the UK we probably interpret SAC regulation too literally.

Community engagement

- Community engagement needs to be more expertly handled, so as to avoid confrontational public meetings, and better to balance the views of people with varying levels of legitimacy and influence
- The information produced concerning a landscape is often insufficient and biased. A comprehensive understanding (including cultural) of a landscape is a principle of the European Landscape Convention and the Scottish Landscape Charter
- Most landowners (NT is an exception) don’t consider cultural heritage or the need to balance it with natural heritage
- What is not open for discussion should be made clear at the start of community engagement.

Wildness; naturalness

- With reference to a ‘National Map of Wildness’ – there is no wilderness but we do have to protect whatever it is that people perceive as wild. About 90% of the Scottish population lives in cities
- The concept of ‘semi-natural’ is value-laden. ‘Semi-anthropogenic’ might elicit a different reaction. Historical human (often industrial) activity created the biodiversity we now seek to conserve
- Space may just have to be green

and accessible to meet the needs of urban populations

- There is a perceived over-emphasis on a backward looking view in which the landscape is to be returned to something ‘good and pure’ – pre-human. The necessity is to formulate plans informed by the past but taking account of future changes, e.g. climate change and demographic change

Conservation of meaning

- Conservation often focuses on physical remains rather than landscape meaning
- Covering all middle hill ground with trees would risk loss of historical meaning - we would never be able to read the landscape again
- Landscape change may well be welcomed by communities where there is clear public benefit. Western isles welcome pylons and wind farms because they bring services and jobs
- Most archaeological investigation is now prompted through development proposals
- Rather than holding public meetings, there is a need to take communities out into landscapes and discuss meanings.

Research questions

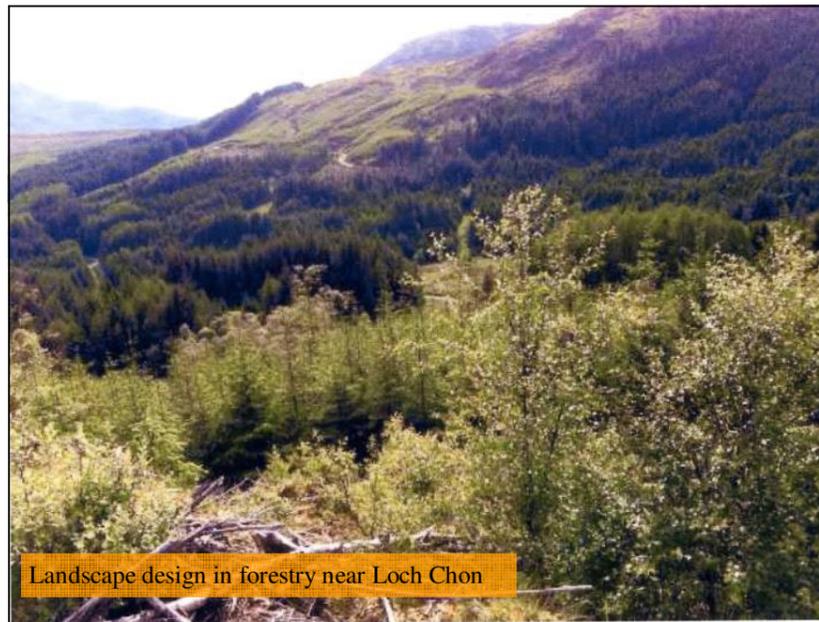
- How do we communicate proposals
- How do we establish what values (services) are to be conserved?
- How do we focus the (limited) resources available for community engagement?
- How can we include young/old ethnic minorities/ tourists and locals?
- The benefits of new (native) woodland need to be explored and communicated, including qualitative values
- What assumptions do we make of communities?

2. Legitimacy and Influence

Most theories seek the origins of modern institutional legitimacy in legal or moral principles. Legitimacy in relation to decision-making means the extent to which processes and decisions comply with accepted norms (morals), including laws. Most people can readily agree that a decision made by a local community, which takes account of local knowledge and local needs, is more legitimate, and will gain greater acceptance, than a decision reached by a National Government and imposed without local consultation. However, this leaves open the ‘Not In My Back Yard’ argument where local concerns and perspectives do not fit in with national

plans and strategies - wind farms and waste-disposal facilities have to be placed somewhere. If local opinion is to be set aside, this can only be done legitimately once every effort has been made to take account of local views and needs and once these have been acted upon as far as possible. Such action includes looking for win/win solutions, and for trade-offs and compromises. In the forestry context, this particularly applies to decisions relating to the location of woodlands, and the structure and function of these woodlands. How do we balance stakeholder involvement to take into account this element of legitimacy? Have problems arisen in relation to the Great Trossachs Forest that might be resolved by examining the power, influence and legitimacy of stakeholders and their views and values?

- How to balance community interests with statutory constraints and government guidelines? An initial scoping meeting can offer a ‘blank canvas’ but later on in the process it is more difficult to change direction.
- How to balance the National Significance of a National Park (and tourist destination) with public/local community interests? Whose views have priority?
- Should/could views be ranked/weighted in terms of importance, or prioritised e.g. ‘expert’ views?, or the views of a specific number of people, or the views of people who have lived in the area for a specific time?
- FC could be seen as the ‘developer’ and therefore an interested party in debates about landscape. Would it be possible to use autonomous external facilitators to mediate the consultation process? (This happens in other countries where a tax is levied to pay for the services of a facilitator)
- People often have socially held visions of how their landscape should look ‘Imaginations’ (eg. Arcadia). Debates would need to make these visions more explicit in order to uncover the reason for conflicting views
- How to engage people who don’t appear to have any interest in the consultation process – seen by officers as a lack of concern. (Suggestions included a website and the observation that this indicates a need for more sophisticated outreach and an ongoing process of dialogue)
- When communities object to just about everything – or fail to engage at all - this can often be explained



Landscape design in forestry near Loch Chon



by a feeling of powerlessness or a perceived lack of trust in the decision-maker after many years of struggle or neglect

- In a debate about how to go forward people who have, in the past, felt disenfranchised, will often use specific powerful issues (like listed monuments or protected species) as 'proxies' to carry their underlying concerns forward
- Public engagement with the local landscape should be seen as an ongoing process to develop a relationship with the community
- To what extent could the development process be iterative – change direction as it went along?
- What about bottom up/community led landscape plans? Is there scope for community ownership? Examples eg. Mull.

3. Expert and lay knowledge

Part of the discourse of participation emphasises the distinction between expert and lay knowledge, and the need to include and to integrate these during the decision-making process. It seems that where this is put into practice it generally meets with success, and yet it does not seem to be widely practised. Scientific evidence tends to be seen as one form of expert knowledge, although 'science' may be used (and abused) to support the claims (and values) of both experts and lay people. The notion of evidence-based decision-making is widely accepted as an ideal, but given the uncertainty around the science that underpins complex land use decisions, it may be unclear whose evidence should be used. Often evidence is seen as a means to justify a decision already made on political grounds. In the absence of scientific evidence, decisions are often made on the basis of expert judgement. Meanwhile, computer-based decision support tools have been developed for a range of spatial planning issues, but levels of uptake among forest managers

remain low. Can we be clear about the roles of expert and lay knowledge in the decision-making process? What process can be envisaged that facilitates stakeholder deliberation about the impacts of policy or management options on the basis of a shared understanding of all the knowledge available to them?

How to employ whose knowledge

- There is a need to make connections between landscape change and fundamental concerns in people's everyday lives
- There is an issue of knowledge used to make decisions: different people use different knowledge in various ways to make decisions. There may be an assumption by professionals that they know what knowledge is being used when they don't (also by lay people about professionals)
- There is a need to translate different kinds of knowledge into a form that is useful to different groups and to develop methods and techniques to share knowledge (even if it does not achieve shared understanding)

Temporal considerations

- Good communication requires long term and continuous input, but how and by whom?
- How do you update information (in the present climate)?

Knowledge Dissemination

- There seems to be a general thirst for knowledge from the public and from sectors about landscape issues
- Dissemination of information (how and in what format) is an issue
- How do you determine whether poor engagement is through a lack of information, lack of interest or other inhibiting factors?
- Gaining and disseminating knowledge is often through designed interaction but we should not forget the

possibility of creating opportunities for happenstance or chance encounter

- Sometimes it may be the message that is the problem
- There is an issue of the sectoral nature of information dissemination and the language/framing of issues that need consideration
- Views may change if knowledge (additional and different) is imported

Legitimacy of knowledge

- Knowledge needs to be related to legitimacy
- Do we need a statutory requirement as the bottom line for landscape engagement? (How does the ELC relate to this/fulfil this role?)
- The tourist industry is seen as the prime enforcer of 'stay the same' in relation to landscape
- There is a need to empower communities so that they feel their contribution to knowledge is important
- There is a need to facilitate the expressions of knowledge
- Recognition that lay knowledge is constrained by personal experience and coloured by prejudices (but expert knowledge may also be similarly constrained although it is usually presented as not being so)
- There is a need to cross boundaries between expert and expert in terms of sharing and understanding knowledge (inter-disciplinary working) but also within organisations (intra-disciplinary working)
- The value of knowledge is different from the value of views. How should we value different knowledge? Should such knowledge be weighted? If so, how? Should views based on certain knowledge be weighted more than other views?
- Dissemination of integrated knowledge and publication of it in academic journals can be difficult
- There is a need to educate experts through co-active methods in the value of non-expert knowledge
- There is a need to consider the scale of knowledge related to the scale of landscape particularly in relation to the legitimacy given by government to knowledge. How do we deal with the local versus large scale knowledge/overviews that are needed in much policy and sustainable planning?

The intention now is to develop these ideas into more specific research directions, with the aim of improving processes of landscape planning and decision-making.

Paul Tabbush



AMMAN AS TOWNSCAPE

By Bud Young

When last I was in Amman in 1965 it was very small and built mostly along the dry central valley which I show here. Now it has grown and spread hugely. It is called 'Greater Amman' in a scholarly article by Bewley and Kennedy (see note). Among other reasons for its growth, Jordan houses 4.5 million Palestinians. I was shown the house in one smart four storey suburb that twenty years ago was the only house in the area. It is a peculiar townscape where additional family members may be housed in

successive storeys. Less designed houses — in older areas perhaps — show their readiness to expand upwards by the naked reinforcement rods bristling from each pillar of the concrete structure. From a distance across the main dry valley, house blocks resolve into rectangles and verticals punctuated by eyeless unornamented windows. Access alleys cascade in flights of steps, inconvenient, perhaps scary, exhausting if you start below and climb.

BY Note

*Information about Bewley and Kennedy — from a review of **Landscapes through the lens: aerial photographs and the historic environment.** — by Toby Driver in the journal **Landscape History**. Oxbow Books Oxford 2010.*

HOW TO BE A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

By Owen Manning

Having touched on personal recollections as an emerging landscape architect (my letter on Norfolk Runways, LRE 57) and been asked by the Editor to go further, and now under medical orders not to move for a week after spraining an ankle moments before leaving on a walking holiday in Portugal, I am happy to oblige. (Well, not *happy* exactly, bloody cross in fact, but it's better than sulking.....)

Setting down memories of early professional or academic life is not mere indulgence; they raise interesting questions. Why do some of us happen to become active in a particular field? Could we have done something else? What drove us; how far were we influenced by events and encounters on the way? "You see why we came here to live?" said my father (1944), turning eight-year-old me to the view of late sun casting long shadows from giant elms over the Exe valley, a tapestry of black and

gold and green set against dim distant hills — and I did see! Or next spring on a drive through rolling Devon woods: "D'you see all the colours in the trees?" And again I saw! And perhaps a sense of the drama of *space* and *contrast* was born at those moments, if not before, and of wonder at the richness of nature.

Discoveries of my own followed: colours and textures along Dartmoor lanes as we ambled ahead of a pre-war charabanc (wooden seats!) which broke down on every hill; the excitement of deep woods into which I ventured gathering for next day's Nature Study class (to which most brought two or three specimens and I brought thirty!); the magic of tiny cyclamen below wonderfully tall tree canopies along an old driveway; the mysterious thrill of games along convoluted river banks and woodland edges. No budding naturalist, me, just an observant child sensitive to beautiful surroundings and allowed to enjoy them.

Finding a career was another matter. "What do you want him to be?" asked a local headmaster. "Oh, an architect." "Er, isn't that flying rather high?" said this nervous little man, more accustomed to training up shop-assistants. Was I even asked? Dad being a (frustrated) Ministry of Works architect and me good at drawing seemed sufficient, and subsequently being able to enrol at seventeen (hence no 'A' levels) in Bristol's RWA School of Architecture clinched it. Bad mistake: I never really knew what I was doing there. "You should have been a forester," said an observant grandmother.

Yet a true design sense did later emerge, and at least immaturity protected me from bigoted 1950's architectural theory. Modernist cults went over my head, and "modern" though my student work tried to be it gave more attention to trees, and external space, and people, than anyone else's. A still-cherished book, Shephard's *Modern Gardens*, happily munched through in lunch hours during a year out in a Bristol office, led me into magical views of modern

houses interwoven with adorable gardens — even while the reality of mundane office practice (rebuilding lavatories in grim mental asylums) sank in.

In London from 1960 I remained sane through the years of detailing drains and windows by the discovery of an actual profession called "Landscape Architecture", coinciding as it did with discovery of "ecology", which I earnestly studied on the London Underground from Buchsbaum's *Introduction to Ecology*, and classic works by Tansley; and then Graham's *Natural Principles of Land Use* — a revelatory account via early American practice of the wonderful process we'd now call habitat conservation or creation: the repair of ravaged landscapes through natural engineering.

A new, different and unbelievably exciting vision of Paradise! Not though to be explored straightaway; rather the opposite, by way of Peter Youngman's evening course (at UCL). He was the first actual landscape architect I encountered, he was charming and erudite (even if his slides were less-than-brilliant: "Can't we get the old man a new camera?" muttered students), and his technique of inviting critiques of real designed landscapes — their proportions, character of detail etc — was an invaluable approach which sank deep. Already I was myself observing landscapes this way, studying path design and usage in London parks through which I walked to work, establishing my own pragmatic approach.

But Youngman like myself was also an architect and his concepts were architectural and modernist, strongly spatial but simplistic, and this is what he wanted from us. So when my design for his St Alban's site was not approved "Very nice, Owen, but I want something *more*." (I had visited it in the frozen December of 1961, and it consisted merely of a wispy wandering line of trees in deference to the site's 'naturalness'). And he got more! Suddenly I caught the sheer joy of handling forms and spaces, and the old fishponds became a dramatic composition of vistas and spaces within a massive wooded framework worthy of Le Notre. That December visit had also generated my first site sketches in a technique I have used ever since.

This was fun! I still have that project, and remarkably it did express a large part of me as a budding designer, not only in its formal strength but also — significantly — a respect for site values and human enjoyment in its detailing, and a three-dimensional graphic emphasis on canopy levels I seem to have developed on my own account.

So far so good, but nature and ecology were missing from all this. Youngman's architec-

tural bias must not be misrepresented though, for it did not lead him into the "Look at Me!" approach so prevalent amongst architects (and others!) then and now. He would, I believe, have held more to a view inherited from the 18th century English landscape movement: the view that designed landscapes however powerfully conceived should appear so naturally right in their context, even if not actually natural, that the "art" in them is hardly apparent.

This would certainly have been agreed by Brenda Colvin, original founder of the Landscape Institute, for whom I found myself in 1965 running a tiny branch office in London; and by Sylvia Crowe whose attic accommodated my desk. Formidable ladies, I was extremely fortunate to be working in their company.

Sylvia Crowe I recall as grand in manner, sending rolls of layout paper across the floor as she covered yard on yard of it with sweeping concept sketches ("If she'd sign this I could sell it," muttered an awed assistant as he gathered it up). Brenda Colvin was fiercer; one heard that she once drove all the way to a conference with a broken knee-cap, which I found quite believable as she hammered her little fists in annoyance at my report on a power station visit: "But that's not what I sent you to check; you looked at the wrong things!" She was more resigned, on learning that her least favourite shelter species survived sodden winters and gales pounding at force 12 between the giant cooling towers: "Bother it; it *would* be sitka spruce"; or when the groundsman's beloved but horrid pink cherries survived site works: "Oh dear, I had hoped they wouldn't ..." An immensely kind lady at heart.

Most importantly of course, they were both renowned pioneers of landscape architecture as something far greater in scope than commonly supposed, through their industrial, highway, university, forestry etc projects (and town centres: I seem to remember Canberra being redesigned by Crowe's partner Sheila Ward just across the room from me). Deeply respected by architects and engineers alike, they were widely influential also through their writings: Colvin's *Land and Landscape*, Crowe's *Landscape of Power* and others, with her *Forestry in the Landscape* (a Forestry Commission booklet) coming at last to the role of ecology. I read them all eagerly.

Edinburgh (reached by a two-week cycle ride during which I caught chicken pox, as one does) was the next destination, and then Frank Clarke's idiosyncratic MA course. Dear Frank, dishevelled, absent-minded, yet so courteous that his reputation for being 'difficult' can only have come from an impatience with fools. What did we actually

learn from him? Perhaps we learned the need to accept nothing, question everything, and to work things out for ourselves. Or from charming but maddening Laurie Fricker, his only staff-member?

In retrospect it was the best possible course for me, already confident but ready for new ideas, especially Fricker's emphasis on social values, which with further reading — Jane Jacob's *Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Kevin Lynch's *Imageability*, and Nan Fairbrother's *New Lives, New Landscapes* — reinforced a growing notion of my own — that people really did matter.

In Bristol I'd wondered at the authoritarianism of modern architecture, and in London found myself appalled by the landscapes around monumental blocks of flats. What were these windy green carpets with their few struggling trees actually *for*? how could anyone use them with pleasure? Now in Edinburgh we reacted as a group against the sterility of public landscapes and the endless '*Do Not*' signs (sardonically inventing our own version to be sited on some useless bit of grass: "It is Forbidden to Throw Stones at this Notice"); and winced in unison as an official landscape architect snootily dismissed beds of roses in a New Town: "People seem to like them, so they have to go somewhere".

Here was another thread to tie into the picture of what landscape design was all about, and Scotland itself opened my eyes to still more.....

OM

Note

Readers may wish to know about a newly published biography — Brenda Colvin: A Career in Landscape by Trish Gibson 256pp publisher Frances Lincoln 2011 for which there is a short notice in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) journal. "A revealing biography of this pioneer in British 20th century landscape design ... Well illustrated and with many of Colvin's own photographs the text examines her deft hand, be it the nurturing of the young Landscape Institute, mentoring designers or landscaping the likes of power stations and reservoirs..."

CONTENTS OF LANDSCAPE RESEARCH 36/2

Measuring Visible Space to Assess Landscape Openness

Gerd Weitkamp, Arnold Bregt & Ron van Lammeren

Landscape openness is an important characteristic of the visual landscape, and here the authors put forward a 5-step procedure for its measurement, making use of Geo-data and a Geographic Information System (GIS). This process is then applied to a case study to illustrate the possibilities and includes a discussion of the realism, generality, precision and sensitivity of the procedure. The balance between a high degree of realism and a high degree of generality means the 5-step procedure can be used by policy-makers and planners for a wide range of purposes at various levels.

A Wildland-Urban Interface Typology for Forest Fire Risk Management in Mediterranean Areas

Luis Galiana-Martin, Gema Herrero & Jesus Solana

Wildland-Urban Interfaces (WUI), the transitional areas that lie between wildlands and urbanized spaces, represent an increasing risk factor for forest fires in Mediterranean areas and are an important subject for forest fire fighting and prevention. In this paper the authors have developed a methodological approach for assessing the hazard and vulnerability of WUI based on landscape analysis, the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing. The authors also propose a multi-scale approach, which differs from the traditional practice of local scale characterization of WUI. Their proposed methodology was developed in three stages: a regional development model, a landscape character assessment and finally, a typology of Wildland-Urban Interfaces.

Review Article

Effects of Urban Vegetation on Urban Air Quality

Dennis Y. C. Cheung et al

This review article looks at the role of vegetation in improving air quality and possible alleviation of effects from global warming. For example, tree planting has been used to mitigate urban heat island phenomena, sequester carbon dioxide, and help to trap air pollutants on leaves. However, because some plant species emit biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), planting of some cultivars can lead to a deteriorated air quality because they increase ozone and particulate matter ambient concentration. Air quality is also affected by pollen grains and fungal spores from plants which can be health hazards for allergic or other sensitive members of the population. The authors review benefits and limited hazards of ur-

ban vegetation on air quality, highlighting useful computer simulations for predicting some of the interaction between urban forestry and ambient atmosphere.

Special Section: Landscape and Mining

Editorial: Landscape and Mining

Maggie Roe

Mining has provided humans with a wide range of materials and has helped define our wealth, society and culture in a myriad of ways. The extraction of these materials has also defined the character and quality of the landscape as well as the communities that bear the impact of the landscape change. There are many events in the history of the extractive industries which can stimulate the consideration of environmental and social justice in the landscape. Mining is a highly political activity and thus so is the issue of landscape quality in mining landscapes. Extractive industries can and do have a large scale impact on the visual and ecological quality of extensive areas and it is this issue of landscape quality that is the thread that runs through all these papers in this special section, which covers landscapes from around the world: Europe, South-West Pacific, Scandinavia and the USA.

Cultural Landscape and Goldfield Heritage: Towards a Land Management Framework for the Historic South-West Pacific Gold Mining Landscapes

Keir Reeves & Chris McConville

Cultural Landscape is now a separate listing for World Heritage sites and includes associative and designed landscape as well as those that have evolved organically. These usages have rarely been scrutinized with care. This paper investigates how cultural landscapes can be used as a research framework to evaluate mining heritage sites in Australia and New Zealand. The authors argue that when mining heritage sites are interpreted as evolved organic landscapes and linked to the surrounding forested and hedged farmland, the disruptive aspects of mining are masked. They explore how mid-nineteenth century goldmining sites can be best understood and interpreted for their (World) heritage, significance and, where appropriate, developed for their sustainable heritage tourism potential. Drawing on a number of research disciplines, a schematic framework is offered for interpreting and classifying these new world cultural landscapes based upon analysis of gold-rush heritage sites throughout the Trans-Tasman world, and is then applied to case studies in Victoria, Australia and Otago, New Zealand.

Coal Strip Mining, Mountaintop Removal, and the Distribution of Environmental Violation across the United

States, 2002-2008

Paul B. Stretesky & Michael J. Lynch

The authors draw upon concepts in landscape research and environmental justice to examine the association between community poverty and environmental violations, looking at violations between 2002 and 2008 across 110 coal strip mining operations in the United States. The results of the study suggest that residential poverty is greater around those facilities identified as violating an environmental law. In addition, the association between poverty and violations is dependent upon regulatory inspections. However, while an increase in inspections is associated with an increase in the odds that a violation will be discovered, areas with lower levels of community poverty are more likely to have increased regulatory inspections. The authors discuss this pattern of associations between poverty, inspections and violations, which is consistent with arguments in the environmental justice and landscape literatures.

Geochemical Landscape Analysis: Development and Application to the Risk Assessment of Acid Mine Drainage. A Case Study in Central Sweden.

Gyozo Jordan & Andrea Szucs

Acid mine drainage containing toxic contaminants is a major cause of landscape degradation at numerous historic mine sites in Europe. Risk assessment of acid mine drainage and related polluted lands requires an approach that is able to study the complexity of pollution emissions and impacted landscapes. In this paper the authors develop a simple geochemical landscape analysis tool using landscape ecology spatial analysis and geochemical modelling methods. Their case study for the analysis of geochemical landscapes in central Sweden demonstrates that the method can be used efficiently for the risk assessment of toxic mine contaminants in the complex wetlands landscape of the study area.

Short Communication:

Ecological Restoration of Central European Mining Sites: A Summary of a Multi-site Analysis

Karel Prach et al

The authors surveyed sites disturbed by mining in the Czech Republic, including spoil heaps from coal mining, sand and gravel pits, extracted peatlands and stone quarries. In this short communication, they offer the following conclusions: 1) the potential for spontaneous succession (natural regeneration) in restoration projects is between 95 and 100% of the total area disturbed; 2) mining sites, if properly designed and then left to spontaneous succession, can act as a refuge for endangered and retreating organisms, and may contribute substantially to local biodiversity.

LYON IN THE 19th CENTURY: LANDSCAPE AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN THE SHADOW OF REVOLUTION

Charlotte Wilkerson, University of Cambridge

"[Landscape] is one of the central elements in a cultural system, for an ordered assemblage of objects, a text, it acts as a signifying system through which a social system is communicated, reproduced, experienced and explored" (Duncan 1990:184)

I look at the contested use of space in nineteenth century Lyon and the ways in which it was appropriated to articulate political, social and cultural messages across different scales (the national, regional and local). The aim thus being to uncover a variety of conflicting and interesting identity struggles; to give a fuller picture than is ever 'officially' presented. The key questions I wished to explore were:

- How far Lyon followed the national line of a move towards the modern unified republic.
- To what extent Lyon's own history and identity affected the reworking of the landscape.
- In this way, how were elements of memory used and politicized with regard to the spatial appropriation of the landscape.

The French Revolution and the century that followed are of profound importance to any reading of the contemporary western nation and the ways spatial strategies were involved in experimentations with synecdochal national representation. Lyon considered itself to be the second city of the kingdom and the largest industrial city. Almost half of Lyon's population depended in some way on the manufacture and sale of luxury commodity silk cloth. Yet, Lyon was a prime example of class-based urban hierarchy, within which tensions became clear and played out over the eighteenth century. In this way, Lyon becomes a crucial site of interest and one which did not simply follow a 'Parisian model'.

Dialectics in the landscape formed narratives regarding Lyon's identity. I am arguing that a reading of the landscape begins to uncover these complex narratives. Structured on a scalar basis, I first assess Lyon's national moderantist (sic) identity with regard to landscape re-appropriation

post-Revolution according to (or opposing) regime orders coming from the capital. This was shown in Lyon's conformist adoption of urban planning schemes, political monuments and anti-clerical measures. The way this moderantism is cross-cut by the desire for regional republicanism is then explored more deeply across the landscape. Notions of anti-Parisianism arising from the memory of Revolutionary violence underlie the construction of many monuments and regional resources.

Finally, in part two the intricate local internal workings and contestations of the city as a result of revolutionary events and memories are explored. Looking at key sites, one can see how historical events in reality and representation are manipulated and reappropriated. Those considered part of the imagined (and fickle) community of the 'Fatherland' are seemingly glorified freely, and Lyon's centrist identity dominated any notion of the fair representation of Revolutionary memory. Yet by engaging the urban imagination to reconnect those who were 'forgotten' or considered 'Other' to what was projected as desirable, an insight into the true state of affairs can begin to be achieved.

CW

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.

Editorial enquiries:
Bud Young
Airphoto Interpretation,
 26 Cross Street Moretonhampstead Devon
 TQ13 8NL
 or emails to
 young@airphotointerpretation.com

INITIAL MEETING OF THE GERMAN SPEAKING WORKING GROUP OF LRG

On May 13, 2011, twenty two researchers from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy at different stages of their careers met in Hannover to establish a German-

speaking working group within the Landscape Research Group. As not all of them were already LRG members, Prof. Peter Howard (International Activity Coordinator in LRG's Board of Directors) gave a stimulating overview on the objectives of LRG and the opportunities it offers. He stressed inter-disciplinarity and inter-professionality (i.e. cooperation between academics and practitioners) as its core missions. The participants adopted a concept that is intended to guide the group's future work.

The German-speaking working group aspires to strengthen network relations between landscape researchers in the German-speaking area and beyond, to organise conferences and seminars which may result in joint publications, to provide information on funding opportunities, and to facilitate the formation of research consortia. Markus Leibenath from the Leibniz-Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER, Dresden) and Ludger Gailing from the Leibniz-Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS, Erkner near Berlin) function as spokespersons of the newly established group.

One of the first activities will be a seminar in spring 2012, presumably on the urgent issue of energy landscapes. This event will be combined with an excursion in which practical examples of energy-driven landscape developments will be examined. We plan to launch a website.

Since May the list of e-mail addresses already increased in number from 22 to 36, including all previous LRG members from German-speaking countries. It is intended to further raise the share of formal LRG members in the German-speaking working group.

The Hannover meeting was organized in conjunction with a conference on the constitution of cultural landscapes, in which the word 'constitution' refers to processes of social construction. It was the final conference of four parallel research projects which were funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). More information in German on this conference can be taken from: http://www.4r-netzwerk.de/veranstaltungen/kulakon_abschluss2011.shtml

Contacts: Markus Leibenath
M.Leibenath@ioer.de
 Ludger Gailing (Gailing@irs-net.de)

ML/LG



CHAOS AND SERENITY IN LANDSCAPE

People's allotments near The Emirates Stadium, Arsenal

Anish Kapoor's mirror illusions in Kensington Gardens 28th February 2011.



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