



## Responsiveness

Responsiveness can be regarded as one of the most desirable qualities of a designed place. This means responsiveness to people, to nature and to place. Designers need to be informed about people's uses and experience of landscape and then respond to this in design. At the same time they need to understand natural processes and systems and respond by protecting, enhancing, adapting or restoring these. Being responsive to place means developing a sensitivity to landscapes and their specific character or distinctiveness before changing them. Change is inherent in design but landscape architects need to respect existing qualities and context.

## Originality

While responsiveness is paramount in design, simply being responsive does not amount to design. Landscape architects need to develop ideas about what places might be as well as understand what they are or have been. Designers need to be original. What originality means in any given context can vary, and newness in landscapes has always been contentious. 'Avant-garde' approaches to landscape (newness or difference for its own sake) are limited because they often fail to address sufficiently people's use of places (and natural processes). At the other extreme, designing purely on the basis of social functions or seeing design as the result simply of analytical and scientific activity, or fearing newness in design, are also inadequate. The challenge and attraction of landscape architecture is the need for integrated, original ideas for people, place and nature. This is especially important in the context of sustainability.