Britain to become the world capital of drab? by Alastair McCapra

A news item yesterday about controversy over a public space jogged my mind into thinking about various places I have been to recently, which ones I liked and which I didn’t. The piece of news was that Kings Cross Community Projects (KCCP) has called on Network Rail to scrap proposals for a new square outside the London mainline station, describing the design as “drab” and “unimaginative”.

The article commented: "In particular, KCCP is unhappy with the lack of green space, lack of a sense of identity, need for public art, provision for cyclists, lack of a water feature and harsh paving”. And they are right – the plan is drab and, if it goes ahead unamended, it will give one of the important gateways into our capital an Arndale Centre makeover. Perhaps then Kings Cross can be restored to its former glory as a desolate, dreary haunt for alcoholics.

Thoughts of drab, characterless public space inevitably led me to a sad reminiscence of a recent visit to Bath. A World Heritage Site, Bath recently spent £360m on its new Southgate Centre (pictured). A walk through the Southgate Centre on a summer evening some weeks ago was a pretty depressing experience. It was almost clinically dead. An unravelling and unvaried hard surface spreads out before the pedestrian and every bit of character has been starched and ironed out of it. I hope it ages quickly, as this might give it some chance of at least looking a bit lived-in.

Saddest of all are the occasional forlorn-looking trees marooned in a sea of paving. You would have had to try hard to design out pretty much every possibility of human interaction and civic life. On a roasting summer evening, people on the street wanted somewhere to sit, talk and watch the world go by and, recognising that nothing in the built scheme made this it does have obvious focal points, light and shade, texture, and interest. Even after hours, when the stallholders have shut up and gone away, it feels lived-in, like a place of some civic significance and not just a faux-Georgian culvert between retail opportunities.

The last place that came to my mind was in Okada, Tokyo. Here, an entire Italian streetscape has been created so that Japanese shoppers can experience the pleasures of spending an afternoon strolling in a square, eating gelati and watching the sun set over arcades. This is not a particularly special experience, however, the Italian street is inside a shopping mall called Venus Fort and the sun rises and sets across the artificial sky several times a day for max-

mum effect. The management company has managed a reasonable sprinkling of artificial cypress trees and ivy, and the entire thing has been done with a tremendous Japanese sense of fun. It is a great place to spend the afternoon — lively, cheerful, and evidently designed as an enrichment to life rather than as a grudging concession to historic street alignments and the need for fire assembly points between retail outlets. I imagine if a shopping mall sky were built over the Southgate Shopping Centre with timed sunrises and sunsets it would be a bit of an improvement, but Venus Fort would still be a much nicer place to visit.

All of which leads me to wonder — how is it possible that we can tolerate public space so dire that a naff theme park in Japan is a nicer place to spend an afternoon than the centre of one of our great historic cities? Not being Verona is a sin of omission, but the “drab” and “unimaginative” streetscape of the Southgate Centre, with its “lack of green space, lack of a sense of identity, lack of a water feature and harsh paving” is certainly a sin of commission. Even if you are of the anesthetised view that landscape architecture is an afterthought once you have done the buildings, you must be able to do better than this after spending £360m (though I doubt more than a mimiscule proportion of this was spent on public space).

Thank goodness the community groups in Kings Cross have spoken up.
This piece first appeared on his blog site; published here with permission.

In the blogosphere:
In 2008 when the place was being developed but was far from complete others commented as below: —

Danny French said
moan moan moan moan moan...its what we british do best!!! we moaned about the old buildings that were there, now £360 million has been invested into improving the city and people are STILL moaning saying it looks rubbish. for me this development looks fantastic...modern and spacious whilst being largely in keeping with the georgian style of the surrounding buildings.

Kate Eldon said
I am really looking forward to being able to walk around it. I have been over to have a look around the old one though me finding (sic) not very many places to have a drink or something to eat.

Danny Heffer said
I personally can't wait for another Gap, Carphone Warehouse, Boots,....

LANDSCAPE VISUALIZATIONS: CAN WE BELIEVE WHAT WE SEE?
By Melanie Downes
This MA dissertation compared a selection of landscape, urban design and architectural visualizations, created during planning and design phases, with photos of the completed sites.

Visualizations which aim to show proposed designs as they will appear in reality were first used in the landscape profession by englishman Humphry Repton, known for his images which depicted a ‘before and after’ scenario in his famous ‘Red Books’. Visualizations play an increasingly important role as decision making tools in the planning process and are also expected to successfully communicate proposals to both experts and lay readers. Current production quality of visualizations varies greatly across the landscape planning and design industry. It has been argued that the lack of agreed protocols for their creation leaves landscape professionals open to criticism and potentially litigation regarding thresholds of acceptability for adequate levels of realism and accuracy. These issues have the potential to impact on a viewer’s perception of the proposed design. Visualizations selected for analysis were all used for communicating the project with the public. The image analysis method evolves object mapping key content elements in each. The object mapping was intended to provide an easily readable visual representation of the image analysis and also enabled the analysis of recurring patterns of inconsistencies in the depiction of the key content elements.

The method developed for this study aimed to highlight recurring issues which arise in relation to accuracy and realism and also examined how these issues have the potential to impact on a viewer’s perception of the proposed design. Visualizations selected for analysis were all used for communicating the project with the public. The image analysis method involved identifying thresholds of acceptability for adequate levels of realism and accuracy. These issues were particularly pertinent in light of current economic constraints on project development.

AFTER THE INVASION
By Bud Young
A walk on high heathland, overwhelmingly calm, long views, quite empty. We sit below an old oak tree, two trunks, spreading branches but very low. A circle of oak-affected grass amidst bracken and gorse. Heather, purple shows here and there. Just outside the circle, two small trees and others unseen; fox holes, junk holes out of which white flowered brambles emerge; The spire of a purple foxglove. We eat rock cakes and talk of early summer 1944 when these trenches gave the black Americans, soldier engineers, a sense of security from aerial attack as they prepared here before D-Day. A heavy yellow navy helicopter at 1100 feet flies over us very low to our position and heads north.

BY PRISHTINA, WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAME!
By Terry O’Regan
My first step into the landscape of any new destination is to purchase a guide book and study the streets around my hotel and meeting place, and I often copy and enlarge a street map of the immediate area. Even the arrival of Google maps has not changed this pattern. I still treasure the guide-book to put flesh on the bare bones of maps. I read up recommended visitor highlights and the less well-known ones that catch my fancy. When I arrive at my hotel I go for a walk as soon as possible, reading the local landscape and getting my bearings with the aid of the maps, street signs and landmarks. ‘The magic of the street is the mingling of the errand and the epiphany’ says Rebecca Solnit. My first visit to Kosovo this year initially confounded those first steps. Admittedly Kosovo has yet to become a well-known tourist destination, thus guide books proved scarce. But two weeks before I was due to depart for my first mission in March 2011, I came across a single copy of the extremely well written Bradt guide book to our local Waterstones. Well written, yes, but the street map of Prishtina contained therein was like a map of the New World before it was discovered. An observation in the text under ‘Getting Around’ did not cheer me much either; it led off with — ‘The biggest challenge in Prishtina is the relative chaos when it comes to street names’ — apparently they have been changed with each political upheaval — many streets now have three names in active use, but this does not apply to actual signage at street corners — maybe they are waiting for the next upheaval?

So I rambled cautiously, close reading the streetscape as intensely as a native Indian tracker might read broken bushes and the desert floor. Distinctive buildings were scarce, but I was struck by the clustering of shops — jeweller after jeweller in one long row, then a group of three pharmacies and finally a complete street of ladies clothes shops many featuring richly ornamented full length wedding dresses of every possible colour. For me this stands out as the distinct and wonderful urban landscape of Prishtina. Wandering further through the city I found this pattern, this grouping continued — hardware shops in one group, sheet-metal workers in another. I wondered why.

The following day on a familiarisation study visit to the towns of Pejë and Gjakovë/Djakovica, we visited the former market districts where artisans and craftsmen, jewelers, harness makers, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors and dress-makers had worked and traded — these districts had been burnt to the ground in 1999. They have since been rebuilt in a manner that establishes a cultural and urban landscape continuity. (see ‘for my readers’ note).
ANTHOLOGY LRE 60

With the crescent goes the road, half-way up the sides of the hills but nearly always at the foot of the steepest slopes where the chalk pits are carved white, like the concave of a scallop shell, out of the green turf. Luxuriant hedges bar the view except at gateways and stiles. At one place the upper hedge gives way to scattered thicketts scrambling up the hill, with chalky roots and rabbit workings between. Neither sheep nor crops cover the hill, nor yet is it common. Anyone can possess it — for an hour. It is given up to rabbits until Londoners can be persuaded to build houses on it. At intervals a road as old as the Way itself descends precipitously in a deep chalk groove, overhung by yew and beech, or hornbeam or oak, and white clouds drifting in a river of blue sky between the trees.


As the road struck into the sierra we branched off to the right and climbed a narrow male-track that wound around the mountain-side. The hills in that part of Spain are of a queer formation, horseshoe shaped with flattish tops and very steep sides running down into immense ravines. On the higher slopes nothing grows except stunted shrubs and heath, with the white bones of the limestone sticking out everywhere.

Page 18 George Orwell Homage to Catalonia

The weather was mostly clear and cold, sometimes sunny at midday, but always cold. Here and there in the soil of the hillsides you find the green beaks of wild crocuses or rises poking through; evidently spring was coming, but very slowly. The nights were colder than ever. Coming off guard in the small hours we used to take turns what was left of the cookhouse fire and then stand in the red embers. It was bad for your boots, but it was very good for your feet. But there were mornings when the sight of the dawn among the mountain-tops made it almost worth-while to be out of bed at godless hours. I hate mountains, even from a spectacu- lar point of view. But sometimes the dawn breaking behind the hillslopes in our rear, the first narrow streaks of gold, like swords slitting the darkness, and then the growing light and the seas of carmine cloud streaming away into inconceivable distances, were worth watching even when you had been up all night. When your legs were numb from the knees down and you were suddenly reflecting that there was no hope of food for another three hours.


My dissertation focused largely on place-making policy and professional application and how this relates to aca- demic thought and literature. Using the Terminal 3 Forecourt Improvement Project at Manchester Airport (undertaken by the author during his placement) as the primary case study, a demonstrable link between academia and the landscape planning profession is proffered.

The text begins by discussing the role of a ‘Landscape Planner’, a role which often blurs the boundaries between professions. Not quite Geography, not Sociology. Not Architecture, nor An- thropology. Art, Economics or an exact Science. Instead, the text surmises that a Landscape Planner is concerned with Spatial Ethics: an issue which traverses international borders, bringing together a melting pot of different societies and cultures whilst at the same time struggling to balance the demands between ‘sustainable development’ and ‘economic prosperity’.

Airports developments bring about these themes at an exaggerated scale: balancing security, environmental and economic concerns in a relatively small space. As a large numbers of people from a variety of cultural back- grounds. The question therefore re- mains, how to create a place (in this instance an airport) that is able to be effective on all these grounds? Explor- ing the theory and policy behind place- making for airport developments (referring to the T3 Forecourt Improve- ment Project), the text attempts to go some way in answering the aforementioned question.

The concept of place, and sense of place, is discussed in great length with the observations of Lynch in ‘The Im- age of the City’ (1960) given cre- dence. The notion from Ouf in ‘Authenticity and the sense of place in urban design’ (2001), that in order for a place to be a successful space it must possess a degree of authenticity, is given thought. For as the text examines, how can our supermodern areas (such as airports) be considered a good place today, given that they lack any authenticity which is more nor- mally associated with areas of histori- cal interest?

The argument held by the anthropolo- gist Augé, — who suggests in ‘Non- Places’ (1995), when dealing with supermodern areas, rather than creating places we create non-places, largely devoid of any meaningful character — is related back to the authors own experience when preparing the design principles following ‘good design prac- tice guidelines’ — which are later shown in the text to be anything but.

As the above suggests, place-making is just not about theory, but also policy and guidance. Airports follow a stringent set of international measures, and it is these measures which the author suggests may lead to the crea- tion of bland, uniform airport develop- ments. Further still, planning policy seems set to only permit airport devel- opment on the urban fringe. The author argues therefore that the opportunity to allow creativity and innovation in the design process is stifled through envi- ronmental, planning, and stricter still, security guidelines. However, the influence of airports on their immediate and wider surround- ings is discussed, drawing on the work of Kasarda in Airport Cities and the Aerotro- polis: The Way Forward (2010), concluding that perhaps the main reasons why our airports appear as they do is not due to policy and/or standardisation, but lifestyle choice: the need for connectivity, speed and agility. Rather than creating non- places, we might be creating Aerotro- polis's.

MANCHESTER'S T3 FORECOURT: AND THE GLOBAL PERCEPTION OF SPACE AND PLACE

By Greg Mahon

LANDSCAPE WITH BOYS

by Philip Pacey, published by Viking 2000

Kosovo: The Bradt guide book. Gail Warrander and Verena Knaus. 2007 and second edition, 2010 Published by Bradt Travel Guides, 23 High Street Chalfont St Peter Bucks SL9 9QE.

Pejo/Pec the Albanian and Serb versions side by side — a necessary ac- commodation for a currently divided society.

For my readers, TO’R promises me a follow up piece to explain why this is necessary and what it means. He is at present on a return visit to Kosovo training staff.

It was here then that I found the answer to my ‘flock of frock shops’ mystery. In the market each street featured one craft or trade bound together by the tradition of its guild. The shops of latter-day Pristina are ensuring the continuity of this distinctive urban landscape characteristic. The streets may have no name; but Bono and U2 would find much to sing about in Kosovo!

The authors of the guide book warned that ‘Pristina is not a city to fall in love with at first sight.’ Perhaps not, but as I roamed that distinctive, colour- ful, lively streetscape I thought that maybe slow-burner love was the more lasting, the more real.

TO’R Notes

‘Pristina, where the streets have no name!’ After a song by Bono and U2 Wanderlust: A History of Walking by Rebecca Solnit, published by Viking 2000

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Finally they ‘trailed home’, on the way chasing a rat across an allotment, thereby incurring the wrath of the station master because we’d trampled on his onion-bed. At the end of the day, I’d walked ten miles and wasn’t tired... I wasn’t a kid any longer, I was a boy at last. And it’s a wonderful thing to be a boy, to go roaming where grown-ups can’t catch you, and to chase rats and kill birds and shy stones and check carters and shout dirty words. It’s a kind of strong, rank feeling, a feeling of knowing everything and fearing nothing, and it’s all bound up with breaking rules and killing things.

*****
Recalling as a grown-up how one of his teachers sought to interest him in Wordsworth’s recollections of experiencing Nature as a child, Orwell’s protagonist declares:

The truth is that kids aren’t in any way poetic, they’re merely savage little animals. A boy isn’t interested in meadows, groves and so forth. He never looks at landscape, doesn’t give a damn for flowers... Killing things—that’s about as near to poetry as a boy gets. And yet all the time there’s that peculiar intensity, the power of longing for things as you can’t long when you’re grown up, and the feeling that time stretches out and in front of you and that whatever you’re doing you could go on for ever.

“A boy...never looks at landscape”? Not as landscape, perhaps; that is, not as a ‘picture’ to be enjoyed for its aesthetic qualities. I think it would be truer to say that boys are drawn to landscape, and not least to wasteland, edgelands (see note 1), non-man’s lands and wilderness, by instincts which they are powerless to resist. Set free in accommodating landscape, they revert to hunter-gatherers. I clearly recall how, as a boy and indeed into middle age, I felt driven by some inner force to climb to the tops of hills, from which it was impossible not to feel exhilarated by the view, a hunter surveying his territory. Equally, as a boy, I burrowed into the landscape, inhabited hedges, finding satisfaction in seeing without being seen. In shaking off the shackles of civilisation, boys demonstrate how, for the tribe and for the lone hunter, landscape offers opportunities for both ‘prospect’ and ‘refuge’. If our adult, supposedly more sophisticated landscape preferences somehow derive from deeply rooted archetypes, we should not be surprised to see the same archetypes emerging, raw and unadulterated by aesthetics, in small boys. Each term, at boarding school, we were given a ‘whole day’ (a whole day as distinct from Saturday afternoon and so could go where we liked so long as we stated where we were going. I was once or twice with a group of boys who headed for the woodlands around Brown’s Folly, spooking the day hanging out, heating baked beans over a fire (cooking—a big step forward for humankind—see note 2). Others, including myself on other occasions, aspiring to an altogether more advanced state of civilisation, visited parish churches, or took the train to Bristol.

I find myself drawn to Orwell’s boys’ walk again and again, because it takes me back to my boyhood (and perhaps, however dimly, much further, to the origins of humankind). Orwell is ruthlessly unsentimental, the horrors he prosaically describes add to the authenticity of the experience he evokes so vividly. My reading of it, however, is distorted by nostalgia. I want to hymn its virtues; to plead for marginal land to be left to the mercy of boys—and boys to be left to the mercy of marginal land, permitted to take risks climbing trees, swimming in water holes, fishing in ponds—to let boys be boys). But I’m not sure that I would be right to do so. If we are an evolving race, should we encourage children to revert to savagery? Shouldn’t we at least persuade them to progress towards the Neolithic? Consider the acts of cruelty. Consider the fact that ‘edgelands’ can be edgy places, and that boys’ walks have sometimes ended in tragedy. And ask: how can we manage landscape, so that children of both sexes can experience and engage with it, wonder and wander in it, without suffering or inflicting harm?

Notes

Editor’s note
And for those who wish to cross over to a parallel topic in a different idiom why not read Landscape Research 36/5 pp 535-552 “The emotional affordances of forest settings: an investigation in (sic) boys with extreme behavioural problems” — should I put an exclamation mark here?

Letters to the Editor
ENGLAND’S FORESTS
A comment from Owen Manning
Paul Tabbush’s article (LRE 58) The Ownership of English Forests was timely and informative. I was particularly glad to see the Forestry Commission coming well out of his analysis; I have felt supportive of their efforts for not support them equally, rather than demonise them. Of course they get things wrong at times (name any human organisation of which that cannot be said), but they are charities, for Pete’s sake, not sinister state institutions. All the good things Tabbush says about the Forestry Commission apply in my experience equally and more to bodies such as the Woodland Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts etc., and they do need and absolutely deserve all the support we can give them.

Paul does not give evidence for his critical view, he had no space, and perhaps it is based on unfortunate experience. Mine has been different. What I have learned of these bodies (even the visited last month, site manager James Gilmour told me frankly of early hostility to the Trust’s plans from locals fearing additional restrictive monolithic planting of their hills, yet hostility turned to enthusiasm as native planting with open glades and soft boundaries sprouted on formerly bare hillsides, wildlife and flora increased, and new paths were opened to link with others in a scenic pattern of trails. Locals have volunteered support, adjoining landowners have started similar operations, coincidentally the Forestry Commission is modifying large and monumental degradations into sympathetic lines, and one might claim that this is a web of positive influences spreading out from the Trust’s one site.

As I gazed out from a chosen bench-location (given to remember my wife) over young woodland now beginning to frame the village of Burnford, I could see future promenade all around me, springing from what seems almost a cooperative enterprise. This is how things should be.

OM
POSTSCRIPT TO ‘HOW TO BE A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT’
John W Gittins

I was delighted to read Owen Manning’s article in LRE 59 and to discover so much with which I could identify. Primarily it was his referrals to Miss Brenda Colvin which brought back memories. I recently purchased a copy of Trisch Gibson’s book ‘A Career in Landscape’. The link here is that it is the celebration of Colvin’s life and work, and it was when I came to the final chapter entitled ‘The Legacy’ that I read something which summed up perfectly my view of her as a pioneer landscape designer… ‘There was always a sense of reserve. But this was not conceit, not conceit at all. It was the quiet, calm, inward manner concealed a kind, person who was much liked and respected by all who knew her.’ I also have Miss Colvin’s last publication – her privately printed ‘Wonder in a World’ (1977) which seems to me to fit a fitting celebration of her philosophy and her life’s work as a designer cum landscape architect.

My meetings with her were between 1975 and 1980 when the Colvin & Moggridge Partnership were consultant landscape architects to the Welsh Water Authority during the construction of the Breng Reservoir. Most of my time was spent with Brenda, but from time to time Brenda came up to the site to observe and advise. To see her striding across the bleak Derwen site, I estimate, the driving rain was evidence of a strong individual who was still as committed to landscape at nearly 80, as she had ever been.

The development of the Breng Reservoir presented many challenges, none more so than it was located in an area where Welsh is the first language and very near to Llyn Celyn (Lake Celyn), whose construction had involved the flooding of the hamlet of Capel Celyn. That place remains a cause celebre in recent Welsh history. A certain Dr. Harry Crann, a Quaker and the chief executive of Welsh Water, who had been the main developer on the Llyn Celyn project, was adamant that local people should be deeply involved in Lyn Breng. Brenda Colvin and Hal Moggridge embraced that idea. The outcome reflected their vision and experience. It included the excavation of the Iron Age site, careful conservation of valuable flora, promotion of sustainable recreation activities around and on the reservoir and the participation of local people in its planning and management.

I am nowadays a trustee of the Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/The National Library of Wales. I have been intrigued on many occasions when I pass the Penglais Campus (where the Library sits), to reflect on the fact that it had been designed by Brenda in 1963. For me she lives on as I enter the drive.

From Crista Ernny of LR
CONTENTS OF LANDSCAPE RESEARCH
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Turning a Deaf Ear: Acoustic Value in the Assessment of Heritage Landscapes
Peter O'Connor

Although aesthetic value is one of the fundamental criteria used to determine the cultural heritage significance of places in Australia, cultural heritage has had only a limited engagement with theories on aesthetics. The existing literature tends to focus on the aural qualities of a place, and no practical methodology has been developed to identify, describe or assess the acoustic dimension of aesthetic value. This paper explores recent research based on the concept of the soundscape, and develops a qualitative methodology for understanding and evaluating the acoustics of place, applied to two cultural landscapes in Western Australia.

How Useful are the Concepts of Erasure, Origination, Transformation and Migration in Landscape History?
John Stuart Murray

Landscape Urbanism favours an open-ended approach to landscape design, questioning the use of traditional methods of teaching design, which it argues have fixed landscape design as a practical solution. A student project was developed with the aim of assessing the educational value of such an approach to teaching within this theoretical debate, and used an open-ended and randomized method to understand existing conditions and speculate about future landscapes. The fieldwork method chosen was based on the concepts of erasure, migration, transmutation and transformation (EJM). Some students had difficulty both with the vocabulary of EJM, and in recognising that EJM provided a framework within which they could work, but overall the study concluded that the method was applicable at a landscape planning scale and in a variety of development scenarios. It also proved successful in engendering active group discussion and engagement, which could provide a model for real life consultation.

Trajectory Analysis of Forest Cover Change in the Tropical Dry Forest of Burkina Faso, West Africa
Issa Ouedrago et al

This study looks at Burkina Faso, one of the most important environmental issues in the tropics. This study looks at Burkina Faso, one of the most important environmental issues in the tropics. It explores the trajectories of forest cover change and measures landscape metrics of the trajectory classes in order to better understand the processes. LandSAT and ASTER images acquired over a period of 30 years were used for cover change detection and the Fragstats package was used to compute landscape metrics with five unifying change classes. Results showed a substantial increase in forest independent on an apparent current decline in forest cover. The study confirms that there is a high level of deforestation and fragmentation in southern Burkina Faso, and that there is a need for a proper management plan to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources.

Landscape Representation Validity: A Comparison between On-site Observations and Photographs with Different Angles of View
Zerrin Ho & Reyhan Yigiter

This study examines the validity of using photographs to represent landscape in visual landscape assessments, using several landscape preference variations. The photographs were compared: the in situ landscape, panoramic and standard normal photographs. Landscape vistas were evaluated on six sites using visual landscape assessments, with several landscape preference variations. The results show that the in situ landscape is most appropriate to use in landscape assessment.

How to Accommodate New Land Uses in Traditional Landscapes? Remembrance of Landscapes, Resilience of Areas, Resistance of People
Laurence Le Dû-Blayo

How Do We Accommodate New Land Uses in Traditional Landscapes?

Introduction: Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda

Guest Editors: Tomas Germundsson, Peter Howard & Kenneth R. Olwig

In this special issue, authors from a wide spectrum of places in Europe and the world have reassessed landscape drivers in the light of what has been termed a globalist environmental agenda. They all have had their own take on both the drivers and the notion of a globalist environmental agenda, but taken together they make clear that landscape cannot be subsumed as the local in a global binary. Landscape research can and does contribute to both and an understanding of the issues identified with globalism, such as climate change and global economic challenges, but it also can provide an independent voice in opposition, for example, by the European Landscape Convention, founded upon the rights and experiences of the people who have shaped and appreciated the landscape.

The Earth is not a Globe: Landscape versus the ‘Globalist’ Agenda
Kenneth R. Olwig

Globalism can be defined as a mode of thought deriving from the practice of thinking globally, both literally and metaphorically. Globalism not only informs major trends within governance, it also informs environmental issues, not least those related to global warming. Using the example of the production of energy and power, the author argues that there may well be a built-in contradiction between globalism and the interests of landscape as the diverse people, polity and nature. This paper discusses the theoretical and practical implications of such a contradiction.

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Special Issue: Reassessing Landscape Drivers and the Globalist Environmental Agenda

Guest Editors: Tomas Germundsson, Peter Howard & Kenneth R. Olwig
bon sequestration are then applied. The study concludes that ‘carbon sequestration projects’ should include collecting empirical evidence regarding the potential of temperate agroforestry systems to store carbon, develop local projects, and upscale these projects to participate in established carbon markets.

Local Rights to Landscape in the Global Moral Economy of Carbon
Dan Van der Horst & Saskia Vermeylen
Energy policy is an increasingly influential driver for landscape change in the Global North and in rapidly industrialising nations. The renewable energy industry and the large utilities installing wind farms are increasingly powerful actors in the global economy, and their activities are giving rise to a growing number of energy-landscape conflicts. A renewable energy project can be portrayed as representing either development or conservation, and either globalisation or localisation. By interrogating landscape as a right, and carbon as a commodity, the authors reveal a number of tensions between globalised discourses and more localised, contextualised concerns. They draw attention to examples of reconfiguration through customised entrepreneurial activities which manage to make sense of landscape, energy and climate issues at the local level, and which can be enacted and presented through both a globalist and a local narrative.

The European Landscape Convention, Wind Power, and the Limits of the Local: Notes from Italy and Sweden
Thomas Oles & Karin Hammarsland
The ELC is the first international agreement to deal with all aspects of landscape planning, protection and management. It emphasises transparency, democracy and good governance as integral parts of ‘landscape’. However, its utility in practice is still largely untested. This article considers the relevance of the ELC to the development of wind power, a cause of major land use conflict in Europe today. Two countries are used as case studies: Italy and Sweden, countries that contain iconic European landscapes, and which have become important sites of large-scale wind power development over the last decade. Italy and Sweden have divergent political, economic and institutional traditions, and so the debate around wind power and landscape has unfolded differently in the two countries. On the basis of these two examples, the authors sketch the potential of the ELC to transform the planning process for wind power, and the real challenges it will face as a non-binding ‘global’ agreement in ‘local’ places with their own histories and traditions.

Landscape Democracy in a Globalizing World: The Case of Tangle Lake
Finn Arnæs
The author examines issues of landscape democracy in relation to Tangle Lake in Denmark. The story of the creation of Tangle Lake is given, identifying the most important international drivers that have influenced landscape development in the area, directly or indirectly through the actions of a variety of local actors with conflicting conceptions regarding landscape quality. This variety of drivers, actors and conceptions raises issues for landscape democracy. Some basic ‘democratic values’ are identified, and the relation between levels of democratic decision-making is discussed with the principle of subsidiarity and the concentric circle theory in mind. These general considerations are then discussed in relation to the case of Tangle Lake.

LIMESTONE COASTS
Many of my readers will have spent their holidays near the coast, some perhaps in Menorca where I took the following 3D photogrammetry data. It is the first time that stereograms have been used to present 3D images on a page. The stereograms are intended to be taken with the left eye first and then the right eye. To see the stereo image, place your eyes about 5 cm apart and look at the left image with the left eye and the right image with the right eye. When you get the 3D effect say Aargh! BV.

Important from time to time to remember what many ordinary people think of as ‘landscape’. There is no doubting that this one is an alpha male of the species. LRE keeps offering tangible or should that be observable images of the real thing — while at the same time celebrating through its content, the range of ideas and research topics that ‘landscape’ now represents.

So glad I am not editor of TOOTHPASTE WEEKLY.

Letter from Gert Groening
groening@udk.berlin.de
Dear Bud,
It is always a pleasure to browse through Landscape Research Extra and I thank you very much for all the effort you put into it. Although not exactly ‘landscape’ I thought our volume “Spanien” (Spain) may be of interest for some of the readers of LRE. The comments in this book are in German, the book titles are in Spanish, of course. Volume 3, Spanien, ISBN 978-3-88462-301-5 with 367 pages. It is the worldwide largest directory for Spanish garden culture. Some 3,000 titles of professional articles and monographs as well as garden-culturally meaningful pieces of evidence are listed in chapter IV. Numerous further pieces of evidence in general and specialist bibliographies as well as a large number of pieces of evidence for libraries and other institutions valuable for history and theory in garden culture make this volume a much more comprehensive instrument for research than the usual bibliographies.

Some 4,000 titles have been referenced in bibliographies and book directories of garden cultural meaning. Some 2,500 titles re-listed in bibliographies of neighbouring disciplines, the Spanish-related percentage being considerably lower.

Also the volume contains a list of significant libraries and further public and private institutions which are meaningful for garden culture and open space development. The volume also pays attention to internet sources.

As in the preceding volumes for Italy (2009, 575 pages), ISBN 978-3-88462-248-3, Switzerland (2010, 413 pages), ISBN 978-3-88462-297-7, the bibliography is arranged according to 54 special descriptors. When some of the descriptors show no entry this points to a deficit or a lack of research interest in certain areas. This enables those interested to identify areas of further needed research.

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