

Country /City	United Kingdom / Newcastle upon Tyne
University / School	Newcastle University / Master of Landscape Architecture
And the second se	2022/2023
	Learning with Plants: creating a co-habitat for plants and people in a school and community context
The second second second second second	Alison Unsworth
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Title of the project	Learning with Plants: creating a co-habitat for plants and people in a school and community context
Authors	Alison Unsworth
Title of the course	Design Thesis
Academic year	2022/2023
Teaching Staff	Dr Usue Ruiz Arana
Department / Section / Program of belonging Master of Landscape Architecture	

Newcastle University University / School



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The thesis proposes a landscape design at the site of an existing playing fields and secondary school which will create a rich and varied environment for students, staff and the local community to learn with plants. Planting and landscape design across a series of school and community gardens demonstrates (1) a positive and innovative approach to using landscape assets as a context for learning (2) how plants can help us maximise the ways in which the site can address the climate and biodiversity emergencies. The school gardens create a plant-rich environment which supports the everyday school experience for young people and staff. The wider community gardens provide a series of exploratory routes and destinations designed to facilitate opportunities to support the school's curriculum which is delivered through cross-disciplinary learning expeditions. The approach is led by a series of design principles, informed by research, to guide the development of proposals for the site. The principles focus on the co-habitation of plants and people across the school and community gardens. The site consists of made ground which is likely to include colliery shale from the former colliery which was located in the South East corner of the site. Accepting these environmental constraints, topographical changes have been minimised to avoid exposing contaminants and a walled garden has been incorporated to provide edible planting in raised beds. Elements of the existing school grounds have been repurposed where possible to reduce the carbon impact of the proposed design.

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LEARNING WITH PLANTS

design principles for Windy Nook school and community gardens



O1 Use **MANY MORE PLANTS** to dramatically increase carbon sequestration.¹

O2 Allow for **DESIGN BY HUMANS and DESIGN BY PLANTS** in a mutualistic relationship of cooperation.²

O3 ACCEPT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, selecting plants that will tolerate and thrive in environmental conditions rather then seeking to change them.³

O4 Design for genetic, functional and structural **DIVERSITY** in planting to increase biodiversity⁴ and create a variety of spatial and sensory experiences for learners.

05 Make room to **EXPERIMENT** with new species combinations in plant communities, with new materials and to find new ways of doing things. Accept the possibility of failure.

06 Use plants to **CREATE AND SHAPE SPACES** rather than merely filling those which are already defined.

07 Embrace **AESTHETICS FOR PLEASURE** because we can bring joy to human experience for its own sake.

08 Encourage learners to be **CURIOUS** through invitations to take notice and explore.

09 Provide varied opportunities for **INVOLVEMENT** of school and community learners to tend, grow, create, make, build and be active in ways that they choose.⁵

10 Design with an understanding that **CHANGE IS CONSTANT**. The composition and boundaries of most plant communities are fluid.⁶ Learners have varied and changing behaviours and preferences.

11 Let plants grow and plan for a process of **RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT** which makes well-considered interventions only where necessary.⁷

Notes: I. "Plants can help us. Only they are able to bring the concentration of CO2 back to safe levels. [...] There should just be one simple rule: wherever it is possible for a plant to live, there must be one." Mancuso, S. (2022) The Nation of Plants. Profile Books p. 93 2. "Plants are masters of cooperation and, through alliances and communities, they have succeeded in building mutualistic societies in any and all earthly environments." Mancuso, S. (2022) The Nation of Plants. Profile Books p. 138 3. Rainer, T. and West, C. (2015) Planting in a post-wild world: Designing plant communities for resilient landscapes. Timber Press. p. 47 4. Beck, T. (2013) Principles of Ecological Landscape Design. Island Press. 5. "Studies indicate that a higher degree of involvement, or mental engagement, yields greater mental restoration." Mooney, P. (2019) Planting Design: Connecting People and Place. Routledge., p 35 6. Rainer, T. and West, C. (2015) Planting in a pastwild world: Designing plant communities for resilient landscapes. Timber Press. p. 30 7. Rainer, T. and West, C. (2015) Planting in a post-wild world: Designing plant communities for resilient landscapes Timber Press. p. 61

alison unsworth | design thesis | May 2023 | Master of Landscape Architecture | Newcastle University











School Gardens - daily mile route.



Proposed planting for School Gardens - daily mile route. Top to bottom: 5 years - summer, 10 years - summer, 10 years - winter Species:

Tree Layer: Acer pseudoplatanus, Sycamore; Sorbus aria, Whitebeam; Prunus avium, Wild Cherry; Prunus padus, Bird Cherry; Betula pendula, Common Silver Birch; Betula pubescens, Downy Birch

Herbaceous: Deschampsia cespitosa, Tufted Hair Grass; Deschampsia flexuosa, Wavy Hair Grass; Deschampsia flexuosa 'Tatra Gold', Wavy Hair Grass 'Tatra Gold'; Holcus Ianatus, Yorkshire Fog; Geranium pratense, Meadow Cranesbill; Leucanthemum vulgare, Ox-eye Daisy; Origanum vulgare, Oregano; Primula vulgaris, Primrose; Foeniculum vulgare, Fennel; Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum', Bronze Fennel; Achillea filipendulina 'Gold Plate', Femleaf Yarrow 'Gold Plate'; Achillea millefolium, Yarrow; Achillea millefolium 'Summer Pastels', Milfoil 'Summer Pastels'; Achillea 'Summerwine', Yarrow 'Summerwine'; Achillea 'Terracotta', Yarrow 'Terracotta'; Achillea 'Walther Funcke', Yarrow 'Walther Funcke'; Ajuga reptans, Bugle; Tanacetum vulgare, Common Tansy; Armeria maritima, Sea Thrift.

Ground cover: Campanula patula, Spreading Bellflower; Vinca minor, Lesser Periwinkle





Walled Garden





	Country /City	United Kingdom, Newcastle upon Tyne
L	University / School	Newcastle University/ School of Architecture Planning and Landscape
	Academic year	2022 - 2023
	Title of the project	Experimental: Destruction - Recreation
ç	Authors	Aditi Shinde
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Title of the project	Experimental: Destruction - Recreation	
Authors		
Title of the course	Aditi Shinde	
	Master of Landscape Architecture / Design Thesis - APL 8012	
Academic year	2022 - 2023	
Teaching Staff	Robert Golden, Usue Ruiz Arana	
Department / Section / Program of belonging School of Architecture Planning and Landscape/		
	Landscape Architecture	

University / School Newcastle University



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Postindustrial sites are a legacy of the industrial age that has contributed to nation building in the past. However, such sites also leave behind industrial waste materials. The site chosen for the following project is in Pallion, a former ship building yard in Sunderland in the North East of England. Ship building yards come and go, leaving behind large amounts of inert industrial wastes like concrete, which are taken over and broken down by natural elements like water and vegetation with time. Water is visualized as a constructive and destructive element, and is a critical factor for the ship building industry.

Reflecting on site history and exploring the parallel relationship between natural factors present on site with concrete drives the design that reclaims this postindustrial site. Therefore, the project 'Experimental: Destruction - Recreation', explores the potential of erosion of concrete by existing elements on site: water and transgressive vegetation. The project seeks to identify and facilitate natural processes on site that follow a pattern of destruction and recreation, to encourage alternative methods of industrial land reclamation. Concrete is eroded by water, facilitating the release of alkalis and precipitation of calcium carbonate, leading to concrete's destruction. This is seen as an opportunity and experimentally explored to establish shallow alkaline calcareous grasslands.

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Proposed Masterplan Reflecting on the site history and existing site conditions the plan proposes for destruction of concrete to recreate calcareous grasslands on the Eastern side and builds a contrast by proposing woodland on the water logged areas on site, critically highlighting the effects of industrialisation. NORTH Scale - 1:1000 AT A1 0 1 2 3 4 5 1 1 1 1 M RIVER WEAR KEY AREAS A - Drop Off B - Car Park C - Service Ar ng Bare Rubble Proposed Interpretation Wreck of SS Cretehawse ved and Stabilized insit LEGEND 1 -





Proposed shallow alkaline calcareous grassland

Calcerous Grasslands are one of the rare rare habitats of the U.K. growing on soils containing chalk and limestone rich in calcium carbonate.



Species rich grassland are most diverse in terms of wildflowers and grasses, which supports characteristic species of moths and butterflies.

Chalk Carpet Moth Small Tortoise Common Blue

Shell Butterfly

Aglais urticae

Supporting Species

Scotopteryx

bipunctaria

Cowslip

Butterfly Bush Buddleja Davidii



Yorkshire Fog Grass Holcus lanatus



Cock Foot Grass Dactylis glomerata

Aricia artaxerxes Aglais io

Durham Argus

Butterfly

salmacis

Common Rock Rose Helianthemum nummularium

Greater Knapweed

Centaurea scabiosa





Peacock Dingy Skipper Butterfly Erynnis tages



Least Minor

Moth

Photedes

captiuncula

Butterfly

Polyommatus

icarus

Creative Visulisation of Elevated Walkway along the Wreck of S.S. Cretehawser

Creative Visulisation of Concrete Ponds and Destruction Zone





Creative Visulisation of Travel Platform over Repurposed Rail Assembly







Authors Jahnabi Barua

Journey of Becoming

Soundscape for Hospice

MLA Design Thesis



Title of the project	Journey of Landscape: Soundscape for Hopice
Authors	Jahnabi Barua
Title of the course	MLA Design Thesis
Academic year	Year 2 (2022-23)
Teaching Staff	Dr Usue Ruiz Arana, Stef Leach
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Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

The confluence of perception and spirituality, celebrating the journey of life. A design thesis on incorporating a walking trail and hospice at the Old Fulling Mill on the bank of river Wear, Durham, England. My project is a celebration of Nature and the natural trajectory of human existence. It is built around the theme that Life begins, sustains and ends in water- Nature's most integral element. More practically, it attempts to change the conversation around Death- a subject intimately and unavoidably associated with grief, loss and suffering. Rather, I propose looking at it in a new light- one of growth, love and reconnection to Nature, celebration of the life one lived. The design style I used in the project is largely based around crafting experiences to stimulate the viewer, and going beyond the mere physical representation. I attempted to explicate the emotional aspects of the site design by incorporating artworks, poetry, storytelling, physical models and sonic illustrations. I consciously used a more informal style in the masterplan, sections and perspective drawings in accordance with this vision. I was keen to used sound and dynamic elements such as water and wind in my design approach to push myself beyond what I previously considered to be my boundaries as a proponent and student of Landscape Architecture.

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Survey and Analysis

Site location



Site Location: Durham Riverbanks, Near Durham Cathedral, England Site Area: 9 ha Land mass area: 5.3 ha



Framewellgate Bridge on Silver Street is the access point for the Historic Walking Trails along the site. South Street is the closest motorable road for accessing the site, and for emergency purposes. Presently, it is accessible via Framewellgate Bridge and Prebends Bridge

The nearest Bus Stands are North Road (temporary) and Millburngate which are a 7-10 minute walk from the site. The nearest railway station is the Durham station, which is approximately 1km away.

SWOT Analysis





Sound survey

Site Boundar Vacant buildin Deathering

Walking trail



Date: 20/10/2022 Thursday Time: 12:45 PM Weather condition: Light rain and fog 12 / 10 °C Wind: 8.7 mph



Date: 29/12/2022 Thursday Time: 12:45 PM Weather condition: Scattered clouds 8 / 5 °C Wind: 21.128 mph



Date: 26/02/2023 Sunday Time: 10:00 AM Weather condition: Partly sunny 7 / 5 °C Wind: 7.457 mph



Date: 11/11/2022 Friday Time: 12:30 PM Weather condition: Scattered clouds 17 / 16 °C Wind: 19.264 mph



Weather condition: Light rain. Scattered clouds $\,$ 12 / 10 $^{\circ}\text{C}$



Date: 19/04/2023 Wednesday Time: 14:30 PM Weather condition: Passing clouds $\,$ 12 / 11 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ Wind: 11.807 mph

Existing historical and geological water features



Waterfalls in the site

Existing wildlife The site is a very rich habitat for wildlife.

Mammals

European otte Weasel

Lesser hors Grey squirrel

European bac Beaver

Bank vole

Water vole

Water shrew

Church bell rings (Occar

Church bell rings (Cent

Noise (Industrial, Urban Water gushing sound Echoing zone
(Naikway under the bri

Reflecting surface

Sound of wind

Sound of people

R Amphibians Marsh frog Palmate newt Natterjack toad Common toad Common frog

23 -

ALC ST

Historic buildings on site

Proposed for restoration and hospice used









Major medical organisations around



The closest health centers to the site are St. Margaret's Health Center, Claypath Me dical Center, and the Un Center: all of which are within walking distance to the site. The closest hospice is St. Cuthbert's Hospice, which is 1.5 miles from the site. The University Hospital of North Durham and the Lanchester Road hospital are the closest hospitals, approximately 1.5 and 2.7 miles away respectively.

Existing contours



The topography is very steep and goes down towards the river ranging from 31 to 70.



Green tortoise beetle Common mayfly Land caddis Common green lacewing Large Red Damselfly Azure damselfly Emerald damselfly 2-spot ladybird 7-spot ladybird

> Butterflies Scotch argus Adonis blue Marsh fritillary Y Green-veined white Speckled wood Silver-washed fritillary

> > Rirde Snipe Common gull Ring-necked p Wood warble Great tit Garden warble Whitethroat Robin Grey heron Glossy ibis Mallard Wigeon

Freshwater fish Atlantic salmon Dace River lamprey Rainbow trout Brown trout Bullhead Eel



The riverbanks are home to many species of plants. Broadleaved ancient woodland of mostly oak and beech trees, some of which are around 350 years old. There are also yew, hombeam and common lime trees. In winter, the line of lime trees are most noticeable on the lower riverbank path from Framwellgate Bridge to the Fulling Mill.

The riverbank brings together the Durham Cathedral, the Durham university and the historic core and connect the whole city. Nevertheless, presently the riverbanks faec challenges including accessibility, connectivity and wayfinding, derelict heritage assets, and wnership and maintenance

Design Philosophy

Poem self-written on the thesis concept

—Khalil Gibran



NBS Strategies





Bubble diagram of the concept on the site plan





Design Proposal











Soft elevated landform
Landing by the river
Meditation space

Steps to the river Wading bridge





y switched to o ensure that the laries during the



20

Sections

Sonic lea Geolocated sound track f before entering the main



The 'Elevate'

Visualisat









Art Strategy



















50











Title of the project	Granton: Wave of Change. From an Industrial Past to a Resilient Future.	
Authors	Małgorzata Ewa Gudel	
Title of the course	MLA Design Thesis	Contraction of the second
Academic year	2022/2023	
Teaching Staff	Adriana Oliveros Blanco, David Barter, Usue Ruiz Arana	
Department / Section	on / Program of belonging Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)	

University / School Newcastle University / School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Wave of Change is a project focused on two important themes, climate change mitigation through nature based solutions and re-purposing of the industrial heritage of the site. The project is set in Granton, a coastal neighbourhood located in northern Edinburgh, which is particularly known for its industrial character. Although the area contains one of the largest brownfield sites in Scotland, it is also a rich intertidal zone inhabited by a number of invertebrates and endangered bird species. This dynamic ecosystem belongs to the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest. According to predictions by Climate Central, by 2050 a large part of my site is going to be under annual flood level. For this reason, I took a watercentric approach to my design. My proposal aims to create a space where intertidal habitat connects seamlessly with former gasworks area, creating a variety of spaces for both human and non-human enjoyment. Instead of using hard engineering to contain the tides, the project focuses on managed retreat and creation of a saltmarsh in preparation for the future sea level rise. The remainders of industrial past are given a new life and purpose. No materials are wasted. Rubble, mounds of worked earth and old railway tracks are used to create a new sculpture park, where visitors can learn about the rich past of the site and reflect on its unfulfilled futures.

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Transition zone

Open and dense woodland

0 m

Tidal Mudflats

Low Saltmarsh

1.5 m

BARNESS MASSIN

High Saltmarsh



Habitat for birds, insects and mammals



Spring

uunin



Green terraces stabilize the

slope

Pathways designed to be accessible



Grassland and scrub Grassland and scrub





Country /City	Newcastle Upon Tyne	
University / School	Newcastle University	
Academic year	2023	
Title of the project	Coria Avon - Water's Meeting Place	
Authors	Victoria Hole	
Ness Planess	Start Contraction	

Title of the project	Coria Avon - Water's Me	eting Place
Authors	Victoria Hole	
Title of the course	Landscape Architecture	MLA
Academic year	2023	
Teaching Staff	Usue Ruiz Arana, Stef Le	each, Robert Golden
Department / Section / Program of belonging		Newcastle University APL

University / School

Newcastle University APL



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Climate change mitigation is becoming increasingly more vital throughout practice in Landscape Architecture, wider professions and directly applies to the longevity and protection requirement of our historical assets. This thesis aims to provide a sustainable multi-functional solution to improve climate resilience across our landscapes, restore native habitats to reinvigorate our ecological diversity, and protect and enhance the interpretation of our heritage assets. By addressing the flooding issues at Corbridge, longevity and higher resilience can be promoted downstream towards Newcastle Upon Tyne and other urban settlements. The key factors influencing this thesis involve restoration and recreation of historic landscapes and flood plains to manage storm-water and periods of inundation to mitigate flooding both within the site and downstream. This must be balanced with interpreting historic landscapes and urban features through landscape interventions to promote engagement and understanding of cultural heritage. Yet a strong promotion towards enhancing Biodiversity through habitat creation and long-term re-wilding of lost landscapes is considered throughout. The existing site within Corbridge's Roman Town describes a narrow area which holds tremendous opportunity both within its environmental opportunities and its historical rejuvenation. This allows for intervention having been one of the most significant British sites within the Roman Empire.

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Kev:

In Corbridge's fields and meadows fair, The ancient gods and goddesses there, Each with their own sacred domain, Rule o'er the earth, the sky, and the plain.

Flora, with her blossoms bright, Governs the fields with gentle might, Where primroses and violets grow, And spring's sweet fragrance does bestow. Ceres, goddess of the fruitful land, Nurtures the crops with a loving hand, Wheat and barley, fruits of the earth, Her bountiful blessings they bring to birth.

Faunus, the god of the forest and glade, Watches over the meadows and their shade, Where hawthorn, elder, and wild rose, Their petals to the summer breeze disclose.

Pomona, goddess of the orchard and tree, Ensures the fruit ripens for you and me, Apples, cherries, and all manner of fruit, Sweet and luscious, their taste astute.

With each meadow and field, the gods abide, Their power felt with each passing tide, Nature's bounty, a gift from above, Reminding us of their eternal love.

	Hard works
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contours	
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trees to be retained	
trees to be removed	
d trees	
grassland	
d	
ne	
n retention ponds	
oof and museum	
finish grassland	A anni
ntal planting	E O/
nd habitat	
and wild-flower plantin	ng
d under-storey planting	

11	
\rightarrow	Existing Roman remains excavated
	Docks
L	Bridge
Skill	Look-out points
K	Self-binding gravel
	Meadow Planting (varies in colour)
Ċ	Cafe seating
	Decked pathway
and a second	Play-scape
ana c	Central bound gravel pathways
	Outer-wall walkway
	Admission booths
	Roman high-street stone paving wit engraved coin and lighting features
< r	Leaky dam
(Rocks
n ()	Car park spaces on gravel surface
15	Cycle parking
	Electric car charging points
-	Platoon crossing
	Asphalt vehicle access





In Corbridge's fields and meadows fair, The gods and goddesses still hold sway, Their legacy, forever bound, In the beauty of nature that does surround.













