

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE of a new academic journal, *Landscape Review*. *Landscape Review* aims to provide a forum for scholarly writing and critique on topics and projects relevant to landscape studies and landscape architecture in the Asia-Pacific region.

A particular focus of the journal will be the design-related issues that arise from the interrelationship of global, regional and local influences. We especially encourage contributions that examine the interplay between design theories, concepts and practices of western cultures and those of the indigenous cultures and environments of the Asia-Pacific region.

New Zealand occupies a privileged position that offers the potential to mediate between such influences. Our colonial heritage ensures close links with Britain and Europe and with other countries that were formerly European colonies such as Australia, Canada and the United States. New Zealand's location in the South Pacific, on the other hand, places us geographically in the eastern hemisphere. Our indigenous culture, Maori, is Polynesian in origin; the past decade has also seen a major expansion of links with the countries and cultures of south and east Asia, such as Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

The resultant mix is both rich and challenging. Within a population of only 3.5 million, New Zealand embraces diverse values and aspirations. The relationship between the indigenous people and the former European settlers is being re-examined and transformed both politically and culturally. At the same time, the influence of Asia is growing rapidly, particularly through trade and tourism. So the design challenges we face, of reconciling globalisation of technologies and markets, regional political economy, and local culture and identity, are in many ways a microcosm of those faced throughout Asia and the Pacific.

The format of the journal will be based, in the first instance, around three complementary categories of article. 'Research' articles will be those that report upon systematic investigation into real world phenomena of relevance to the discipline of landscape architecture. They will be presented in a largely conventional format that includes a review of relevant literature, the description and justification of sources and methods, and the presentation and interpretation of substantive findings. The second category of article, 'Reflections', will be required to meet equally demanding editorial standards, but be open to more flexible format. It will include material that adopts a discursive approach to the examination of theoretical or professional issues relating to the concept of landscape and the practice of landscape architecture, and articles that provide critique on particular landscape projects or people. There will also be opportunity here for photographic or illustrative essays in which graphic material plays a central role in the argument presented.

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Both research and reflection categories will be subject to double blind review, assessed against the following criteria: critical insight, originality, theoretical and methodological rigour, and relevance to the aims of the journal. Referees will be selected both for their familiarity with the conventions within which material is presented, and for their knowledge of landscape architecture.

The third category of article will be short commentaries and project reports. Material will, of course, be subject to editorial review, but will not normally be fully refereed in an academic sense. The section will be titled 'Reports'.

The publication cycle of *Landscape Review* will be twice yearly. Forthcoming issues will be divided between specific themes relevant to our overall goal and general issues:

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| Issue 1 (March 1995) | Landscape architectural education and research in the Asia-Pacific region. |
| Issue 2 (October 1995) | Languages of landscape architecture: theoretical perspectives. Selected papers from the conference held at Lincoln University in March 1995. |
| Issue 3 (March 1996) | Languages of landscape architecture: theory into practice. Further papers from the conference held at Lincoln University in March 1995 |
| Issue 4 (October 1996) | Pacific bridges: metaphors of land and light. Selected papers from the Pacific Bridges conference sponsored by the Center for Critical Theory at the University of California, Davis, in October 1995. One of the three themes of the conference will focus on the transfer of metaphors used in landscape interpretation and change. |
| Issue 5 (March 1997) | General issue. Contributions are invited. |
| Issue 6 (October 1997) | Design research. A theme issue reporting contemporary research into the design process. Contributions are invited. |

Landscape Review has been launched by the Department of Landscape Architecture, Lincoln University. Lincoln has offered courses in landscape architecture since the late 1960s. It also provided the initial base for publication of *The Landscape*, the former journal of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA). Over 50 issues of *The Landscape* were published between 1975 and 1994, under the aegis of the NZILA, until publication ceased in 1994.

The launch of *Landscape Review* is thus prompted, in part, by the demise of its predecessor. *Landscape Review* is, however, a very different project. Its focus is scholarly rather than professional, and, unlike *The Landscape*, contributions will be subject to peer review. The audience is international, but we are confident that former subscribers to *The Landscape* will find material of interest. We believe that *Landscape Review* will effectively complement the other regional landscape architectural magazine, *Landscape Australia*, which has a professional

and industry focus. We also hope to provide a Pacific counterpoint to the established North American and European landscape journals.

The Department of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln produces *Landscape Review* through Lincoln University Press, in association with an established academic publisher, Daphne Brasell Associates, Wellington.

As founding editor I encourage colleagues in landscape architecture and other related disciplines to join with us in communication, debate and reflection.
