



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects
1966/2016

A Charter for Australian Landscape Architects

This Charter is version 1, adopted by AILA Board September 2016.

What we expect of our members.

By adopting this charter, members of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) declare they will provide leadership in the planning, design and management of our natural and built landscapes for the sake of our communities and the future health of the planet.

Who we are and what we do.

Landscape architects design and plan for life in the landscape, whether in nature or the city centre, the public realm or the private yard. We work at scales from the minute to the continental and in scope from policy to implementation using the arts and sciences as our tools.

We are guided by these principles:

1. As landscape architects, we undertake to value our landscape.

We believe all life has value beyond human needs. We respect nature for its own sake as well as for the services it provides us.

We recognise that landscape is a complex and dynamic interaction of physical, biological and societal processes. We aim to make sense of each place we work in as a starting point for planning or creating quality landscapes.

We seek to reveal the uniqueness of each landscape and express it in our work.

We understand that local communities instil the landscape with a range of values based on their day-to-day experiences and memories of living in place. We seek to engage with traditional owners and the wider community to ensure their values are respected in the work we do.

2. As landscape architects, we resolve to protect and sustain our landscapes.

We affirm that self-sustaining landscapes are essential to our planet by placing a high value on the protection of living landscapes and taking a thoughtful approach to their change.

We resolve to restore damaged landscapes to health.

We recognise each landscape is best cared for by the community as a whole. We work to reveal the value of each landscape to all parties so that they can work in its best interests. We work collaboratively with the community and with other professionals to ensure the best outcome for each place.



3. As landscape architects we work to create positive landscape experiences.

We maximise opportunities for physical and visual connection to landscape, recognising that engagement with landscape is essential to human health.

We believe that inspiring landscapes can be created. We prize our landscape inheritance yet believe we can imagine and build meaningful and sustainable new landscapes.

We work to create connected landscapes and appreciate each project contributes to this greater whole.

We acknowledge our work is the responsibility of others to maintain. We seek innovative solutions while we respect the capacity of those who follow us to care for each landscape.

4. As landscape architects we seek to practice with integrity and sensitivity.

We aim to practice with integrity understanding that our future as a profession is contingent on how we behave towards the landscape, our clients, the community and our peers.

We recognise our knowledge of the landscape is incomplete. We advocate for continued landscape research, including Indigenous cultures and knowledge systems, so that we can continue to respond appropriately.

We commit to scholarship, training new professionals, continuous professional development, and the highest standards of practice.

Why landscape architecture?

Landscape architecture has the potential to shape a future that is sustainable, that encourages healthy and diverse natural and built landscapes, and that supports resilient communities.

Society needs landscape architects' skills in managing, planning and designing quality landscapes. It needs our willingness and ability to collaborate with other professions and communities and our advocacy to drive reconciliation between human activities and the environment.

The commitment of our organisation.

AILA commits to support landscape architects in responding to the rapid, widespread and complex changes occurring in our cities and in nature. AILA will support its members in their training and professional development, in working collaboratively with peers and other professionals, and in ensuring that its members act with integrity and in the best interests of communities and the planet.