

# Foreword

JACKY BOWRING

Gardens and suburbs are often marginalised in the discourse of landscape architecture. The small-scale and domestic connotations of gardens mean they tend to sit outside the academic sphere. The associations of suburbs with the bland and negative aspects of urban sprawl have also constrained the types of research in this area.

This special issue on ‘Gardens as Laboratories’ highlights both gardens and suburbs as a rich vein of exploration for landscape architecture. The hybridising of garden and laboratories amplifies the experimental nature of this research, demonstrating that it is not merely passive reflection.

Fiona Harrison’s guest editorship has brought together a group of complementary articles, ranging from the scholarly work of Paul Fox, Julian Raxworthy, Kris Scheerlinck and Yves Schoonjans – and Fiona’s own research – through to a refreshing and insightful series of reports on gardens as experimental settings. This gives a different rhythm to the issue, one that is full of intriguing observations and ideas for extending this domain of investigation. I am very grateful for Fiona’s vision for this issue and her patience while we negotiated the process of bringing it together, including overcoming some unforeseen challenges.

Proposals for special issues of *Landscape Review*, including selections of papers from conferences, are always welcome. Please contact the editor, Jacky Bowring ([jacky.bowring@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:jacky.bowring@lincoln.ac.nz)), for further information.

*Jacky Bowring is Professor of Landscape Architecture, School of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Environment, Society and Design, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Christchurch 7647, Canterbury, Aotearoa New Zealand.  
Telephone: +64-3-423-0466  
Email: [jacky.bowring@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:jacky.bowring@lincoln.ac.nz)*