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Inverness Campus Masterplan: Landscape Framework and Public Realm/Public Art Strategy

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Diagram: Understanding Regional Landscape Thresholds as a means of structuring the Inverness Campus Masterplan.



Lisa Mackenzie was appointed as Landscape Architectural Consultant to Highlands and Island Enterprise in 2008. This is a nationally significant planning project for Scotland and “represents a substantial and significant investment in the future of the area and wider region. It will allow the achievement of learning, research and business innovation outcomes linked to existing medical and health research in Inverness” The Highland Council

This commission has allowed Mackenzie to span disciplinary boundaries. The work has been developed as practice based research and illustrates Mackenzie’s desire to understand the ‘benefit’ of landscape architectural work and its potential contribution to wider society through the masterplanning process. Throughout the project she has engaged with collaborators and intermediaries to develop a spatial structure for the new campus that draws from practical, experimental and tacit knowledge. During the masterplanning process the discussion and development of proposals for Landscape have drawn together and mediated between stakeholders with differing ambitions and needs for the site. This process encouraged participants to consider the holistic worth of the campus and its regional, national and international identity rather than focusing on the specificity of their own development sites.

project

Inverness Campus Masterplan and Art Strategy

output 03

Lisa Mackenzie

ESALA

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

project introduction



ESALA

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

Lisa Mackenzie was commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in 2008 to create a masterplan for Inverness Campus in collaboration with 7N Architects, Edinburgh. Since the first year of the commission Mackenzie has received a number of related commissions to take forward ideas outlined in the original plan including The Landscape Framework and The Public Realm: Public Art Strategy. Both documents were integral to the formal planning application for Inverness Campus placed with the Highland Council in 2009 and have a legal status. The total project value for Inverness Campus is 26 million.

This Landscape Architectural commission recognises the importance of a cities 'soft assets' and Mackenzie has worked to promote the importance of Landscape as an educational resource in the new development. In the proposed Campus environment buildings, artworks and landscape evolve simultaneously. The design approach drew from research into the specifics of the development site as a 'place' and as such a sustainable, flexible masterplan unites a range of stakeholders in a landscape that belongs to its site. Stakeholders include

The University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness College, The Scottish Agricultural College, The Centre for Health Science and Albyn Housing Society and The Calman Trust.

The Landscape Framework for Inverness Campus

The creation of The Landscape Framework has been an ongoing and unidirectional process. The proposed design allowed for flexibility and yet worked, from the beginning, towards a new identity and character for the site fitting with its unique context. The aim is to create a network of safe and accessible open space that is easy for users to understand and orientate themselves within.

Mackenzie took an ecologically informed approach to the design of the new masterplan where the protection of the existing landscape was awarded the highest consideration in the creation of a holistic spatial layout. Flexible development space is a highly desirable asset and the landscape has been conceived to absorb potential changes to the composition of the plan in time. Although some spaces will change and evolve a centralised parkland landscape will remain at the heart of the development and ensure that a large percentage of the site is given over to open space.

The Public Realm: Public Art Strategy for Inverness Campus

By structuring a dual approach to public realm and art the strategy created by Mackenzie aspires to encourage continual reinvestment in people and in place and:

- + Clarify the responsibilities of those involved in the procurement of public space and public art and thus ensure that the Campus is a thriving and vibrant addition to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.
 - + Offer a sensitivity to financial, political, timing and delivery issues and as such in it's implementation facilitate encouragement and control for the delivery team.
 - + Define a Thematic Approach and Structure projects that are effective under an agreed identity for the site.
 - + Outline best practice in the present context and be able to accommodate evolving practice for the future.
- As such the strategy should be considered as a 'live' document open to change as the project develops. This is the first document of its type to be incorporated as a formal and legal component of a large scale planning application in Scotland.

Two outputs below are in the public realm to inform the planning process associated with Inverness Campus:

Mackenzie, L with 7N Architects, Masterplan, Landscape Framework and Design guidelines for Inverness Campus, <http://invernesscampus.co.uk>, Joint Design Lead, L Mackenzie was main originator on all Landscape Architectural issues. Overall Project Value £26 Million for Phase 1.

The project was featured in 'Building Design', November 2011 <http://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/7n-architects%E2%80%99-inverness-campus-masterplan-approved/5027340.article>.

Policy Context: The project has received planning permission and will begin on site in the winter of 2011. The Landscape Architectural Framework was included as one of the official planning documents and thus has a legal status. (This is not common in Scotland and sets new standards in line with best practice) is one of the most important developments with regional significance proposed for the Highlands and Islands in the next 20 years. This project represents a multi-stakeholder academic and research Campus that will deliver significant economic benefits by creating a modern centre of excellence for education, research and innovation.

2010-11 Mackenzie, L, Christie, S, Inverness Campus, Public Realm, Public Art Strategy, <http://invernesscampus.co.uk>, L Mackenzie was main originator. Overall Project Value: £250,000.

Policy Context: This document sets new precedent. It is the first time that a Local Authority in Scotland have included such a document within the Planning Contracts.

Status: Commissions are currently being awarded.

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Lisa Mackenzie

top left A & B
 Visualisations from The Landscape Framework document illustrating a low maintenance landscape composition designed to evolve and change throughout the seasons.



image C
 The Public Realm Public Art Strategy

PUBLIC REALM
 PUBLIC ART



EXTERNAL

draft 3
 8 December 10

INVERNESS CAMPUS
 A STRATEGY

LISA MACKENZIE CONSULTANCY + SUSAN CHRISTIE



C

image D
 The Inverness Campus Landscape Framework



D

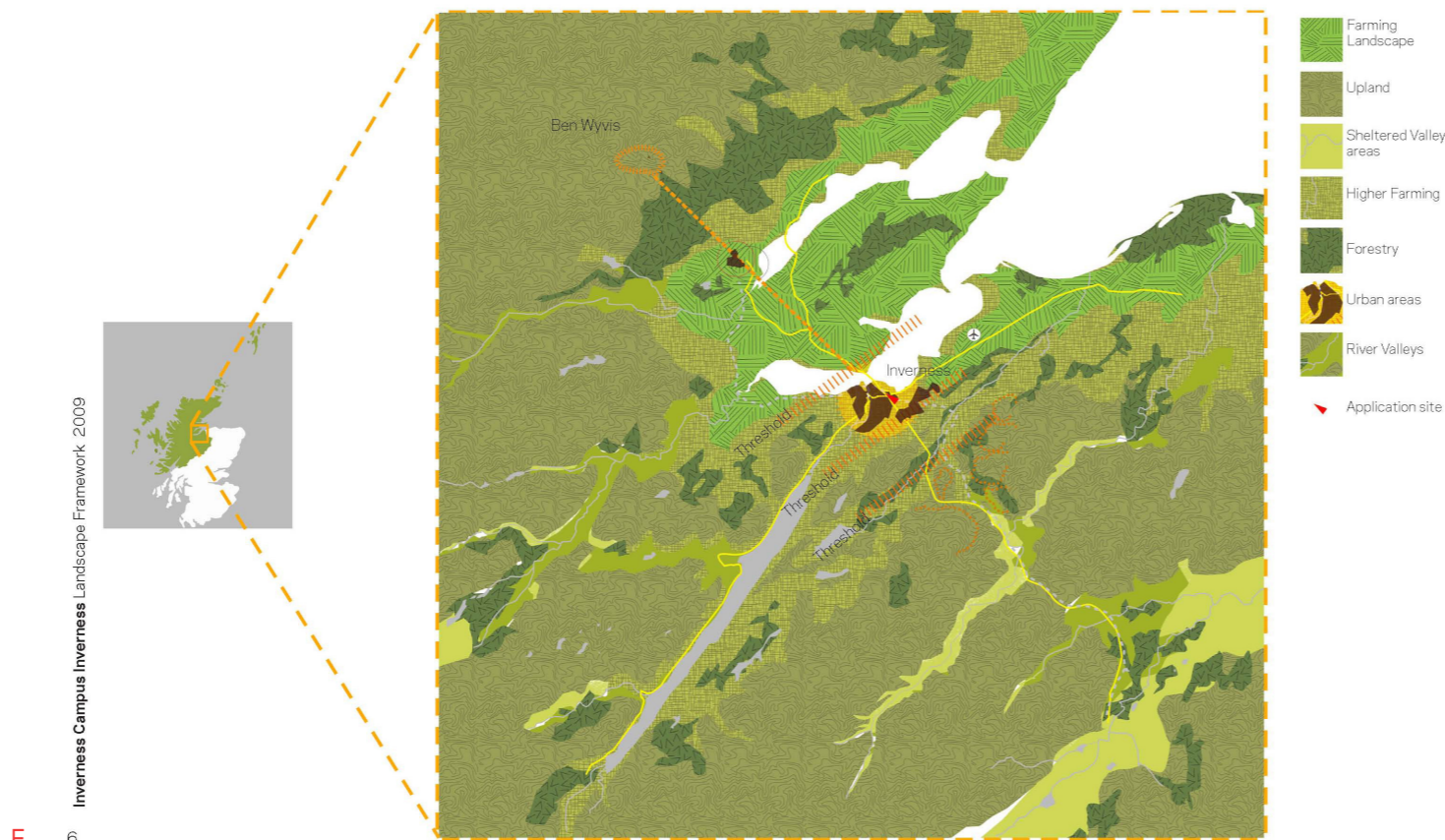
image E
 Locating the campus in context



image F
 Structuring the site from the inside out and from the outside in



B



E

© Inverness Campus Inverness Landscape Framework 2009



F