Irish Landscape Institute (ILI)

Reading the Urban Landscape (II):

The landscape and streetscape setting of towns and villages.

Opportunities for improving urban spaces, introducing Green Infrastructure and valuing cultural/natural Heritage

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Town Centre Health Check – Irish Landscape Institute
Introduction

The ILI was formed in 1992 from an amalgamation of the Irish Chapter of the Institute of Landscape Architects and the Institute of Landscape Horticulture of Ireland. This joined private practice and public sector members, enabling them to further develop the landscape profession in Ireland.

Since 1992, the Institute has expanded to its current membership of 160, mirroring the rise in profile and strength of the landscape architecture profession in Ireland.

The ILI are members of the International Federation of Landscape Architects
Presentation content

• The Landscape, Parks, Public Realm and Streets – What are they for?

• ILI mentors’ role in the TCHCs – Green Infrastructure planning for ecosystem services

• Examples of GI planning and positive interventions in the landscape to improve the health of towns

• Current work of TII and others which would be relevant to the development of the pilot areas.

• Focus on current initiatives. National and International
The Landscape, Parks, Public Realm and Streets – What are they for?

- First steps as toddlers
- Playing and developing social skills
- Family outings
- Exercise
- Meeting friends and hanging out
- Engaging with the community
- Events, festivals, performance
- Places for trade
The Landscape, Parks, Public Realm and Streets - What are they for?

- Provide a complex range of benefits/services to towns.
- Make towns more habitable and beautiful.
- Enhance quality of life including health and social capital.

- Symbols of civic wealth, pride, identity, prestige.
- Democratic, free, equal places.
- Critical to town, community, individual identity.

No less important to successful urban economies and quality of life than the land use mix, transportation, telecommunication, electrical and drainage services.

- Attractiveness
- Competitiveness
- Investment and Economic Return

Fundamental to environmental sustainability.
Green Infrastructure

“A network of multi-functional green space... both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities”

Green Infrastructure delivers Ecosystem Services, ‘the benefits people obtain from the GI assets and functioning ecosystems’, including:

- Water attenuation and purification
- Air quality and microclimate
- Provision of food and materials
- Habitat for biodiversity
- Cultural services (recreation, sustainable mobility, aesthetic appreciation, inspiration for art and culture, sense of place, etc.)
Green Infrastructure

“A network of multi-functional green space... both rural and urban, which supports natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities”
Green Infrastructure Planning – Principles

- All GI assets form part of an interconnected network.
- All GI assets should be multi-functional.
- GI planning should maximise physical and functional connectivity between assets right across the town.
- The GI network includes:
  - spaces/assets in the hinterland around the town,
  - within the town at neighbourhood scale,
  - Local/street level assets.
Town/Hinterland Scale GI Assets

- Forest parks and demesnes
- Areas of high quality farmland/countryside and zoned greenbelt
- Rivers (and floodplains), canals
- Waterfront and lakes
- Former mineral extraction sites
- Designated habitats
- Recreation routes
- Road and railway network (approach routes, nodes and gateways)

How can the assets be enhanced in terms of function and connectivity/accessibility to improve the offer of the town?
Neighbourhood Scale GI Assets

- Parks and playgrounds
- Sports pitches
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- School and other institutional grounds
- Allotments
- Urban forest and hedgerows
- Rivers and floodplain, canals
- Waterfront/shoreline
- Brownfield and wasteland
Local Scale GI Assets

- Streets and alleys, pedestrian and cycle routes
- Squares, plazas and pocket parks
- Churchyards and cemeteries
- Streams, canals and ponds
- Heritage buildings and features
- Disused or derelict sites
- Etc.

GI Detailing

- Paving materials
- Street furniture (lighting, seating, bins, signage, railings)
- Street trees, verges, hedges
- Green roofs and walls
GI Plan Realised

Santiago de Calatrava (Spain)

30 years of GI planning has delivered...
Objectifs:
- Renouveau dans le fleurissement
- Discours clair et transparent pour agents, élus, angevins
- Économie de temps et sécurité à l’entretien
- Développement durable (économie d’eau, 0phyto)

Pistes de réflexion:
- Gammes identitaires
  (> Volet horticole:
    p.ex. rosiers, hortensias, …
  > Volet « grand paysage »:
    p.ex. buddleias, bouleaux, …
  > Volet « bocage »:
    p.ex. aubépine, chêne, cornouiller, …
  > Volet « végétaux hydrophiles », …)
- Gradation par volumétrie, densité, couleur, diversité et variétés de végétaux

SCHEMA DIRECTEUR DES AMENAGEMENTS PAYSAGERS DES VOIES PUBLIQUES

Cœur de quartier : Fleurissement spécifique (Annuelles et vivaces)

Entrée de ville / 2e couronne :
- Arbres structurants
- Arbustes à fleurs
- Engazonnement / Couvre-sol

1ere couronne :
- Arbres structurants
- Arbustes à fleurs
- Vivaces

Centre-ville :
- Arbres structurants
- Arbustes à fleurs
- Vivaces
- sophistiqué et structuré

Accompagnement linéaire :
- Arbres d’alignement
- Arbustes à fleurs
- Vivaces / Couvre-sol

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GI Planning with a focus on approach routes to the town centre

Angers, France:

Key Routes
Landscape Strategy
GI Planning with a focus on approach routes to the town centre

Landscape Design methodology _Road Transport Integration Research (RE)

Landscape Architects – Tony Williams and Eimear Fox

Courtesy of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
GI Planning
Neighbourhood Scale

Pau-Pyrenees (France)
Former wasteland condemned by flood risk
- Water management (attenuation, infiltration, flood prevention, de-pollution, etc.),
- Biodiversity (habitat protection, creation/diversification),
- Education, recreation/health, landscape amenity, urban/economic regeneration,
- Food production, community development.
Neighbourhood Scale

GI Realised

Vila Nova de Famalicao (Portugal): Quality in design, materials, craftsmanship

Vila Nova de Famalicao

(Portugal)

Former parking area:
- Market place,
- Plaza,
- Cultural events venue – place creation,
- Stimulus for investment in adjacent buildings.
Tree Pit Construction
Using Crushed Rock as Sub Base
Phase 1 Utility Diversions

Based on Stockholm Tree Pit Design – Orjan Stahl et al.
Phase 2 Main Infrastructure Works

Based on Stockholm Tree Pit Design – Orjan Stahl et al.

Contractor: Sisk Steconfer J.V.
Arborist: Felim Sheridan
Arborist: John Morgan
Ecologist: Colin Wilson
Landscape Architect: Fergal Parlon
January 2017
Final surfacing complete
O Connell GPO Tramstop
Pre Planting
Public Realm Developments

Vila Nova de Famalicao

Use of local materials and craftsmanship to create distinctiveness
GI Planning at Local/Street Scale: ‘Green Streets’

- Water management,
- Habitat,
- Amenity.
GI Planning for Place-making
Next Steps

Our role as landscape architects will be to

look at the village or town in its wider context
(1:50,000) i.e within the landscape, its connectivity to surroundings and adjacent urban centres.

Definition of the town and Village

No maximum or minimum size?

Ref. Dept. Environment definition (Tidy Towns)

The context must make reference to transport corridors, public transport, natural resources, topography, land use.....
We need to develop ‘Blue Sky’ projects............

Can we link the sea to the mountains, the rivers to the hinterland, the country side to the towns.

We need to inform and use current Government Strategies including

National Landscape Strategy
Biodiversity Plan
Pollination Plan

The corridors of roads, rivers and waterways

The nodes of lakes, parks and the landscape.............
Connectivity

Look at the town or village with reference to its immediate surroundings such as road network, public transport, connectivity to the rural hinterland. Connections such as rivers, tree lines, walkways and so on to the hinterland. (1:5000, 1:2000 and 1:1000)
Natural Resources, Agriculture and Economics

look at the town or village with reference to its immediate surroundings such as

Agriculture
Horticulture
Woodlands and natural Resources

at (1:5000, 1:2000 and 1:1000)

Is there an economic/ ecological benefit from including high value crops such as lavender, chamomile and producing secondary (oils) and tertiary products (cosmetics)

The countryside ‘feeding’ the local economy
look at the 'urban anatomy' of the village and town, its street patterns, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, open spaces (green, brown), both physically (size, orientation, boundaries) and quality of same (surfacing, lighting, dominance or otherwise of the car, parking and travelling)....

....opportunities for Blue / Green Infrastructure

so analysis at 1:500 to 1:100 and some details at 1:20 maybe.

Reference to the IFLA / UIA project on Indigenous Nodes and Corridors.....Prof. Rodger and T.Williams
Once this analysis is done, then it is a matter of developing proposals for improvements or development of opportunities.
Dialogue will be multi or transdisciplinary but as landscape architects we will lead some of the work as outlined above (or just plainly collaborate in workshop settings and design/analysis sessions)
Development of an active working groups and ‘small wins’

e.g.

improving green spaces

Surfacing design (hardscape)

Connectivity of spaces

Alternative car parking and car use policy

Ensuring a living village, the post office, shops, cafes,....
Related Work in progress
TII to assist the Department of Arts, heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Project management of the Development of A National Landscape Character Map and to be based on the methodology followed on the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Area (NIRLCA) map.

To be used as a planning tool and to inform landscape management and stewardship.
Landscape Design methodology

Research (RE): Landscape Character Assessment Mapping

Introduction

The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It will enable people to make informed decisions concerning the planning, management and protection of Northern Ireland’s landscapes. It provides a strategic overview of the landscape, which can be complemented by more detailed local studies in future. The NIRLCA aims to draw together information on people and place, and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This local identity can be referred to by the Irish term *dinnseanchas*, meaning the spirit of a place. This spirit results from the interactions of natural and human processes over time – processes which continue today since landscape must be viewed as a dynamic entity.

The NIRLCA has been developed to meet commitments set out in Northern Ireland’s Landscape Charter. Further information is contained in the Background Report, which is also available at the end of this document.
Landscape Design methodology _Road Transport Integration Research(RE)

TII Transport Landscape Typologies

1) Motorway Network
2) National Primary and Secondary Routes through both rural and town and roadside villages
3) Distributor Roads/Roundabouts
4) Transition areas between route types often gateways to settlements
5) Light Rail Corridors

Courtesy of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. (Landscape Architects – Tony Williams and Eimear Fox)

Graphic by Eimear Fox
Landscape Design methodology _ Road Transport Integration Research (RE)

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Graphic by Eimear Fox
Landscape Design methodology _Road Transport Integration Research(RE)

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Courtesy of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. (Landscape Architects – Tony Williams and Eimear Fox)

Graphic by Eimear Fox
Landscape fragmentation in Europe

Joint EEA-FOEN report

ISSN 1725-9177
National and International Projects

CIRIA proposal 3032
September 2016

Delivering green infrastructure along linear assets
Linear assets (for energy, transport and water) provide opportunities to create networks of multi-functional green infrastructure (GI) for additional benefits including biodiversity and landscape objectives, climate change adaptation and mitigating impacts such as surface water runoff, noise and air pollution. Effective planning and management of green infrastructure enhances the resilience of linear infrastructure assets and reduces whole life costs. Implementing green infrastructure into new build linear assets and retrofitting into existing situations will deliver multiple benefits, ecosystem services and improve the provision of natural capital.
An impact evaluation framework to support planning and evaluation of nature-based solutions projects
Indigenous Ecosystem Corridors and Nodes
A joint project of the UIA and the IFLA
INDIGENOUS ECOSYSTEM CORRIDORS AND NODES: MANAGING THE URBAN FOREST

Allan RODGER¹,⁷, Tony WILLIAMS¹, Yvonne LYNCH², Clare LOMBARDI³, Darren COUGHLAN³, Craig ROWLEY⁴, Toby KENT⁵, Michael NOLAN⁶.

¹International Union of Architect (UIA) and International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Indigenous Ecosystem Corridors and Nodes Project, ²Urban Forest and Ecology Project, Melbourne City Council, ³Greening the West Project, City West Water, Melbourne, ⁴LeadWest, Sunshine, ⁵Rockefeller Foundation Resilient Cities Project, Melbourne City Council, ⁶UN Global Compact: Cities Programme, RMIT, ⁷Habitat Melbourne Trust.
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IFLA Europe Trees and Vegetation Technical Working Group
Group in Formation

Other Associations

- Arboricultural association
- ECTP-CEU European Council of Spatial Planners
- ELCA – European Landscape Contractors Association
- Institutes of Horticulture
- Other

- National and European Universities

Institutions in particular

- Council of Europe
- European Commission. DG Environment, DG Market
- Other such as World Urban Parks,(Europe to start with )

You, me, us .................

And become in time......
IFLA Global Trees and Vegetation Technical Working Group

Photography by David Rowley
IFLA Europe Trees and Vegetation Technical Working Group
National e.g. Ireland
Possible members (group in formation)
Possibilities being realised

Universities –
• University College Dublin (UCD)
• UCD School of Landscape, Science
• Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
• TCD School of Botany
• TCD Department of Engineering

Other Commercial Sponsors with national focus

State Agencies
• e.g. Teagasc, An Bord Bia, TII, Office of Public Works

The public
Thank you! Go Raibh Maith Agaibh

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