



Landscape architecture: School's out

What is the state of education in landscape architecture? We asked Lincoln, Unitec and Victoria to characterise themselves.

LINCOLN: A LANDMARK YEAR FOR LANDSCAPE

40 is a milestone that is usually approached with some trepidation. However, for a landscape architecture programme it's something to be celebrated rather than dreaded. Next year, in fact, marks the achievement of two major milestones for the landscape architecture programme at Lincoln University; a year in which we look to the past with pride, and to the future with great anticipation.

The first of these significant events will be the celebration of 40 years of landscape architecture education at Lincoln University. In 1969 landscape architecture courses were first taught at what was then Lincoln College, following nearly 10 years of organisation, led by the late Charlie

Challenger. Like many programmes around the world, landscape architecture at Lincoln grew out of a horticulture programme, eventually becoming an autonomous department in 1991.

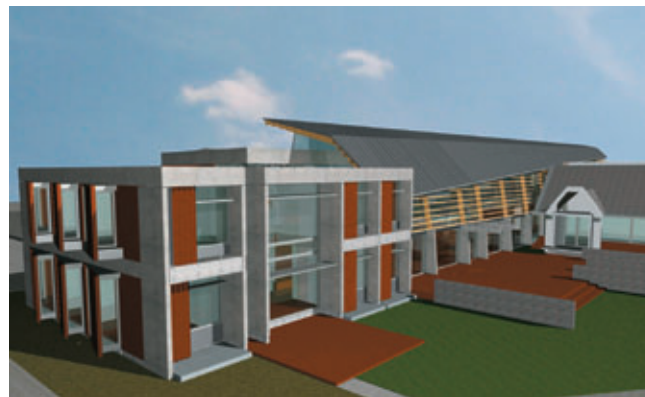
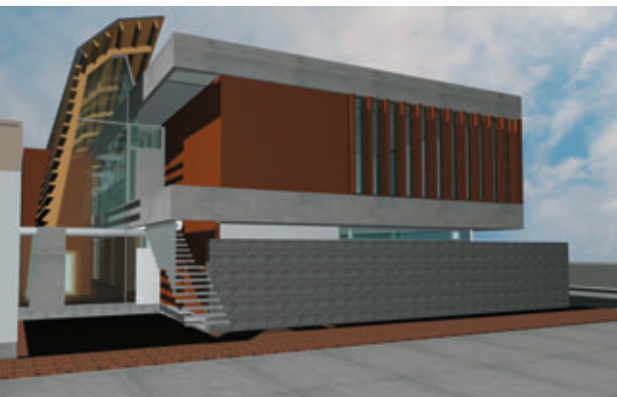
Lincoln's landscape architecture programme is central to the establishment of the profession in New Zealand, building up the foundation of graduates for both private practice and the extensive public works of the 1970s. The predecessor of *Landscape New Zealand*, the journal of the NZILA, which was called *The Landscape*, was also established under Charlie Challenger's leadership and, in the early days, a landscape architecture consultancy service was run out of what was known as the Landscape Section. These activities formed an

important part of the establishment of the profession in New Zealand.

Since its beginnings in the late 1960s, the Lincoln University programme has notched up a number of significant firsts, including being the first place to teach landscape architecture in New Zealand. For the first couple of decades education was focused on the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture. This was phased out in 1989, when the first Bachelor of Landscape Architecture programme began. The following year the first Master of Landscape Architecture degree was awarded, and the first BLA graduates completed in 1993. In 1997 the first PhD in landscape architecture was awarded. In 1998 the first professor of landscape architecture in New

Zealand was appointed, when Simon Swaffield gained a personal chair at the university after having taught in the programme since 1982. Simon was also the foundational head of the Department of Landscape Architecture in 1991.

The second of the landmark events for 2009 will be the opening of the new landscape architecture building. This will be a major development for the programme, and will be another first for landscape architecture nationwide, being the only purpose-designed landscape architecture studios in New Zealand. The building includes a suite of computer labs on the ground floor, as well as dedicated studio space on the first floor. An atrium space combines both passive solar heating and cooling with opportunities for



Previous page: Lincoln's new building takes shape, Memorial Hall to the left.

View from the library looking towards the staff offices in the foreground, and the warping structure of the roof and sunscreen beyond; Stewart lecture theatres to the right.

West elevation, entry from the Student Union/ Recreation Centre area of campus, with the teaching studios above the computer labs on the ground floor; Stewart lecture theatres just to the left.

exhibition and gatherings.

Designed by Sheppard and Rout with Royal Associates, the new building will be part of a complementary group of facilities at the heart of the campus, comprising the historic Ivey Hall and Memorial Hall, and the award-winning Stewart lecture theatres. The studio teaching environment will be greatly enhanced, with greater opportunities for students to mix between years and have the chance to be exposed to the projects being undertaken in other classes. Lighting, which is one of the most important parts of a studio setting, will be a key feature of the new studios, making use of natural light as much as possible.

The coming year will therefore be one in which landscape architecture moves from strength to strength at Lincoln University and we are planning a series of events to mark the occasion. To commemorate the 40th anniversary, we are organising a weekend based around class reunions for alumni, planned for 6-8 November 2009. Lincoln has a strong tradition of class reunions, run through the alumni office, and we are looking forward to welcoming as many graduates as possible to the weekend's festivities.

Linked to this will be a day-long research event, which will be part of the NZILA CPD programme. "In/ Forming Landscape: Recent Research in Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University" will include presentations from staff and PhD and Masters students, aimed at the dissemination of research findings to the profession. Building on a proud tradition of

landscape architecture education and embracing the excitement that the new building brings, Landscape at Lincoln sets its sights clearly on the next 40 years of growth and innovation.

We are looking forward to welcoming the profession to the campus, to celebrate the 40th anniversary, and enjoy the new facilities!

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