

Editorial: the story continues

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THE PREVIOUS TWO ISSUES of *Landscape Review* focused on the theme of 'Languages of landscape architecture', featuring papers from a conference held at Lincoln University in March 1995. In issue 4 we continue the emphasis on landscape interpretation, with articles and reports that explore the role of framing and narrative in landscape expression and management.

Val Kirby opens with an exploration of the way in which conservation policy must acknowledge the multiple and frequently competing narratives of heritage that are attached to particular places. Heritage is shown to be a complex, at times contradictory, and intensely contested concept. Using the West Coast of New Zealand as an example, Kirby traces the narratives articulated by individuals and land management agencies, and explores some management implications of their interweaving stories.

The complexities of landscape framing are also central to Deborah Malor's contribution. Using examples from popular television programmes, Malor explores what she describes as the 'refraction' of landscape images and ideals through the medium of television. She argues that television has become a place 'in and through which we operate, disseminating and receiving, assembling and dissembling cultural images'.

Coincidentally, Jacky Bowring also offers a metaphor drawn from physics. Reporting on her study of the role of the picturesque in the professional discourse and identity of landscape architects, Bowring describes how she has developed an 'L-diagram' based on polaroid filters, to analyse the meaning of landscape representation.

Whilst they may appear idiosyncratic at first reading, these diverse examples illustrate well the creative potential of metaphor. Robert Melnick offers a further rich seam of interpretation, in his use of the concept of the 'semantic ecotone' in management of so-called natural landscapes.

The issue is interwoven with several short reports: Rod Barnett describes the interpretive emphasis of a new degree programme in landscape architecture at UNITEC in Auckland, New Zealand; Siegmur Thomas compares essential features of the languages of western and eastern gardens; and Amy West presents her vision of the New Zealand agricultural landscape, as a series of postcard 'vignettes'.

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