New Ecologies and Territorial Architectonics
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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.
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.
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 enquiries 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 habitats, 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.
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.
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 Kyne 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 Infrastructure 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
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 Noel, Laand.

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, BD 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'.

Symposium: Design and community practitioner day

Symposium: Professional speakers day
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For more information visit leedsbeckett.ac.uk/lsa