BOOK REVIEWS

The Andy Goldsworthy Project
MOLLY DONOVAN & TINA FISKE
THAMES & HUDSON, HARDCOVER, 2010, 224 PAGES. RRP £35.00

This is the first scholarly book in almost twenty years on acclaimed British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. His work is reminiscent of ancient agricultural craftsmanship and his tectonic work is often deeply embedded in the history of the land. The Andy Goldsworthy Project presents an illustrated catalogue of Goldsworthy's permanent installations between 1984 and 2008 in over three hundred photographs. However, the most revealing segment of the book is the journey from conception to completion of his commissioned work for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC in 2003. This two-phase project comprised, firstly, a series of ephemeral works on Government Island in Virginia. The book shares Goldsworthy's handwritten diary entries during the nine-day construction and his personal struggles and methodology. The second phase of the project was Reef, a sculpture comprised of nine stacked slate hollow domes installed on the ground level of the East Building of the gallery. The complete project is a true reflection of Goldsworthy’s style – the use of arresting natural materials in remote locations – and the book serves as a reminder of his eminence of collection. This is an arresting read to add to the library.

Rural Australian Gardens
MYLES BALDWIN, MURDOCH BOOKS, HARDCOVER, 2010, 288 PAGES. RRP $59.95

Having trained at Sydney’s Royal Botanic Gardens and Government House, leading landscape designer and author Myles Baldwin takes a step back from the municipal gardens he’s accustomed to and enters the country side to discover the best Rural Australian Gardens. Travelling across Australia through a variety of climates, Baldwin’s botanical discoveries are enhanced by the stories behind the gardens. He also discovers a link between these gardens and the resourcefulness of their gardeners – a resourcefulness that seemingly comes hand in hand with rural life. Through the full-page photographs of Simon Griffiths, the elaborate details and colours of these gardens are captured, as well as the years and effort that helped create them. The photos depict perfectly pruned hedges forming a line-set green fence around a flourishing rose garden and stone cupids sitting silently within their foliage hedges. Placed against the background of homesteads and flat landscapes, these gardens bring life and splendour to these distinct Australian areas. In addition, Baldwin provides readers with horticultural advice on using different plant species, including trees, shrubs and perennials.

Kerb 18: PlastCity FantastCity
RAIT PRESS, PAPERSCUT, VOLUME 18 2010, 122 PAGES. RRP $55.45

RMIT University’s latest issue of Kerb centres on its international design competition, PlastCity FantastCity. With an unusually open-ended brief involving unfortissimo concepts through hyper-translation and vague verbal stimulants such as “fun,” “childish” and “playful moments,” the competition’s entries were always bound to be stirring. With this competition, as the jury explains, they “sought to relinquish landscape architecture and allied designers from the contemporary constructs of the design industry. It sought to remind them why they chose to become designers.” The outcomes are indeed intriguing and diverse. From six-bit comic strips about an American post-merger romantic fairytale storybook set in village cities, the finalist projects successfully demonstrate “new conceptual opportunities through hyper-scaling present issues, whether they concern urban growth, deplopping resources, micro-scale initiatives, self-induced chaos or the important role of national aspects within them.” The competition does a great deal to unearth the untapped talent of young landscape architecture students from across the world, making Kerb 18: PlastCity FantastCity a real collective – an inspiration board of imagination and fantasy.

Innovative Approaches to Researching Landscape and Health
EDITED BY CATHARINE WARD THOMPSON, PETER ASPINALL & SIMON RILEY, ROUTLEDGE, HARDCOVER, 2010, 250 PAGES. RRP US$49.00

This book builds on research performed by the UK’s OPENspace research centre, which focuses on inclusive access to outdoor environments. Organized into four parts, Innovative Approaches to Researching Landscape and Health delves into the gaps and opportunities in research on landscape and health. Despite increasing longevity, modern desk-bound lifestyles, with their limited time for outdoor activities, have caused an alarming rise in obesity, mental health issues and cardiovascular diseases. This book addresses the paradigm needed to appropriately research the links between outdoor environments and health in support of healthy lifestyles and wellbeing. One of the key theories that runs through the book is “affordance,” linking environment and human behaviour, or opportunities for action. The theory is explored in a number of ways, including the motivations behind affordances and why the relationship between individuals and their environment may lead to stress or to restoration. Valuable theories are presented in this book; but also – importantly – valuable possibilities.

WHAT’S ON SHOW

- decorative products
- furniture
- irrigation
- landscape supplies
- lighting
- machinery
- plants
- playground equipment
- software
- stone / paving
- turf
- more

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- architects
- councils
- designers
- developers
- green staff
- horticulturalists
- irrigation specialists
- landscapers
- maintenance contractors
- any professional in the landscape industry

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