Editorial: prospect and retrospect
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Landscape Review is now in its sixth year of publication, and has published 10 issues. The current issue, with its auspicious number 2000: 6(1) is an appropriate point at which to both reflect upon progress and map out future directions.

The initial catalyst for the launch of the journal was a coincidence of two factors. First, a growing concern amongst landscape architecture educators in Australia and New Zealand about the lack of academic publication opportunities in landscape architecture in the region. Second, the demise of a New Zealand based professional journal, The Landscape, which had been published by the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects for IS years.

Landscape Review was therefore conceived in response to an emerging regional need. However, as the project developed its aims were broadened, to provide a peer-reviewed scholarly journal which complemented the existing English language peer-reviewed journals of landscape and landscape architecture published in the northern hemisphere. Following an inaugural issue based upon invited contributions, the journal gained impetus from the publication of papers from the first Languages of Landscape Architecture (LOLA) conference, held at Lincoln University in 1995. LOLA attracted participants from around the world, and the refereed papers filled two issues of Landscape Review.

The success of this strategy of linking the journal to a conference led us to adopt similar links in a number of subsequent issues, which alternated with issues based upon general contributions. Looking back, it is clear that these theme issues have provided a valuable platform through which Landscape Review could establish a house style, and have constituted important scholarly contributions in their own right. The journal was initially launched to provide an opportunity for publication in the South Pacific and the general issues have played an important role in meeting this need.

In the last issue of the old millennium the journal explored another dimension of scholarship, inviting contributions to a theme issue based upon peer review of studio projects. Its production was the focus of a presentation to the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) where we made a commitment to another theme issue on the peer-reviewed studio, with amended criteria based upon our earlier experience. A call for submissions is included in this issue.

We have been asked by some contributors about the nature of our subscriber base. It constitutes several different sectors. There are currently some 40 or so university libraries and other institutions with regular subscriptions, including a number of very prestigious collections particularly in North America. We have a small number of private subscribers. Each conference issue is sent to participants at the relevant conference, and we have also sent full sets of back issues as part of that arrangement. There are a number of copies sold annually through booksellers in Australia and New Zealand, and also sets sold to students, at a discount. In total, around 100-120 copies of most issues have been distributed.
Unfortunately, the subscriber base is nowhere near large enough to cover costs, and so each issue becomes an exercise in seeking sponsors and other forms of support. We have been most fortunate in the support provided by Daphne Brasell Associates Ltd in the editing and production process, and also acknowledge the contributions of students of the Whitireia Publishing Course working with Daphne.

There are many contributors and reviewers who have made major contributions over the past five years, and we will continue to publish lists of reviewers every few issues. We must however take particular opportunity to thank publicly our first reviewers, Professors Mark Treib and George Seddon, who gave invaluable support and advice on the early issues.

Looking to the future, we intend to continue to feature theme issues based upon conferences. The next issue publishes papers from a recent Australasian Educators in Landscape Architecture (AELA) meeting at the University of New South Wales. We will also continue our exploration of the refereed studio – a form of action research into alternative ways of creating and publishing new knowledge in landscape architecture. We would like to continue to publish at least one general issue each year, to provide the opportunity for academic publication that was the original focus of Landscape Review.

From this year on, we also plan to extend onto the internet, and are in the process of creating a homepage that will feature abstracts of all past refereed articles, together with material from the current issue. The success or otherwise of these plans will of course depend in large part upon the willingness of contributors to consider Landscape Review as a forum for publication, and upon subscribers’ willingness to continue to support the journal.

It is not an affectation that this editorial has been written in the plural voice. Over the past couple of years Jacky Bowring has taken an increasingly central role in Landscape Review, and edited several issues. We are very pleased to announce that from this issue there are now two joint editors of Landscape Review: Simon Swaffield, the founding editor, and Jacky Bowring. Both are on the staff at Lincoln University, where the journal is published.

It is also an appropriate time to widen the editorial dimension further, and invitations will soon be issued to prospective members of an editorial advisory board, to help guide the journal over its next phase of development.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to our next 10 issues.