

Landscape Architecture Building

Opening

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It has been a year of milestones for the School of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University. The University, or Lincoln College as it was then, was the first New Zealand institution to offer a professional qualification in landscape architecture. From modest beginnings in 1969 the School has expanded with the recognition and growth of the discipline and in November 2009 celebrated its 40th anniversary. Anniversary celebrations included a workshop on Urban Ecology and Ecological Design, a landscape research symposium, reunions, garden tours and a formal dance.

A highlight of the 40th Anniversary was an art auction to raise funds for a sculpture to complement the new building. Original works by 40 artists, including well known New Zealand artists such as Gretchen Albrecht, Barry Cleavin, Andrew Craig, Neil Dawson, Ralph Hotere, Sandra Thompson, Philip Trusttun and Bianca van Rangelrooy, amongst others, were auctioned alongside pieces by emergent artists and current students. The auction generated a high level of interest, and in 2010 a sculptor in residence will commence design and production of the new sculpture.

Coinciding with the anniversary and art auction was the opening of the new landscape building. Where the first intake of five students was housed in a small prefab building, the current 150 students now occupy a new purpose built facility adjacent to the Stewart Building and Ivey Hall. The new studio facilities within the building are designed to allow for open teaching and student interaction and emulate a professional office environment. The building was formally opened by the Minister for Economic Development and Leader of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Gerry Brownlee in November 2009 during the anniversary celebrations.

As a further honour, the new landscape building, designed by Sheppard & Rout Architects Ltd and Royal Associates Architects, was recognised in the 2009 Canterbury Architecture Awards winning the Public Architecture Award. The judges praised the inclusive learning environment created, and described the facility as a “ground breaking education building”.

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