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Landscape Architecture Careers



What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architecture uses a combination of art and science to design and shape outdoor spaces. This includes urban and rural, residential and commercial, public and private, as well as open, natural and heritage spaces.

The places where people gather, pass through, live and work, have an effect on peoples' daily experiences. Understanding the different relationships that people have with the space around them influences the way in which these spaces are designed, which in turn can have a positive effect on the experience that people have.



Landscape Architecture in New Zealand and the world

Lincoln University's landscape architecture degree is internationally well-regarded. With several global regions experiencing rapid economic growth, graduates are well-placed to find employment worldwide. From small development projects to the construction of entire towns and cities, such as in China, there is growing global demand¹ for landscape architects to be involved in site planning and design.

New Zealand's increasing demand for housing, and the urban construction projects still underway as part of the Christchurch rebuild have maintained a market for landscape architects. Prospects for those seeking employment in the field remain good². The availability of a range of jobs, from small scale projects such as gardens to larger scale developments such as urban design projects, ensure that practitioners working in New Zealand can get involved in projects across a spectrum.

Worldwide concern for environmental and sustainable design places Lincoln University graduates in a good position to market themselves to employers. Lincoln University's tight-knit community allows for close relationships with related departments, such as ecology, water science, technology, and environmental management. Interdisciplinary collaboration, a highly technical and practical focus, and a commitment to the development of critical thinking skills in students are just some of the features that contribute to Lincoln University's Landscape Architecture programme being recognised as one of the best in the world.

The practical work component of the degree gives graduates real world industry experience with allied

industry bodies. These connections are invaluable for students to gain understanding of a professional work environment, and for students to start networking with future professional colleagues.

Skills and knowledge developed by studying landscape architecture

Landscape architecture graduates reach the job market equipped with practical and technical skills and a strong theoretical understanding of people and the landscapes they use. Employers seek well-rounded, engaged graduates with a strong work ethic³. As in any sector, employers value those with a professional attitude. This includes good communication (including the ability to communicate to groups, as well as effective interpersonal and written communication), honesty, respect, responsibility, self-motivation, initiative, time management, flexibility, and interpersonal skills. The importance of these basic skills cannot be underestimated, even in voluntary roles and internships, as future job opportunities often arise from a good reputation that is based on them.



¹ www.truity.com/career-profile/landscape-architect

² www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/construction-and-infrastructure/architectural-technical-design/landscape-architect/

³ www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/about/news/news-archives/2015-news/survey-reveals-employers-wish-list-of-skills/2015-employability-skills-survey-executive-summary.pdf

Skills and knowledge valued by those in landscape architecture roles:

Ability to work comfortably in both corporate and construction site situations

An understanding of people and society

Client relationship management

Computer-aided design (CAD) and other software use (e.g. Adobe Suite)

Creative, solution-focussed attitude

Effective written, graphic, and verbal communication skills

Environmental knowledge (e.g., plants, topography, soils, weather, and climate)

Knowledge of and sensitivity to Māori and indigenous design

Knowledge of construction methods and materials

Knowledge of design principles

Knowledge of planning and policy

Negotiation, teamwork, and people skills

Observational skills and an eye for detail

Problem-solving and initiative skills

Project planning and costing

Report writing

Supervisory and leadership skills

Technical drawing skills (from sketching to computer modelling)

Where Landscape Architecture graduates can find work?

Landscape architects work across the private and public sector. Firms involved with engineering, architecture, landscape, education, transport, mining, design, land planning and development, as well as groups such as iwi, and cultural and community groups employ landscape architects for technical solutions to changes made in outdoor places.

Graduate landscape architects usually work for an established organisation to gain industry experience and registration with an industry body. They can then go on to work in similar organisations worldwide to either broaden or specialise their experience, or start their own business.

Students who are drawn to questioning, researching and problem-solving may consider post-graduate study as a step toward an academic career in landscape architecture.

In addition to this, the policy and planning sectors require the type of specialist knowledge that graduates of landscape architecture can go on to gain through post-graduate study and/or research. Graduates who become self-employed can build a business to their own specifications and find success and satisfaction this way.

Potential places of employment include:

- Landscape architecture firms (e.g., Rough & Milne Landscape Architects, Boffa Miskell)
- City or regional councils (e.g., Christchurch City Council)
- Multi-disciplinary consultancy firm (e.g., BECA Professional Services Consultancy, Opus International Consultants Ltd.)
- Landscape architecture consultancy firm (e.g., self-employment)
- Landscaping business (e.g., Goom Landscapes, Outerspace Landscapes)
- Plant nurseries (e.g., The Little Big Tree Company)
- Tertiary education sector (e.g., Lincoln University)
- E-commerce sites (e.g., The PlantStore)

Landscape architecture job titles

People who have studied landscape architecture usually want to be a landscape architect. Because of the specialist vocational nature of the training, there is not the wide variety of clear career paths for graduates as in other degrees. However, many of the skills gained during study are transferrable across a range of professional roles. In the event that design roles are hard to come by, graduates can consider roles in associated industries.

Related fields may involve further training or experience. For example, an interest in design, planning, construction, architecture, engineering, or ecology could be complemented by a career or study in landscape architecture.

Job titles

Garden Consultant

Graphic Design/Illustrator

Horticultural Team Leader

Horticultural Team Leader

Interior Landscaper

Landscape and Amenity Horticulture Industry Sales Manager

Landscape Architect

Landscape Architecture Educator (Tutor/Lecturer)

Landscape Consultant

Landscape Ecologist

Landscape Planner

Landscape Researcher

Landscape/Horticultural Designer

Landscaping Contractor

Project Management

Urban Designer

Pay rate indications (NZ\$ per annum)⁴

Job title	Indicative pay
Landscape Architect (entry level)	40,000 – 50,000
Landscape Architect (2-5 years experience)	45,000 – 80,000
Landscape Architect (experienced)	75,000 – 100,000
Urban Designer	100,000+
Landscape/Urban Planner	60,000+
Landscape Consultant	44,000+
Garden Consultant	32,000 – 60,000
Graphic Designer	35,000 – 72,000+
Content Writer (for landscape publications)	[Variable rates]
Landscape Architecture Lecturer	41,424 – 70,544
Professor of Landscape Architecture	85,000 – 92,834



⁴ www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/construction-and-infrastructure/architectural-technical-design/landscape-architect/
Deloitte (Organisation). (2012). University Staff Academic Salaries and Remuneration. Retrieved from www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/files/University%20Staff%20Academic%20Salaries%20and%20Remuneration%20-%20Final.pdf
www.payscale.com/research/NZ/Job=Content_Writer/Salary

Landscape Architecture tasks

Establish and understand client requirements

Select appropriate materials for construction

Use design software to prepare detailed plans and designs

Meet deadlines

Coordinate with suppliers and manufacturers

Write reports

Generate new business opportunities

Take responsibility for the management of projects from the ground up

Provide cost estimates for projects

Present design proposals to clients

Make changes to plans to meet client specifications

Prepare applications for consents

Conduct visits to worksites

Monitor progress on-site

Conduct environmental assessments

Liaise with industry professionals (e.g., planners, engineers, architects, heritage officers, surveyors, site managers)



Industry bodies

Graduates can join industry bodies to keep ahead of industry trends and events. Networking with industry professionals is a good way stay current and market yourself to future employers. Industry bodies can provide opportunities for professional development and sometimes also list sector vacancies. Upon graduation Lincoln University students have the opportunity to be registered with the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects
www.nzila.co.nz

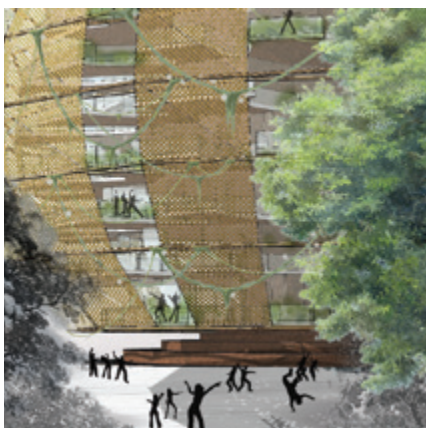
Urban Design Forum
www.urbandesignforum.org.nz

New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI)
www.planning.org.nz

New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)
www.nzia.co.nz

New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM)
www.nzarm.org.nz

Landscaping Industries Association of New Zealand (LIANZ)
www.lianz.org.nz



Kess Aleksandrova Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours)

Landscape Architect at Rough and Milne Landscape Architects (RMLA)

Kess was offered a full-time position as a landscape architect during her final year of study at Lincoln University, and also won a number of national and international landscape architecture/urban design awards. She is currently employed as a landscape architect at Rough and Milne Landscape Architects (RMLA).



"I have had a lifelong passion for nature and ecosystems, art and social sciences, so landscape architecture was a perfect match, and Lincoln is internationally recognised for producing excellent graduates in landscape architecture."

"Having some very passionate, incredibly gifted and globally renowned lecturers and tutors has definitely made my studies more enjoyable, as well as adding to the overall 'homely' atmosphere of the University."

"I would not have come as far as I have if it were not for the support and enthusiasm of the staff of the School of Landscape Architecture."



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