

landscape
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Contributors

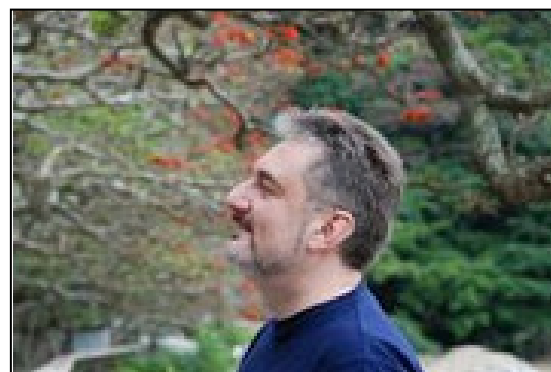
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Britain to become the world capital of drab?

by Alastair McCapra

A news item yesterday about controversy over a public space jogged my mind into thinking about various places I have been to recently, which ones I liked and which I didn't. The piece of news was that Kings Cross Community Projects (KCCP) has called on Network Rail to scrap proposals for a new square outside the London mainline station, describing the design as "drab" and "unimaginative".



The article commented: *"In particular, KCCP is unhappy with the lack of green space, lack of a sense of identity, need for public art, provision for cyclists, lack of a water feature and harsh paving"*. And they are right – the plan is drab and, if it goes ahead unamended, it will give one of the important gateways into our capital an Arndale Centre makeover. Perhaps then Kings Cross can be restored to its former glory as a desolate, dreary haunt for alcoholics.

Thoughts of drab, characterless public space inevitably led me to a sad reminiscence of a recent visit to Bath. A World Heritage Site, Bath recently spent £360m on its new Southgate Centre (pictured). A walk through the Southgate Centre on a summer evening some weeks ago was a pretty depressing experience. It was almost clinically dead. An unrelenting and unvaried hard surface spreads out before the pedestrian and every bit of character has been starched and ironed out of it. I hope it ages quickly, as this might give it some chance of at least looking a bit lived-in.



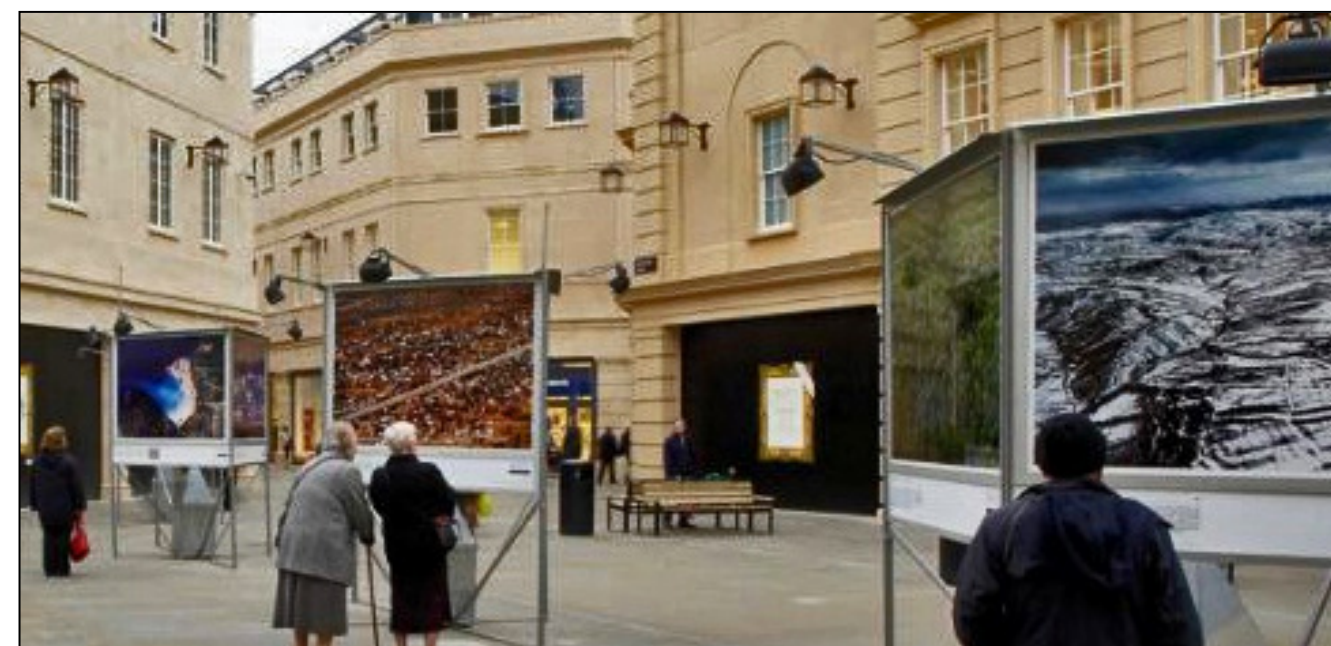
Saddest of all are the occasional forlorn-looking trees marooned in a sea of

paving. You would have had to try hard to design out pretty much every possibility of human interaction and civic life. On a roasting summer evening, people on the street wanted somewhere to sit, talk and watch the world go by and, recognising that nothing in the built scheme made this



it does have obvious focal points, light and shade, texture, and interest. Even after hours, when the stallholders have shut up and gone away, it feels lived-in, like a place of some civic significance and not just a faux-Georgian culvert between retail opportunities.

The last place that came to my mind was in Odaiba, Tokyo. Here, an entire Italian streetscape has been created so that Japanese shoppers can experience the pleasures of spending an afternoon idling in a square, eating gelati and watch the sun set over archways. This is not a particularly special experience, however, the Italian street is inside a shopping mall called Venus Fort and the sun rises and sets across the artificial sky several times a day for maxi-



possible, someone in authority had carefully laid down a carpet of Astro-turf on the ground so that there was a fake, temporary sort-of-a-village-green feeling. There was something about that Astro-turf that just made my heart sink. With so much money spent and so much attention paid to the Georgiannesque buildings, was this really the best a city like Bath could do?

Fleeing the miseries of the Southgate Centre, I recalled a recent visit to the Piazza delle Erbe in Verona, which could not have been more different. Another small, compact tourist city with World Heritage status, Verona's centre seems to have everything Bath's lacks. The Piazza delle Erbe also lacks greenery (except on the balconies) but

it does have obvious focal points, light and shade, texture, and interest. Even after hours, when the stallholders have shut up and gone away, it feels lived-in, like a place of some civic significance and not just a faux-Georgian culvert between retail opportunities. The last place that came to my mind was in Odaiba, Tokyo. Here, an entire Italian streetscape has been created so that Japanese shoppers can experience the pleasures of spending an afternoon idling in a square, eating gelati and watch the sun set over archways. This is not a particularly special experience, however, the Italian street is inside a shopping mall called Venus Fort and the sun rises and sets across the artificial sky several times a day for maxi-

All of which leads me to wonder — how is it possible that we can tolerate public space so dire that a naff theme

park in Japan is a nicer place to spend an afternoon in than the centre of one of our great historic cities? Not being Verona is a sin of omission, but the "drab" and "unimaginative" streetscape of the Southgate Centre, with its "lack of green space, lack of a sense of identity, lack of a water feature and harsh paving" is certainly a sin of commission. Even if you are of the antediluvian view that landscape architecture is an afterthought once you have done the buildings, you must be able to do better than this after spending £360m (though I doubt more than a minuscule proportion of this was spent on public space).

Thank goodness the community groups in Kings Cross have spoken up

loud and early to try and avert the same entombment of their public space. Landscape architects must have the opportunity of creating places where the rest of us want to spend some quality time in our lives. Soul-destroying briefs from developers who have no idea what they are commissioning and just want something that will never wear down, never cost anything to maintain and, hopefully, repel most people as quickly as possible, are absolutely no good. We must want better for ourselves than just to hurry through pointless, lifeless places, avoiding the winos. We don't want Britain to become the world capital of drab.

Alistair McCapra
CEO of the Landscape Institute

This piece first appeared on his blog site; published here with permission.

In the blogosphere:

In 2008 when the place was being developed but was far from complete others commented as below: —

Danny French said

moan moan moan moan moan....its what we british do best!!! we moaned about the old buildings that were there, now £360 million has been invested into improving the city and people are STILL moaning saying it looks rubbish. for me this development looks fantastic....modern and spacious whilst being largely in keeping with the georgian style of the surrounding buildings

Kate Eldon said

I am really looking forward to being able to walk around it. I have been over to have look around the old one though me finding (sic) not very many places to have a drink or something to eat.

Danny Heffer said

I personally can't wait for another Gap, Carphone Warehouse, Boots.....

LANDSCAPE VISUALIZATIONS: CAN WE BELIEVE WHAT WE SEE?

By Melanie Downes

This MA dissertation compared a selection of landscape, urban design and architectural visualizations, created during planning and design phases, with photos of the completed sites.

Visualizations which aim to show proposed designs as they will appear in reality were first used in the landscape profession by englishman Humphry Repton, known for his images which depicted a 'before and after' scenario in his famous 'Red Books'. Visualizations play an increasingly important role as decision making tools in the planning process and are also expected to successfully communicate proposals to both experts and lay readers. Current production quality of visualizations varies greatly across the landscape planning and design industry. It has been argued that the lack of

agreed protocols for their creation leaves landscape professionals open to criticism and potentially litigation resulting from differences between the visualizations and the built designs.

Accuracy and realism are the two criteria which demonstrate the greatest impact on a viewer's perception of a design proposal. However important work remains to be done to identify thresholds of acceptability for adequate levels of realism and accuracy. These issues are particularly pertinent in light of current economic constraints on project development.

The method developed for this study aimed to highlight recurring issues which arise in relation to accuracy and realism and also examined how these issues have the potential to impact on a viewer's perception of the proposed design. Visualizations selected for analysis were all used for communicating the project with the public. The image analysis method which evolved used image pairs; a visualisation and a site photograph (see fig.1), from a matching viewpoint and involved object mapping key content elements in each. The object mapping was intended to provide an easily readable visual

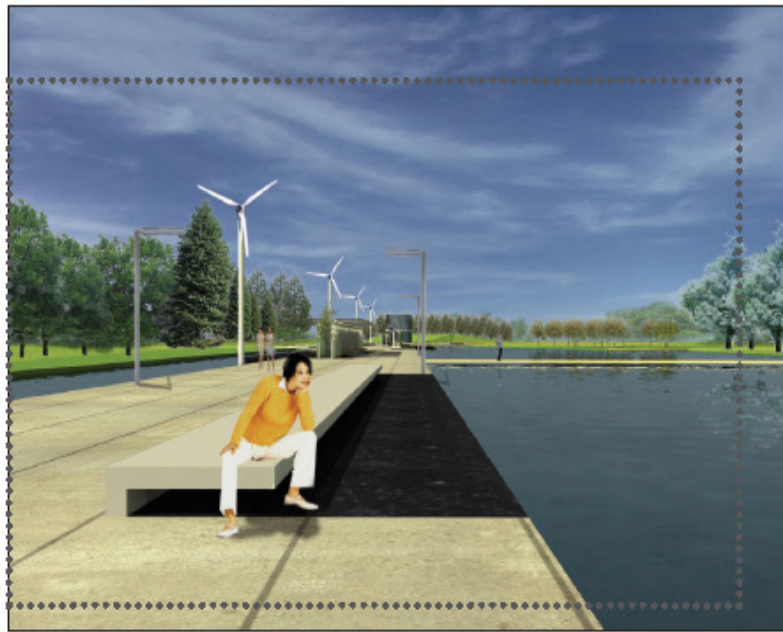


Fig.1. Father Collins Park, Donaghmede, Dublin 13, Ireland. Designed by: Abelleiro + Romero Architects with MCO Architects. Commissioned by: Dublin City Council. Completed: 2009. Visualization produced: 24.04.06. Time-scale visualized: not available. Visualization produced and provided by ArArq Ireland/ MCO Projects, photo by M.Downes.

representation of the image analysis and also enabled the analysis of recurring patterns of inconsistencies in the depiction of the key content elements.

The image analysis of the Father Collins Park visualization, revealed a number of interesting points. The angle of view gives a realistic representation of human eye level. There are however a number of inconsistencies in the depiction of key content elements. The scale of the structural elements such as the wind turbines, lighting and seating, varies, in particular the turbines appear larger in the site photograph than those proposed in the visualisation. Vegetation in the visualisation has been illustrated at a semi-mature stage in the background, however foreground reed planting evident in the on-site photograph has been omitted from the visualisation. These variances may be explained by changes to the designs after the production of the visualisations.

This example highlights a recurring issue relating to the timing of the production of visualisations; in some cases highly realistic visualisations are requested before all the project details are known which means it will never completely match the finished project. This is an issue which could be communicated to the reader through documentation of the production process accompanying the visualisation.

This research revealed an interesting insight into the inconsistencies of production values and accuracy applied in the creation of visualisations depicting designed landscapes and the public realm. The possible solution suggested: increasing levels of transparency in the process of production and presentation of visualisations, raises further questions which leave the discussion regarding the most appropriate method of achieving this transparency open.

MD

Acknowledgements: Supervising Professor Eckart Lange, Head of Department, The Department of Landscape, The University of Sheffield.

AFTER THE INVASION

By Bud Young

A walk on high heathland, overwhelmingly calm, long views, quite empty. We sit below an old oak tree, two trunks, spreading branches but very low. A circle of oak-affected grass amidst bracken and gorse. Heather, purple shows here and there. Just outside the circle, two slit trenches and others unseen; fox holes, funk holes out of which white flowered brambles emerge; The spire of a purple fox-glove. We eat rock cakes and talk of early summer 1944 when these trenches gave the black Americans, soldier engineers, a sense of security from aerial attack as they prepared here before D-Day. A heavy yellow navy helicopter at 1100 feet flies over us very low to our position and heads seawards. In the branches the wind stirs.

BY

PRISHTINA, WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAME!

By Terry O'Regan

My first step into the landscape of any new destination is to purchase a guide book and study the streets around my hotel and/or meeting place, and I often copy and enlarge a street map of the immediate area. Even the arrival of Google maps has not changed this pattern. I still treasure the guide-book to put flesh on the bare bones of maps. I read up recommended visitor highlights and the less well-known ones that catch my fancy. When I arrive at my hotel I go for a walk as soon as possible, reading the local landscape and getting my bearings with the aid of the maps, street signs and landmarks. 'The magic of the street is the mingling of the errand and the epiphany' says Rebecca Solnit My first visit to Kosovo this year initially confounded those first steps. Admittedly Kosovo has yet to become a well-known tourist destination, thus guide books proved

scarce. But two weeks before I was due to depart for my first mission in March 2011, I came across a single copy of the extremely well written Bradt guide book in our local Waterstones. Well written, yes, but the street map of Prishtina contained therein was like a map of the New World before it was discovered. An observation in the text under 'Getting Around' did not cheer me much either; it led off with — 'The biggest challenge in Prishtina is the relative chaos when it comes to street names' — apparently they have been changed with each political upheaval — many streets now have three names in active use, but this does not apply to actual signage at street corners — maybe they are waiting for the next upheaval!

So I rambled cautiously, close reading the streetscape as intensely as a native Indian tracker might read broken bushes and the desert floor. Distinctive buildings were scarce, but I was struck by the clustering of shops — jeweller after jeweller in one long row, then a group of three pharmacies and finally a complete street of ladies clothes shops many featuring richly ornamented full length wedding dresses of every possible colour. For me this stands out as the distinct and wonderful urban landscape of Prishtina. Wandering further through the city I found this pattern, this grouping continued — hardware shops in one group, sheet-metal workers in another. I wondered why.

The following day on a familiarisation study visit to the towns of Peje/ Pec and Gjakova/ Djakovica, we visited the former market districts where artisans and craftsmen, jewellers, harness makers, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors and dress-makers had worked and traded — these districts had been burnt to the ground in 1999. They have since been rebuilt ... in a fashion, but few of the artisans and craftsmen have returned; many of the narrow streets have a hollow emptiness. I am sure (at least I hope I am) that in time, new generations of craft-workers will occupy the streets. The challenge now is to manage the process in a manner that establishes a cultural and urban landscape continuity. (see 'for my readers' note).



It was here then that I found the answer to my 'flock of frock shops' mystery. In the market each street featured one craft or trade bound together by the tradition of its guild. The shops of



latter-day Prishtina are ensuring the continuity of this distinctive urban landscape characteristic. The streets may have no name, but Bono and U2 would find much to sing about in Kosovo!

The authors of the guide book warned that 'Prishtina is not a city to fall in love with at first sight.' Perhaps not, but as I roamed that distinctive, colourful, lively streetscape I thought that maybe slow-burner love was the more lasting, the more real.

TO'R

Notes

'Prishtina, where the streets have no name!' After a song by Bono and U2 **Wanderlust: A History of Walking**

by Rebecca Solnit, published by Viking 2000

Kosovo: The Bradt guide book. Gail Warrander and Verena Knaus. 2007 and second edition, 2010 Published by Bradt Travel Guides, 23 High Street Chalfont St Peter Bucks SL9 9QE. **'Peje/Pec'** the Albanian and Serb versions side by side — a necessary accommodation for a currently divided society.

For my readers, TO'R promises me a follow up piece to explain why this is necessary and what it means. He is at present on a return visit to Kosovo training staff.

itself descends precipitously in a deep chalk groove, overhung by yew and beech, or hornbeam or oak, and white clouds drifting in a river of blue sky between the trees

Page 53 **Edward Thomas** *The South Country* republished by Hutchinson 1983 published originally in 1906.

As the road struck into the sierra we branched off to the right and climbed a narrow mule-track that wound around the mountain-side. The hills in that part of Spain are of a queer formation, horseshoe shaped with flattish tops and very steep sides running down into immense ravines. On the higher slopes nothing grows except stunted shrubs and heath, with the white bones of the limestone sticking out everywhere. Page 18 **George Orwell** *Homage to Catalonia*

The weather was mostly clear and cold; sometimes sunny at midday, but always cold. Here and there in the soil of the hillsides you found the green beaks of wild crocuses or irises poking through; evidently spring was coming, but very slowly. The nights were colder than ever. Coming off guard in the small hours we used to rake together what was left of the cookhouse fire and then stand in the red hot embers. It was bad for your boots, but it was very good for your feet. But there were mornings when the sight of the dawn among the mountain-tops made it almost worthwhile to be out of bed at godless hours. I hate mountains, even from a spectacular point of view. But sometimes the dawn breaking behind the hilltops in our rear, the first narrow streaks of gold, like swords slitting the darkness, and then the growing light and the seas of carmine cloud stretching away into inconceivable distances, were worth watching even when you had been up all night, when your legs were numb from the knees down and you were sullenly reflecting that there was no hope of food for another three hours. Page 40 **George Orwell** *Homage to Catalonia* Penguin Books first published by Secker and Warburg 1938. Reprinted in *Penguin Classics* 2000.

MANCHESTER'S T3 FORECOURT: and the GLOBAL PERCEPTION OF SPACE AND PLACE

By Greg Mahon



My dissertation focused largely on place-making policy and professional application and how this relates to academic thought and literature. **Using the Terminal 3 Forecourt Improvement Project at Manchester Airport** (undertaken by the author during his placement) as the primary case study, a demonstrable link between academia and the landscape planning profession is proffered.

The text begins by discussing the role of a 'Landscape Planner', a role which often blurs the boundaries between professions. Not quite Geography, nor Sociology. Not Architecture, nor Anthropology, Art, Economics or an exact Science. Instead, the text surmises that a Landscape Planner is concerned with Spatial Ethics: an issue which traverses international borders, bringing together a melting pot of different societies and cultures whilst at the same time struggling to balance the demands between 'sustainable development' and 'economic prosperity'.

Airport developments bring about these themes at an exaggerated scale: balancing security, environmental and economic concerns in a relatively small space with large numbers of people from a variety of cultural backgrounds. The question therefore remains, how to create a place (in this instance an airport) that is able to be effective on all these grounds? Exploring the theory and policy behind place-making for airport developments (referring to the T3 Forecourt Improvement Project), the text attempts to go

some way in answering the aforementioned question.

The concept of place, and sense of place, is discussed in great length with the observations of Lynch in **'The Image of the City' (1960)** given credence. The notion from Ouf in **'Authenticity and the sense of place in urban design' (2001)**, that in order for a place to be a successful space it must possess a degree of authenticity, is given thought. For as the text examines, how can our supermodern areas (such as airports) be considered a good place today, given that they lack any authenticity which is more normally associated with areas of historical interest?

The argument held by the anthropologist Augé, — who suggests in **'Non-Places' (1995)**, when dealing with supermodern areas, rather than creating places we create non-places, largely devoid of any meaningful character — is related back to the authors own experience when preparing the design principles following 'good design practice guidelines' — which are later shown in the text to be anything but.

As the above suggests, place-making isn't just about theory, but also policy and guidance. Airports follow a stringent set of international measures, and it is these measures which the author suggests may lead to the creation of bland, uniform airport developments. Further still, planning policy seems set to only permit airport development on the urban fringe. The author argues therefore that the opportunity to allow creativity and innovation in the design process is stifled through environmental, planning, and stricter still, security guidelines.

However, the influence of airports on their immediate and wider surroundings is discussed, drawing on the work of **Kasarda in Airport Cities and the Aerotropolis: The Way Forward (2010)**, concluding that perhaps the main reasons why our airports appear as they do is not due to policy and/or standardisation, but lifestyle choice: the need for connectivity, speed and agility. Rather than creating non-places, we might be creating Aerotropolis's.

GM

LANDSCAPE WITH BOYS

By Philip Pacey

In **Coming Up for Air (1939)**, George Orwell wrote a vivid account of a gang of boys aimlessly exploring the margins of a country town in England in the years before the First World War. The reader shares the experience through the eyes of a younger boy who is tagging along, hoping to win acceptance. He knows that, sooner or later, he will be obliged to submit to an initiation ordeal which will involve eating a worm. (*'They were very strict in insisting that you had to bite the worm before you swallowed it'*).

After some desultory fishing, the boys set out on ...

a long, meandering, scrounging kind of walk, the sort of walk that boys go for when they're away from home all day, and especially when they're away without permission... It was the first real boys' walk I had...

They stop to eat *'in a dry ditch on the edge of town, full of rusty cans and wild fennel...'* They wander into beechwoods; trespass in the grounds of a big house which is 'shut up'. Then *they 'went down into a chalk hollow full of beds of dead leaves and shouted to hear the echo'*, and proceeded to shout all the dirty words they know.

Going on, they come to ...

a place that had been a quarry and then a rubbish dump, and finally had got overgrown with blackberry bushes. There were great mounds of rusty old tin cans and bicycle frames and saucepans with holes in them and broken bottles with weeds growing all over them, and we spent nearly an hour and got ourselves filthy from head to foot routing out iron fence posts, because Harry Barnes swore that the blacksmith in Lower Binfield would pay sixpence a hundredweight for old iron.

They find a thrush's nest with four half-fledged chicks in it:

After a lot of argument about what to do with them we took the chicks out, had shots at them with stones and finally stamped on them.



I was struck by the shadow moulding of hillsides and trees just south of my home, Moretonhampstead. It was 3.30 on October 30th. This very soft docile, feminine landscape lies immediately east of typical Dartmoor moorland. Photo from Pepperdon
Bud Young

Finally they '*trailed home*', on the way chasing a rat across an allotment, thereby incurring the wrath of the station master '*because we'd trampled on his onion-bed*'. At the end of the day ...

I'd walked ten miles and wasn't tired.... I wasn't a kid any longer, I was a boy at last. And it's a wonderful thing to be a boy, to go roaming where grown-ups can't catch you, and to chase rats and kill birds and shy stones and cheek carters and shout dirty words. It's a kind of strong, rank feeling, a feeling of knowing everything and fearing nothing, and it's all bound up with breaking rules and killing things.

Recalling as a grown-up how one of his teachers sought to interest him in Wordsworth's recollections of experiencing Nature as a child, Orwell's protagonist declares:

The truth is that kids aren't in any way poetic, they're merely savage little animals. A boy isn't interested in meadows, groves and so forth. He never looks at landscape, doesn't give a damn for flowers... Killing things — that's about as near to poetry as a boy gets. And yet all the time there's that peculiar intensity, the power of longing for things as you can't long when you're grown up, and the feeling that time stretches out and in front of you and that whatever you're doing you could go on for ever.

"A boy.....never looks at landscape" ?. Not as landscape, perhaps; that is, not as a 'picture' to be enjoyed for its aesthetic qualities. I think it would be truer to say

that boys are drawn to landscape, and not least to wasteland, edgelands (see note 1), no-man's lands and wilderness, by instincts which they are powerless to resist. Set free in accommodating landscape, they revert to hunter-gatherers. I clearly recall how, as a boy and indeed into middle age, I felt driven by some inner force to **climb** to the tops of hills, from which it was impossible not to feel exhilarated by the view, a hunter surveying his territory. Equally, as a boy, I **burrowed** into the landscape, inhabited hedges, finding satisfaction in seeing without being seen. In shaking off the shackles of civilisation, boys demonstrate how, for the tribe and for the lone hunter, landscape offers opportunities for both 'prospect' and 'refuge'. If our adult, supposedly more sophisticated landscape preferences somehow derive from deeply rooted archetypes, we should not be surprised to see the same archetypes emerging, raw and unadulterated by aesthetics, in small boys. Each term, at boarding school, we were given a 'whole holiday' (a whole day as distinct from Saturday afternoon) and could go where we liked so long as we stated where we were going. I was once or twice with a group of boys who headed for the woodlands around Brown's Folly, spending the day hanging out, heating baked beans over a fire (cooking — a big step forward for humankind — see note 2).

Others, including myself on other occasions, aspiring to an altogether more advanced state of civilisation, visited parish churches, or took the train to Bristol.

I find myself drawn to Orwell's boys' walk again and again, because it takes me back to my boyhood (and perhaps, however dimly, much further, to the origins of humankind). Orwell is ruthlessly unsentimental; the horrors he prosaically describes add to the authenticity of the experience he evokes so vividly. My reading of it, however, is distorted by nostalgia; I want to hymn its virtues; to plead for marginal land to be left to the mercy of boys — and boys to be left to the mercy of marginal land, permitted to take risks climbing trees, swimming in water holes, fishing in ponds — to let boys be boys). But I'm not sure that I would be right to do so. If we are an evolving race, should we encourage children to revert to savagery? Shouldn't we at least persuade them to progress towards the Neolithic? Consider the acts of cruelty. Consider the fact that 'edgelands' can be edgy places, and that boys' walks have sometimes ended in tragedy. And ask: how can we manage landscape, so that children of both sexes can experience and engage with it, wonder and wander in it, without suffering or inflicting harm?

Notes

1. Farley, Paul, and Michael Symmons Roberts. **Edgelands: journeys into England's true wilderness. 2011**
2. Wrangham, Richard. **Catching fire: how cooking made us human. 2009**

PP

Editor's note And for those who wish to cross over to a parallel topic in a different idiom why not read Landscape Research 36/5 pp 535-552 "The emo-

tional affordances of forest settings: an investigation in (sic) boys with extreme behavioural problems" — should I put an exclamation mark here?

Letters to the Editor ENGLAND'S FORESTS

A comment from Owen Manning

Paul Tabbush's article (LRE 58) *The Ownership of English Forests* was timely and informative. I was particularly glad to see the Forestry Commission coming well out of his analysis; I have felt supportive of their efforts for

not support them equally, rather than demonise them? Of course they get things wrong at times (name any human organisation of which that cannot be said), but they are *charities*, for Pete's sake, not sinister state institutions. All the good things Tabbush says about the Forestry Commission apply in my experience equally and more to bodies such as the Woodland Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts etc, and they do need and absolutely deserve all the support we can give them.

Paul does not give evidence for his critical view, he had no space, and perhaps it is based on unfortunate experience. Mine has been different. What I have learned of these bodies (even the

visited last month, site manager James Gilmour told me frankly of early hostility to the Trust's plans from locals fearing additional restrictive monolithic planting of their hills, yet hostility turned to enthusiasm as native planting with open glades and soft boundaries sprouted on formerly bare hillsides, wildlife and flora increased, and new paths were opened to link with others in a scenic pattern of trails. Locals have volunteered support, adjoining landowners have started similar operations, coincidentally the Forestry Commission is modifying large and monotonous neighbouring conifer plantations on sympathetic lines, and one might claim that this is a web of positive influences spreading out from the Trust's one site.



many years (though sometimes naively and misguidedly) and I am encouraged by his conclusion that they should be seen as trustworthy forest managers on everyone's behalf.

However, I am disturbed by his negative view highlighted in the article of the land-based charities struggling to overcome the continual and growing destruction of woods and habitats from damaging development. Why does he

sometimes restrictive wildlife trusts) in recent years is that whatever their special interests, their basic concerns are with protection from loss, restoration of diversity and social values, community involvement (of children especially), and access and enjoyment for all.

At the Woodland Trust's new Glen Devon site in the Ochil Hills which I

As I gazed out from a chosen bench-location (given to remember my wife) over young woodland now beginning to frame the village of Burnfoot, I could see future promise all around me, springing from what seems almost a cooperative enterprise. This is how things should be.

OM

POSTSCRIPT TO ‘HOW TO BE A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT’

I was delighted to read Owen Manning’s article in LRE 59 and to discover so much with which I could identify. Primarily it was his references to Miss Brenda Colvin which brought back memories.

I recently purchased a copy of **Trish Gibson’s book ‘A Career in Landscape’**. The link here is that it is the celebration of Colvin’s life and work, and it was when I came to the final chapter entitled ‘The Legacy’ that I read something which summed up perfectly my view of her as a pioneer landscape designer... *“There was always a sense of reserve. But this reserved manner concealed a generous, kind person who was much liked and respected by all who knew her.”* I also have Miss Colvin’s last publication — her privately printed **‘Wonder in a World’ (1977)** which seems to me a fitting celebration of her philosophy and her life’s work as a designer cum-landscape architect.

My meetings with her were between 1975 and 1980 when the Colvin & Moggridge Partnership were consultant landscape architects to the Welsh Water Authority during the construction of the Brenig Reservoir. Most of my time was spent with Hal Moggridge, but from time to time Brenda came up to the site to observe and advise. To see her striding across the bleak Denbighshire moors in driving rain was evidence of a strong individual who was still as committed to landscape at nearly 80, as she had ever been.

The development of the Brenig Reservoir presented many challenges, none more so than it was located in an area where Welsh is the first language and very near to Llyn Celyn (near Bala) whose construction had involved the flooding of the hamlet of Capel Celyn. That place remains a cause celebre in recent Welsh history. A certain Dr. Harry Crann, a Quaker and the chief executive of Welsh Water, who had been the resident engineer on the Llyn Celyn project, was adamant that local

people should be deeply involved in Lyn Brenig. Brenda Colvin and Hal Moggridge embraced that idea. The outcome reflected their vision and experience. It included the excavation of the Iron Age site, careful conservation of valuable flora, promotion of sustainable recreation activities around and on the reservoir and the participation of local people in its planning and management.

I am nowadays a trustee of the *Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru*/The National Library of Wales. I have been intrigued on many occasions when I pass the Penglais Campus (where the Library sits), to observe the excellent landscaping. When I read Trish Gibson’s ‘A Career in Landscape’ I discovered to my delight that it had been designed by Brenda in 1963. For me she lives on as I enter the drive.

JWG

From Crista Ermiya of LRG CONTENTS OF LANDSCAPE RESEARCH 36/3 JUNE 2011

Turning a Deaf Ear: Acoustic Value in the Assessment of Heritage Landscapes

Penny O’Connor

Although aesthetic value is one of the fundamental criteria used to determine the cultural heritage significance of places in Australia, cultural heritage has had only a limited engagement with theories on aesthetics. The existing literature tends to focus on the visual qualities of a place, and no practical methodology has been developed to identify, describe or assess the acoustic dimension of aesthetic value. This paper explores recent research based on the concept of the soundscape, and develops a qualitative methodology for understanding and evaluating the acoustics of place, applied to two cultural landscapes in Western Australia.

How Useful are the Concepts of Erasure, Origination, Transformation and Migration in Teaching?

John Stuart Murray

Landscape Urbanism favours an open-ended approach to landscape design,

questioning the use of traditional methods of teaching design, which it argues have led to fixed landscape architectural solutions. A student project was developed with the aim of assessing the educational value of such an approach to fieldwork within this theoretical debate, and used an open-ended and randomised method to understand existing conditions and speculate about future landscapes. The fieldwork method chosen was based on the concepts of erasure, migration, transformation and migration (EOTM). Some students had difficulty both with the vocabulary of EOTM, and in recognising that EOTM processes can happen simultaneously, but overall the study concluded that the method was applicable at a landscape planning scale and in a variety of development scenarios. It also proved successful in engendering active group discussion and engagement, which could provide a model for real life consultation.

Trajectory Analysis of Forest Cover Change in the Tropical Dry Forest of Burkina Faso, West Africa

Issa Ouedrago et al

Forest cover decline is one of the most important environmental issues in the tropics. This study looks at Burkina Faso, West Africa, and assesses the trajectories of forest cover change and measures landscape metrics of the trajectory classes in order to better understand the processes of change. Landsat and ASTER images acquired over a period of 30 years were used for cover change detection and the Fragstats package was used to compute landscape metrics with five unifying change classes. Results showed a substantial increase in cropland with concurrent decline in forest cover. The study confirms that there is a high level of deforestation and fragmentation in southern Burkina Faso, and that there is a need for a proper management plan to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources.

Perspectives on Landscape Identity: A Conceptual Challenge

Derk Jan Stobbelaar & Bas Pedroli

The concept of landscape identity is often referred to in landscape policy and planning, without, however, a clear definition. This is problematic because the term ‘landscape identity’ can have many different meanings, thus causing

confusion. The authors define landscape identity as ‘the perceived uniqueness of a place’ and endeavour to describe the content of this definition. They introduce the framework of the Landscape Identity Circle for the various dimensions of landscape identity based on two axes — differentiation between spatial and existential identity, and differentiation between personal and cultural identity — and posit its value for research approaches and disciplines addressing landscape identity.

Greenway Planning Context in Istanbul-Haliç: A Compulsory Intervention into the Historical Green Corridors of Golden Horn

Zerrin Hoşgör & Reyhan Yigiter

Haliç, the Golden Horn of Istanbul, has seen considerable degradation through processes of industrialisation, urbanisation, and inappropriate land use plans. The authors look at how greenway planning in Istanbul can potentially protect the local landscape against urbanisation and population growth problems, emphasising the natural and cultural heritage in an ecologically based planning approach. After taking into consideration current greenway planning process in Europe and America, a planning strategy is proposed for Haliç, reflecting the characteristics of Istanbul and possibly representing the first greenway example in the city.

Landscape Representation Validity: A Comparison between On-site Observations and Photographs with Different Angles of View

Marjanne Sevenant & Marc Antrop

This study examines the validity of using photographs to represent landscape in visual landscape assessments, using several landscape preference variables. Three types of stimuli were compared: the in situ landscape, panoramic and standard normal photographs. Landscape vistas were evaluated on site during field excursions. The same scenes were represented as wide angle photographs and standard normal photographs in two other questionnaires. The results suggest that both the preference variable being measured and the landscape being evaluated can determine which type of stimulus is most appropriate to use in landscape assessment.

The views and opinions in this publication are those of the authors and the editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group. It is prepared by 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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LR 36/4 AUGUST 2011 Special Issue: Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda

Guest Editors: Tomas Germundsson, Peter Howard & Kenneth R. Olwig

Introduction: Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda

Tomas Germundsson, Peter Howard & Kenneth Olwig

In this special issue, authors from a wide spectrum of places in Europe and the world have reassessed landscape drivers in the light of what has been termed a globalist environmental agenda. They have all had their own take on both the drivers and the notion of a globalist environmental agenda, but taken together they make clear that landscape cannot be subsumed as the local in a global local binary. Landscape research can and does contribute to both an understanding of the issues often identified with globalism, such as climate change and global economic challenges, but it also can provide an independent agenda as suggested, for example, by the European Landscape Convention, founded upon the rights and heritage of the people who have shaped and appreciated the landscape.

The Earth is not a Globe: Landscape versus the ‘Globalist’ Agenda

Kenneth R. Olwig

Globalism can be defined as a mode of thought deriving from the practice of thinking globally, both literally and figuratively. Globalism not only informs major trends within governance and economics, it also informs environmental issues, not least those related to global warming. Using the example of the production of energy and power, the author argues that there may well

be a built-in contradiction between globalism and the interests of landscape as the diverse place of people, polity and nature. This paper discusses the theoretical and practical implications of such a contradiction.

How Do We Accommodate New Land Uses in Traditional Landscapes? Remanence of Landscapes, Resilience of Areas, Resistance of People

Laurence Le Dû-Blayo

Faced with the challenges of major change, it is becoming urgent to consider what makes the specificity and strength of European landscapes, in particular landscapes still fashioned by traditional farming. The question of how to accommodate new land uses in traditional landscapes cannot be approached with reference to other topical issues that can be identified as driving forces: the development of renewable energies, the spreading of green networks, the maintenance (or return) of sustainable agriculture. Using examples from Brittany, this study opens up principles of landscape expertise — acceptable scale of development, adjustment to land resources, and maintenance of multi-functionality — which can be useful not only for landscape protection and planning, but also to consider broad lines of future development adapted to a ‘sense of place’.

Capitalizing on the Carbon Sequestration Potential of Agroforestry in Germany’s Agricultural Landscapes: Realigning the Climate Change Mitigation and Landscape Conservation Agendas

Tobias Plieninger

The potential of agriculture, forestry and other land uses to sequester carbon offers a powerful tool for controlling the global climate regime, but practices capable of creating ‘collateral’ benefits for landscape conservation has thus far been disregarded. This study calls for greater integration of scattered trees into agricultural landscapes, suggesting that agroforestry practices effectively store carbon and deliver other important ecosystem services as well. Practices of conserving or promoting six agroforest classes are compared with a catalogue of essential properties for becoming effective ‘carbon offset projects’, and criteria from mandatory and voluntary carbon markets for car-

bon sequestration are then applied. The study concludes that 'carbon sequestration projects' should include collecting empirical evidence regarding the potential of temperate agroforestry systems to store carbon, develop local projects, and upscale these projects to participate in established carbon markets.

Local Rights to Landscape in the Global Moral Economy of Carbon Dan Van der Horst & Saskia Vermeylen

Energy policy is an increasingly influential driver for landscape change in the Global North and in rapidly industrialising nations. The renewable energy industry and the large utilities installing wind farms are increasingly powerful actors in the global economy, and their activities are giving rise to a growing number of energy-landscape conflicts. A renewable energy project can be portrayed as representing either development or conservation, and either globalisation or localisation. By interrogating landscape as a right, and carbon as a commodity, the authors reveal a number of tensions between globalist discourse and more localised, contextualised concerns. They draw attention to examples of reconciliation through customised entrepreneurial activities which manage to make sense of landscape, energy and climate issues at the local level, and which can be enacted and presented through both a globalist and a local narrative.

The European Landscape Convention, Wind Power, and the Limits of the Local: Notes from Italy and Sweden

Thomas Oles & Karin Hammarlund

The ELC is the first international agreement to deal with all aspects of landscape planning, protection and management. It emphasises transparency, democracy and good governance as integral parts of 'landscape'. However, its utility in practice is still largely untested. This article considers the relevance of the ELC to the development of wind power, a cause of major land use conflict in Europe today. Two countries are used as case studies: Italy and Sweden, countries that contain iconic European landscapes, and which have become important sites of large-scale wind

power development over the last decade. Italy and Sweden have divergent political, economic and institutional traditions, and so the debate around wind power and landscape has unfolded differently in the two countries. On the basis of these two examples, the authors sketch the potential of the ELC to transform the planning process for wind power, and the real challenges it will face as a non-binding 'global' agreement in 'local' places with their own histories and traditions.

Landscape Democracy in a Globalizing World: The Case of Tange Lake

Finn Arler

The author examines issues of landscape democracy in relation to Tange Lake in Denmark. The story of the creation of Tange Lake is given, identifying the most important international drivers that have influenced landscape development in the area, directly or indirectly through the actions of a variety of local actors with conflicting conceptions regarding landscape quality. This variety of drivers, actors and conceptions raises issues for landscape democracy. Some basic 'democratic values' are identified, and the relation between levels of democratic decision-making is discussed with the principle of subsidiarity and the concentric circle theory in



mind. These general considerations are then discussed in relation to the case of Tange Lake.

Landscape as a Driver for Well-being: The ELC in the Globalist Arena

Shelley Egoz

The ELC recognises that landscapes are dynamic entities that change over time and advocates appropriate

management strategies that will protect landscape values and the well-being of communities and individuals affected by change. The author looks at two very different cases of landscape change, in New Zealand and Palestine. The first example is located within a benign context and the other in an area of extreme conflict. These cases present the two ends of a spectrum in which the hypothesis of a world landscape convention inspired by the ELC is relevant. The argument is that the moral imperative of a landscape convention in the spirit of the ELC holds the potential to become the mechanism to mitigate ill effects of landscape change at a breadth of situations from the everyday ordinary landscape to military conflict zones.

LIMESTONE COASTS

Many of my readers will have spent their holidays near the coast, some perhaps in Menorca where I took the following 3D pair north of Fornells. Dramatic spray drenched limestone inhibits almost all vegetation on both sides of Fornells' passage to the open sea. I see few references to coastland and tourist pressures and wonder why that is. The Mediterranean basin is

rich in limestone coasts
To see the above stereo image in 3D gaze at both but look at the left image with the left eye and the right with the right eye — perhaps holding a card between nose and centre line of the paired view to save the temptation of looking at both images with both eyes. When you get the 3D effect say Aargh!
BY.



Important from time to time to remember what many ordinary people think of as 'landscape'. There is no doubting that this one is an alpha male of the species.

LRE keeps offering tangible or should that be observable images of the real thing — while at the same time celebrating through its content, the range of ideas and research topics that 'landscape' now represents.

So glad I am not editor of
TOOTHPASTE WEEKLY.

Letter from Gert Groening **groening@udk.berlin.de**

Dear Bud,
It is always a pleasure to browse through "landscape research extra" and I thank you

very much for all the effort you put into it.

Although not exactly "landscape" I thought our volume "Spanien" (Spain) may be of interest for some of the readers of LRE. The comments in this book are in German, the book titles are in Spanish, of course.

Volume 3, **Spanien**, ISBN 978-3-88462-301-5 with 367 pages. It is the worldwide largest directory for Spanish garden culture. Some 3.000 titles of professional articles and monographs as well as garden-culturally meaningful pieces of evidence are listed in chapter IV. Numerous further pieces of evidence in general and special bibliographies as well as a large number of pieces of evidence for libraries and other institutions valuable for history and theory in garden culture make this volume a much more comprehensive instrument for research than the usual bibliographies.

Some 4.000 titles have been referenced in bibliographies and book directories of garden cultural meaning. Some 2,500 titles

re-listed in bibliographies of neighbouring disciplines, the Spanish-related percentage being considerably lower.

Also the volume contains a list of significant libraries and further public and private institutions which are meaningful for garden culture and open space development. The volume also pays attention to internet sources.

As in the preceding volumes for **Italy** (2009, 575 pages), ISBN 978-3-88462-248-3, and **Switzerland** (2010, 413 pages), ISBN 978-3-88462-297-7, the bibliography is arranged according to 54 special descriptors. When some of the descriptors show no entry this points to a deficit or a lack of research interest in certain areas. This enables those interested to identify areas of further needed research.

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