

This study debates the proposition that traditional design values and practice contribute to the fragmented adoption of genuine sustainable ecological applications within the urban landscape. It contends that rather than enriching, civilizing and sustaining urbanity; the reliance on time-honoured practices contributes to the establishment of bland and fundamentally unsustainable public spaces. As the demarcation between landscape and architecture becomes less profound the role of ecology is also viewed as integral to 'placeness'. The fusion of spatial form and ecology serves as a valuable addition to sustainable development, but this practice is rarely successfully implemented within many urban developments. The reasons for this are considered and evaluated and the role of built environment professions in establishing a more nature inspired design practice is reviewed.