CREATING NATURE-BASED CITIES:
SYNERGIES OF INTERDISCIPLINARY PLANNING & DESIGN

Judy Bush1 and Sareh Moosavi2
1Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, Australia
2Faculty of Architecture, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

KEY CHALLENGES OF PLANNING AND DESIGNING NBS IN 21ST CENTURY:
• Identifying and prioritising key functions to address local needs;
• Balancing conflicting needs in the built environment and the needs of those less vocal or visible;
• Responding to climate change using scientific data;
• Responding to uncertainty in the short- and long-term.

Urban Planning and Landscape Design have complimentary roles in fostering innovation in operationalising NBS, given their scale and scope of focus in shaping the built environment.

Research Aim:
To highlight the complementary contributions of urban planning and landscape design in operationalising NbS for climate change adaptation.

REFERENCES:

'PERFORMATIVE THINKING'
Shifts the focus to the performance of Nature-based Solutions; how they function and change.
• It provides a mechanism for data-driven and evidence based planning & design, linking policy, science and practice;
• Enables adaptive management and engagement with uncertainty;
• Helps fostering visualisation, and effective participation;
• Supports performance evaluation through experimentation, e.g. scenarios;
• Engages with temporality in nature-based systems.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SYNERGIES
• Integrate creativity with regulatory status
• Integrate participatory approaches into creative design development – Co-design/Co-create
• Develop innovative approaches to engage with temporality and change

DESIGN AND PLANNING NEXUS

DESIGN
• Creativity
• Ecological literacy
• 'Ecological aesthetics'
• Engaging with temporality
• Synergies between 'nature' and 'culture'

PLANNING
• Bringing functional focus to land use
• Addressing trade-offs and competition
• Participatory approaches
• Providing regulatory status to decisions

STRENGTH
WEAKNESS
• Lacks regulatory status
• Lacks mechanisms to promote participation
• Limited critical engagement with policy and politics
• Lacks connections/expertise with ecology and natural dynamics
• Tendencies towards 'path dependency', reinforcing the potential lack of institutional innovation

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