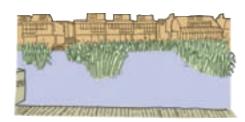
3 Strengthen the identity and structure of the landscape Identify those landscape features for inclusion in a scheme which contribute towards the unique character of a site. Particularly on greenfield sites, every effort should be made to work with the 'grain' of the land and incorporate existing features of the landscape into a scheme. Reviving historic features provides opportunities to enrich outdoor space and can include natural and man-made elements, from watercourses and streams to ancient field boundaries.

The intrinsic landscape characteristics for evaluation include topography; orientation; aspect and prospect; current landscape assets (trees, water, habitat etc) and liabilities; contaminated, despoiled and poorly drained land, unsightly structures; overhead lines and utility facilities.



Ecolonia's layout is centred on a reed-fringed pond, with buildings orientated to maximise solar gain



Highest density homes are located in the central area and enjoy a direct relationship with the water

Ecolonia: A model c	of low-energy housing
Location	Ecolonia, Alphen aan den Rijn, The Netherlands
Promoter	NOVEM - Dutch Government Trust for Energy
	and the Environment
Design Team	Urban Designer / Masterplanner: Atelier Lucien Kroll, Brussels
Details	The Masterplan provides the framework for nine different
	architects, each given a particular design priority:
	Energy
	1 Bakker, Boots, Van Haaren, Van der Donk, Schagen
	(high insulation)
	2 J.P. Moehrlein, Groningen (solar energy)
	3 Hopman bv, Delft (low embodied energy and in use)
	Recycling
	4 BEAR architects, Gouda (economy of water and materials)
	5 Alberts & van Huut, Amsterdam (durable materials)
	6 Lindeman c.s., Cuijik (flexibility and adaptability)
	Quality
	7 Vakgroep FAGO, Technical University, Eindhoven
	(acoustic insulation)
	8 Peter van Gerwen, Amersfoort (health and safety)
	9 Archi Service, s'Hertogenbosch (bio-ecology)
Developer	Bouwfonds Woningbouw Housing Association
Project	101 housing units (constructed between 1991-93) in groups of
	8 to 18 buildings to foster a sense of community, each with
	different environmental design priorities (see above). A reed-
	fringed pond with bisecting canals forms the focal point.
Details	Ecolonia is heralded as the most important EU-funded low-
	energy housing demonstration project to date. The project is
	organised to develop a wide range of new technologies and
	housing designs, each focussed on different ecological aspects.These include the
	 use of rainwater;
	 use of passive and active solar energy;
	 energy saving strategies;
	 reduction in water consumption;
	 recyclability of building materials;
	 organic architecture;
	durable materials;
	 flexible ground plans;
	 soundproofing;
	 healthy building materials.
	The performance of buildings is subject to on-going
	testing, evaluation and monitoring.
Contact	Novem by, Orderpoint Publications, PO Box 17,
	NL-6130 AA SITTARD Fax: 00 31 46 452 82 60