2020 AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

Adaptability of Landscapes
27–30 March 2020
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

www.landscapeconference.com
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THE AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE 2020

Since it began in 2002 the biennial Australian Landscape Conference has operated at the cutting edge of international landscape and garden design. Perhaps the most important word in that sentence is ‘international’, because no other conference worldwide has consistently presented such a genuinely global digest of contemporary work and thought. Under the leadership of founders Warwick and Sue Forge, and now under the direction of Fleur Flanery, the conference has consistently striven to seek out the most interesting work in every continent and culture, taking the audience out of what may be described as the ‘comfort zone’ of gardens made in the Anglosphere. In the process, it has been striking to see how global trends and preoccupations can be discerned across disparate cultures.

This year is no exception. With speakers from Asia, America, Europe and of course Australia, the themes being pursued generally reflect the dilemma of landscape design in the 21st century: how to create landscapes and gardens which are functional and beautiful, but which also cultivate a meaningful and harmonious relationship with the wider ecology. This impulse takes various forms, from the ‘naturalistic turn’ in planting design – which has seen garden-makers think in terms of ‘plant communities’ which are self-sustaining and in some ways self-designing – to an understanding of landscape design as a form of land management.

Of special interest this year are the claims that modern industrial agriculture and horticulture often seriously degrade farms and landscapes and that Australia’s thin soils are especially vulnerable. Current research suggests radical solutions. Even more remarkable is the notion that Australian Aborigines farmed in harmony with the land and the seasons, pursuing what would now be called ‘sustainable’ agriculture.

The reality of city living is also broached by the conference speakers – how could it not be, with so many of us living in urban areas now, and with those numbers set to increase as the century wears on? Parks and other forms of green space take on even more importance as the size and sometimes the density of our cities increases. Landscape designers have a key role to play in this development.

All of this is not to forget the role that domestic gardens play in our lives – the pleasure to be derived from simply being in a beautiful place, surrounded by plants and flowers. Even while our larger concerns as custodians of the planet develop, the transcendent power of the garden as a lived experience remains a constant, as it provides stimulus, solace and joy.

Tim Richardson

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
Sunday 29 March

9:15 - 9:35 am  Tim Richardson (UK)  Contemporary gardens and the conceptual garden movement

9:35 - 10:30 am Midori Shintani (Japan) Gardening in the Naturalistic planting style

10:30 - 11:15 am Claudia West (USA) Designing plant communities which resonate for us

11:15 - 11:40 am Morning Tea

11:40 - 12:10 pm Paul Bangay and Trisha Dickson  

12:10 - 12:50 pm Ulf Nordfell (Sweden) Natural minimalism and its application in the Riviera and Scandinavian landscapes

12:50 - 1:00 pm Fleur Flanery Thank you to sponsors Light on Landscape

1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 - 2:50 pm Ross Palmer (NZ) Equality for Man and Nature in the garden

2:50 - 3:30 pm Professor James Hitchmough (UK) The complexity and simplicity in designing inspiring urban environments including the Victorian Arts Centre

3:30 - 3:50 pm Tim Richardson (UK) Conference summary: Future Directions

3:50 - 3:55 pm Fleur Flanery Thank you and see you in 2022 – conference close

4:00 - 4:30 pm Afternoon Tea
WORKSHOP PROGRAM – 30 MARCH

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Andrew Laidlaw and Peter Symes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Tim Richardson</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Assoc Prof. John Rayner and Dr Claire Farrell</td>
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<td>12:45</td>
<td>Michael McCoy</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Lief Nordfjell</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Andrew Laidlaw &amp; Peter Symes</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>Assoc Prof. John Rayner and Dr Claire Farrell</td>
<td>Burnley</td>
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**LOCATIONS**
- Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
  Meeting place: Guilfoyle’s Volcano, Anderson Street, South Yarra – Gate C
- University of Melbourne
  Burnley Campus
  500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Registration
Registration covers the two day conference 28–29 March 2020 and includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea each day.
- Early Bird booked before 18 December 2019 $665.00 per person
- Booked after 19th December 2019 $715.00 per person

Register at: www.landscapeconference.com or forward your registration form to: Fleur Flanery, ALC, PO Box 485 Yass NSW 2582, or scan and email to info@landscapeconference.com t: 0408 627 774

Student concessions are available on the above terms at a 40% discount (conference registration only) for full time students or apprentices studying garden design/ construction, landscape architecture and related disciplines. This year, Secondary School students pay a special registration fee of $200. Student registrations are not transferrable and student ID and proof of course must be submitted at the time of registration and carried at the conference. For Group Booking applications for 10 or more non-concession registrations, contact info@landscapeconference.com or 0408 627 774.

Transfer of Registration to another person is permitted provided the registration office is informed in writing prior to 1st March 2018.

Cancellation
A 75% refund is available for cancellations made prior to 1 March 2018. After that date, no refunds can be given.

Professional Development
CPD points for the conference and related events are available from various professional associations.

Accommodation
Note: this is a very busy time in Melbourne which has an increasing shortage of hotel beds, so please book well in advance.


Conference Venue
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, VIC, 3006 t: 03 9235 8000
MCEC is the centerpiece for Melbourne’s South Wharf Development and is adjacent to and west of the Exhibition Centre (Jeff’s Shed).
For information visit www.mcec.com.au.
Parking is available and the Centre is easily reached by public transport. For information on parking, transport and access visit www.mcec.com.au/your-visit/getting-there/ Luggage storage is available at the venue on Friday (pre-conference garden tour) and Sunday.

Delegates must wear name badges at all times during the Conference.

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If you have friends who may be interested, please invite them to visit the website and subscribe to our mailing list or download a PDF of this brochure.

Books
A range of new books including many by the speakers and workshop leaders – plus many at special prices – will be available for sale at the conference and on our website.

Secretariat
The Conference is convened by Placing Nature Pty Ltd. trading as Australian Landscape Conference ABN 37 114 971 710
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CLAUDIA WEST
Claudia West is leading voice in ecological planting design, has a multifaceted background including as a designer, grower, installer and land manager.

Claudia grew up on a family-owned nursery in eastern Germany. She has a Master’s degree in landscape architecture and regional planning from the Technical University of Munich, Germany. She has studied plant habitats and the science of plant community-based design strategies at the school for horticulture in Weihenstephan, Germany.

A love of American native plants took her to the U.S. where she became immersed in the study of American flora and mid-Atlantic ecosystems. She focused her work on bridging the gap between growers, designers and land managers.

Claudia and Thomas Rainer, co-founded a leading Washington D.C. landscape architecture and urban design firm Phyto Studio where she has pioneered innovative planting systems and solutions for green infrastructure for large municipalities such as Lancaster (Pennsylvania) and Annapolis (Maryland). Their critically acclaimed book, Planting in a Post-Wild World, is considered the universal how-to guide on sustainable landscaping.

Claudia will discuss why conservation of the few remaining natural areas in the world matters and that by using innovative landscape solutions which are based on ecological principles, plant communities can be reconstructed where it is needed most: in ever-expanding cities and suburbs.

PAUL BANGAY
Timeless elegance captures the style that can best be attributed to Paul Bangay’s garden designs. He has mastered the creation of beautiful planting schemes that provide interest throughout the year. This includes considered use of architectural form, plant sculpting and garden bed styling to create exquisite landscapes reflecting his talent as a designer and demonstrate his love for the work he does.

His portfolio is immense. It includes over 2500 gardens in Australia of all scales including large country estates, small urban courtyards, rooftops and projects around the globe including a design for Monash University in Prato Italy, a large estate in Hampton, New York and now a chateau in France.

At heart Paul is both a garden artist and a meticulous technician using skills acquired from training in Europe and a degree in Applied Science (Horticulture) with a personable nature that has made him so popular with his clients.

So how does someone so well-known and successful for his particular style evolve as an artist? Paul with garden writer and critic, Trisha Dixon will explore this question. How do artists continue to evolve when their particular style attracts clients wanting a ‘look’?

Paul’s experimentation is providing him with opportunities to assess how he perceives beauty in a garden and in doing so he is challenging his view of it. How beauty is perceived is also often linked with what people want from it. In understanding this link we can learn more about our own values and perceptions of landscape.

TRISHA DIXON
Trisha Dixon photographs, writes, reads and leads tours of gardens worldwide. She has dozens of books to her name and embraces gardens that are responsive to their climate and instil a sense of place.

You will find Trisha with a camera, notebook and often playing Pied Piper to groups of similarly animated landscape lovers. She is filled with a sense of adventure – ”I’ve been fortunate to explore many of the world’s great landscapes and private gardens. But the most special encounters have been the people I’ve met along the way: innovative and forward-thinking designers, architects and all kinds of garden enthusiasts. They’ve provided me with continual inspiration.”

At the conference, Trisha will lead two ‘In Conversation’ sessions with Fiona Brockhoff and Paul Bangay to explore their deeper views on design, landscape, philosophy and sustainability.

Trisha will release her first solo book, The Spirit of the Garden, by the end of the year. Commissioned by the National Library of Australia and published by Angus & Robertson, The Spirit dwells on the atmosphere, mystery, intrigue and most of all, the genius loci that Trisha engages with in a garden. This to her is more important than perfection, plant collection or display.

BRUCE PASCOE
Aboriginal writer and academic Bruce Pascoe asks, Were we the world’s first agriculturists? He cites an 80,000 year old midden at Warnambool, a 65,000 year old grinding stone and remains of the world’s oldest village in W.A.

Pascoe researched early colonial explorers for their first impressions. Major Thomas Mitchell records that on reaching Garinwerd in Western Victoria, he was astonished to find nine miles of stoope grain ready for harvesting, plus abundant yam fields. Other explorers saw women harvesting the grain in a long line of workers.

Lt George Grey in W.A. was blocked in his explorations by “yarn fields stretching to the horizon… so deeply tilled, you couldn’t walk across them.”

Pascoe states that these crops were staples for the Aboriginal diet and economy. Charles Sturt’s life in Central Australia was saved by Aborigines harvesting a river valley – yielding roast duck and cake. Mitchell and Sturt both wrote that the cake was the lightest and sweetest they had ever tasted.

With the Burke and Wills expedition, Burke stupidly shot an Aboriginal though they were assisting with food. The Aboriginals fled and the party perished save for the exhausted John King who was then given food and shelter by the Yandruwandha Tribe until a rescue party arrived.

As we absorb Bruce Pascoe’s wisdom, we should question our understanding of Aboriginal culture with an awareness of their very long connection to the land and cropping and an awareness of the natural systems of the land.

Bruce Pascoe’s legacy is immense. With our landscapes, farms and gardens today, we have so much to learn.
**CHARLES MASSY**

Have you ever wondered why so many great, fertile plains throughout the world, like the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East and in North Africa, South Africa, Zimbabwe, North America and not least, Australia, have all suffered from massive desertification?

Charles Massy, owner of a well-regarded sheep breeding stud, Severn Park on the Monaro in NSW, was devastated by the 1979–83 drought and thereafter, devoted his life to researching landscape ecology in order to understand how European and industrial farming methods have had such profound effects. By doing so, Charles was developing ideas on what could be done to improve farming and grazing techniques.

Massy has made exciting discoveries: "Deep in the soil the bugs, microbes and fungi are sourcing nitrogen and nutrients…food health comes from the ground up, the health of people is entwined with the health of landscapes and soil. The minute you fertilise and spray, all that biology is gone. The vital thing about regenerative or organic farming is this healthy living dynamic soil. Landscapes with diverse arrays of plants are nutrition centres and pharmacies with vast arrays of primary and secondary compounds."

Charles will outline how holistic grazing, plant biodiversity, increased soil absorption and reduced soil compaction and enhanced microbial activity can create healthy, nutrient rich soils and people.

Charles now gives presentations around the world and his most successful book is his *Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture, A New Earth.*

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**MIDORI SHINTANI**

Head gardener, Tokachi Millennium Forest, Hokkaido, Japan

From an early age, Midori Shintani has been influenced by a rural landscape of productive rice fields and snow-capped mountains in Honshu, central Japan. Her grandfather, a lover of Japanese Arts and Crafts including bonsai, also contributed to her decision to study horticulture and landscape architecture at Minami Kyushu University.

Midori made up her mind to become a professional gardener, specifically in a public garden, while completing an apprenticeship at Millesgården and Rosendals Trädgård, Sweden. Returning to Japan, she first gained experience in garden design, nursery and landscaping technology – embracing both traditional and modern styles.

Midori went on to develop her own gardening style connecting Japanese traditional culture with modern, international gardening.

She has worked as head gardener at the Tokachi Millennium Forest Project in Hokkaido, northern Japan since 2008. The privately owned 400-hectare garden at the foot of the Hidaka Mountains was opened to the public in 1990. It is an extraordinarily ambitious project designed to offset the carbon footprint of the Tokachi Newspaper Company. The award winning gardens have been designed in collaboration with Dan Pearson and are described as "skillful with nature appearing completely effortless and more beautiful than any other designs."

Midori is committed to creating a new Japanese garden culture; one rooted in a deep connection with plants and inspired by the ancient Japanese belief in animism, merging people with wild nature.

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**JAMES HITCHMOUGH**

Why and how can plants in public spaces generate emotion, meaning, a sense of place and pride and not a burden on the public purse?

James Hitchmough, a world leader in researching and experimenting with ecology design and management of attractive, sustainable and herbaceous plantings is the Professor of Horticultural Ecology at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

Using a multidisciplinary approach James’s work aims to shift existing paradigms as to what urban planting might be in the 21st century to make them extraordinary, uplifting, meaningful and established and managed at the lowest levels of finance and energy.

James has been involved in many of the major designed landscapes in the UK over the past 20 years including the planting design lead with Nigel Dunnett for the London Olympics. As part of a team, in 2019, he won the $1.5 million first prize in the International Design Competition to re-imagine Longquan Shan, a 1275km² mountain range that is being subsumed by the city of Chengdu, as a conceptually new model for a National Park.

Currently he is working with Hassell Architecture on imagining the planting for the Melbourne Arts Precinct Project. This massive regeneration project connects 14 of the city’s premier arts and cultural institutions with a new public realm driven by rich, exciting planting, to parallel outside, the performance that takes place inside.

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**TIM RICHARDSON**

Tim Richardson is a writer, historian and critic specialising in gardens and art. Internationally recognised as a leading authority on landscape design and history, he is the author a number of books on garden topics including *The New English Garden, Arcadian Friends: Inventing the English Landscape Garden and Avant Garde*.

He is a longstanding garden columnist in The Daily Telegraph and art critic for The Idler magazine. He contributes to numerous newspapers and periodicals including Country Life, House and Garden, Gardens Illustrated, the Financial Times and the New York Times.

Tim wrote Oxford University’s first landscape history course, which runs twice a year, and currently teaches on London University’s MA Landscape History course. In 2014–15 he was visiting professor in landscape art at Vienna University of Arts (Die Angewandte). He sits on the National Trust’s gardens advisory panel and is a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He is the founder and director of the Chelsea Fringe Festival, the 'alternative garden festival’ that is now in its ninth year.

Tim’s knowledge of landscape design and designers is unsurpassed and he will present on the contribution of individuals who have created exceptional gardens.

These are ‘one-off’ gardens that could only have been made by one person, which makes it difficult to bracket them with a prevailing ‘style’ or movement in landscape design. They provide a fresh and unburdened perspective on the idea of the garden, driven by the sheer force of the personality of the maker, which is in turn key to their originality.
FIONA BROCKHOFF
Fiona Brockhoff may be Australia’s most successful designer for achieving an Australian sense of place with elements and plants which are sometimes native, sometimes not, but somehow, always feel Australian.

Her eye for detail creates gardens with energy and a playfulness unique to their setting and owners. Her style blurs the garden edge often using well shaped plants in close proximity to the house to define spaces and giving them free range as you move away from the house to blend with the surrounding landscape and/or borrow from it. In doing so her gardens become a place for refuge for people, flora and fauna to form mutually respectful relationships.

There’s nothing timid about Fiona’s work. Her experimental shaping of native plants, including casuarinas featured as topiaries, giant Aloes and succulents appearing in eclectic pots demonstrates this.

She is a leading figure in progressing an Australian garden; one that embraces an Australian culture, by having fun, showing respect and a love for Australian plants with an understanding of the role they have in our ecosystem whilst expertly selecting natural materials to frame the space.

Trisha Dixon will, with Fiona, explore her views on the contemporary Australian garden, its style and sustainability. In doing so we will consider how her key values are expressed both inside and out.

ULF NORDFJELL
How are the Scandinavian designers representing nature in public and private space? This will be explored with Ulf Nordfjell, an award winning landscape architect and biologist who has developed a ‘romantic minimalist’ style that aims to create the feeling of nature throughout.

Brought up in northern Sweden, the son of a forester, Ulf is cognisant of the complex issues affecting landscapes especially those associated with warming.

He will show his passion for designing private gardens in Sweden and the Riviera, drawing on his experience in biology especially on projects where he has worked in extreme climatic differences from south to north Sweden. Some of these areas experience days without light during winter and days without night during summer.

Ulf is currently working on an extraordinary project, the Garden of the Midnight Sun, about the traditional Sápmi culture of northern Europe, exploring nature and horticulture in the Arctic.

He is a board member of the Society of Swedish Parks and Gardens – a network of 35 of Sweden’s most important modern and historic parks and gardens. He has won three Gold medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show; his 2009 garden was awarded Best in Show.

The future for Ulf Nordfjell is one where seasons will mean less and less. “All our ideas about what grows in what season will change,” he says. “This is something we have to address as garden designers – to design for the future.”

ROSS PALMER
“The key feature of Ross’s designs is his ability to interpret and represent nature within the garden. Visitors don’t always recognise this, but for example, in his sister’s garden in Marlborough he’s created extraordinary, curvaceous hedges with native shrubs surrounding intimate garden areas. The hedges serve to echo the mountains, a pathway will narrow and curve so that all you see is green foliage, or the path becomes uneven so you must stop and examine what you are walking on... the whole experience is not just about comfort!”

– Fleur Flanery.

Ross Palmer is a garden designer, who came home recently after a decade abroad – mostly in Phuket. Understanding the garden’s cultural context provides him with a platform to both challenge and celebrate. Deeply rooted in his landscape perceptions is the Māori concept of ‘kaitiaki’ that is, the guardianship role, to protect: the sky, sea and land. This foundational relationship between Man and Nature runs counter to our Western Renaissance Humanism where Man constantly triumphs over Nature.

Palmer’s insights gained in New Zealand and the tropics inform his profound awareness of Nature’s power to disrupt, whilst always, he introduces the restorative qualities of plants and gardens.

We have much to learn from Ross Palmer’s striking gardens which convincingly express both the beauty and power of Nature.
**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please register at www.landscapeconference.com or post this application to: ALC, PO Box 458, YASS NSW 2582.

**PLEASE PRINT**

First name ..................................................................................................................
Surname .......................................................................................................................
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Company name (for badge) ....................................................................................
Are you employed in the horticulture industry? Yes / No (please circle).
If yes, in what capacity? ............................................................................................

How did you hear about the Conference?
Website / brochure / advertising / friend / word of mouth / other ..........................

Dietary requirements .................................................................................................

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**WORKSHOPS (refer to program and circle relevant letter)**

A B C D1 E F G $150, 130, $95 AM / PM $840
H I J K L D2 (Burnley College) $150, 130, $95 AM / PM $840

Water Management (Royal Botanic Gardens) $95 AM / PM $95

Total $1,780

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Cheque payable to Placing Nature Pty Ltd
or enter your Visa / Mastercard* details:

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* A fee of up to 2% applies to credit card payments.

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**MELBOURNE GARDEN TOUR AND MIFGS – 27 MARCH**

Increasing urbanisation will define 21st century living. City planners, landscape designers and gardeners will be fundamental to the successful design of beautiful, functional landscapes, parks and gardens in resource challenged environments. Six distinctly different Melbourne gardens make up the tour including:

Fiona Brockhoff designed inner city garden: An exemplary garden made up of a series of compact courtyards with careful and deliberate use of plants and materials.
St Kilda apartment block rooftop: an unpretentious, retrofitted rooftop garden enhancing the recreational urban living options for 23 groups of residents.
Eckersley Garden Architecture: both an engineering feat and a breathtaking, plant driven landscape that nestles into its Yarra River border.
Sharon Harris’ own garden: what can you do in a typical suburban backyard? Transform it into a plant lover’s paradise where rare plants, Argentinean and Tandoori ovens, ornamentals, edibles, sculpture, pots and poultry all harmoniously hold sway.
Paul Bangay designed formal front garden: a beautifully proportioned Mediterranean inspired garden where architecture and landscape read as one, complemented by a climate smart plant palette.

MIFGS Show Garden Avenue with MIFGS entry included, the tour concludes with a viewing of the 25th anniversary show gardens. The contemporary designs, all by invitation only previous ‘Best in Show’ winning designers, will offer the very best of 21st century landscape design.

Delegates can choose to stay on at MIFGS, visit the world class exhibits and retail displays, enjoy the entertainment and experience the beautiful Carlton Gardens and historic Melbourne Exhibition Buildings.

We are privileged to share these spaces with you and encourage you to book early as the tour usually books out during Early Bird Registrations.

Date:     Friday 27 March 2020
Time:     8.15 am – 5.30 pm
Includes: Lunch, refreshments, coach, guide, entry fees, garden notes.
Depart:   Melbourne Convention Centre,
          1 Convention Place, South Wharf
Conclude: Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens, Melbourne
Cost:     $225 includes entry cost to MIFGS
Contact:  Jenny Wade t: 0409 000 089
          or e: jennywade@bigpond.com

Bookings subject to availability and for full delegates only. Tour may be varied or cancelled if circumstances change. 75% refund for cancellations prior to 10 March 2020. Unfortunately no refunds after that date.

Please register at www.landscapeconference.com or post this application to:
ALC, PO Box 458, YASS NSW 2582
Or email to info@landscapeconference.com