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New Ecologies and Territorial Architectonics

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Introduction

From urban forestry, models for bio park to landscape urbanism, projects in this research cluster rethink concepts of green infrastructure, territory and topography, micro and macro ecologies, communities and mindful environments. In response to rapid urbanisation and depletion of natural resources, this research cluster employs tools and techniques from agricultural, horticultural, ecological, biological, sociological and anthropological fields to foster strategies for rural and urban landscapes that are beyond mere enjoyment and protection. It aims to reinstate the active and productive potential of eco-systems between natural and artificial components of life, and the increasingly intertwining of these driven by advances in technologies, which can be planned, incorporated, maintained and participated by different parts of the society in different ways. A variety of multi-disciplinary projects challenge conventions of green landscapes to research and implement topographical, territorial, infrastructural and participatory dimensions of natural life-cycles in the design of built environments from rural to urban contexts.



Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure

Alan Simson, staff research profile

As Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry, Alan's research interests lie in adaptive landscape urbanism, urban forestry and green infrastructure. He has led several European urban forestry research projects on behalf of the UK and is involved in a number of international and regional initiatives and activities (International Committee European Forum on Urban Forestry, Community Forest Trust, Leeds of Concourse - the Leeds Architecture Centre, Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership, Tree Action and Design Group, and more) and he is on the editorial boards of several journals (Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, the International Journal of Urban Forestry, The International Journal of Marine & Environmental Sciences, and more).

Alan is a 'special advisor' to the UN's FAO on urban forestry and urban greening. He attended and part chaired the UN's FAO first World Forum on Urban Forestry, Mantova, Italy, 2018, picking up on the UN's New Urban Agenda, published at the end of 2016. He is part of the Green Infrastructure Assets in Urban Heat Island (GIAUrban) research project, with Vrm Technology Ltd, Leeds Sustainability Institute and the Municipality of Shanghai. Alan has just been appointed Project Manager for the WRF, funded by DEFRA. He is also a member of the LI's Plant Health Group, and with them published the *Plant Health and Biosecurity: The Landscape Consultant's Toolkit* in January 2019. During the academic year 2018/2019, Alan has been invited to present at several conferences (European Forum on Urban Forestry in Köln, IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil, and Tree Council, Forestry Commission and SEEDS 2019 conferences in the UK) and published several papers.

Urban Forestry has been recognised by the EU as a 'specific scientific domain' since 2002, when the COST Action E12 Urban Forests and Trees was completed. LBU has been involved internationally in the design aspects of urban forestry, helping to promote the idea that trees are now no longer a green cosmetic – merely there to soften the harder aspects of urban design – but they are a metaphysic – a first principle of urban design. This involves developing skills in the planning, designing, delivering and the prospective management of providing 'the right tree in the right place for the right reasons'. This concept has been confirmed by the UN, who now deem urban forestry to be a 'critical infrastructure', and a strategic component of our urban areas.

Alan Simson, World Forum on Urban Forestry in Mantova
Alan Simson, Urban Forestry initiatives

A Radical Zoo: a collaborative and co-evolutionary model of education in and of nature

Steven Heywood, staff PhD project

This thesis began by framing its research enquires through questions asked by the zoo design expert Jon Coe in his lecture at the Future of Zoos Symposium in Buffalo, New York titled 'Design and architecture: Third generation Conservation, Post-Immersion and beyond' in 2012. He asked: 'Is it time for nature-based facilities to re-examine their philosophies? How do we seek common grounds [between animal, nature and human kinds]?' David Hancock in his book *A Different Nature: The Paradoxical World of Zoos and Their Uncertain Future* (2002) shared with Coe in alluding to a future model of zoos to be co-evolutionary and collaborative, merging zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, and natural history museum. Prompted by these questions, the thesis aims to examine radical new models of 'zoo' that departs from its previous forms of contained and controlled places of exhibition (see-only), education through separation, leisure and consumption. By examining an array of recent theories and cases studies, the thesis questions the relevance of nature-based facilities in terms of their role in education, and seek radical re-definitions as both depository of existing knowledge and laboratory of new knowledge. These new radical zoos readily incorporate new technologies and modes of living, traverse urban and rural contexts, and expands beyond previous modes of territorial and disciplinary confinement. Furthermore, the radicalisation and expansion of inter-contextual zoos in turn offer to overcome antithetical relations between city and countryside, between natural and artificial habitus, ecological and cultural domains of lives.

Inside-Out Urban Landscapes

John Maccleary, staff research profile

John brings experience from public realm projects to rural forestry. Working for Gillespies, he delivered the multi award winning City Park in Bradford. This £17million project is recognized both for the way it has been embraced by the people of Bradford and for its role in regenerating the city. While at Leeds Beckett John continued in a limited capacity at Gillespies contributing to the imaginative and playful project at intu Lakeside. This reimagines a retail destination by turning the experience 'inside-out' through the integration of architecture and landscape, the creation of active frontages and vibrant open spaces. John's experience on the construction of this project has been contributing to current student work.



John Maccleary, City Park in Bradford



Memory, Association and Finding Place

Trudi Entwistle, staff research profile

Trudi Entwistle is an artist whose work lies between land art, sculpture and design. Explorations develop around site, memory, association and place. In June 2018, she was part of the group exhibition and mini arts festival 'See here', celebrating diverse communities and collaborations hosted by Quarry Lab. Trudi's work explored the qualities of Sherwood Forest and its great Oaks. The forest has seen changes and been vulnerable to human pressures. Once a mighty swathe of forest is now a patchwork of small wooded islands dotted over Nottinghamshire. The trees are the same but the context different. Trudi recently worked on 'Finding Place', a proposal for the Yorkshire Sculpture International artist book competition 2019. This art book is about two temporary site-specific sculptures that she made in Japan in two different places, seasons and years. The book offers connections and bridges which start to reveal the spirit of a place. In a way it is a diary about her experience of place and how she attempts to translate it through sculpture.



Urban Collective Wanders

Jess Bryne Daniels, staff research profile

Jess's particular interests lie in meaningful design and strategy formation. She is a Design Council CABE BEE, sitting on a number of specialist Design Review panels and is an inaugural member of the Oxford Design Review Panel. Working informally with Dr P Seanor, UWE (Social Enterprise within the Business School), Jess has recently completed research into how wandering may encourage change within an environment. Based on three urban collective walks (wanders) and a workshop to listen, share these ideas and encounters with practitioners, the research explores how landscape design processes can be mimicked in the decision making processes of community facilitation and Social Enterprises. This project was supported by a Small Research Grant from the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust. Jess is currently exploring potential research in the areas of landscape change influenced by the current demands placed on our rural landscape.

Trudi Entwistle, 'Finding Place' artbook proposal for the Yorkshire Sculpture International artist book competition 2019

Trudi Entwistle, 'See Here' group exhibition

Partner of Plants

Chris Royffe, staff research profile

Chris's work as a partner of plants by design continued with various landscape design projects focusing on housing, garden and estate developments. Some of this work was featured in the 'Art of Garden Making' an exhibition in association with the public viewing of East Wing Newton Kyme Hall gardens, with proceeds given to the National Garden Scheme charity.

Wildlife Conservation

Alistair Taylor, staff research profile

Alistair's current focus has been in the area of landscape and wildlife conservation. Training with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation, has allowed Alistair to extend his knowledge in the design and management of new native woodland and species rich, wildflower landscapes for community and to realise and maximise their potential for wildlife.

Nature, Art and Printmaking

Fleure Gething, staff research profile

Fleure Gething is a Landscape Architect, Lecturer and Printmaker. She has a deep interest in Places, Nature and Art and Design. In her Printmaking she aims to capture the fleeting beauty of physical world.

Agriculture and Sustainability

Tom Bliss, staff research profile

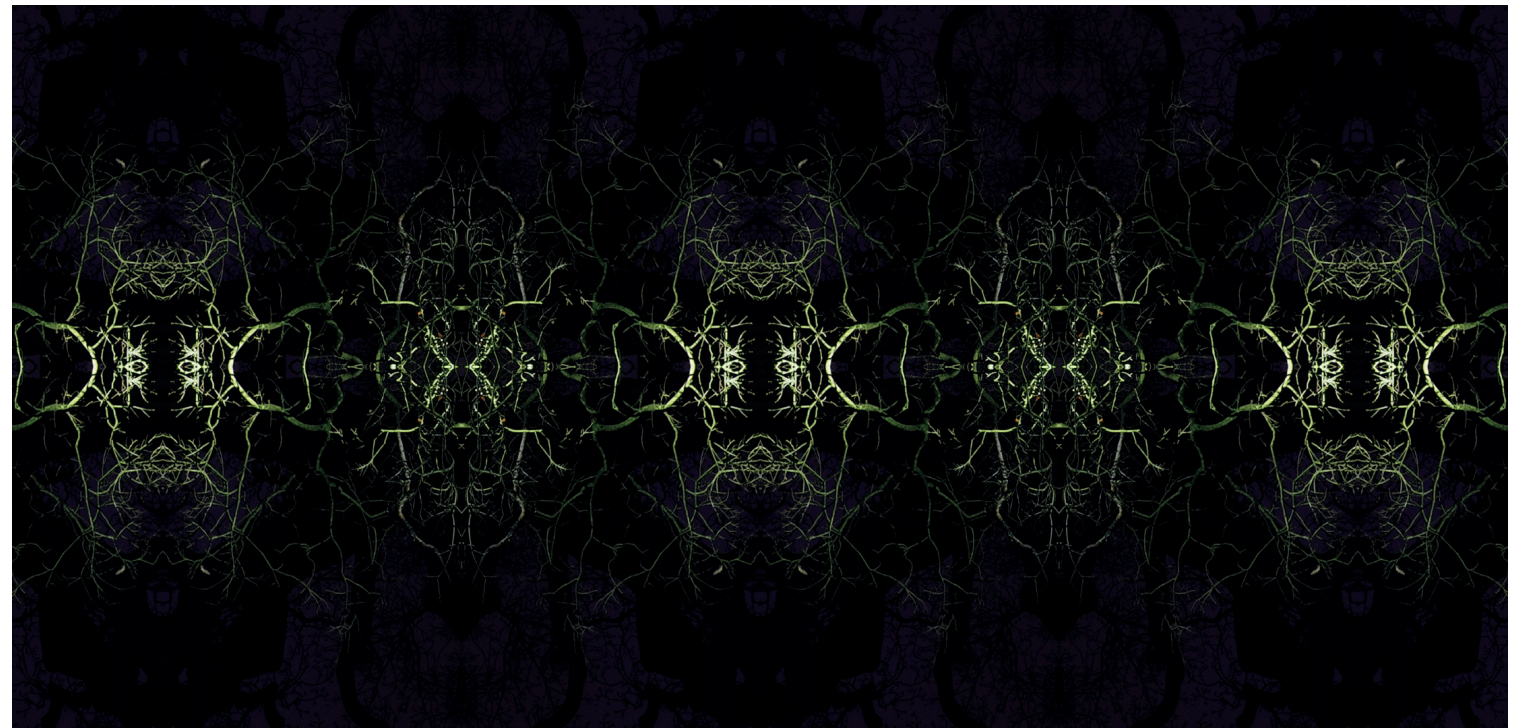
Tom Bliss's interests include urban agriculture (Chair of Feed Leeds / board member of Leeds Food Partnership), sustainability (various forums) and climate change (Leeds Climate Commission Resilience Working Group). He is also on the committee of the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum and works for the research charity United Bank of Carbon, which is embedded within the Priestley International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds.

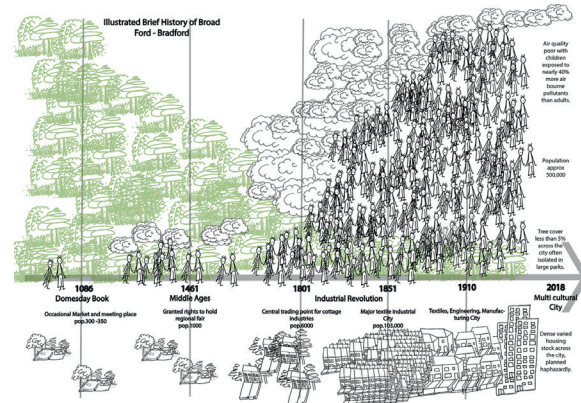
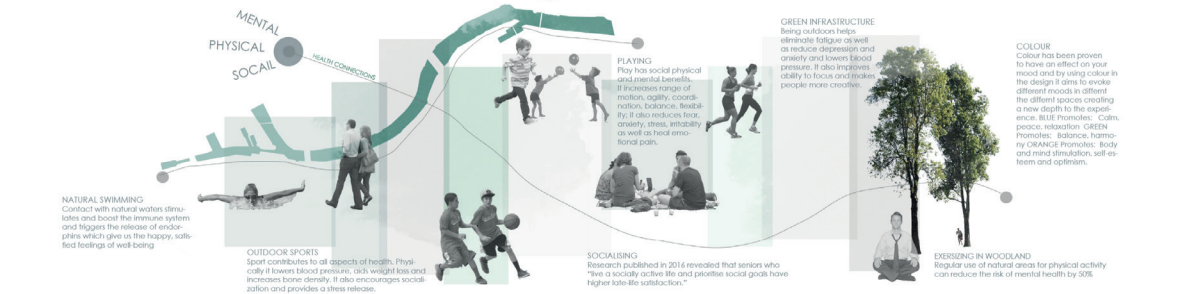
Landscape Environment Design

Ian Clare, staff research profile

Ian Clare is Director of Milieu Landscape based in Preston and responsible for the design of a large variety of landscape projects including housing, parks, town centres and campus environments.

John Maccleary, City Park in Bradford
Trudi Entwistle, 'See Here' group exhibition





Cities Alive MA Design Studios

The MA Landscape and Urban Design Studio 'Cities Alive' explores the character and quality of city spaces and promotes radical approaches to green space planning and design in new and existing developments. The intention is to develop design prototypes for green infrastructure in cities that are persuasive, innovative, sustainable, and will provide inspiring places for future living. Cities Alive Rethinking Green Infrastructure by ARUP provides an introduction and design studio reader. Landscape and urban design work by postgraduate students is informing the development of the Ij, Haven–Stad and wider Wester Park in Amsterdam and the Kirkstall Valley in Leeds, as well as contributing to staff research initiatives.

In the module 'Major Design', MA Students undertake a major design project of their own choice; urban or rural at a large or small scale. The studio provides a setting for projects that cover key theory and practice contexts with an emphasis on developing sustainable landscape design proposals. Themes and places addressed through landscape design projects include: UK Northern Cities; Green Infra-structure and regeneration, Community enrichment in Huddersfield and Leeds, Eco-tourism in Rwanda and the Seychelles, Embracing Rivers in Liege and Krakow, Coastal ecologies in Sunderland and Morcambe.

BA Design Studios

The first phase of the Design and Community module examines the concepts of communities in landscape design focusing principally on community involvement and participation in design through a live project. This year final year students were involved in two community projects both in the Burley, Kirkstall area of the Aire Valley; West Leeds. Both, to an extent, form elements of live, interrelated projects being pursued by Kirkstall Valley Park, Kirkstall Valley Development Trust, Kirkstall Island Farm, Leeds FAS2 and others.

Final year BA landscape students worked in collaboration with Leeds Beckett architectural students, Project Office and specialist consultation experts, to understand and respond to the needs of the New Wortley Community, one of the most impoverished areas in Leeds. Working in groups students addressed environment issues at a neighbourhood, community and private levels, demonstrating ways in which current landscape issues such as sustainable food production, creating local identity and encouraging more active lifestyles can be applied to the currently underused landscape resource of the area. In summer 2018, the student work has contributed to securing Lottery funding for a new play facility near the community centre and £80,000 from the Leeds City Council, Local Centres Programme for environmental improvement works within the neighbourhood area.

In the 'Major Design' studio, students are invited to redefine South Bank, Leeds through design proposals that involve the people who inhabit it as it evolves. The South Bank will form a central and integrated part of the new city, creating streets and public spaces that are inviting and attractive for all people to live, work and play. The barriers which transport and industrial infrastructure currently produced will be eroded, the goal is to stitch the city back together. The former industrial land and developments on the south bank of Leeds is currently severed from the city centre. Opportunities such as the revamp of Leeds City Station, the proposals for HS2, new eco residential developments, and the arrival of a new bridge in Hunslet, provided an opportune moment for students to develop a future vision for the evolution of this important space.

Amy Duffy, BA project: Forest Park, South Bank, Leeds
Becca Wren, BA project: Independent Leeds, Tetley Park
Sammie Strickland, BA project: Post-Industrial Leeds
Emily Jones, MA project: Little Horton, Bradford

Symposium:
Design and community practitioner day

This open event took place on 4 October, 2018.

Speakers included:

Andrew Cutt, Urban Buzz Leeds, Conservation officer

Ben Fisher, Grow Wild, 'Flowers to the People'

Ben Fenton, 'The Orchard Project'

Glenn Gormer, 'Leeds Trees, The Northern Forest'

Rosie Atkins, 'Kirkstall Wildlife'

Trudi Entwistle 'Mindful spaces'

The open 'Meet and Greet' event took place on 5 December, 2018, which gave students the chance to meet members of the local branch of the Landscape Institute.

Speakers included: Amy Macendroth and Emma Sharpe, ARUP; Becca Huggins, Gillespies; and Alan Noet, Laand.

Symposium: Professional speakers day

This open event took place on 25 January, 2019.

Keynote speaker:

Grant Associates, Keith French, Gardens by the Bay

Guest speakers:

Andy Thomson, BCA Landscapes

Rob Beswick, B-D Landscapes

Richard Hellier, Forestry Commission England

The Landscape institute AGM and film night was hosted by the Leeds School of Architecture and Landscape on 28 March, 2019. Adam White, President of the Landscape institute gave an inspirational talk at the Yorkshire and Humber Landscape Institute AGM evening about raising the profile of Landscape Architecture. The talk was alongside a screening of the documentary 'Urbanized'.

ARCHITECTURE &

25 January 2:00pm
Broadcasting Place Block B Level 5 Studio

Recent works and process

by Rob Beswick - BD Landscape Architects

Founding Director of BD Landscape Architecture
Alumni of Leeds Beckett, Landscape Architecture
Winner of 2013 Landscape Institute Award

BD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS are a design based consultancy with a growing reputation for contemporary landscape architecture, urban design and space-making.

Rob will be talking about a range of recent projects including temporary swimming pools at Kings Cross, educational landscapes, residential and cultural spaces.

BD's approach combines contemporary sustainable design with creative ecology looking to glean the unique genius loci from each place - designs drawing inspiration from the history, ecology, environment, use and character of the site. They have worked on some of the highest profile squares, streetscapes and campus renaissance projects in the country.

25 January 2:45pm
Broadcasting Place Block B Level 5 Studio

Landscape, Woodland, Forest Principles and Process

by Richard Hellier - Forestry Commission England

National Landscape Advisor - Forestry Commission
Alumni of Leeds Beckett, Landscape Architecture
Landscape Institute Award Winner

The talk will focus on awareness raising of what is happening nationally in Forestry Woodland Creation, what the role entails (including Northern Forest), basic principles and processes of Woodland Creation to up-skill the profession and assist with better links between the forestry, woodland and landscape sectors.

The intention is that the design quality and landscape integration of forestry is improved, that multi-benefit objectives are planned in from the start and that the Landscape profession takes a greater role in future forest design work. The landscape profession are not as engaged with woodland creation design as they ideally should be, particularly with opportunities at the Northern Forest. We are looking for fit for purpose, informed design process with a high degree of ecological and PLACE understanding. This will provide resilient, productive woodland with diverse uses and good landscape integration. The role of woodland in the delineation of space means it also can be part of the 'architecture' of our landscape.

open lecture series

25 January 3:30pm
Broadcasting Place Block B Level 5 Studio

Placemaking & Stories

by Andy Thomson - BCA Liverpool

Director - BCA Liverpool

BCA Landscape is without doubt one of the most exciting landscape practices in Britain today... their designs work as allusive artworks with many shades of meaning, a reflection of the cultural complexity of a human settlement... - Tim Richardson - writer and landscape critic

Andy Thomson will be talking about BCA's recent works and the processes and collaborations that inform their work.

Through attention to detail BCA reveal stories that create unique places in the public realm. They work with artists, architects and community groups to design and celebrate place.

25 January 5:15-6:15pm
Broadcasting Place Block B Level 5 Studio

Keynote Speaker : Gardens by the Bay & other projects

by Grant Associates

Grant Associates - Bath

The talk will focus on the multi-award winning Gardens by the Bay project in Singapore

This spectacular design is a world class example of destination landscape and architecture. The project includes vertical garden Supertrees, aerial walkways and night light shows. Grant Associates masterplanned the site leading a core British design team to worldwide success. Awards ranged from The Landscape Institute Awards for Climate Change Adaptation and World Building of the Year.

"Our vision was to blend nature, technology, environmental management and imagination to create a 21st century focus for tropical horticulture and a unique destination experience."

LANDSCAPE 2018-19

School of Art Architecture and Design
Leeds Beckett University



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