International Federation of Landscape Architects
Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes

# IFLA NEWSLETTER

## RESILIENT CITIES

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am packing my suitcase and getting ready to leave for Zurich to attend our next Congress, skillfully organized by our dear colleagues from the BSLA and with the invaluable support of the Municipal government of Zurich!!!

This will be the first World Council with our new EXCO and I have to confess that I have butterflies in my stomach when I think of chairing the session. There will be wonderful achievements to report and difficult issues to discuss, but I am confident that the outcome will be excellent and that we will successfully accomplish the tasks that we have defined for next year.

We will welcome Ilya Mochalow as the new General Secretary and EXCO member and deeply thank Virginia Laboranti for her hard work during the 2 periods that she served as an IFLA officer.
The Congress is time for IFLA's highlights; the award ceremony, honoring Ms Cornelia Hahn Oberlander for her lifetime of work with the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award, having the opportunity to see the products of the Student Competition and Charette, kindly supported by our dear sponsors and of course the keynote lectures and tours will be wonderful!!!

The next time I am writing the president's address I will be able to report on this magnificent event. Until then I hope to control my stage fright with the support of our dear delegates and friends!!!

With a Big hug to all,

Desiree Martínez

# RECOVERY . JAPAN

Kenta Sinozawa
Seiichiro Takahashi
Yuko Tanabe
Hiko Mitani

## GRATITUDE AND INTRODUCTION

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of IFLA and to the people all over the world for their kind words, letters of sympathy, encouragement and supportive mail after the great earthquake and related disasters.

We imagine that many people have knowledge of the great earthquake after seeing the shocking images that were broadcast throughout the world, as well as the nuclear plant accident, whose effects on the environment are now concerns worldwide, and not only in Japan. We are aware that this is likely to be the most interesting topic, however we shall save it for another time when thorough research has been done and more reliable information becomes available. At this time many facts remain unknown even to us Japanese.

This horrifying earthquake severely affected the Tohoku district of Japan. Although it is a limited region, each sub-region has its own topographical and climatic characteristics. The diversity of vegetation and climate has diversified people's life styles. Thus, the earthquake caused a variety of types of damage, and has made reconstruction plans more difficult and complex.

Three months have already passed since March 11th 2011 and we have only taken the first steps in recovery and reconstruction.

## NATURAL DISASTERS AND JAPAN

This is not the first time that Japan has suffered from severe earthquake damage. We've experienced disasters periodically and frequently throughout our history.

The Japanese natural landscape has been strongly related to such disasters. In ancient times when professionals were not differentiated, landscaping was alongside civil engineering, memorials, and requiems. A Japanese "scholar of religion" once said, 'Art is born side by side with death', accordingly, the natural landscape is also related to natural disasters. The "landscaper Pilgrim monks" were a typical feature of that time, and their lifestyle represents this ideology. At present, our identity as landscape architects is in question after the terrible earthquake.

## RUINS AND RE-CONSTRUCTION

This is the third time in the modern age that Japan has been hit by a huge earthquake or a large scale natural disaster, since the profession of landscape architecture gained recognition in Japan. The former two earthquakes are known as the great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. After each event we picked ourselves up and reconstructed our cities and landscapes from piles of wreckage.

However, there are fundamental differences. In the natural disasters that have affected Japan to date, an invisible 'something', an uncontrollable force, destroyed the 'cities'. This time, a series of tsunamis, a visible part of 'nature' destroyed and swallowed huge 'landscapes in only a few hours. This great earthquake was 'a disaster of everyday landscapes' but also, it illustrated that 'usual and unusual phenomena are two sides of the same coin'.

## 'ARA-TAMA' AND 'NIKI-TAMA'

"Shinto-ism" suggests that the spirits of Gods have two sides. The tama (spirit of god) has different qualities: Niki-tama, the peaceful or passionate element, and the other, Ara-tama, the vigorous or active element, while they are sometimes seen as sharing one body.

We may have paid too much attention to the 'gentle' side of the landscape in peaceful and materially fulfilled modern days. Despite this fact, the Japanese have dealt with 'severe nature beyond our control' since ancient times; earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions... The Japanese have existed alongside with these gods, in turn praying for aid and trying to pacify them. Nevertheless, there are places that we have given up as 'regions of the Gods'.

## VESTIGE OF 'GODS', THOUGHTS ON THE PLACE NAMES GIVEN BY 'HUMANS'

Unchangeable structural characteristics of the landscape were recognized through this disaster,

at the same time as new artifacts like houses and modern engineering structures were drowned and washed away by the tsunami.

For the Matsushima islands, a famous scenic spot known for its beautiful landscape of numerous small islands, the tsunami is only one part of the history of erosion of the natural environment.

People in the Tohoku region have confronted the natural environment for hundreds of years. For instance, they rerouted a river (R. Kitagami) and ran canals along the coast (Teizan canal). These landscapes have developed over time, with careful reading of the power of nature. Old Shrines and ancient passageways were undamaged. More surprising to us, in the middle of rice fields washed out by the tsunami, a few black pine trees remained standing on a mound only 1m high. Surrounded by the black pine trees, a shrine revering a local god had been built.

On the other hand, those which were built without thorough thought given to nature's rules and overlooking history seem to have been washed away.

We landscape architects cannot help admiring the sincere working relationship of nature and human-beings. By seeing both what remains and what was destroyed, we are powerfully reminded of a unique oriental idea, the 'Inashi' method in Ju-jitsu and Karate to fend off an enormous power, never received up front.


## THE 'TOHOKU' REGION IN JAPAN, AND 'JAPAN' IN THE WORLD

The current Japanese economic climate is grim, and Japan's decline in the world economy is unavoidable. We have not managed to solve the nuclear plant problems, and the burden will surely eat up our current savings.

Furthermore, at the base of its recovery and reconstruction, Tohoku has numerous foreseeable problems to face in daily life and in the economy, such as a shrinking population and the decline of primary industry in the hilly and mountainous regions as well as the nuclear accident that 'causes uneasiness in the world'. We have to get away from ungrounded beliefs regarding 'the illusion of development', and come up with a truly realistic approach to recover from these difficulties.

## REBIRTH OF IFLA JAPAN

In such a difficult time, we, IFLA Japan, are also in the process of being reborn. Is it suitable to call it 'Rebirth' or 'Revival'? It certainly will depend on how we do, and how we continue to do it.

We will continue working with 'Hope' and a positive 'Mindset'.

## ON THE ACTION OF THE JAPANESE INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND OTHER BODIES AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

The Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture, the academic institution of landscape architecture in Japan, organized a reconstruction support committee for the Tohoku earthquake, and conducted the primary site survey beginning in late April and throughout early May.

The 10 survey teams consisted mainly of experts who belong to universities, and surveyed a large area from the coastline inland, including the following cities and towns: Iwate pref: Miyako-shi, Otsuchi-machi, Rikuzentakata-shi; Miyagi pref: Kesennuma-shi, Sendai-shi, Natori-shi; Fukushima pref: Minamisoma-shi; Chiba pref: Asahi-shi, Urayasu-shi, Wabiko-shi. The survey report is shown (in Japanese) on the institution's website:

http://www.landscapearchitecture.or.jp/dd.aspx?menuid=1255

Using the theme of earthquake aid through landscape regeneration, the following points were seen as important in the primary site survey.

1. Value local residents' views.
2. Consider how to recover vital local communities and panning for highly resilient towns.
3. Consider reconstruction plans that lead to sustainable lifestyles that are suitable to the natural environment. How to co-habit with nature wisely.
4. Summing up those ideas in view of new planning at the national level.

The emergency primary site survey was followed by an extraordinary meeting on May 21st 2011. The survey reports as well as future considerations for the reconstruction were discussed, and suggestions issued.

The following was reported in the meeting:

Keynote address by Shiro Wakui (Professor of Tokyo City University) 'Suggestions From the Field of Landscaping for Reconstruction Plans'.

Akio Nemoto (Head of an adventure park) The Experience of Escape and Survival on High Ground in a Coastal Park.

Followed by Masayuki Moriyama (Professor at Miyagi University) who introduced the research activities of the institution's Tohoku branch. Tetsuro Nomura (Japan Landscape Contractors Association) reported a survey of the stricken area from a landscape contractor's perspective, as well as from Seiichiro Takahashi (Registered Landscape Architect) who accompanied the primary site survey.

Suggestions and observations were given by government officials in charge of reconstruction policies, such as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, the Environmental Ministry, and the Agency of Cultural Affairs. Direction and the possibility of landscape reconstruction were discussed at the panel discussion session.

Following the primary site survey, a second survey has been planned based on the suggestions at this extraordinary meeting. A symposium for reconstruction support for the Eastern Japan earthquake is planned for this autumn, in which more specific suggestions will be made based on the second site survey that will cover more specific research as well as detailed systematic studies on each theme.

Additionally, after the earthquake, each university's landscape school voluntarily visited the stricken areas and began their own studies and research on site, making suggestions on reconstruction plans, workshops and events for long-term reconstruction support.

# YUNGAY

## Blossoms of a City Buried By the Huascaran

Eileen Dancuart Sardá

The practice of landscape architecture assumes that nature can be controlled. Nature is seen as a tool that is easily domesticated, friendly, relaxing and stimulating.

However, aren't we forgetting the fact that we are just a small fragment of the universe, and that nature is ruled by laws that humans are not always able to master?

### IS NOT THE PRIMITIVE VISION OF NATURE THE MOST TRUE AND ESSENTIAL?

The highest mountain of Peru, Huascaran (6,768m above sea level), is located in the White Mountain Chain (Cordillera Blanca) within the province of Yungay in the state of Huaraz. Huascaran, one of the most important Apus (Mountain Gods) in Latin America is overwhelmingly beautiful. This beauty is also present in many other close by mountains; Huandoy, Chopicalqui, Pishqo, Shapraraju, Yanapaccha, Contrayerba.

41 years ago, on a Sunday, May 31st 1970, at 3pm, the opening of the World Cup held in Mexico was taking place and most people were watching it on television. Simultaneously, an earthquake broke a piece of ice free from Huascaran Mountain, which then slid at 280 Km/h towards the city of Yungay. The city was buried together with its 25,000 inhabitants.

A similar tragedy had taken place 8 years prior, with a landslide that buried Rasrajirca, on January 10th 1962. However the second natural disaster that occurred in 1970 was five times bigger.
It seems that history wanted to bury these cities under the Huascaran Mountain, sealing them closed forever, demonstrating the powerful and uncontrollable force of nature, the same force that is able to generate awe, fear and reverence.
Only those who had gone to the cemetery to visit their dead that day survived the disaster in Yungay. The cemetery was located on top of archaeological ruins that were elevated on a mound of earth. It had 5 consecutive platforms. At the very top, as a final intervention, the statue of the Redeeming Christ was placed in 1966, but this would not be the last modification. The landslide razed the city, covering everything with a marshy mud. The cemetery remained as an island, with 3 of its 5 platforms emerging from the surface. Survivors had to be rescued by helicopter.

As a miracle, 93 children who had gone to a special function of the circus, which was located 500m from Yungay, also survived. After the tragedy, these children were orphans, and were given up for free adoption to Russia, Germany, Spain, China and Argentina. Today, they are grown-ups living abroad, and only God knows if any of them are reading this journal right now.

The survivor's testimonies are heartbreaking. Almaquio Fulgencio Ortega Lopez was 23 years old on the day of the tragedy; he was watching the soccer game outside Yungay. When he remembers that day, he cries in silence, as his loved ones "went away on that day to never return". For him, visiting the Memorial is like visiting home, a home that has disappeared. Fulgencio built his house just in front of the Huascaran, a mountain that to him represents both anger and awe. He feels trapped both by poverty and by the geography of this place, located just between the two tragedies of Yungay and Rasrajirca.

Ricardo Hurtado Orihuela was 31 years old and was working in Huaraz on that day. He was a governor.



Returning to his city was devastating. There was no water, no food, only desolation. He would rather not remember it.

Yungay was a beautiful city. It was founded in 1540, but it had pre-inca ruins. Its Main Square had the typical colonial disposition of a double cross. The square had 8 roads and 8 gardens planted with roses, as well as 36 palm trees. It also had a fountain brought from London, and a cathedral tower with four watches pointing towards the cardinal directions.

"After the landslide, the sun did not shine for several days. Everything was in darkness. It was like the end of the days..."


Yungay was relocated 1Km to the north in the town of Lucmapampa.

Four palm trees remained of the old Yungay as mute witnesses, they were buried at their base but their tops were easily recognized in the middle of the esplanade. The cathedral must have protected the palm trees from the landslide. Three of them are now dead but one remains alive. There are also ruins of the enormous rocks of the Huascaran, lying together with surreal ruins of a truck and a bus.

The Yungay Memorial was built in 1972 by Arnoldo Russka, a Swiss architect who was born in 1880 and who had married a Peruvian woman from Yungay. For the design of this Memorial, the main square was to be rebuilt in the same location of the old square. The 8 roads and 8 gardens were created and 36 palm trees together with roses organized by their different colors were planted.

It is here in this Memorial where memories of Yungay blossom, on the buried palm trees, with the awesome view of the Huascaran, the three remaining platforms of the old cemetery and the roses of vibrant colors that seem to dress the 25,000 invisible tombs that lie underneath them.

Here, layers of nature and culture coexist. There is a strong geography, the Peru of the millennium, the European colonial influence and the mixture of cultures. On top of everything, one can read a global message that invites the whole world to

reflect on our position towards nature, which we should RESPECT.

The scenic beauty of the White Mountain Chain is impressive. I invite you to visit it, and to recover in this trip the essence of our profession; our primitive, mythical view of nature. Let's offer our reverence to the Huascaran Apu.

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*Infinite thanks to:*
*Nilda Mallqui Rondan, tour guide from Ancash, an example of compromise.*
*Harold Maguina Villanueva, the author of an interesting video about Yungay edited in 2007.*

# FLEXIBLE LANDSCAPES AND THEIR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

## The key to a more sustainable and self-reliant urban development?

Haris Piplas, Dipl.-Ing.,M.Sc.

A firm and ever-growing body of evidence points to a clear picture: the world is warming. The warming is caused by human activities which are increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. According to UN HABITAT, cities are responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions even though they only comprise approx. 2-3% of the world's land mass. London, for example, requires a staggering area 125 times its own size to sustain itself, a surface area of 197 000 km2 – thus creating an immense ecological footprint that illustrates the inseparable link between nature, cities and sustainability. While analyzing such problems, it becomes obvious that the prodigal, endless urban expansion which has dominated our history over the past 150 years is the major source of our sustainability problem. After close evaluation of this urban "big bang", an endless list of hazardous impacts can be easily revealed. The reality of our peak-oil society that is currently witnessing both financial and ecological crises constantly impinges the old megalomaniac way of thinking and calls for innovative approaches.

This evidence also shows that the art and process of making and managing cities must be rethought. In my view, one medium of the urban fabric has the highest potential for improving the sustainability and self-reliance of cities because of its structure, form and similarity to natural systems. I am referring to the landscape, often neglected in the discussion regarding innovative and sustainable urban design and planning. In this regard an increase of importance on "landscape features" such as food production, energy generation and water management can show that landscapes and ecosystem services can firmly contribute to urban sustainability.

Today, in most cases, a landscape designed in the 19th century is still expected to provide the same (aesthetic, recreational etc.) function and show no flexibility for the introduction of new function, which would facilitate the landscape's adaptation to the needs of a peak-oil society. On the contrary, a building designed 150 years ago is expected to follow and adapt to different "green" movements. The same situation is evident in the field of traffic infrastructure and its multifarious innovative mobility concepts which aim to fight global warming.

All arguments lead to one final conclusion: urban space including landscape, needs to become more flexible and adaptable and offer important ecosystem services for the city while respecting the socio-cultural and economic implications of this transformation. It is clear that cities and regions today depend on resources and ecological services that hail from distant ecosystems and do not benefit significantly from local urban, sustainable ecosystems. Often the most effective, and in some cases the only way to deal with local problems is through local solutions. In this respect, urban ecosystems are vital for cities themselves, implying that locally generated ecosystem services have one of the most substantial impacts on the quality of life in urban areas. Sustainable ecosystems could therefore provide an ecological framework for the design of cities, integrating urbanism and ecology and initiating an important interaction between different urban media.

A paradigm shift is visible in all spheres of human activity; shouldn't landscape, as the ambassador of "green", at times comprising over 50% of the urban area, also follow suit and take on a leading role in the search for the "green" city?

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## RECREATIONAL CIRCUIT "MOVE TOWARDS THE GREEN "

### Recognizing and re-defining open space as resilient urban space
### San Pedro de la Paz, Concepción, Chile

Team project: Camila Wirsching and professor María Teresa Rodríguez.

Location: San Pedro de la Paz, Concepción, Chile.
Area: 510 intervention ha.

"Move towards the Green"(fig. 1) a recreational circuit in San Pedro de la Paz (Figure 1), is an exploratory thesis project completed by the Architecture department within the Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Geography at the University of Concepción. It is a project that addresses the role of open space in the face of a seismic event. It was inspired by the research and corresponding seminar entitled "The Second City, the role of open space post-quake in the cities of San Pedro de la Paz and Coronel" after the earthquake and tsunami event on February 27, 2010 in Chile. The investigation illustrates that open space, under-

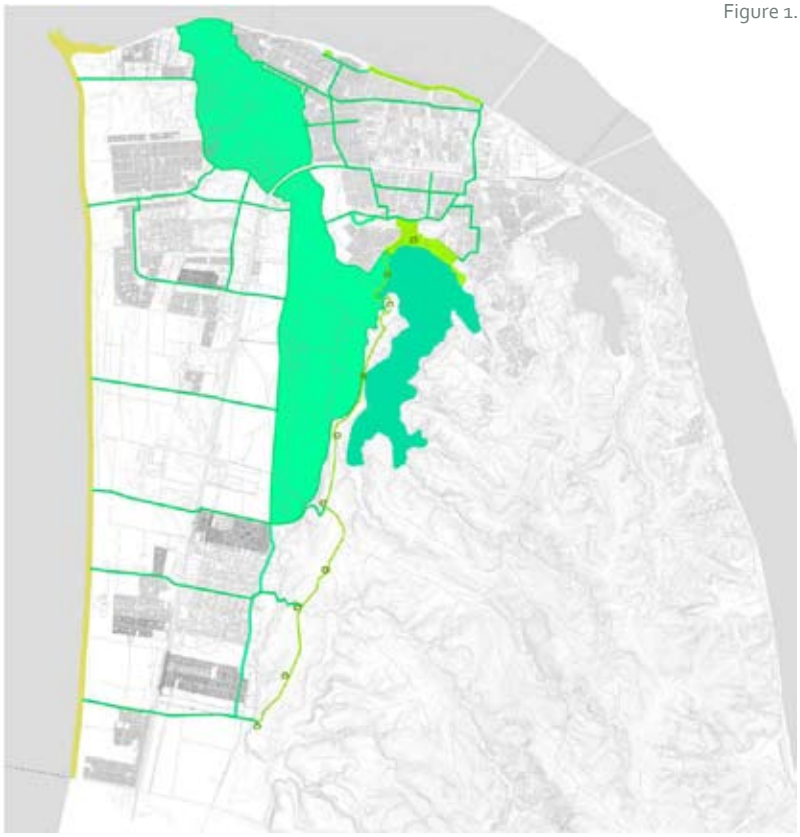


Figure 1.

stood as any undeveloped space, was occupied by the affected population as a safe space as well as a place of shelter for various urban activities; the installation of emergency services and points of distribution for humanitarian aid, among others. It is significant that these spaces, within the framework of traditional urban planning in Chile, are rather marginalized and have fallen into extramural status. By virtue of the fact that the Metropolitan Area of Concepción (MAC) is discontinuous and fragmented yet also houses a large amount of open space, the need for a new vision in the management of these as resilient urban spaces in the recovery and adaptation of a seismic area such as MAC becomes possible.

The proposal has taken on the challenge to enhance and incorporate open space within the urban setting of San Pedro de la Paz (the residential district of the MAC) as an asset to urban resilience (the ability of a city to absorb impacts without losing its structure and identity) and with a latent capacity for action in the face of a seismic event. This public recreational circuit of open space, designed and structured within the framework of resilience, is superimposed onto the existing functional urban structure. Its purpose is to accommodate diverse post-disaster emergency situations: evacuation, transient occupancy and fluctuation. (Figure 2)

Methodologically, the open space to be utilized is defined and determined by the cadastre of the most significant open spaces in the study area according to their resilient capacity in relation to urban design, this being: diversity for the capacity of action and response, modularity for the permeability of the urban fabric, ecosystem services for transient occupancy and ecological variability for environmental fluctuation resulting from an earthquake. Subsequently, the layout of the circuit was determined through a study of floodplains, land use capability layouts and the network of pre-existing circulation and movement, both pedestrian and motorized (fig. 2).

## THE PROJECT

From this investigation, the Resilient Recreational Circuit -capable of adapting to daily and emergency situations, was designed to include the following elements:


Figure 2.

## OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Urban Structure of resilient open space –the "other city" - which can respond in various ways to a seismic event: evacuation, transient occupancy and fluctuation, and which is composed of the following urban areas:

"Los Batros" Park, a wetland park (currently extramural) is proposed as the "heart" of the circuit. This will give structure to the open space network, and act as an area of ecological variability with the capacity to absorb the fluctuations of a living ecosystem and also will connect the circuit to the " Laguna Grande" providing ecosystem services. (Fig. 3)

Figure 3

Look out Plaza, a contemplation plaza in the highlands ("Nahuelbuta" Mountains) of the city, which in the event of a tsunami warning, can act as a secure zone with the capacity to host transient occupancy and house emergency equipment to provide a supply of water and energy. (Figure 4)

Eco boulevards, evacuation corridors and safe places for immediate occupation, which are to be utilized as connections between the built edge of the city and safe spaces -such as the highlands or the remote areas of the coastline. - The eco boulevard can also be used as a meeting place and location for the distribution of emergency supplies: water, food and energy. Existing local streets as well as those proposed will create the boulevard's framework (Fig 5).

## TRAILS . CIRCULATION

A new, urban, modular, interconnected network of open spaces: parks, lookout plazas and eco boulevards, which have the capacity to absorb impacts and generate alternatives to ecological uncertainties, prioritizing trails for bicycles and pedestrians.

## UNIQUE ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Architectural elements within the urban infrastructure that reorganize space and promote the safely of the urban population in times of emergency, such as: Environmental Observatory "Los Batros" – open space that will be declared as a nature sanctuary, protecting flora, fauna and the archaeological remains of the Vergel community, and an Agricultural Fair proposed in cultivated areas. In addition, minor infrastructure for the purpose of leisure and recreation are also proposed at specific points on the circuit.

A recreational circuit of collective open space with the purpose of creating a space of environmental heritage within an urban configuration composed of contemporary installations for the Metropolitan Area of Concepcion.

Figure 4

Figure 5

# LISBON MASTER PLAN AND CITY RESILIENCE

The municipality of Lisbon has had a Municipal Master Plan (MMP) since 1994 that is enforced by law and was inspired by the Athens Charter. This Plan includes concepts both ecological and cultural, which were integrated into the ecological structure of the Municipality.

After twelve years Lisbon's MMP is being revised, the process of public discussion has already ended and APAP (Associação Portuguesa dos Arquitectos Paisagistas) has been consulted about the final report. In spite of the fact the MMP Proposal comprises an evolution in applying to concepts of Soft Mobility, Energy Efficiency and Ecological Structure, and considers general ecological principles, the practical result endangers the city's sustainability and quality of life due to the several exceptions added to the MMP's regulation, which reveal the decision makers' perspective to be primarily focused on increased construction and underground parking.

Lisbon is an old consolidated town, located in a very important estuarine system (Tagus Estuary). Additionally it is bordered by a long riverfront and has a fundamental water collecting and drainage function. One of the great concerns is in regards to soil and subsoil permeability as a fundamental issue for ecological urban sustainability.

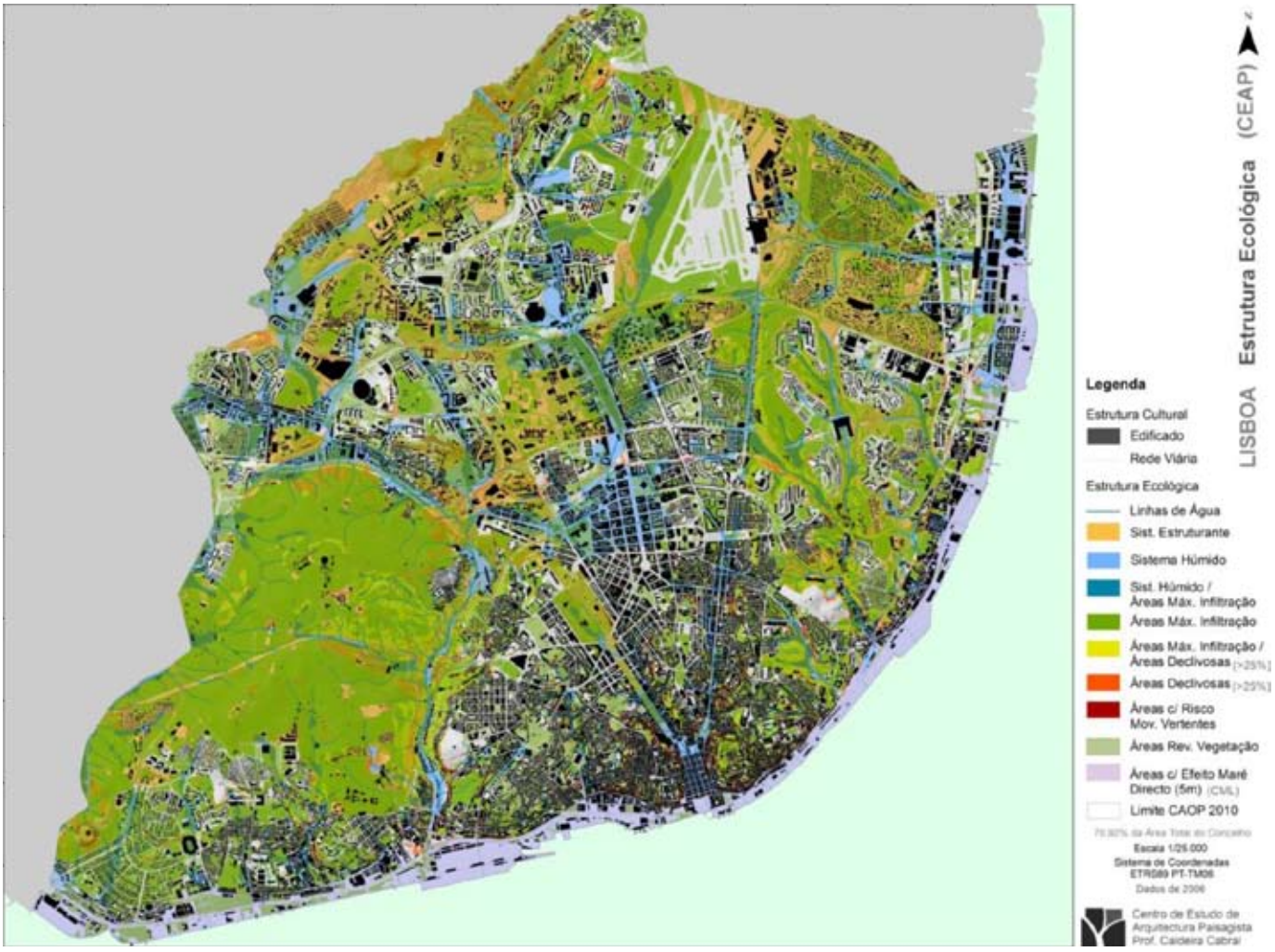
Thus, the components of the Municipal ecological structure incorporate distinct ecological meanings. Among them, the wet system, the fluvial-estuarine transition system and areas subject to natural and anthropic hazards are the most ecologically sensitive.

These areas are particularly inappropriate for settlements, therefore it is considered essential that building construction be excluded from the wet system and fluvial-estuarine transition system, with the exception of equipment and infrastructure considered strategic or related to their utility. In addition to this, building in these areas carries an increased risk from the perspective of the quality and the conservation of the property itself.

The wet system and the fluvial-estuarine transition system should be integrated into urban design, through green and permeable open space typologies, with diverse character, ranging from neo-classical boulevards, parks, gardens, squares, to naturalized areas with water courses and eventually urban agriculture.

There are frequent disasters in Lisbon; during times of peak rainfall caused by permanent obstructions to the natural drainage system, due to increased soil impermeability now covered by buildings and infrastructure, and also caused by the growing popularity of cellars, underground parking and other subterranean infrastructure. These disasters are especially prevalent in valleys and along riverfronts. Decision makers always justify these occurrences, claiming that they are exceptional natural incidents.

Recognizing the parking problem it is considered preferable to build parking lots in silos on the surface rather than compromise the soil permeability with underground parking. Concerning the parking policy in general, it will be necessary to adopt further measures, such as parking in the suburbs, along with public transport interfaces, soft mobility, car sharing and especially the improvement of public transportation.



Above all, the MMP regulation encourages new building construction. Currently in Lisbon there are about 50,000 empty dwellings and about 200,000 in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. This fact should encourage and promote reconstruction and rehabilitation policies instead of soil occupation with new construction.

APAP's main concern regards Lisbon's resilience capacity and the way the MMP compromises the sustainability of the natural components of the landscape and consequently people's quality of life.

This article is based in the APAP's counsel report regarding the MMP (2011) and the unpublished article by Professor Manuela Raposo Magalhães for APAP's Journal.
Fonte: CEAP, 2011. www.isa.utl.pt/ceap

# RESILIENT LANDSCAPE PLANTING SCHEMES

## Consideration For a Landscape Design Approach as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Abigail Achiona Khonje

The built environment is under pressure due to an increase in global population and global warming. The global population increase and the resulting expansion of the built environment has left many of the natural landscapes fragmented. Seas of green grass and foundation plantings are what is left of the present landscape, even in areas with short rainy seasons and long dry seasons. The care that is invested in the landscape has become very important. This is seen in the daily ritual of mowing the grass or raking the leaves, the use of herbicides and fertilizers on lawns and even the use of exotic and invasive plant species. Maintenance and sustenance are thus problematic within current practice. A great deal of time and energy is needed to sustain designed landscapes. While unintentional, these are some of the activities that harm the environment. These static landscapes have been accepted as normal and those who have suggested change have often been met with resistance. However, the current state of affairs is very taxing for developing countries and as a result most designed landscapes are poorly maintained. The current practice of landscape planting and management is not resilient and there is therefore a need for a change in the landscape design approach.

### CURRENT PRACTICES IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN WITH PLANTS

Landscape design with plants has two basic components; plant selection and plant placement and maintenance. According to Hackett (1979), Thomas et al (2001) and Morrison (2004), designers look for aesthetic characteristics such as seasonal color, form, mass, texture, line and scale when selecting plants. Functional utility of plants for climatic amelioration, resolving engineering problems, spatial definition, framing views, visual screening, erosion and sedimentation control, wind breaking as well as commercial availability of the plants, are amongst the major prerequisites for any particular plant species being incorporated into a designed landscape. As a result, large numbers of the same native, exotic and hybrid plants are produced and it is unusual for growers to differentiate between these as long as they provide a label that reads "reliable" implying a wide environmental amplitude and connoting that it will grow anywhere. This results in simple landscape planting schemes which are the same everywhere, utilizing the same showy trees and shrubs across broad geographical areas. There is little tendency in traditional landscape design to select native species over non native or exotic species.

### LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Once a landscape is installed, the subsequent management is to minimize change over time. Trees may be permitted to grow but shrubs are usually trimmed to give them a more architectural form and of course lawns are perpetually mowed. The species composition of traditionally designed landscapes is rarely permitted to change, with any

invading plants considered 'weeds'. Woody invaders are often mechanically removed by pulling or cutting and broad leaved herbaceous invaders in the lawn are typically killed with herbicides. The planting schemes are not dynamic but static, and there is no chance for insects (Morrison, 2004; Nassauer 1995).

The combined effect of the prevailing plant selection and maintenance practices in designed landscapes is an ordered park-like appearance with smooth, deep green grass interspersed with predominantly dense, dark-green shrubs planted as hedges, blocks or masses and symmetrically shaped specimen trees planted either individually or in rows of informal groupings, very often of a single species and size. The only noticeable changes in this landscape are the changing flower and foliage colors and in some cases the changing display of bulbs and annuals.

## RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

Resilient landscapes are those landscapes that adapt to volatile conditions while maintaining functional integrity. The need for resilience is evident in the designed urban landscape, where landscape maintenance is frequently and unexpectedly stopped due to equipment malfunctions, budget cuts resulting from large-scale events such as disinvestment and even catastrophe. These occurrences underscore the challenges of maintaining desired function under variable circumstances; challenges are most vivid in semiarid and arid urban areas where many imported plants are dependent on irrigation for survival (Gunderson, 2000; Woodward, 2008). The resilience of a landscape system is determined by the ability of the designed landscape to persist, to absorb change and disturbance and to still be recognizably the same designed landscape.

The current practice of designing planting schemes makes them dependent on heavy inputs for sustenance. When herbicides are applied they contribute to environmental toxicity. Consequently, while the plants have the ability to ameliorate air and act as carbon sinks, the toxins that are added may not balance out the positive effects. As a result climate proofing is defeated. A change from current design practices that will respond to the problems stipulated above is the direction we should go in order to adapt current landscape planting schemes. One of the possibilities is the change from this traditional design practice to ecological landscape design.

A number of authors agree on the fact that ecological landscape design is founded on the congruence between design and ecology and that while the ecological sciences provide the knowledge and guidance, design provides the creative solutions. They continue to reiterate that design is preoccupied with form and that the aesthetic of style cannot fulfill the role of creating sustainable, healthy and interesting places that are fit for human habitation and enjoyment while simultaneously take care of the ecosystem. While the use of native vegetation and natural dynamics in designed landscapes is increasing it is an undercurrent rather than a mainstream activity. There is a misperception that designs with native plant communities and natural processes are not sufficiently artful. On the contrary, it can be considered to be a new art form appropriate to the 21st Century; 'ecological art' which is aesthetically rich, ecologically sound, evocative of place and dynamic (Nassauer, 1995; Makhzoumi & Pungetti, 1999; Makhzoumi 2000 and Morrison, 2004).

As more ecological designs are implemented, they may well become a greater part of our cultural vernacular landscape. The starting point is for landscape designers to understand plant communities as ecosystems, and also to understand where the communities occur in the ecosystem. These are the principles of ecological landscape design which according to Morrison (2004) involve substituting native species for traditionally used exotics to perform the functions of plants in the landscape. This entails understanding the ecology of the vegetation in terms of where the natural vegetation occurs; either in the edge, ecotone or within the boundary. Furthermore the use of plant communities in the designed landscape and the departure from single species groundcovers or herbaceous plants would enhance resilience.

Therefore, designers need to study the natural models of plant community types. Using permeable hard surfaces to collect water and allow it to infiltrate slowly and giving a chance to spontaneous urban vegetation in the designed landscape are some of the adaptations that will absorb change with minimal impacts, given that they are self sustaining systems. This design practice enhances resilience of the designed landscapes.

## CONCLUSION

The need for the change from traditional landscape design practices to ecological landscape design practices which emphasize the use of native plants in the design of functional and aesthetically pleasing landscapes is crucial . A change of attitude from dominance to that of a humble steward from both the designers and the users is imperative.

Although the level of global warming that could be reduced by this change in the landscape design approach is not known it is an issue of the precautionary principle (UNGA, 1992).

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# PROJECT

## THE NIGHT OF LANTERNS FROM VALDIVIA TO JAPAN

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## CHILE AND EARTHQUAKES

Chile is located in the fire line of the South Pacific. Similar to many other countries that are in this geographical position, its territory is constantly being hit by large earthquakes and tsunamis. Also other types of natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions and floods, among others, have left a large physical footprint on the landscape with tremendous emotional impact on its inhabitants. Although, the physical traces are difficult to erase, the emotional pain can be conjured through rituals that help to reduce the grief. In this sense, building ties of solidarity with others is also therapeutic.


The experience of natural disturbances in Chile have been of such dimensions that Charles Darwin, as early as the nineteenth century, documented its effects and described it as "the most horrible spectacle I have witnessed in my life". But from such destruction, including loss of property and loss of human life, a robust legislation has emerged in Chile. As a result today's buildings are prepared to resist extreme events, such as was the case of most of the infrastructure that survived the earthquake on February 27 of 2010, in the south-central region.

However, within this set of regulations, little has been done to consider the role of urban and landscape planning in improving cities' response to earthquakes. Neither has the social and environmental equation been considered with regards to this issue. Unlike what has been seen as progress in building regulation, there are significant gaps in the environmental planning area.

The city of Valdivia is an example, where despite having suffered the second largest earthquake in the world, consequentially, having improved

its building techniques, the government has not considered strategies for planning a more resilient city; referring to the capacity of a city to recover after suffering an extreme disturbance.

## WELCOMING THE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The existing poor planning regulations, are not a minor issue for an architecture school placed in Valdivia, and whose major aim is to improve the residents' quality of life through examining urban strategies and territorial planning of the geographical and natural surrounding systems. Disasters are always present in our thoughts, and so it is also in our teaching-learning models. It seemed logical to us to begin this year by thinking; how is it to live in a country like this? We are concerned about increasing earthquake awareness among the university community, in order to make them ready to take quick action to diminish its negative effects.

The reception of the architecture students at the beginning of each year has been a tradition since the foundation of this school. According to this practice, students are welcomed within a series of activities where both, students and teachers, participate together. Often, the activities relate to architecture, the city, sustainability and urban meaning. In short, the reception always has two dimensions; the first one refers to a "shared dimension" where students and teachers are deeply involved. The second has a "multiple scale dimension" that takes the meaning of the project beyond the limits of the working group and extends it to other physical and social territories. All welcoming events address issues linked to urban space in order to help build the academic community.

Since 2000, we have gone to the city's center to perform different activities and create significant events. Three years ago, the topic of sustainability was incorporated into the aesthetics of the welcoming projects. In this way, we extended our contribution to building a global community based on solidarity and solutions which have a sustainable effect. For example, in 2009 we transformed garbage, such as plastic bottles, into something beautiful, as a way to quantify the urban environment in an act that was simultaneously beautiful and meaningful. In 2010, we recycled paper to make puppets, an attractive and useful object, as a way to help children affected by the Chilean earthquake. This year we wanted to make a special effort to contribute to building bridges of friendship and solidarity with the people of Japan, who suffered a series of catastrophic events, ranging from an earthquake to a Tsunami. Following this kind of event, and after what occurred in Chile in 2010, the first reaction that came to us was empathy. We attempted to manifest this feeling in an urban act that could reach the global community.

## THE FESTIVAL OF LANTERNS: AN URBAN ACT

In the process of planning and designing the activity, it was mandatory to address different aspects of academic work. In addition, the activity was meant to express our solidarity with the Japanese community and also an act carried out in urban space, which had to be articulated in a comprehensive and symbolic way.

With this in mind, we chose to perform an event which involved carrying through the city hundreds of lanterns and trees of good wishes, and placing them in a special site to create a meaningful message.

Three hundred students and 20 teachers worked at the university for a week in mixed groups, with the objective of building the pieces that were designed and constructed to be installed immediately. Different committees were formed to organize the route, purchase the materials and to build the paper lanterns and trees of good wishes. Other commissions took care of the audiovisual recording and of obtaining municipal authorization. Finally, a small group of older students organized the welcome party that took place after the urban act had finished.

The lanterns were made by hand, using white translucent paper, which was shaped around a lightweight wire. These same wires allowed holding and carrying the lantern through the city to the final destination. The lanterns were square and had a hole on top in order to be able to easily place a small white candle inside. In contrast, the trees of good wishes were full of colorful rectangular papers held on by wire mesh, which in turn, were structured in between two large circular wooden stakes. Thousands of colorful pieces of paper were written with messages of reassurance and support to the Japanese people.

Once the elements were prepared and organized, and after a week of work, a city night parade was initiated from our architectural school to the city center. The parade started exactly at sunset, out-

side the Architecture building. We continued across campus and through the traditional poplar avenue at the university's entrance. After that, we crossed the Valdivia bridge, which connects the city center with the Teja Island, where the university is located. The parade continued to move forward along the main streets and reached the city's main square. At this point we had arrived at the Freedom Walk, a sloping street three blocks long that starts at the main square and finishes by the river. This is a public promenade that was very significant during the foundation of the city of Valdivia. In this space, and after the lights went down, we formed the word Japan. At the same time, the trees of good wishes were being placed at head of the promenade.

Students stood at the edge of the Freedom Walk, against the facades. Everyone was moved by the feeling of solidarity and quietly lit the lamps. After sunset, when the city lights were turned off, lanterns were relocated on the floor assembling the word Japan in the middle of the promenade. Many people got together and even some Japanese citizens, who where passing by, spontaneously lit candles. We remained in place for a while and then returned to the school to welcome our new students.

The event was broadcast through Ustream and it was witnessed by hundreds of pedestrians and motorists, who at the beginning did not understand the meaning of what they saw, although they were amazed by the size and beauty of the performance. For us, this was a symbolic gesture that went beyond the act itself. The aim was to create a sense of belonging for our new students and also rebuild this sense for the old ones.

We truly believe this kind of ceremony provides meaning to our academic group and revitalizes our commitment to the community.

see video on vimeo: http://vimeo.com/22633395
and more Photos on: http://www.flickr.com/photos/extensionarquitectura/

# INTERVIEW

**CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER** Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe award winner 2011 interviewed by **JENNY B. OSULDSEN** (chair of the SGJA Jury 2011)

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**JBO**: On behalf of the SGJA Jury I am much honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Cornelia Hahn Oberlander as the winner of SGJA 2011. As a practitioner of landscape architecture for 6 decades, it is very impressive to see what you have been producing as an active designer, lecturer, and writer and continue to produce today! Over the course of such a long career I'm very interested in hearing how you will characterize the different periods in landscape architecture from the 1940s when you were studying and throughout the periods after you started your own business in 1953.

**CHO**: My interest early on at Smith College was not the garden. My teacher was Kate Ries Koch Cornell 1916, who realized immediately that I was not interested in gardens but in the larger picture of the profession and she introduced me to the work of L'Enfant, F.L. Olmsted and the National Plan of the U.S. under the auspices of Public Works America. It was at Harvard that I learned about the work of Dan Kiley, Garett Eckbo and James Rose. This led me to understand what had gone on in Europe with the ILA and the Modernists such as Jean Caneel-Claes and other Modernists in Northern countries. Thus when graduating from Harvard I knew my direction for design and every decade brought new needs for solving problems
1950's – housing projects, influenced by a visit to Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

1960's – continued. Learned about playgrounds and was commissioned for the Expo '67 to design the Children's Creative Centre (see website www.

corneliaoberlander.ca) and subsequently 70 more environments for play across Canada.

1970's +1980's – Robson Square (website) large public projects. Collaboration with architect.

1990's to present – all projects based on environmental and social responsibility.

**JBO**: You have said that 21st Century public, urban, open space is something quite different from the public open space of the 20th Century. Can you describe the differences and our challenges for the 22nd Century?

**CHO**: 20th Century: large parks and elegantly designed Vest Pocket Parks – eg Paley Park, NY
21th Century: Emphasis on densification of cities and small parks, easily accessible; regional parks accessible by public transportation. 22nd Century: the same demand on land.

**JBO**: I have seen some of your lectures on You Tube, and your enthusiastic engagement and sense of humor is very entertaining. How do you keep going, and how do you get inspiration to keep on with the same passion for our profession?

**CHO**: It is easy to get inspiration when you get a good new project that answers your philosophy.

**JBO**: Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe also gave a lifelong contribution to landscape architecture. He left designs with extraordinary planting plans with a planting and color palette that is what most landscape architects are familiar with. What is your relationship with Jellicoe?

**CHO**: My relation to Sir Geoffrey is one of admiration for understanding Modernism and the founding of IFLA so that we can communicate with each other across the globe. I am particularly fond of the Kennedy Memorial and his understanding of history and that we must learn to understand the needs of the present.

**JBO**: In 1942 Steen Eiler Rasmussen (1898–1990 Danish architect and urban planner) wrote the essay "the Garden, the slow performance". As landscape architects we often recall that we are the ones in the field of architecture that manage to look into and plan for the future, and that our work is not finished - but constantly "work-in-progress". Have you been able to think in these long term perspectives - and been able to follow up projects over time?

**CHO**: Our work is never finished and we must learn to prepare planting plans for maturity. People have to learn to look at small plants for a while. I have been screamed at by very famous architects, your maple trees are much too small Cornelia. Fifteen years later, oh Cornelia your maple trees are so beautiful. What will we do with these when we change the roof garden to an accessible green roof?" "Oh I know how to do that. We send them to a holding area and bring them back. They will flourish in any location after that."

Luckily I have been engaged to look after Robson Square with more or less good help since 1979, as well as the Museum of Anthropology.

**JBO**: Globalization, the use of new media and the opportunity to travel has made the earth "small". This means that we are more responsible for global aspects than we have ever been. How do you see IFLA's role in the future of landscape architecture?

**CHO**: I see a rosy future for IFLA's role, namely to link up with like-minded international organizations, universities and schools, in many countries, thereby expanding our professional skills into new fields.

Pond at the Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, B.C. 2010

# BLUE SHIELD STATEMENT ON SYRIA

## 17 May 2011

Following the recent events in Syria, the Blue Shield expresses its deep concern regarding the safeguarding of the country's invaluable cultural and historical heritage. The Blue Shield also deplores the suffering and loss of life during this conflict.

Between 1980 and 2006, six sites bearing witness to the rise and fall of sophisticated cultures stretching from prehistory to the 17th century were chosen to become part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Ancient cities of Aleppo, Bosra, and Damascus are evidence of the civilizations that passed by, settled and flourished in Syria between the 2nd millennium B.C. and the 17th century A.C.

The site of Palmyra contains the ruins of a city that was one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, the art and architecture married Greco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences. The Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Dinm are two castles which represent the most significant examples illustrating the exchange of influences and documenting the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East during the Crusades.

The ongoing conflict in Syria gives reason for concern, not only amongst academics but for everybody devoted to the conservation of cultural heritage, and aware of the vulnerability of cultural institutions' collections, sites and monuments. Artillery, and all military action, poses a grave danger to cultural institutions and sites, as shown in the past in the old city of Hama (1982) and more recently at the mosque of Daraa. Any loss of Syrian cultural property would greatly impoverish the world's collective memory.

Syria has been a State Party to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol since 1958 and to the 1972 World Heritage Convention since 1975. These conventions, as well as customary international law, impose on all nations the obligation to protect their cultural heritage in time of armed conflict. The Blue Shield calls on all parties to the conflict in Syria to fulfil these obligations and to protect the outstanding world cultural heritage sites and repositories located within Syria.

The Blue Shield's mission is "to work to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters". For this reason it places the expertise and network of its member organizations at the disposal of their colleagues working in Syria to support their work in protecting the country's heritage, and if necessary, assessing for subsequent recovery, restoration, and repair measures.

### THE BLUE SHIELD

The Blue Shield is the protective emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention which is the basic international treaty formulating rules to protect cultural heritage during armed conflicts. The Blue Shield network consists of organizations dealing with museums, archives, audiovisual supports, libraries, monuments and sites.

The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), founded in 1996, comprises representatives of the five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in this field:

- The International Council on Archives (www.ica.org),
- The International Council of Museums (www.icom.museum),
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (www.icomos.org)
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (www.ifla.org)
- The Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (www.ccaaa.org)

National Blue Shield Committees have been founded in a number of countries. The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS), founded in December 2008, works to coordinate

and strengthen international efforts to protect cultural property at risk of destruction in armed conflicts or natural disasters. The ANCBS has its headquarters in The Hague.

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*Website: http://www.blueshield-international.org*

# BOOK REVIEW

## 1st Biennial Competition of Mexican Landscape Architecture

Reviewed by **Mónica Pallares**

This book is a compilation of the most relevant projects from the first Mexican Biennial that took place in 2009. It also includes texts from well known Architects and Landscape Architects that have made a vital contribution to the development of the profession of Landscape Architecture in Mexico, such as Ricardo Arancón –who specializes in Landscape Architecture History-, Fabiola Pastor Gómez –the current coordinator of the Landscape Architecture School at the National University of Mexico-, Jorge Tamés y Bata –current Director of the Architecture Faculty of the National University of Mexico-, Lilia Guzmán y García –one of the main promoters in the creation of the Landscape Architecture School in Mexico at the National University of Mexico-, Desirée Martínez –current President of IFLA- and Laura Alonso –current President of the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects.

The publication is a catalog of the most representative works in Landscape Architecture in Mexico. It illustrates the diversity of projects and characteristics in the contemporary landscape design that is being developed presently in Mexico and additionally shows the profession's movement into the future.

The book includes the winning projects of each category: Residential, Corporate, Urban, those with a Social Contribution and with Environmental Responsibility; as well as the projects that received an honorable mention and a selection of the most interesting projects in the competition.

The book is a collaboration between the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects and the School of Landscape Architecture at the National University of Mexico.

*Text: Spanish*
*Published in Mexico 2010*

*Available at the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects*
*www.sapm.com.mx*