

The Global and the Local: Themes and Issues

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INTRODUCTION

THE 10(1) AND 10(2) issues of *Landscape Review* comprise the final volume of papers from the proceedings of CELA2004, the annual meeting of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, held at Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand, 25–29 June 2004. The theme of the conference – “Here or There? The Global and the Local” – guided contributors towards a consideration of the implications of globalisation for landscape architectural theory, practice and education. The first volume of proceedings (*Landscape Review* 9(1)) included 47 short refereed papers, which were discussed in a series of roundtable sessions at the conference. Perhaps inevitably, in an annual meeting of educators, the papers ranged widely around the stated theme. The second volume, 9(2), featured the plenary papers from the conference, shaped around a discussion of critical regionalism. This volume of the proceedings contains a further 24 short refereed papers, which were selected for presentation in the more tightly focused parallel sessions at the conference. They address several key areas of contemporary relevance: *interpreting* the intersections of the global and the local in terms of landscape; *theorising* the global and the local; *responding* to the effects of globalisation through policy and design strategies; and the *pedagogy* of landscape architecture in an era of internationalisation of education.

In addition, there were several invitation keynote papers with a New Zealand focus that were presented at the conference. They are not being published, but did form an integral part of the conference in the way they orientated overseas visitors to the local and regional setting in which the conference was held. These presentations are briefly summarised below, before the refereed papers are introduced, in order that readers of the journal might gain some sense of the context in which the academic papers were heard.

NEW ZEALAND KEYNOTES

The conference was opened by the Chancellor of Lincoln University, The Hon Margaret Austin. As a former Minister of Education for New Zealand during the period of economic and social reform in New Zealand in the 1980s, the Chancellor was in a unique position to provide an overview of challenges facing educators in the late-modern global world. Her address reminded us of the political and economic imperatives and frameworks within which we, as educators, must work. Whilst papers to the conference highlight an academic critique of globalisation, academics are also actors in the process, and subject to the same tensions and challenges in their own work.

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The first keynote address was presented by Sir Tipene O'Regan, a kaumatua (elder) of Ngai Tahu, the tribe within whose rohe (territory) the conference was held. Sir Tipene was chair of the tribal authority at the time that it lodged and pursued a major claim against the Crown (the Government of New Zealand) for breach of contract, dating back to the initial purchase of tribal lands in the early part of the nineteenth century. The claim was successful, and redress included a formal apology, cash, and options on land, which the tribe has subsequently used most effectively to support its own renaissance. The central part of Sir Tipene's presentation was an account of how nineteenth-century Maori rapidly became part of a world economy following European contact in the preceding century, and adapted and adopted technologies and biological resources (plant and animal species) from around the world that enhanced their New Zealand lifestyle. In short, worldwide connections are not a new phenomenon for either colonial or colonised people. As Castells (2000) has noted, it is the almost instantaneous *speed* of connections and responses that particularly characterises contemporary globalisation.

The second keynote speaker, Kerry-Jane Wilson, an ecologist teaching at Lincoln University, highlighted graphically the acceleration of landscape processes in the modern world, through a review of New Zealand's biogeography, and, in particular the changes to its biota that have followed human colonisation. The landmass which eventually became New Zealand broke away from the ancient continent of Gondwanaland about 80 million years ago. Its tectonic development made New Zealand increasingly isolated geographically, which has created a unique environmental history dominated by avian species and a high diversity of plants that evolved in the absence of land-based mammals. The long period of isolation made the highly adapted New Zealand flora and fauna particularly vulnerable to human impacts, and so when humans first arrived, as sea going migrants from east Polynesia some 1,000 years ago, changes were rapid, and in some species, the effects were dramatic. The scale of change expanded many times over with the arrival of Europeans who established an economy based on pastoral agriculture, and a central part of Kerry Jane Wilson's presentation was an account of the conservation challenges this environmental history now presents (Wilson, 2004).

The third keynote speaker focused on the socio-economic aspects of European colonisation. Historian Jim McAloon provided a complementary perspective to that offered by Sir Tipene O'Regan, tracing the way that New Zealand was rapidly drawn into the European world during the nineteenth century, as settlers arrived from Britain and Australia, and attempted to shape the strange land into a familiar and economically productive landscape. As with many stories of colonisation, there were successes and failures, winners and losers, and when combined with the other two keynote presentations, a central message emerged on the need to attend carefully to the particularities in the way broad 'global' influences are played out in specific places. This insight is well illustrated in the short papers that follow in this volume.

THE PRESENTED SHORT PAPERS

The dominant approach adopted by short paper authors to the challenge of the global and the local was 'interpretive'. Hala Nassar and Robert Hewitt, for example, trace the influence of international thought on the transformation of Cairo's urban landscape, highlighting in particular the impact of medical knowledge and protocols on urban governance. Eleanor Weinel examines aspects of modernism, and focuses on the way a myth of 'nature and a healthy life' was expressed in modernist architecture in California.

An historical perspective was also central to the papers that interpreted the relationships of 'global' ideals with particular landscape identities. Catherine Ward Thompson explores the contribution of the Scottish planner and designer Patrick Geddes to the discipline, examining the way Geddes used his idea of a hypothetical 'valley section' as a way to model fundamental relationships between organisms and environment. Kevin Risk uses a case study of an antebellum garden, Le Petit Versailles, to examine the relationship between 'global' ideals of garden and the local ecology of the Bayou, while Tal Alon-Mozes places the evolving flora of the Israeli garden into the context of cultural migration, settlement and political nation building. In the fourth article in this theme, Jacqueline Margetts and Leslie Haines trace the effects and opportunities of contested ideologies of indigenous and exotic species within gardens and stream ecology in Auckland, New Zealand.

A sense of changing perspectives also underpins the papers that focus upon 'place' and 'identity'. Torben Dam and Jens Balsby Nielsen demonstrate the way in which the distinctive design and materials of the sidewalks of Copenhagen, now widely associated with its 'local' sense of place, were the outcome of global technology transfer and experimentation in the nineteenth century. Baldev Lamda and Daniel Ortega both address issues of globalisation in North American urban culture and design; Lamda reveals the changing cultural dynamics of an inner-city neighbourhood in Philadelphia, and the emergence of a 'barrio' identity, while Ortega argues that The Las Vegas Strip has become a genuinely 'global' landscape, characterised by a unique sense of the 'hyper-real'. Finally, Shenglin Chang addresses what may well become the definitive character of globalisation in the twenty-first century, in her study of the way Taiwanese engineers are commuting around and across the Pacific using contemporary technology to maintain economic and social networks across continents.

Four authors offer insight into emerging theory, and in three of these, maps are used as primary agents of analysis. Jillian Walliss adopts a post-colonial framework to examine urban design issues in a New Zealand city, using mapping as a tool within a design studio to address complex and contested understandings of place. Katrina Simon explores how mapping literally shapes the way landscape possibilities are developed, experimenting with different global projections. Stephanie Rolley also alludes to maps in her title, "80° of Separation: Landscapes in Literature", and incorporates map notations as part of a subtle comparison of landscapes. Finally, Joern Langhorst interrogates the future of 'place' in a 'global society', arguing that

the discipline needs to move beyond modernism and deconstruction and to develop a re-defined mode of 'place making'.

Other authors address the question of what can be done at a broader scale in response to globalisation, with papers on landscape planning and policy. Laura Musacchio, Joseph Ewan and Ruth Yabes review lessons that can be learnt from the Phoenix Metropolitan Region, USA, on how to manage urban expansion in desert regions, offering an approach based upon understanding landscape systems. Tora Ottawa investigates the barriers to implementation of geospatial information systems (GIS) in an Australian state. Geoff Lewis and Elizabeth Brabec discuss the development of resource efficiency measurement methods, emphasising the value of a regional perspective, and Joanne Westphal reports on a study that examined the extent to which 'place' factors influence landscape assessment.

Finally, the thematic issue of the *pedagogy* of landscape architecture in a global discipline is considered. Jim Taylor, chair of the Education Committee of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), presented a keynote report to the conference on a pre-conference workshop dealing with issues and opportunities associated with the internationalisation of education. The workshop included reviews of the three main IFLA regions and a more in-depth examination of issues in the Asia Pacific. One feature that stood out is the difference in the state of development and consequential concerns of educators in different regions. In Europe, the current emphasis is on 'harmonisation' and alignment of education systems within the expanded European Community. In North America, the concerns centre on the effects of accreditation, certification and evaluation processes. In South America, the key issue is capacity building, and this is also the major concern in many other developing regions, including Africa, the Middle East, and much of Asia, including China. Elsewhere in Asia, over-capacity is a problem as Korea and Japan grapple with the implications of funding constraints upon historically large and well-resourced educational sectors. A common feature, however, is the way that the issues all have a 'global' dimension – either a need for external input, or a drive towards internationalisation in a search for students to support existing institutions, and/or to provide students with experience in preparation for a 'global' career.

In the published papers on education, Robert Hewitt and Hala Nassar present a comparative analysis of the way an international sample of landscape architecture programmes within CELA are dealing with internationalisation and multiculturalism. Ralph Johns offers one view of the future that is already here, showing the way students can develop skills to navigate the virtual landscape of the next generation Internet. In her paper, Nancy Rottle adopts a more reflective stance, exploring the ethical dimensions of scholarship and practice within a small town, and suggesting how such an approach can realign otherwise hierarchical relationships between the global and local.

The refereed papers reveal a range of stances and perspectives on the issues of the global and the local, and while many authors offer insights into the interpretation of the interactions of the global and the local, there are few who offer definitive ways forward. Reading the papers, several recurring questions emerge:

- 1 Is a landscape architectural theory of the global and the local desirable or feasible? Or can and should global and local dimensions be accommodated within existing, non-scalar frameworks?
- 2 What general lessons can we learn about the implications of social and economic globalisation from a comparative critique of place-based knowledge? How can specific case studies inform our broader understanding?
- 3 Is the internationalisation of landscape architecture a fundamental contradiction in terms? If so, how can educators respond to the effects of globalisation with integrity?
- 4 How can educational programmes grounded in particular places be responsive to both global and local?

The short papers at CELA2004 offer a rich and varied snapshot of issues related to globalisation within landscape architecture. Set against the background of broader narratives of social and cultural change, as sketched by the keynote addresses, these short papers add a series of provocative visions and views, tightly packaged to fit the constraints of the conference presentation format and word limit.

POSTSCRIPT

This issue of *Landscape Review* concludes the proceedings of CELA2004. It is unusual for an academic journal to devote what in effect have been four issues to a single theme. There are some major advantages, however, for both readers and authors. For the first time, virtually all the presentations at a CELA meeting have been both peer reviewed and published as articles. Normally, most presentations are published only as abstracts. The four issues therefore represent a unique snapshot of scholarship within the organisation, albeit focused upon a particular theme and therefore self selecting. For regular *Landscape Review* subscribers, the issues present a coherent examination of an important contemporary issue. Finally, for the editors, we might add that the publication of issues 10(1) and 10(2) marks ten full years of publication of the journal, and brings the publication schedule of two issues per year back up to date, following a series of production delays during 2000–2001.

Subscribers will also be aware that, remarkably, the subscription for *Landscape Review* has not changed since its launch in 1995. From 2005 the international subscription rate will increase to US\$100 per annum. A website will also be launched, which will feature current and past abstracts from the journal. We look forward to your support for our next decade of publication.

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