

BOOKS

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Photo: Hal Moggridge



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SLOW GROWTH: ON THE ART OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



BY: Hal Moggridge

PUBLISHED BY:

Unicorn

PRICE: £30

ISBN: 978-1910787427

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE architecture?

This is the question asked by author Hal Moggridge in this substantial and fascinating book. The question is answered with an extensive study from a lifetime's work with Colvin & Moggridge, the longest established landscape architecture practice in the country.

The work is divided into 11 chapters, and ranges from the restoration of 18th-century landscapes, via the design of quarries, and on to urban parks and city skylines. The book reminds us that reticent design can be the most beautiful, and that for a landscape to succeed it must be part of the cycle of life.

The first chapter is about people and is an important reminder of why we are modifying the surface of the earth. The author considers how people behave out of doors, whether it be in a country park or an urban street, and how in the natural spaces of urban parkland, people behave in a relaxed way, even when crowded together.

This is a large book, full of fascinating case studies with plenty of photographs and lively pencil sketches to illustrate the process behind the designs. Each chapter begins with a thoughtful discussion on the concepts covered, be that artworks in landscape, natural play or the concept of beauty. Moggridge

considers the principal materials of vegetation, soils, water, ground surface and landform, noting that humans can not truly alter these, only rearrange them.

The book shares many large-scale naturalistic-style landscape projects, but there are lessons here for landscape architects and garden designers operating at any scale. It reminds us to appreciate that landscape creation is a slow-moving art, conserving and modifying, and that we need to look to the past when looking ahead to the future. Maybe it's time to slow down?

**Carolyn Willitts CMLI &
Pre-Registered SGD Member**

THE GARDEN IN LONDON THAT SHOULD NOT BE
BY: KIRK
PUBLISHED BY: KIRK
PRICE: £10.00
ISBN: 978-1-904768-10-0