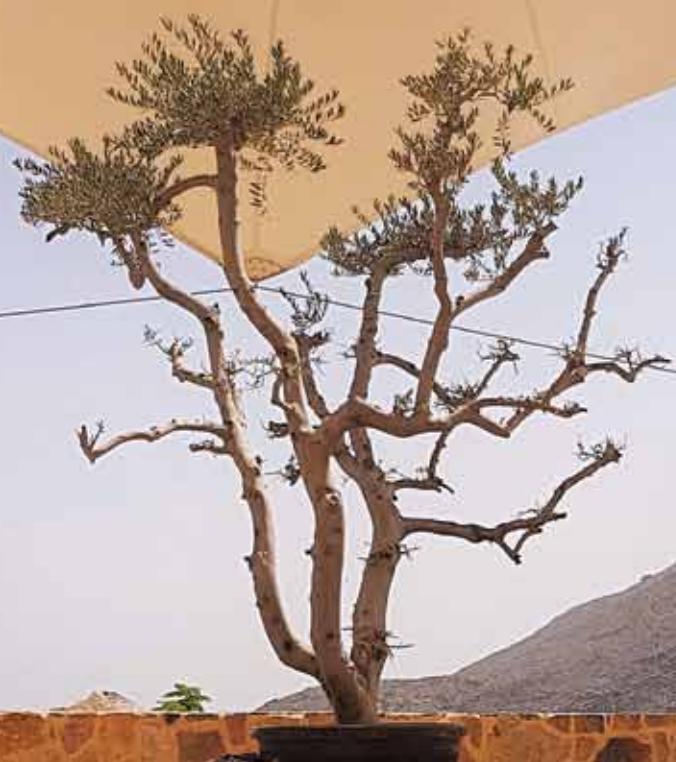


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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first issue of 2019! We are getting off to a great start with a packed issue showcasing some of the region's most talented designers and planners in the landscaping industry. See our interview with Lara Alawneh a Master Urban Planner on page 28. We also feature some of the region's top landscape manufacturers and suppliers, including the outdoor furniture company Ubrastyle. (page 18)

Nothing beats kicking the first issue of the year off with some of the most interesting regeneration projects around the globe, learn more about the urban redesign of the public realm areas surrounding one of the Britain's oldest train stations; Kingdom Street in London's Paddington Central. (page 44).

Also featured is Bandera Street which is located in Chile's capital city, Santiago, at the foot of the Andes mountains. The artist/architect duo who took on the project had only one month to reinvigorate a previously derelict part of downtown Santiago. See the results on page 32.

Wishing all of our readers a Happy New Year!

Enjoy the issue!

John Hampton

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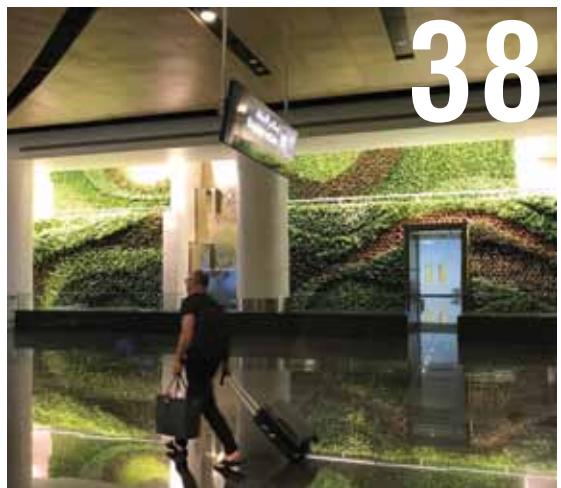
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First of its kind in the region, using VR technology

Dubai Municipality launches Smart Training Hub for engineers

Dawoud Al Hajiri, Director General of Dubai Municipality on Monday launched a smart training center, which offers hands-on training using the Virtual Reality Environment. The Smart Training Hub, supervised by the Municipality's Geographic Information Systems Center, is considered the first-of-a-kind in the Middle East for the city planning and engineering industry.

With the Smart Training Hub, the Municipality aims to enable the trainees to learn the techniques and mechanisms used in urban planning and the methods of building supervision and control. The techniques of the center will also enable the trainees to implement the urban planning rules and the setting of building regulations as well as performing the land surveying tasks while they are inside the training room.

Al Hajiri toured the Smart Training Hub, where he was briefed by Eng. Mariam Al Muhairi, Director of GIS Center about the equipment and training programs in the center, which is unique in using the latest technology in the field of training.

The smart Training Hub is equipped with high-end

devices and tools that are used in the VR technology, while the software was fully built by GIS Center team.

Al Muhairi explained that the Training curriculum covers limited fields for the time being such as urban planning, land surveying and building supervision, while in the future it is expected to include other training topics to cover other DM specialty areas.

She added that the center will be available to the departments and institutions to benefit from it as per their specializations and fields of work.

Al Hajiri expressed his pleasure on the use of modern and smart technologies in training, and qualifying the trainees and raising their levels in urban planning.

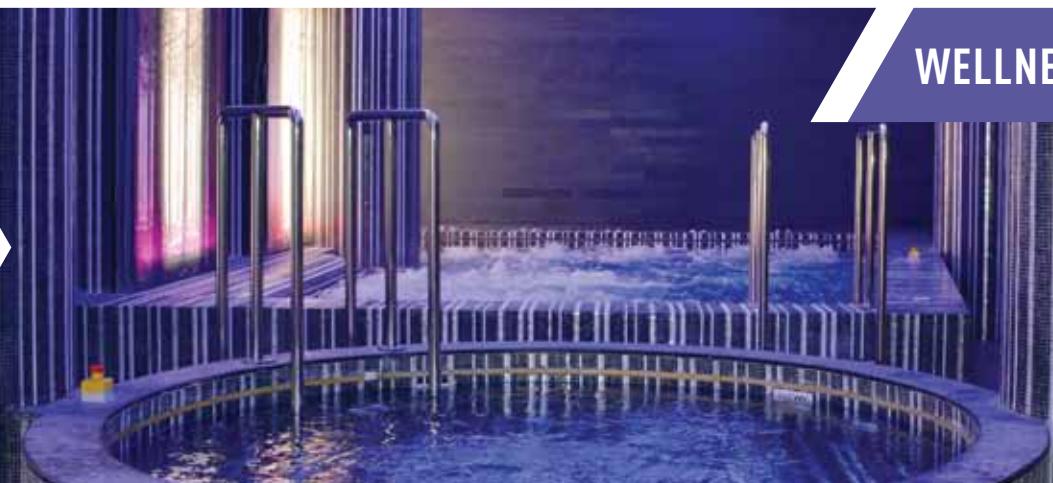
He stressed the Municipality's keenness to provide the best services to customers and employees and achieve their aspirations on the level of services provided to them, with an emphasis on the sustainability, happiness, health and safety aspects of the Municipality's vision of building a happy and sustainable city for all. ■





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AUS architecture students receive accolades from the American Institute of Architects for sustainable desert shelter

Architecture students from the College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) at American University of Sharjah (AUS) have received an Honorable Mention Design Award by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Middle East Chapter for their innovative "Neonomads" desert shelter and research station.

The AIA Middle East Chapter's annual design awards program recognizes excellence in architecture, interior architecture, urban design and unbuilt projects undertaken by its members.

The Neonomads project was acclaimed by the AIA Middle East Chapter for its genuine program flexibility and function as an expanding, unconditioned shelter, which can serve as a self-powered, demountable research station in extreme desert conditions.

Initiated as part of the college's robust architecture curriculum during the Fall Semester 2017 and Spring Semester 2018, the award-winning structure was created by a group of 34 fourth- and fifth-year architecture students who were commissioned to design and construct a lightweight, sustainable, demountable desert shelter and research station for environmental scientists of the Sharjah Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Guided by Assistant Professors of Architecture Patrick Rhodes and Gregory Spaw, the students worked together to find an innovative solution for expeditions across the Rub' al Khali, or Empty Quarter—an area of more than 650,000 square kilometers of continuous desert that spans the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Yemen—while addressing the fundamental challenges of the desert environment.

"For thousands of years, Bedouins are the only known people to have successfully traversed the Empty Quarter. The first foreign explorers weren't able to penetrate it until 1931, with the first Western maps made by British explorer Wilfred

Thesiger between 1946 and 1950, and since then, only a few extreme adventurers have attempted its crossing, leaving the rest of us to wonder at its edge," explained Rhodes.

"By mounting an expedition to sensitively construct and deploy a basic shelter, we hope to allow people to get a little farther out to experience a little-known people and place. Through the Neonomads design-build studio project, we hope to inspire journey and adventure," Rhodes said.

Over a period of six months, the students designed, prototyped, prefabricated and deployed a lightweight, basic structure programmed to provide fundamental protection from the elements, including shade, access to water, fire, light and basic communication with the outside world.

"Tracing ancient caravan routes of the frankincense trade between the UAE and southern Oman, the Neonomads structure can now act as a primary basecamp and a satellite way station, outward bound into the Empty Quarter, the first of a possible sequence of nodes of a wider network of infrastructure designed for experiencing and exploring one of the most unique and otherworldly landscapes on the planet," said Rhodes.

Rhodes said the project gave students the



opportunity to be engaged in every aspect of the architectural process, both from a theoretical viewpoint as well as practical challenges.

"Ultimately, the Neonomads project confronted CAAD students with the questions of what architecture, shelter, is, basically, at its core, what it provides, and how, whether or in what form it is fundamentally necessary, not just to live, but to exist," Rhodes said.

"It is this approach to architectural education that continues to set CAAD apart as the leading institute for architecture in the region, as it ensures our graduates have adequate training and experience to approach the challenges of contemporary architectural practice," said Rhodes.

"Working with a range of materials, fabrication techniques and technologies, we sought to develop a strategy of making based on weight, deployability, durability and vitality. The shelter had to function with component-based assembly, and be constructed as a temporary structure with a mindset of permanence," he said.

While an early prototype from Gregory Spaw's studio was displayed at Dubai Design Week, the final Neonomads structure was awarded for its programmatic and environmental sustainability. The students utilized reuse, repurposing and recycling strategies when possible and implemented innovative materials, systems and technology aimed at survivability, durability and resistance to the unique climatic conditions of the Arabian desert.

"In deploying the structure, we were able to develop a richness of dialogue regarding sequence, staging and the variability of architectural, programmatic and logical concerns between connected moments of infrastructure as defined by the desert's diminishing ability to support human life over time and distance," said Rhodes. ■



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■ NEWS & EVENTS

World-renowned master landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic brings groundbreaking vision to put nature at center stage

■ Revealed: A first look at the majestic terrace of One Palm show apartment in Palm Jumeirah.



The luxurious terrace of One Palm show apartment has been revealed and the results are breath taking.

A first look of the terrace reveals a mesmerizing haven of natural beauty carefully designed to complement the out of this world views of the Arabian Gulf and to provide the utmost of privacy and comfort through perfect symmetry and natural grace. Indeed, a unique masterpiece of scenic wonder has been beautifully crafted through meticulous detail.

World renowned landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic was hand

selected due to his vast experience and ability to bring the vision of One Palm to life through his sophisticated techniques and ability to understand the demanding needs of the discerning buyers of One Palm. "Vladimir has brought to the project his vision of true holistic living experience, flawlessly combining sustainability, beauty, and serenity. He seamlessly integrates sleek design with nature, with every aspect exuding magnificence and complete balance. The design of the most expensive penthouse bought in Dubai is also being undertaken under Vladimir's close supervision to ensure that every expectation is met. The luxury unit's spacious terraces are going to add more depth and life to the entire living experience of its owner once the construction is fully completed," said Mohammed Hmeid, Sales and Marketing Director at Omniyat.

Located on the eastern tip of the iconic Palm Jumeirah's trunk, One Palm offers three-, four- and five-bedroom residences and three triplex penthouses, with each unit having access to the stunning views of Dubai Marina's skyline and the Arabian Gulf. Living up to its commitment to deliver a unique reimagined approach to elegance and exclusivity, Omniyat commissioned Djurovic to design the exterior landscape of the 910,000-sq ft development. ■

■ Fluidra to provide the competition and diving pools for the 20th Sukma Games in Malaysia

- The 20th Sukma Games will be held in June 2020
- Fluidra previously provided the aquatic competitions facilities for the 19th Sukma Games held in September 2018

Fluidra, the multinational, Spanish-listed company focused on developing innovative products, services, and IoT solutions for the residential and commercial pool markets globally, will provide the competition and diving pools at the 20th Sukma Games in Malaysia.

The project consists of the renovation of one competition pool (50,1 x 20,9 m) and one diving pool (28 x 22 m). The popular biannual Malaysian national multisport championships will attract some 3,000 athletes, officials and volunteers and will be held in June 2020.

Fluidra will renovate the existing pools at the Aquatic Center in Johor Bahru using the Skypool short panel system for competition pools. This system enables existing facilities to



be adapted to the requirements of the International Swimming Federation safely, quickly and efficiently. It will also be responsible for the competition equipment, filtration and disinfection of the pools.

The contract has been awarded following Fluidra's recent success as the pool supplier for the 19th Sukma Games held in September 2018 and adds to its extensive presence at aquatic competitions across Asia. Fluidra designed and installed pools for the 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia) and 2017 World University Games, Taipei (Taiwan). They will also supply the upcoming 13th PORA Games (Jantho, Indonesia) in 2019.

Fluidra was also recently awarded the contract to design and install an Olympic swimming pool for the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima (Peru). In Spain, Fluidra was responsible for designing and building the Olympic pool used in the About Fluidra used in the swimming and water polo competitions at the 2018 Mediterranean Games in Tarragona. ■

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NEWS & EVENTS

DROP IT YOUTH CAMPAIGN launches second year edition with the support of the Moral Education program, encouraging youngsters in the UAE to fight plastic pollution

“Drop It Youth” applications are now open to all young engaged in protecting our planet

Goumbook, the leading social enterprise promoting sustainability and green living in the UAE, announces the launch of its second annual campaign. This year nation-wide awareness campaign aimed at young people of the UAE is sponsored this year again by HSBC with the support of the Moral Education Program.

This year Drop It Youth campaign coincides with the theme for World Environment Day 2018 “Beat Plastic Pollution”. It is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. It is also a great motivation for our youth to be engaged in the fight against plastic pollution.

Julia Grifferty, Drop It Youth lead Ambassador, was last month at the Oceans Conference in Bali to represent the DIY campaign and to show how youth in the Middle East are active and making a difference in the fight against plastic pollution.

“Our health is at stake” said Tatiana Antonelli, MD and Founder of Goumbook. “Tests show billions of people globally are drinking water contaminated by plastic particles”.

This year campaign will also focus on solutions that have been achieved. “We are sharing the achievements and solutions achieved around the world with our youth raising awareness on the plastic pollution at the same time” said Mrs. Antonelli.

Becoming a Drop It Youth ambassador allows environmentally conscious teenagers to inspire sustainable living practices in their schools, with the unique support and guidance of Goumbook’s team of professional environmentalists, and their supporting partners at UN Global Compact, Moral Education, KHDA, EAD, Eco-schools and Eedama. Students are invited to submit a 1-min video application through dropityouth@goumbook.com. These applications will be reviewed by a jury of education and sustainability specialists, who will select the most inspiring candidates.

Upon their confirmation as ambassadors, Goumbook will supply them with a plethora of awareness tools. These will allow participating youth to become environmental advocates, aiming to reduce waste in their community, and fight plastic pollution



that is currently harming desert wildlife and marine species all over the world.

By requesting people around them to take online pledges on the Drop It Youth website, young ambassadors will be able to take stock of their immediate impact on plastic consumption and associated CO2 emissions. Pledges are structured in 5 categories and encourage people to take a stand against single use plastic cups, bottles, bags, straws, and to drink filtered tap water in an attempt to dramatically reduce their waste, carbon and water footprint.

“Tomorrow’s leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow’s challenges, and our duty is to adequately prepare our children for the future they will inherit,” said Tatiana Antonelli Abella, founder and MD of Goumbook. “As climate change is being felt across the globe and its long term catastrophic impacts have never been so scientifically clear, environmental education is the key to a better future.”

For more information on the campaign or to request an interview, please email dropityouth@goumbook.com
About Drop It Youth – an initiative by Goumbook

Drop it youth is a Goumbook initiative, derived from the success of Drop it, an awareness campaign launched in the UAE in 2016 to unite individuals and the local business community in re-thinking their single-use plastic consumption by switching to filtered tap water, and therefore making an immediate positive environmental impact by reducing their plastic waste and carbon footprint. www.dropit.ae

Through Drop it Youth, Goumbook aims to empower young individuals from 11 to 22 to campaign against single-use plastic pollution in their class, year group, school or larger community. Becoming a Drop it Youth ambassador allows environmentally conscious teenagers to inspire sustainable living practices in their schools, with the unique support and guidance of professional environmentalists. www.dropityouth.org

Goumbook, the organization behind Drop it and Drop it youth, is a social enterprise aimed at raising awareness on sustainability and green living. Born in the UAE in 2010, Goumbook’s aim is to create a global community focused on environmental responsibility, uniting environmental experts, organizations, business, consumers and youth across borders and cultures. www.goumbook.com ■



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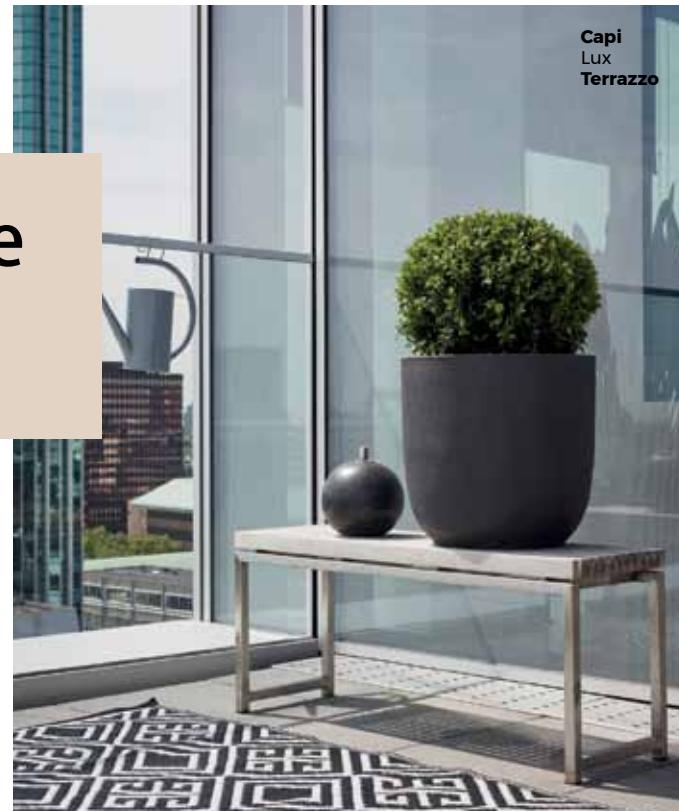
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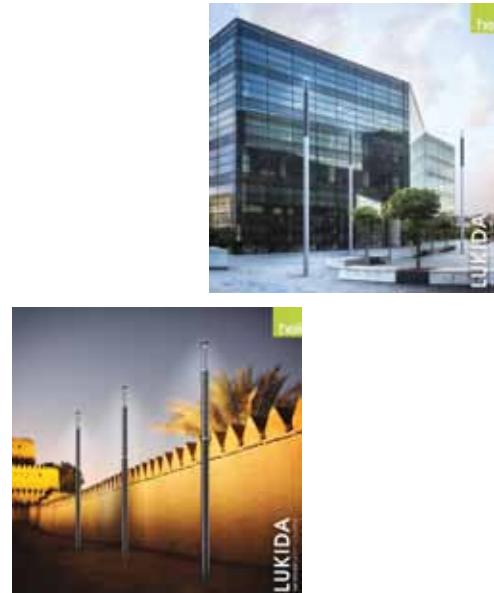
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NEWS & EVENTS

HEI Solar Light Columns LUKIDA received the Product Innovation Award today at the Urban Design & Landscaping Expo (UDLE) in Dubai. Part of The Big 5, the largest construction event in the Middle East, UDLE is the Region's premier event for the landscaping, infrastructure & urban development industries.



The award took place during the Urban Design & Landscaping Summit, which run under the theme "Promoting greener, healthier and more sustainable built environments with best practices in urban design and landscaping."



“Lukida” hei solar light columns win product innovation award at the urban design & landscaping expo in dubai

From Austria, HEI Solar Light Columns LUKIDA are a family of aesthetic solar light columns with integrated photovoltaics and luminaire for decorative private or public solar outdoor applications.

The seamless pole integration of solar elements and pole-integrated luminaire offers the freedom to configure highly-efficient LED engines to circular or lengthwise aligned light distribution. Clean lines, smooth mechanical connections and perfect performance strengthen the leading design idea of LUKIDA Solar Light Column, when aesthetics matters.

Mechanical engineers, designers and architects worked together to provide a highly efficient, self-sustaining solar light column, without a compromise on the aesthetics of the product. Seamless pole integration of solar elements (vertically integrated cylindrical photovoltaics) and pole-integrated luminaire gives us freedom to configure highly-efficient LED engines to circular or lengthwise aligned light distribution, covering a wide range of outdoor lighting applications.

Thanks to the modular HEI Power Tube system, Solar Light Columns LUKIDA achieve different lengths of autonomy, adjustable to client's needs and wishes. Clean lines, smooth

mechanical connections and above all, perfect performance, strengthen the leading design idea of the LUKIDA – solar light column, when aesthetics matters.

Vertically Integrated Cylindrical Photovoltaics – HEI Power Tube, a patented solution of HEI technology International, is a modular system of pole-integrated solar elements. Different diameters of the tube provide a lot of design freedom and by simply stacking the HEI Power Tubes, the system can be modified to client's needs. By aligning the solar elements vertically and using scratch-resistant borosilicate glass for encapsulation, HEI Power Tubes minimize snow, dirt and sand deposits, making the system maintenance-free.

HEI Solar Light Columns LUKIDA are customizable with a wide range of smart-city accessories, from CCTV, wi-fi hotspots, speakers, and sensors compatible with all major smart-city protocols and monitoring solutions. By seamlessly integrating HEI Power Tube and luminaire with the pole, the HEI Solar Light Columns LUKIDA are the perfect solution, when there is a need for a reliable, high-tech solar product, that complements architectural, urban or landscaping project. ■



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XFD DRIPLINE OFFERS SAME GREAT PERFORMANCE, NOW EASIER TO USE

Laser-etching and striping make it easy to identify

Rain Bird's XFD On-Surface Dripline now has flow rate and emitter spacing laser-etched on the dripline, making identification easy. The laser-etched information will not wear off, even after years in the ground. New, colored stripes have been added to the dripline to indicate the flow rate; a tan stripe indicates a flow rate of 0.6 gph or 3.5 l/hr, and a black stripe indicates a flow rate of 0.9 gph or 2.3 l/hr. The emitter holes are also now less visible to end users. In addition, a new coil label now includes useful jobsite information including maximum lateral run lengths.

"We are happy to bring these improvements to the market," said Mohammad Mushtaq, Rain Bird Area Specification Manager. "XFD provides the most flexible dripline on the market, and now these features make it even easier to install and maintain after it has been in the ground for years."

Same Great Flexibility for Curved, Tight Areas

XFD is made of a unique material that offers significantly greater flexibility and kink-resistance for easy installation. Recommended for designs that have tight curved areas, XFD has a bend radius of three inches (7.6 cm) no matter which way you bend the tube. Other driplines will bend only four to seven inches, depending on which way the tube is bent.



Same Great Emitter Performance

One of the goals of any irrigation system is to create an even wetting pattern throughout the zone. If emitters clog easily or the system cannot provide consistent flow, the plant material suffers and maintenance increases. The continuous flushing action of the XFD emitter and the grit-tolerant, clog-resistant design ensure water will keep flowing. The pressure-compensating emitter design provides a consistent flow over the entire lateral length, ensuring higher uniformity of water distribution for healthier plants throughout the zone.

Same Great Water Efficiency

Unlike conventional overhead irrigation, XFD allows end users to deliver water directly to the root zone, eliminating overspray and reducing evaporation. For design steps and maintenance tips, landscape and irrigation designers and installers should consult the XF Series Dripline Design, Installation and Maintenance Guide. The guide is available on www.rainbird.com and offers practical tips on dripline layout, how to determine the flow rate and emitter spacing based on soil type, and installation practices that result in reduced maintenance in the future.

XFD is offered in a variety of flow rates, spacings, and coil lengths and is part of Rain Bird's complete drip irrigation offering, which includes subsurface dripline, point-source emitters, root-watering systems, and control-zone kits. ■



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Our Innovative Vision & Design with global leadership has made us a recognised leader worldwide. Our association with Consent started in 2015. The partnership began with a project in Al Wasl, Muhsinah, Dubai, for which about 600 linear metres of benches in the Centennaire series were supplied. It was almost impossible to ship the benches for such an extensive project owing to the lead time & cost involved, so we had to find a company within UAE that has expertise in producing European quality concrete products and the right infrastructure to comply with the requirements of Urba-Style furniture. After visiting several manufacturers, we chose Consent LLC, as our licensed partner in the middle East Region.

By: Bart Laroy



Al Wasl Muaisnah, Dubai

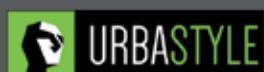
The partnership between Urba-Style and Consent has continued to intensify since 2016: a joint promotional campaign for the marketing of the 'Collection – Urba-Style by Consent' among Clients, landscape architects, consultants, contractors and Government bodies. This resulted in several noteworthy projects.

One of the earlier requirements was by Road & Transport Authority, Dubai for 1200 numbers of 'Fino' Bollards for Zabeel 2 Area. These bollards had to be made lighter because they needed to be transported for road works or festivities. In consultation with the client, a special base was designed and the bollards were made hollow so that it could be moved manually if necessary.



Jumeirah 2 Island, Dubai

Another exciting project was the Bvlgari Resort & Residences, Jumeirah. Various models from our Galet series were delivered for this prestigious project (designed by L'Escaut Architects, Belgium). The Galet Bench is a large stone with a modern appearance that can be integrated seamlessly into the environment. The polished finish provides maximum seating comfort with minimal maintenance.

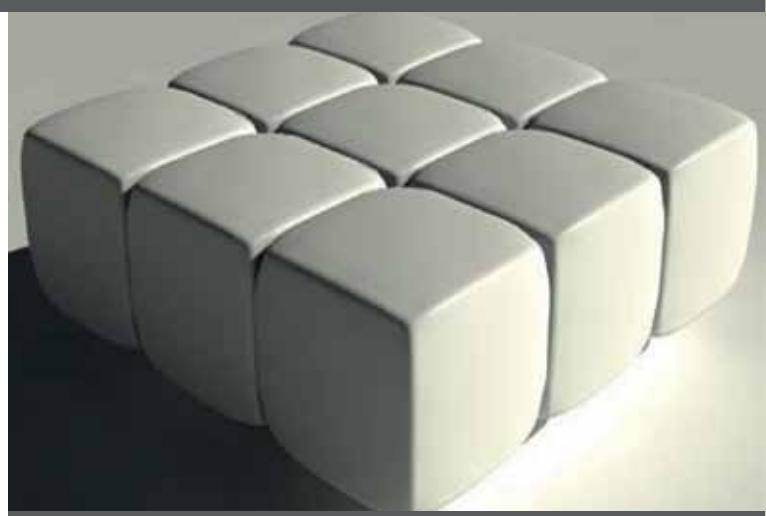


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STREET FURNITURE



Jebel Jais, Ras Al Khaimah



The flexibility of our designs is also fully expressed in the project 'The Block' in D3, Dubai Design District. Nuton seats and Obelisk benches were provided for the recreational zone. The organic Nuton (designed by CCHE, Switzerland) was supplied in two different shapes and dimensions along with the Obelisk bench(designed by Urba-Style).

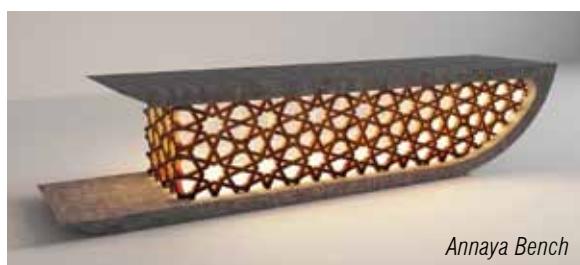
The most challenging project in 2018, however, was for the Ras Al Khaimah Development Authority. The RAK Development Authority contacted Consent LLC for furniture for a new Viewing Deck Park at Jebel Jais, the highest mountain in the UAE. It soon turned out that they wanted to combine several designs from the Urba-Style 'Collection' that fulfilled all their expectations. A mock-up of different models, colours and finishes were produced to achieve an optimal combination. The client was so enthusiastic that they chose no less than five different types of seating: Seed, Circular, NoBend, Boomerang and Vetal benches. The main challenge lay in the fact that the heavily loaded trucks had to take the seats to an altitude of about 6000 feet. A well thought-out strategy by Consent's production and logistics team meant that the entire operation went without a hitch. Since installation of the furniture, the Jebel Jais Viewing Deck Park boasts a series of viewing platforms to experience the awe-inspiring vistas, bird life, flora and fauna of the Emirate's Al Hajar Mountain range, which borders Oman. The Viewing Deck Park serves also as a base camp for bikers and hikers looking to test themselves on the rugged mountain range. Urba-Style by Consent is pleased to have been part of this project!



Zabeel 2 Area, Dubai

Ultra High Performance Concrete Furniture with its sleek design & high strength is one of the highlights of 'Collection – Urba-Style by Consent'. UHPC possesses unprecedented strength, allowing for finer, thinner, lighter and more elegant designs.

As a global pioneer in architectural concrete street furniture, we always try to add a regional touch for our various regional markets as well. We have recently added a new bench to the 'Collection': Annaya Bench. The Annaya Bench is a piece by the promising young designer and architect Cindrella W. Semaan that unifies eastern and western architecture .



Annaya Bench

The research and development team at Consent with their expertise and professional know-how develop new types of concrete and can match any colour and finish that suit the project requisites. The dynamic technical team at Consent provides support to all queries and clarifications at different stages of the project. Besides the 'Collection' products, custom furniture is available in almost any shape, size, colour and finish imaginable. ■

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AUSTRABLEND® MULTI MINERAL ROOT ZONE CONDITIONER

Water saving innovation in urban landscaping

By AustraBlend Pty Ltd
PO Box 595 Cleveland QLD Australia



Despite the success of green revolution, poverty and hunger remained challenge due to unprecedent population rise from 0.6 billion in 1700 to projected 10.9 billion by 2100 with subsequent increase of global demand for food, forage and fuel. This has led to overexploitation of land and water resources to gain more benefits and increased land degradation, water resources depletion and destruction of the environment. Any technology that guarantees water saving and atleast maintain or increase crop yield should be taken as a priority. The experience shows that AustraBlend has been proved as water saving soil amendment and increasing crop production in irrigated agriculture and maintaining urban landscaping in hot arid environment with guaranteed 50 % water saving. The AustraBlend saves water through improving soil structure and increasing nutrient and moisture holding capacities and reducing leaching and is considered water-efficient technology. AustraBlend is natural, mined from Australia without any chemical addition and is considered as organic.

Water scarcity issues and management

Water scarcity is observed in many countries especially those located in the dry lands where climate is hot and rainfall is

insufficient to meet the demand of agriculture and urban landscapes, such as UAE and other GCC countries. This necessitates the use of either groundwater which is usually saline and limits choice for crops or using costly desalinated and treated sewage effluent (TSE). The use of TSE, many times is questioned due to its source, especially its use for the root crops which have direct contact with the TSE and may cause diseases.

Agriculture already accounts for >80% of the water withdrawals in the region and increasing competition for good-quality water among different water-use sectors is expected to limit severely the availability of freshwater for irrigation. Globally water use has been growing at more than twice the rate of population increase in the last century and there will be significant increase in water withdrawals by 2025, i.e., 50% more in developing countries and 18% more in developed countries. In the context of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, water scarcity is one of the most important food-security issues, with fresh water availability in the region expected to drop 50% by 2050. AustraBlend may be a solution to practice irrigated agriculture and maintain urban landscapes with deficit irrigation without compromising crop yield and aesthetic look of the landscapes.

Why AstraBlend Multi Mineral Root Zone Conditioner is Vital for Urban Landscapes?

Urban landscapes are irrigated once a day during winter or twice a day during summer. The result is healthy green area, aesthetically attractive, destination for those who seek healthy places for daily exercises to remain fit, soil carbon sequestration through increased photosynthesis, but all at the cost of costly water. AstraBlend is a solution to maintain healthy urban landscapes with cost effective long time maintenance and guaranteed 50% water saving. This has been proved through field testing over a year trial in a newly developed grassy "paspalum vaginatum" landscape in Sharjah.

Water saving trial in grassy landscape

The trial was started on 7 November 2017 and completed 29 October 2018 and thus covering four seasons in the year. The site was prepared by using agriculture grade red sand, cow manure and compost. Two plots were selected, one control (without AstraBlend) and the other with the addition of AstraBlend. The stolon of Paspalum vaginatum were planted in both plots and irrigated with sprayers. Both plots were irrigated with 100% ETc for 4 weeks to assure grass is fully established. The plot where AstraBlend applied was irrigated with deficit irrigation (70% ETc) during 7 December – 2 May, the irrigation was further reduced to 60% ETc (2 May 2018) and to 50% ETc on 29 September 2018 and continued thereafter. The trial was monitored for grass health, roots density, fresh biomass and soil structure development (bulk density).

Urban landscape trial - Sharjah



a) ABMMRZC broadcasted on 1m² grid basis



b) ABMMRZC mixed with soil and leveled off



c) Lush green dense grassy plot with ABMMRZC and deficit irrigation (70% ETc)



d) Pale yellow N-deficient grass less dense without ABMMRZC and 100% ETc



e) Thick root system with ABMMRZC and deficit irrigation (70% ETc)



f) Thin root system without ABMMRZC and 100% ETc



g) Moist soil with ABMMRZC application (50% ETc), and coring for bulk-density measurement



h) Dry soil without ABMMRZC application (100% ETc) and coring for bulk-density measurement

Figure 1: Progress of urban landscape trial with the deficit and full irrigation (100% ETc)

Assessment of urban landscape trial success – findings

To assess the fresh biomass the grass was harvested (4 m^2) at three times on random dates (2 August 2018; 22 September and 10 October 2018) during trial period. It means the interval between harvesting is not same. At this stage the plots were fully established with full irrigation (100% ETc) without AstraBlend and final deficit irrigation (50% ETc) with AstraBlend application. The harvested grass was weighed on-site to avoid losing moisture content. The results show significantly higher fresh biomass with AstraBlend application and deficit irrigation. At three times fresh biomass was 1.8, 3.32 and 2.75 times higher in plot with AstraBlend (with deficit irrigation-60, 60 & 50% ETc respectively) compared with the plot without AstraBlend application but with 100% ETc irrigation level. The relative difference in higher biomass production with AstraBlend is due to number of days grass was grown after each harvesting dates. The difference in fresh biomass harvested (4 m^2) on 10 October from both plots is presented in figures 2 and 3.

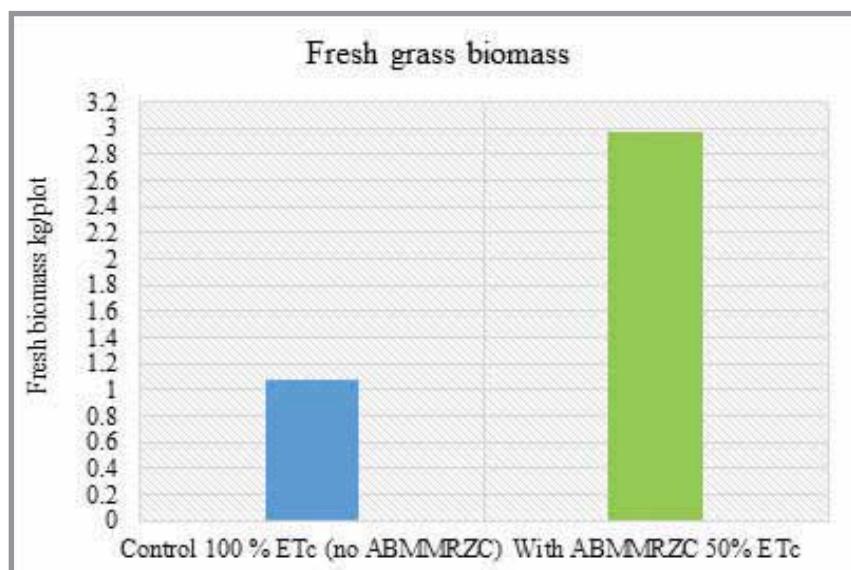


Figure 2: Relative fresh biomass from control and ABMMRZC applied grassy plot (4 m^2) (10 October 2018) – 2.75 times higher biomass with ABMMRZC application



Figure 3: Relative biomass (4 m^2) quantity and greenish appearance (harvested on 10 October) – Left (control plot 100% ETc), right (ABMMRZC with deficit irrigation 50% ETc)

AustraBlend®

Multi Mineral Root Zone Conditioner

Turning Desert Sand into Arable Soil...

Maximizing the use of AustraBlend® Multi Mineral Root Zone Conditioner

The product was developed with the objective of treating high production agricultural land, landscapes of all dimensions and the soil of sports and playing fields specifically lacking in highly nutrient activated water absorbing clays. At recommended application rates, we have achieved this objective with once only applications to maximize production rates in the shortest time frame at the maximum productive life span.

Applications of AustraBlend® Multi Mineral Root Zone Conditioner are intended to increase soil yield potential immediately as well as to increase soil fertility in the short to medium term.



Substantially increased water holding capacity (WHC)

Increased nutrient adsorption and recycling leading to significantly increased CEC and controlled Buffering Capacity levels at recommended application rates.

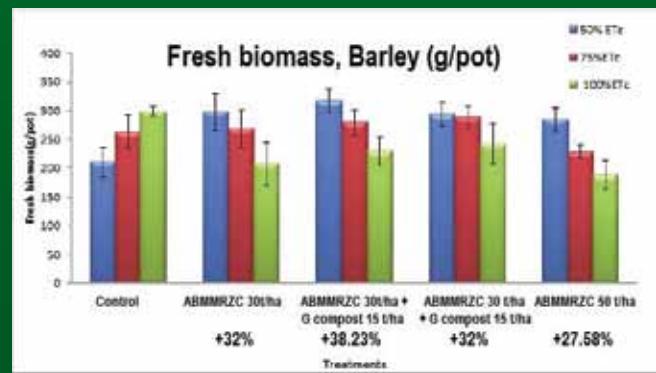
- Permanent improvement to the total soil structure.
- Improved aeration and exchange of soil gasses.
- Consequent increased natural biological soil health.



Al Habtoor Polo Fields Dubai – Commenced June 2015,
completed and ready to play December 2015.

Stolonised Bermuda 419 – Grown to perfection with 10L/m² per day!

ICBA (Dubai) Trial Data



ICBA International

AustraBlend®

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SOIL

The fresh biomass increase is an outcome of improved rootzone soil condition in terms of increased water and nutrient holding capacities due to increased cation-exchange-capacity (CEC) and structure development. An insight of rootzone confirmed thick root system with AustraBlend application compared to without AustraBlend application (Figure 1 e,f). The structure development was assessed by taking undisturbed bulk soil cores from the rootzone to measure bulk density in the laboratory (Figure 1 g,h). The assessment confirmed that the bulk density decreased significantly from a native sandy soil (1.56 g/cm³) to 1.4 g/cm³ (grassy plot without AustraBlend) to 1.25 g/cm³ in grassy plot with AustraBlend application (Figure 4), suggesting 10% and 20% structure improvement in grassy plots without AustraBlend (100% ETc irrigation) and with AustraBlend application and deficit (50% ETc) irrigation (Figure 4) respectively compared with bulk density of native sandy soil.

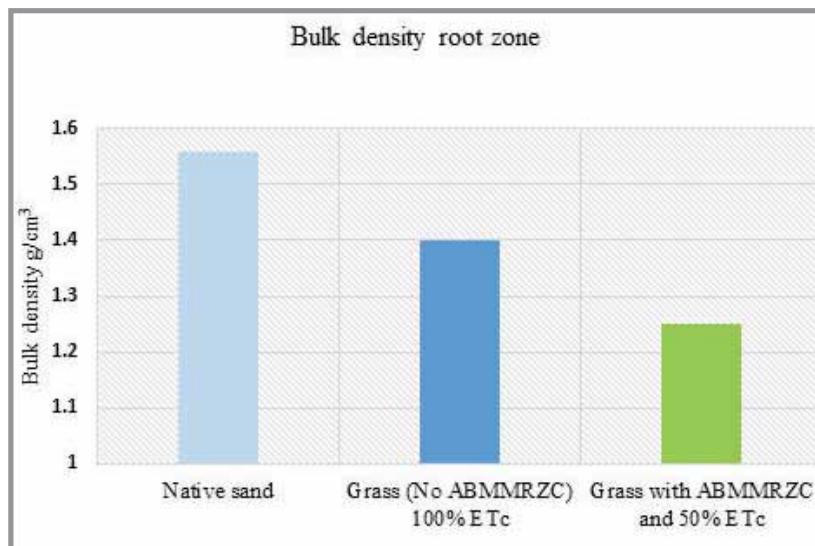


Figure 4: Relative bulk density of native sandy soil, grass field without ABMMRZC and with ABMMRZC

Justified reasons of using AustraBlend® in Urban landscapes

- It is natural, mined from Australia with no added chemicals (organic)
- It is non-saline, EC (1:5) is less than 0.04 deci Siemens per meter (dS/m)
- pH (1:5) is optimum (7.52) for nutrients availability, as well as CaCO₃ is 1.6% and hence no phosphorous fixation.
- The Cation Exchange Capacity is 260 milli equivalents per kg showing high nutrient retention capacity
- Over five times field capacity (fc 25 percent) relative to sandy soils of GCC countries
- Volumetric water content (0.01 bars) is 42 percent
- The silt plus clay is 37% which meets good quality soil texture (sandy loam) for urban landscapes
- Guaranteed 50% water saving through improved sandy soil structure development in grassy landscapes leading to cost-effective maintenance of turf grass landscapes
- Increased grass per meter square with less irrigation (climate resilient)
- Reduced fertilizer application (low cost nutrient management)
- Controlled leaching and environmental protection

From the present study it is concluded that the health of infertile sandy soil can be significantly improved through using AustraBlend® Multi Mineral Root Zone Conditioner (ABMMRZC) leading to cost-effective management of urban landscapes with guaranteed 50% water saving. ABMMRZC has shown great promise under UAE conditions and it is recommended for other countries where similar environmental and soil conditions may be existing such as GCC countries. ■

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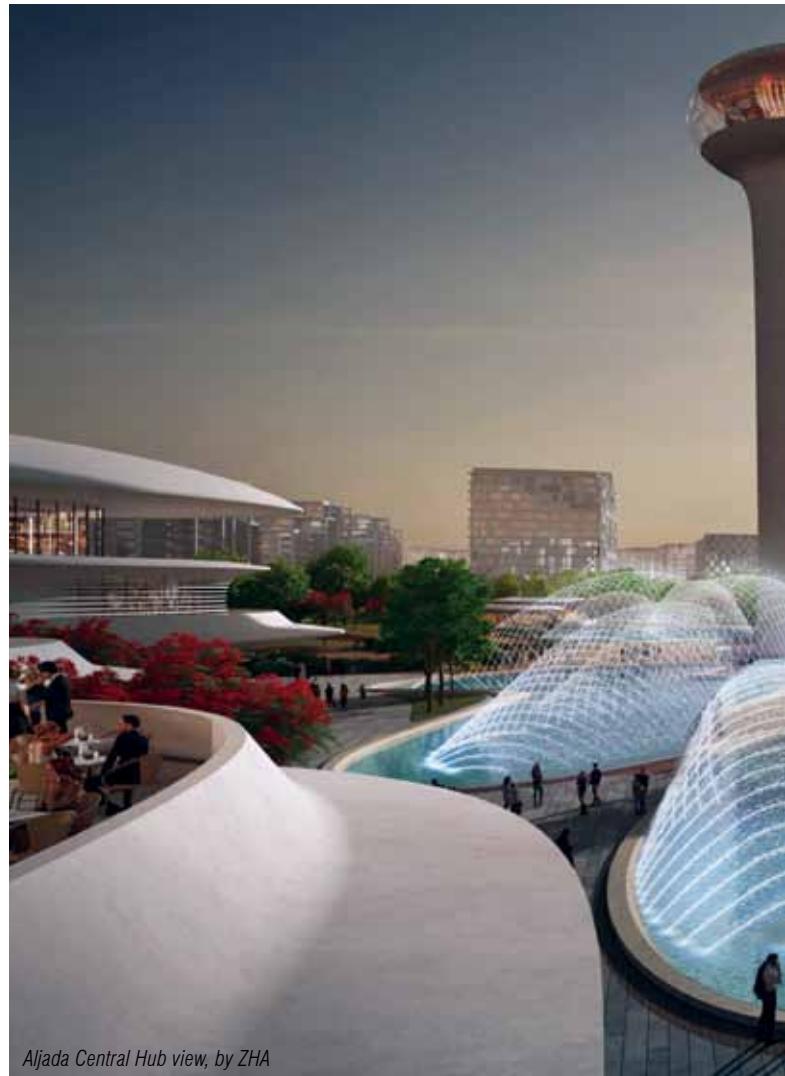
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Interview with: Laila Alawneh Master Planner, Arada

Can you please give us a brief about your educational background and your experience in the GCC area?

I completed a Masters in Arts from University of the Arts London in 2008, where I wrote my final thesis on the gains and implications of integrating smart solutions to the built environment. A second Masters of Science in Architecture followed from Aalborg University in Denmark in 2016. The bulk of my career has been in the Nordics, Finland and Denmark and for one year now in UAE, where I am based currently. I have worked in countries where severe climate conditions revealed the tendency towards similar solutions in managing user comfort and experience of space, whether outdoors or indoors. Severe conditions ignite a need to design smart, and this is the key to successful urban planning in severe climates. The GCC region has a wealth of natural resources and human talent, which makes it very tempting to work here, particularly on sustainable and smart projects that aim to lift the level of dweller experience, health and well-being. The reliance on Solar Energy in UAE is expanding continuously. For someone like me who comes from strict Nordic countries that carefully design and build smart sustainable cities, gives me the chance to benefit the building industry, particularly nowadays in GCC, where smart and sustainable is becoming a necessity rather than a luxury. Having the education and experience to lead such projects, made it easy for me to team up with talented colleagues and turn my job into a mission, to improve, advise and aim towards becoming distinctive in the market.



Aljada Central Hub view, by ZHA

When did Arada first started business in the GCC region?

Arada was founded in late 2016. With two mega projects Aljada, a mixed-use project, as well as Nasma Residences in Sharjah.

Can you brief us on your recent activities and the major projects you have been involved in their design and/or execution?

I had a very diverse role in Aljada project. Having technical and managerial responsibilities, I worked on bringing state of the art integrated design solutions that achieve resilience on the long run, with high focus on sustainable infrastructure, landscape, and dweller/visitor engagement.



Aljada Master Plan, by Arada Development



Working for a developer, every decision that was taken considered feasibility, with a constant eye on market trends. I constantly worked with multiple third party consultants, to assure integrated design process that provides optimum solutions and designs that work, sell and look good.

On a management level, fostering teamwork and high motivation in the team made it possible to achieve iterative, qualitative and quantitative solutions that facilitated decision making.

What differentiates the landscape designs here in the Middle East when compared to the other areas?

In GCC, landscape can be lush due to the abundance of recycled grey water or desalinated sea water, which is a sustainable substitute to potable water for irrigation and maintenance of outdoor spaces. On the other hand some designers tend to landscape and vegetate areas that cannot be used or accessed, and are devoted for beautifying the city, such require high maintenance, particularly due to the choice of vegetation or the large areas of it. On the contrast the integration of activities as part of the landscape by making it accessible and usable are evident in several pedestrianised areas with outdoor gyms or kids play zones in the UAE. In several countries in the world, designers have shifted from having aesthetically good-looking

landscape to a more experiential landscape with non-manicured vegetation, focusing on local shrubs or weed that require very low maintenance or non. To experience manicured vegetation, a person can visit botanical gardens all year round. In some cases, non-used areas that are not activated are devoted for the collection of renewable energy, and I do see the necessity of this trend spreading in GCC for two main reasons, which are: The abundance of local desert vegetation and nevertheless the source of renewable energy that almost beats many other countries in the world.

What are the main challenges of doing business in the current GCC market?

I realised the key to succeed in business in the GCC is to create a good network built on strong relationships; where we end up building bridges for each other. These relationships could grow in time and bring about amazing opportunities.

Cultural sensitivity is very important, in a melting pot like here, people come from different work environments. Coming from Scandinavia, we are usually quiet, focused on the task at hand, precise and have a flat organisational hierarchy. The business model here is based on a rather high organisational hierarchy, but it is easily overcome by keeping

I INTERVIEW



Aljada Central Hub view, by ZHA

an open channel of communication and building trust among colleagues and coworkers, which makes people skills a key factor to success.

In your opinion, what changes need to be adopted in the GCC landscaping industry to become on a par with the rest of the world?

The landscaping industry in GCC needs to take a holistic approach that not only focusses on the design of certain projects, being neighbourhoods or communities, but also on how to connect these parts of the city together either by walking, running, cycling or comfortable low emission public transport solutions, like the electric trams for example. Accessibility/ connectivity and providing possibilities to rely on other means of transport other than cars is the shift that the sustainable world is going towards. Wide motorways split the urban tissue and impact the city's microclimates. The future design or redesign needs to avoid as much as possible locating motorways inside of cities and shift them towards the periphery of the urban tissue. Inside the city, the focus should be on creating tolerable distances between destinations that can be reached by public transport, non motorised vehicles, walking, etc. On the sustainability front, measurements need to become standardised by the authorities, who could also provide support to developers on implementing sustainability measurements.

Do you think that the international standards for the landscaping industry are too rigid and unrealistic or can they easily be applied when executing projects?

From my experience, I learned that there is always a solution around standards. The obstacles occur when standards do not follow contemporary design requirements; at times this can

stiffen designers in providing certain solutions. In some cases, if the designer is capable to showcase the added-value to the community obtained from bending a certain rule, he could be able to obtain an exemption. I endeavour not to depend on the latter and use creativity and out of the box thinking to provide cutting edge solutions that comply with these standards. After all that is our role as architects and designers.

What is the most challenging aspect of your work? And the most rewarding one?

The most rewarding aspect is when I provide solutions that lift individuals' everyday life quality and provide value that can meet the needs of a large group of people. My approach to design is very much Human Centric Design, it always starts with the user, and ends with the user as the most important aspect of the whole built environment. The most challenging but yet fun is advising the investors on the aspects that lift the value of their investment, and again it comes back to provide Human Centric Design as much as possible, this aspect cannot always be measured by the sellable square meter, but with the quality of landscape and facilities around those sellable square meters.

What is the important role do you think landscape architecture/urban planner plays in people's lives.

We are the environment we live in. If we want to be healthy, happy, efficient, then we as architects and urban planners need to provide the means to be that for others. It is our role to impact decision makers and authorities to back us up on that mission. Our role is to become ambassadors that advocate high standards of living that can be achieved and afforded by everyone.



ZHA Aljada Central-Hub Render by Cosmoscube

As someone who is well established within the industry, what do you see as the main challenges we face in the near future.

The biggest challenge is forecasting future urban needs, the future's lack on fossil fuel and the need to depend on renewables and alternative lifestyles, necessitates designing resilient cities that will easily adapt to these changes. Construction is expensive and time consuming; changes are not easy to apply if the original design does not allow for it. What is smart today will easily become common business tomorrow. That is why, resilience is the key word to any long term real estate investment.

What advise can you give to the aspiring landscape architect?

Keep educating yourself, do not stop reading, researching, and studying after you graduate. The rapid changes in our world require agility in thinking and solving problems. As an architect the biggest reward is seeing your design built, when this opportunity comes your way, you need to be fully ready for it, technically and methodologically.

Any professional quote/sayings/or motto in life?

Jan Gehl once said, "First life, then spaces, then buildings - the other way around never works.". I see myself constantly on a mission to design Healthy communities that make successful nations. Why? Because successful nations make outstanding nations!

Finally, please conclude by evaluating Arada position in the market and share any relevant information about new design concepts and /or current projects?

Arada came to the real estate market with a clear vision to provide Sharjah with an inclusive sustainable community with affordable and luxury housing, this required to push borders to provide aspects

that are not common in Sharjah but sought by many who prefer to live in Sharjah or want to move and live in Sharjah. A strong vision usually needs to be a shared vision, a shared vision requires people to work together, working together turns groups to teams, once you have a team you have created synergy. These are the ingredients to a successful thriving business that can survive even through challenging times.

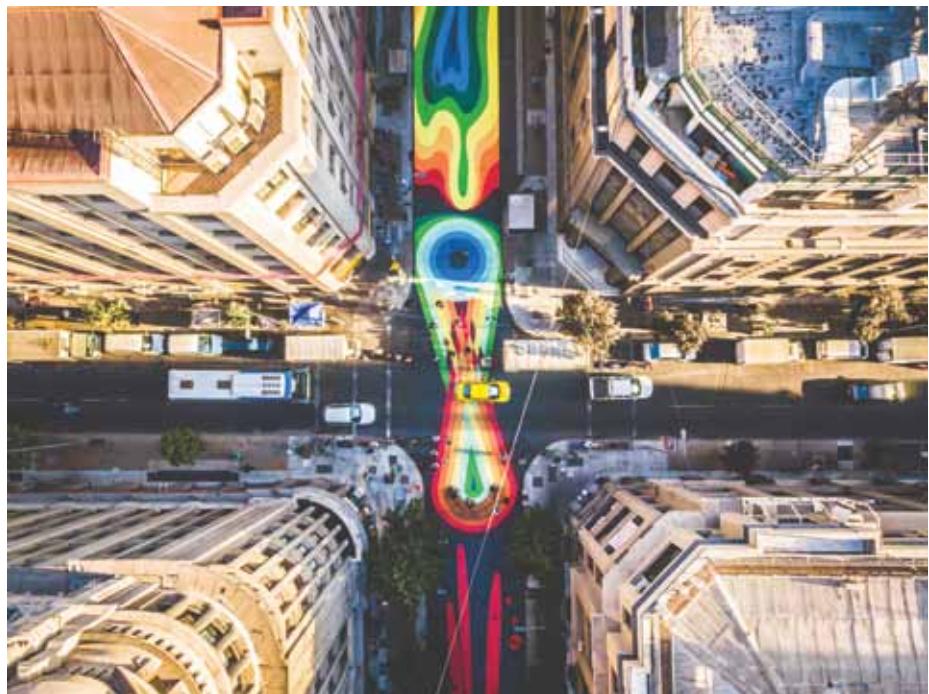
The latest project that I worked on in Arada was setting a road map for developing Aljada to a Smart City. The solutions adopted a time line with three periods: Current, Near Future and Distant Future. This will guarantee planning with resilience and future proof a development that will embrace future improvements in infrastructure and changes in lifestyle.

The focus of Smart Aljada is on the following: mobility, utilities, telecommunications, circular economy and waste management. The roads infrastructure will include a lane dedicated for low emission public transport and non motorised vehicles, which will be integrated into the road network. The development will include smart parking, and smart solar lighting. Smart bus stops will provide real-time information about the calendar of events happening in the city. With regard to utilities, smart solar solutions will be integrated across public spaces, particularly in the leisure and entertainment district of the project. The plan is to have the public realm lighting powered by renewable energy. In addition, smart LED street lighting throughout Aljada will provide significant cost savings in the long term, nevertheless reducing urban carbon emissions.

As for waste management, waste tracking solutions will be implemented, which will reduce refuse collection vehicles' trips. On the circular economy aspect, it is planned that Aljada will offer opportunities to achieve circular economy within the city, providing workers with the option to 'smart lease' office space, rooms or even workstations based on real-time occupancy data. ■

I TACTICAL URBANISM





Artist and architect duo transform derelict part of Santiago into a trendy new pedestrian hang out

Livable streets for livable cities

By: Jimena Martignoni

Nestled compactly at the foot of the Andes, Santiago de Chile is a pulsating city, home to some of the best examples of Latin American architecture today. While downtown Santiago and the historical boroughs around this area are famous for preserving tradition, with its long-standing institutional buildings, museums and cafes that remain untouched, Paseo Bandera, or Bandera Street, is a new urban intervention located in this long-established area.

It was conceived as a temporary addition when it opened in December 2017 and had been planned to be dismantled at the end of August 2018, yet it remains. In

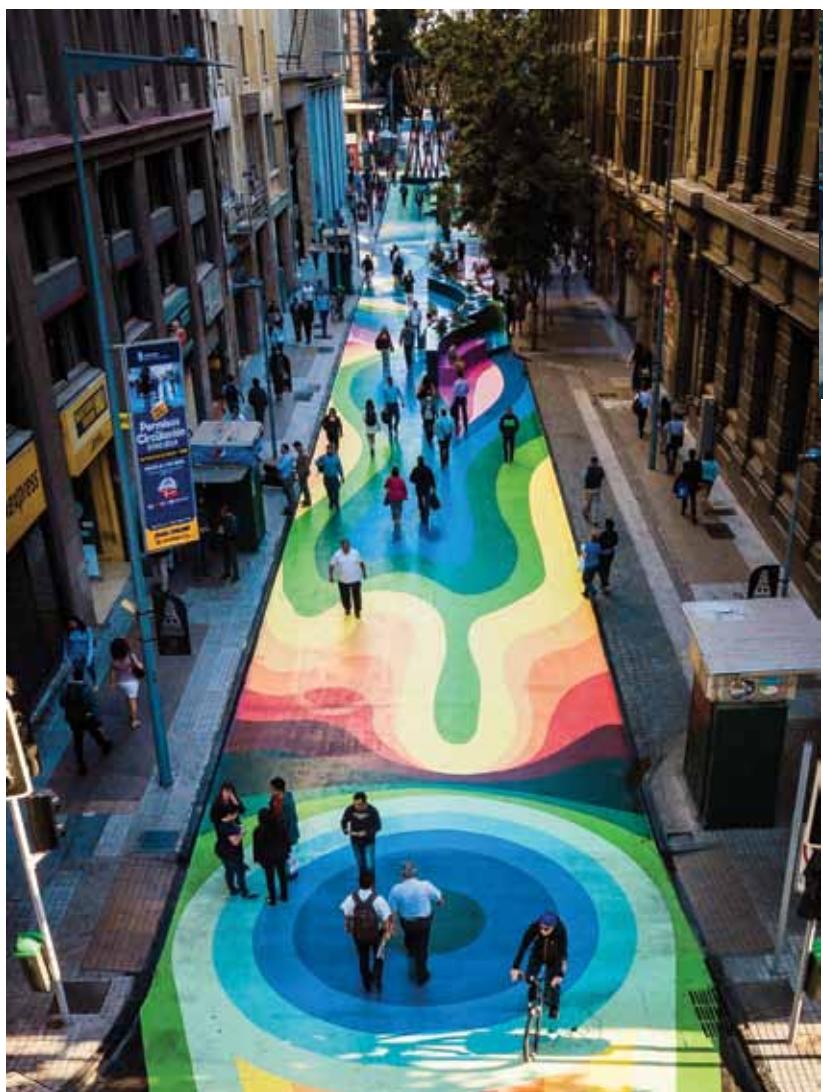
contrast to the surrounding architecture, it is difficult to classify. Is it “tactical urbanism”, because of the short-term, low-cost, and scalable kind of intervention which is meant to catalyze long-term change in the city? Is it the perfect combination of street art and architecture? Is it simply “only art”?

Whatever the academic answer may be, locals don’t really care. Hundreds and hundreds of people pass by every day since the opening day, walking the 365-meter-long new pedestrian area, sitting around on the colorful and innovative benches, taking pictures in groups or improving the art of making selfies all enjoying city life.

I TACTICAL URBANISM

For more than four years, these three blocks had been closed for the construction of the local Metro. Turned into a deserted street, the place had a very erratic vehicular use and, finally, the city authorities decided to transform it into a pedestrian zone. With this clear objective but no definite ideas for design or budget, they invited architect Juan Carlos Lopez (awarded Best Chilean Architect 2017) and street artist Dasic Fernandez (based in Santiago and New York) to create a proposal and build it in less than a month.

What made this incredible tight deadline possible to be met, was that Lopez and Fernandez had been university classmates and had already worked together. Fernandez, who was in charge of the pavement mural design and painting process, explains: "The two of us had been thinking for so long how to combine art and architecture in a single work. When the Municipality of Santiago told us about this idea, we felt it was just the right time and chance to finally make it happen". The



young architect/ artist duo had also recently designed the Memorial to Nelson Mandela in Santiago and they share their place of work, all of which helped to make the assigned task possible.

A decree-law was issued by the Municipality to concede the administration of the area to the design team, providing total freedom during construction stages and also putting them in charge of the project's funding. The design team focused first on getting corporate sponsorship and immediately started the initial research procedures and site preparation to materialize the art work.

One of the first research steps responded to the special needs for pavement paints, sealers and industrial coatings and coloring application depending upon factors such as climate, use, stress and condition of asphalt. The color palette included twenty-three different shades, many of them fabricated for the first time for the project. The twenty-three colors were consistently applied following an overall design pattern for the three blocks and, in turn, one of the blocks exhibits the complete range of colors, creating both diversity and unity.



The painting process took eight days with the help of twenty artists especially hired by Fernandez. "I had to draw up a very organized work plan, almost a piece of choreography," said Fernandez. "The teams worked simultaneously according to the necessities of the different painting phases and the four different layers each color demanded."

In order to preserve working conditions and the paint finishing, construction hoarding was installed around the site's perimeter and the entire area was covered with fabric shade structures.

Once the painting was completed, the team incorporated the custom-designed furniture pieces, one by one, determining their final exact positions in situ. This stage took approximately three weeks, thus meeting the original deadline required by the city authorities of one-month for the whole project's construction. The lineal benches and planters have a metallic frame finished with wood and the spheres are fiberglass structures filled with concrete; painted with the same colors as those of the pavement palette, these pieces seem to emerge from the floor, as if the mural drawings had naturally come to life as three dimensional objects.

The true shape of some of the painted images can be appreciated only at certain points, carefully studied by the artist and very far from the usual in-front and straight-ahead position from which the viewer would normally expect images to be looked at; called anamorphosis (something that the artist explains in detail), this unconventional way to perceive images make the furniture and painting arrangement seem even more vibrant and interesting.

Half of the street's total width had to be left obstacle-free for walking and biking, however the design complements this by using colorful areas, full of visual information, while leaving empty corridors and spots for urban interaction.

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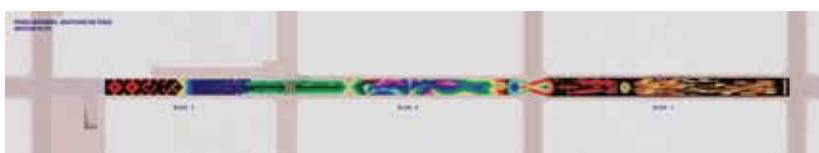
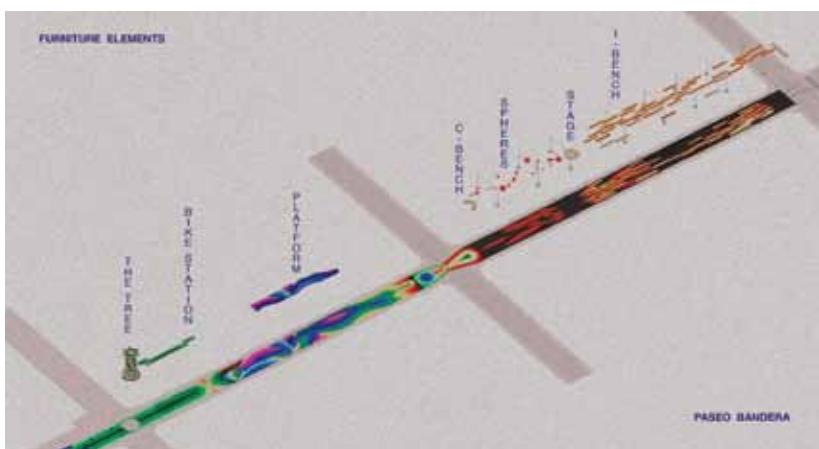
I TACTICAL URBANISM

The combination of the two different backgrounds of the designers —one more committed to functionality and the adequate use of spaces, another more concerned with beauty and visual balance—, can be appreciated in the overall result of the intervention but also in every element. The largest structure of the street art work is a 9 meter-high “wooden tree” which has become a focal point in this area of Santiago; fed by solar panels which produce electricity for the LEDs positioned at the concrete base, this intricate design also offers a “place to be inhabited”, according to the designers. Visitors, especially kids, can get into the structure, walk in and out and even rest under the large structure.

The site opening and other special cultural events curated by the designers attracted thousands during the first five months. Open air movies, bands and musical performances were some of the highlights in Paseo Bandera. However, the real design success has been to reinvigorate a once run-down part of the city with more navigable and appealing pedestrian zone that locals enjoy every day of the week.

On August 31, a final decision was made in Santiago de Chile by the City's Mayor and the current Chilean Ministry of Transport. Paseo Bandera has been confirmed as a permanent pedestrian area. Turned into an “Urban Laboratory”—because of the different experimentations with new technologies for street lighting, parking sensors and air pollution monitoring—the place generated a huge increase in pedestrian transit, from 27,000 to 88,000 people a day, over the six months it's been up. Additionally, retail stores sales in the area increased by 20%.

Today, locals celebrate the decision and the city has just become a little smarter. ■



Location: Santiago de Chile, Chile.

Designers: Architect Juan Carlos Lopez and artist Dasic Fernandez.

Total area: 3,300 m²

Date of completion: December 2017

Client: Municipality of Santiago. Mayor Felipe Alessandri.

Photography: BLVCKIMVGES

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Living Green Walls & Biophilic Interiors in the new Muscat International Airport

The world's major cities are increasingly investing in attractive landscaping and the hub of transit, technology and transportation are ideal locations for green infrastructure to become an investment in public health and well-being.

In under five decades, The Sultanate of Oman has transformed into a modern state and is becoming an ever more attractive destination for business and leisure travel. In order to keep pace with subsequent rapid growth, the Gulf State has invested in the expansion of its airport in Muscat; offering an ultra-modern infrastructure that spans a total area of 335,000m², making the airport an impressive gateway to the world. It is characterized by contemporary interiors with subtle

Omani overtones which successfully blends traditional and futuristic themes. The new Muscat International Airport opened to operations on 20 March 2018.

After many years of planning and construction, the new passenger terminal of Muscat Airport is exemplary in many respects of pioneering architecture. The biophilic interiors of the new airport have unique features such as living green-walls, interior landscape & a recreated dry wadi.

LIVING GREEN-WALLS

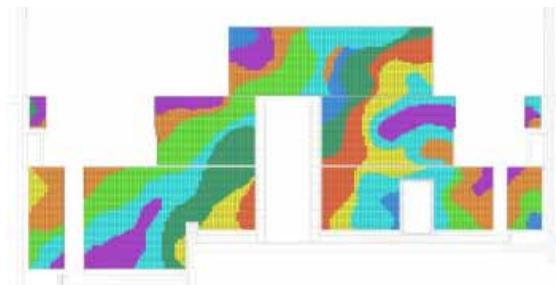
Living green-walls are the best solution and latest growing trend in implementing an environmentally friendly solution to vertical spaces. It offers a visual feast of lush greenery and an oasis ambience to the overall urban architecture. Changi Airport, Singapore, Edmonton International Airport, Canada and Christchurch Airport, New Zealand are among the international airports that have installed living green-walls at their terminals.

A unique pair of identical living walls are located inside the Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) in both the arrivals and departures areas of the Muscat Airport. It spans across three levels and covers an area of 400 m² in total, which is the biggest of its kind in the GCC.

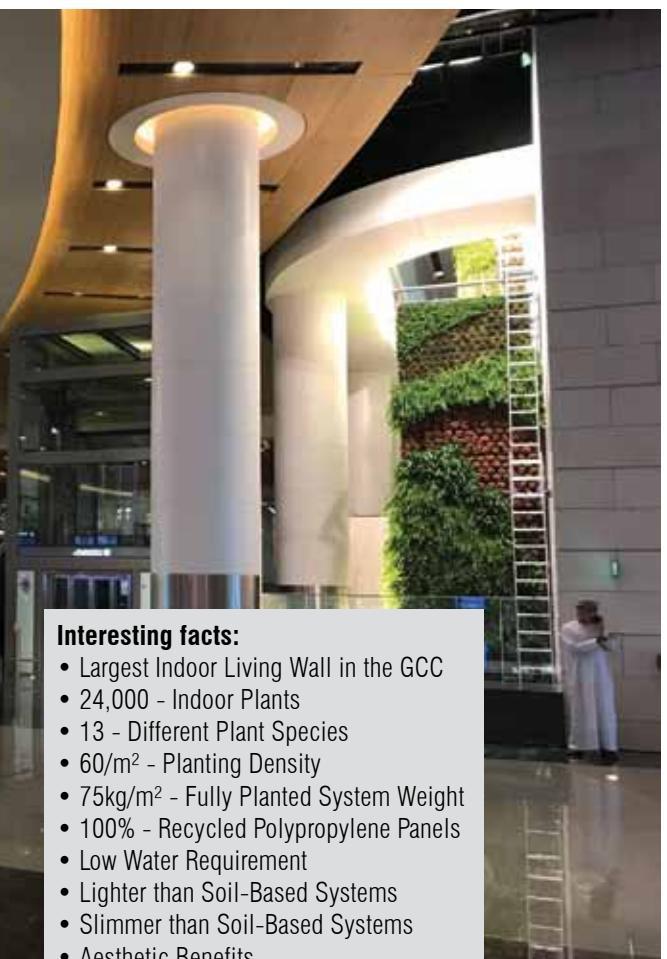
This product is developed by Biotecture Ltd UK, a company that provides green-walls technology to transform any urban environment. The patented hydroponic, modular system brings a new level of sustainability to vertical gardens through intelligent water management and stable system dynamics. Uniflora LLC and Proscape LLC played key roles in its design, coordination, implementation and are responsible for ongoing maintenance.



The designs are as true to the originals as botanically possible, from the drawings to reality, thus producing a verdant masterpiece that is ever vibrant as seen below.



These living green-walls boast a variety of plants that are procured from Europe and are grown in compact modular panels with an inert, hydroponic medium. An integrated irrigation system is included with precise pressure compensated drip tubes installed above each row of panels with extremely accurate flow rates; the irrigation plant room houses the WRAS approved break tank, pump, valves and remote sensing controller. The overall control of the irrigation system is fully automated with remote sensing capability.



Interesting facts:

- Largest Indoor Living Wall in the GCC
- 24,000 - Indoor Plants
- 13 - Different Plant Species
- 60/m² - Planting Density
- 75kg/m² - Fully Planted System Weight
- 100% - Recycled Polypropylene Panels
- Low Water Requirement
- Lighter than Soil-Based Systems
- Slimmer than Soil-Based Systems
- Aesthetic Benefits
- Remote Sensing

■ GREEN WALLS

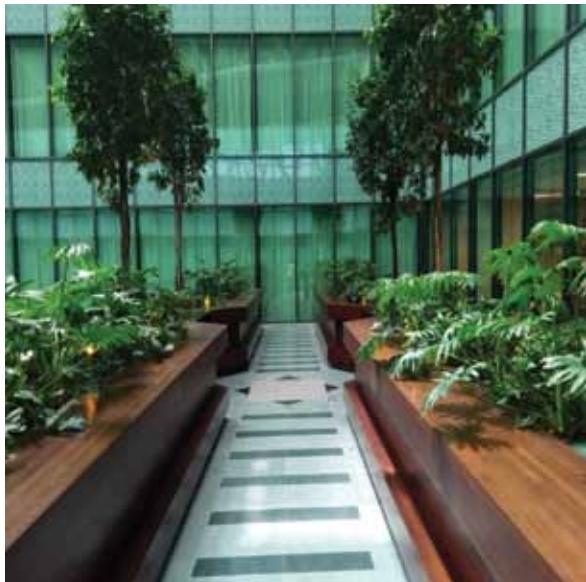
INDOOR PLANTS

Interior plants are vital to any environment that aims to be healthy, supportive and sustainable.

Interiorscaping is the art and science of growing and arranging plants indoors in a thoughtful and purposeful manner. It involves the selection, placing and maintenance of plants to improve and enhance the appearance of the indoor environment. Airport aesthetics can leave a lasting impression on passengers, even if they are only in transit.

The new airport has interior plantscape at prominent locations which Proscape has implemented in areas including VVIP arrivals, VIP courtyards, general departures and arrivals. Exotic indoor

plants and trees were chosen to create the designs; which includes *Ficus benjamina* as specimen trees with other plants such as *Anthuriums*, *Peace Lilies*, *Calatheas*, *Scheffleras*, *Syngoniums*. A total number of 10,000 plants and trees contribute to the unique and alluring beauty of the interiorscape. All the interior garden areas are controlled and maintained by automated irrigation systems.



DRY WADI

The term Wadi derives its root from the Arabic language. It specifically refers to a dry riverbed that contains water during rainy seasons and is located in a valley-like area of the desert. The new Muscat Airport has a special arrangement to recreate the natural wadi in the interiors of the building.

Proscape LLC (Muscat) had put in earnest effort to make the wadi into a reality, which involved careful

craftsmanship in the selection of assorted natural stones as well as the arrangement and installation of them by gluing all the stones to the existing base in such a manner to recreate the outdoor natural habitat of Oman. Approximately 2,400 artificial plants are fixed among natural stones to create the overall wadi effect. These are located at the departures & arrivals areas on both sides of the escalator belts. ■





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URBAN DEVELOPMENT



AL Sharja Pocket Parks

MHC - for Landscape Design consultancy

By: Mohamed Hamdy

New urbanism with integrated landscape design including streetscape, parks, and public spaces, all designed with natural materials and to enhance people's mood.

MHC landscape and its principle Mohamed Hamdy completed the design of the iconic projects in Sharjah. The streetscape and parks add value to staff and pupils of the American university. Challenges included the main arterial road on the approach to the university, this was met by screening off undesirable facades with green walls. The project theme is driven by topiary to reflect the character of the parks which are used for leisure and visual entertainment.





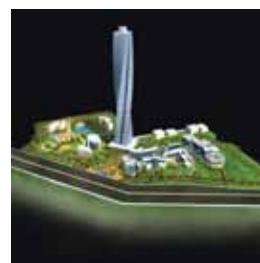
Equestrian Club

A uniquely design space offering horse riding lessons and stables with an Egyptian restaurant onsite.



Pharos Children Park

Based on an Egyptian temple with various leisure areas including water fountains and kid's playground with bright colors to attract children. All projects dedicated by MHC, Eng. Mohamed Hamdy are designed and worked since 2000 with unique concept and attractive theme suitable for main objective that meet the social interaction and adapted with human mood.



New Urbanism and space syntax (Digital Landscape)

New Era of landscape digital design that affects most design decisions on layout called space syntax analysis. It identifies the connectivity of spaces for proper land use according to the land value considered as one of the most challenging tasks which is dedicated to MHC-Eng. Mohamed Hamdy to analysis and study the master plan of Abu-Dhabi city and Jeddah city, for enhancing the visual image and strong the social connectivity of the city. This is done by improving the connectivity and integration of the city, by using landscape features as a tool for community integration.

To identify integration and connectivity, we used a depth-map for spatial analysis and Arc-GIS for geographic data

input. This also effects landscape features such as the places for landmarks, seating areas, planting density.

Jeddah is the most beautiful and historical city on the red sea of KSA, needs, social integration, recreation and entertainment to enhance the core heritage city and meet the needs of development to merge with the city township, the only tool useful for this propose is space syntax tool's Depth map which identifies the space weighted by integration and connectivity which reflected on the land value that has a direct impact on land use and distributing landscape features.

Last but not least we are continuing to enhance the landscape typology to get ready for a new era of digital landscape design. ■



London's Paddington Central gets new look

The public areas surrounding Paddington Station have been upgrading using fresh landscape techniques

By: Townshend Landscape Architects





Townshend Landscape Architects were appointed by British Land in 2014 to develop a Landscape Masterplan to reinvigorate the public realm at Paddington Central in Central London through a series of phased public realm projects; including Kingdom Street and Kingdom Square, which formed the second major phase of these works.

When the project to develop the design of Kingdom Street commenced, the landscape was dominated by hard landscape, with a central carriageway and raised planters clad with a dark grey stone along each side; Kingdom Square at the western end of the site had a temporary landscape which was to be replaced by a permanent scheme.

The proposals created a linear garden along Kingdom Street using a space that was created by realigning the carriageway along one side. A series of rooms were created in the spaces between each building with each space being given an individual identity aligned to their function. Kingdom Square became the terminus to the scheme with a central open lawn surrounded by new planting, ideal for nearby office workers who are encouraged to use the external spaces to sit during lunchtime. There is also onsite Wi-Fi and USB charging points available.

A degree of privacy is achieved by the trees and specimen shrubs that form a sense of enclosure along the walkway. These are under-planted in a

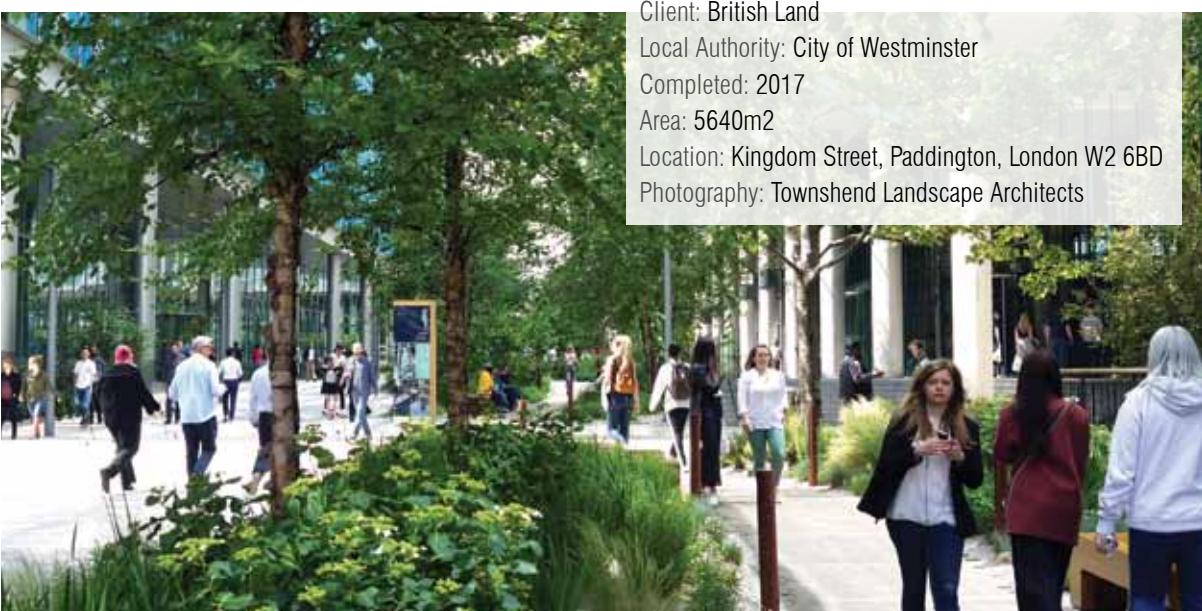


naturalised style, using a number of planting matrices to emphasise a range of textures and colours and to ensure a continuity of interest throughout the seasons.

The Yorkstone footpath winds its way through the planting, which spills out over its edges enhancing the lush sense of verdant greenery. Bespoke timber seats are located along the path and the carriageway is paved in warm tones of granite setts to visually merge with the rest of the landscape. Reduced vehicle speeds are promoted by reducing the carriageway width where possible, introducing flush kerbs and creating a portion that is a single lane, requiring vehicles to take turns to pass along its length.

Three garden rooms are created at the ends of Kingdom Street; The Games Room with stepped timber seating facing the table tennis tables, The Reading Room with tall planting creating an enclosure and

PARKS



seating embedded into the planter edges, and The Kitchen Garden with herb planting. These spaces enhance the amenities and activity opportunities of the landscape.

Kingdom Square forms the terminus to Kingdom Street. A central lawn is used for informal recreation and organised events including Yoga, music and pop-up food stalls. Planting around the perimeter creates an attractive edge to the Square and is a visual connection to the planting and character of the street. Pocket spaces are defined by planting, including a barbecue and firepit which acts as a spill out space for Number 4 Kingdom Street. ■

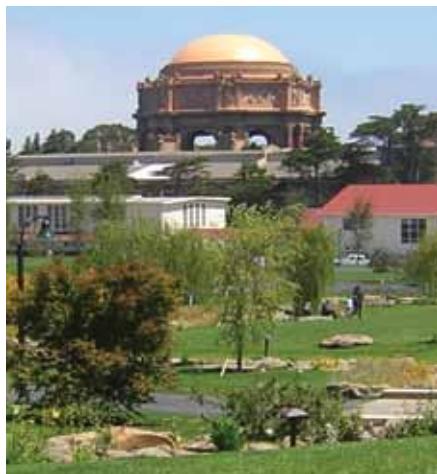
Project Name: Kingdom Street, Paddington
Public Realm and Landscape Architect: Townshend Landscape Architects
Client: British Land
Local Authority: City of Westminster
Completed: 2017
Area: 5640m²
Location: Kingdom Street, Paddington, London W2 6BD
Photography: Townshend Landscape Architects



LANDSCAPE BED



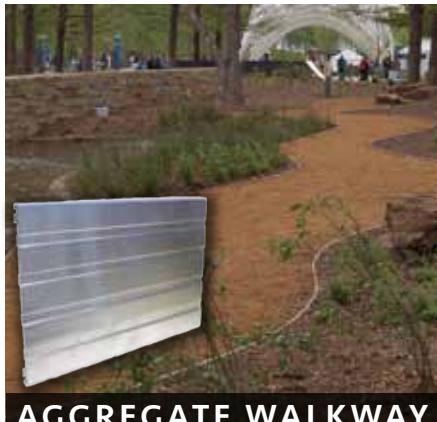
Stakeless Connection



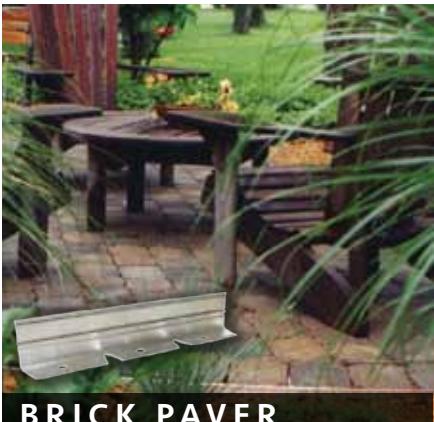
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URBAN FURNITURE

ISBN: 9789881261687

Author: (Art power International)

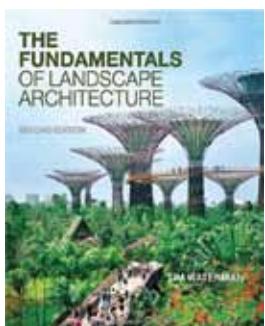
Publication Date: August 27, 2014

Language: English

Book Descriptions:

Urban Furniture is a wonderful collection of the functional and the fun, the eclectic and the eccentric within public spaces, reflecting the individual and the collective, from architecture, to sculpture and beyond.

Focusing on seemingly mundane community facilities, such as fountains, playgrounds, street signs, bicycle racks, contemporary urban furniture has a function beyond the utilitarian. Often its role is key to informing social and cultural identity, in transforming cities and people. By 2026, eighty-four percent of the world's population will live in cities, increasing the significance of urban furniture. This innovative collection presents some of the most contemporary aspects of city life, whether they are merely aesthetically pleasing art works, formal, functional, or playful it opens up an important dialogue around shared space and what



THE FUNDAMENTALS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ISBN-13: 9781472531445

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Bloombury; 2nd Revised edition edition (26 Feb. 2015)

Language: English

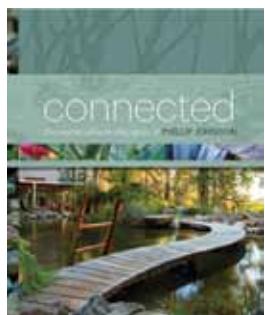
Product Dimensions: 17.2 x 1.9 x 23 cm

Price: 176.00 AED

Book's Description:

From climate change to sustainable communities, landscape architecture is at the forefront of today's most crucial issues and this book provides an introduction to the key elements of this broad field. The Fundamentals of Landscape Architecture explains the process of designing for sites, calling upon historical precedent and evolving philosophies to discuss how a project moves from concept to realization. It serves as a guide to the many specializations within landscape architecture, such as landscape strategy and urban design. The second edition features new international and US-based case

studies including a study of Peter Schaudt of Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects based in Chicago, US, which features the Historic Landscape Preservation Plan, at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The work of Dr Kongjian Yu of Turenscape is explored and features Houtan Park, Shanghai, China and Greg Grabasch's project Januburu Six Seasons, Broome, Western Australia is discussed. Examined in depth is the work of Ten Eyck Landscape Architects at The Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus, US. For the second edition the author, Tim Waterman, has interviewed the following leading landscape architects: Phil Askew of the London Legacy Development Corporation, UK, discusses the continuing legacy of the Olympics in London. The work of New York-based Thomas Balsley is explored through his project at Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park, New York, USA. The ethos of Raymond Jungles is examined with reference to his project at 1111 Lincoln Road, Miami, Florida, USA. And the role of the landscape architect is discussed with Thierry Kandjee of Taktyk in Brussels, Belgium. These interviews and case studies should inspire landscape architect students the world over to create innovative and creative designs.



CONNECTED THE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE.

ISBN: 9781743363409

Author: Phillip Johnson

Publication Date: Murdoch Books (December 4, 2014)

Language: English

Book Descriptions:

Australian landscape designer Phillip Johnson became an international household name after winning Best in Show at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower and Garden Show in 2013 - the equivalent of winning a gold medal at the Olympics. This book explores Phillip's

philosophy of connecting with nature in a sustainable way. Connected focuses on his key passions including: integrated sustainable water management and the creation of natural, chemical-free pools; recreation of thriving habitats for indigenous plants and animals; and the thoughtful connection of the landscape to the home. Illustrated with lavish photography and beautiful watercolour plans, Connected tells the stories behind the commissioning, design and execution of 19 gardens designed by Phillip (with insights from their owners), ranging from small suburban to large rural spaces, and includes his own home garden 'laboratory'. His account of the design and construction of his award-winning garden at Chelsea is also featured.

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Plantations and Gardens O&M	Operation and Maintenance of Plantations and Gardens	Riyadh Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	2667	12/27/2018	2/24/2019
Park Rehabilitation Works	Rehabilitation of a Park	Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment & Water Resources (Oman)	Oman	64	1/2/2019	1/31/2019
Green Areas, Trees and Irrigation Systems Maintenance	Maintenance of Green Areas, Trees and Irrigation Systems	Municipality of Governorate of Al Khafji (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	1333	12/20/2018	1/29/2019
Plantings Care Services	Providing Care for Plantings	Ministry of Manpower (Oman)	Oman	64	12/19/2018	1/29/2019
Agricultural Irrigation Pumps with Control System	Supply and Installation of Agricultural Irrigation Pumps with Control System	Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	133	12/27/2018	1/28/2019
Pavements & Gardens Rehabilitation Works	Rehabilitation of Pavements and Gardens	Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	800	12/24/2018	1/27/2019
Artificial Grass	Supply and Installation of Artificial Grass	Royal Saudi Naval Forces (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	187	12/20/2018	1/27/2019
Plantings Care Services	Providing Care for Plantings	Ministry of Manpower (Oman)	Oman	64	12/19/2018	1/27/2019
Landscape Maintenance	Maintenance of Landscape	Ministry of Industry & Commerce (Bahrain)	Bahrain	132	12/30/2018	1/23/2019
Al Shaheed Garden Development	Development of the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Al Shaheed Garden	Amiri Diwan (Kuwait)	Kuwait	35714	1/6/2019	1/22/2019
Park Construction	Construction of a Park	Mashhad Municipality (Iran)	Iran		1/7/2019	1/21/2019
Gardens & Crops Maintenance & Irrigation Works	Maintenance and Irrigation of Gardens and Crops	Jazan Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	26667	12/27/2018	1/21/2019
Gardens and Crops Maintenance & Irrigation Works	Maintenance and Irrigation of Gardens and Crops	Jeddah Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	1333	12/26/2018	1/21/2019
Landscaping Maintenance Services	Provide Landscaping Maintenance Services	Community Development Authority (Published on eSupply Portal)	Dubai		1/6/2019	1/20/2019
Gardens and Corridors Construction	Construction of Gardens and Corridors of Walks and Yards - the Fourth Stage	Najran Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	267	12/19/2018	1/20/2019
General Cleaning, Landscaping & Plantation Maintenance	General Cleaning Services, Maintenance of Landscaping & Plantation	Ministry of Information (Oman)	Oman	64	12/17/2018	1/20/2019
General Cleaning Services & Landscaping Maintenance	Provision of General Cleaning Services and Maintenance of Landscaping & Plantation	Ministry of Information (Oman)	Oman	64	12/10/2018	1/20/2019
Fire Irrigation Pumping Station Extension Works	Extension of Fire Irrigation Pumping Station.	Nakheel PJSC (Dubai)	Dubai	713	12/27/2018	1/16/2019
Landscaping and Irrigation Maintenance Services	Maintenance of Landscaping and Irrigation	Ministry of Higher Education (Oman)	Oman	64	1/2/2019	1/15/2019
Artificial Grass	Supply and Install Artificial Grass Layer	Ministry of Education (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	267	12/27/2018	1/15/2019
Entrances Improve & Beautify Works	Improve and Beautify Entrances	Riyadh Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	667	12/26/2018	1/14/2019
Gardens, Crops & Irrigation Networks Maintenance	Maintenance of Gardens, Crops and Irrigation Networks	Jeddah Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	533	12/25/2018	1/14/2019
Gardens & Parks Construction	Construction of Gardens and Parks	Riyadh Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	667	12/24/2018	1/14/2019
Gardens & Parks Construction	Construction of Gardens and Parks	Riyadh Municipality (Saudi Arabia)	Saudi Arabia	667	12/24/2018	1/14/2019
Soil Moisture Sensors and Data Loggers	Procurement of Soil Moisture Sensors and Data Loggers	Green Plan (Lebanon)	Lebanon		12/17/2018	1/14/2019



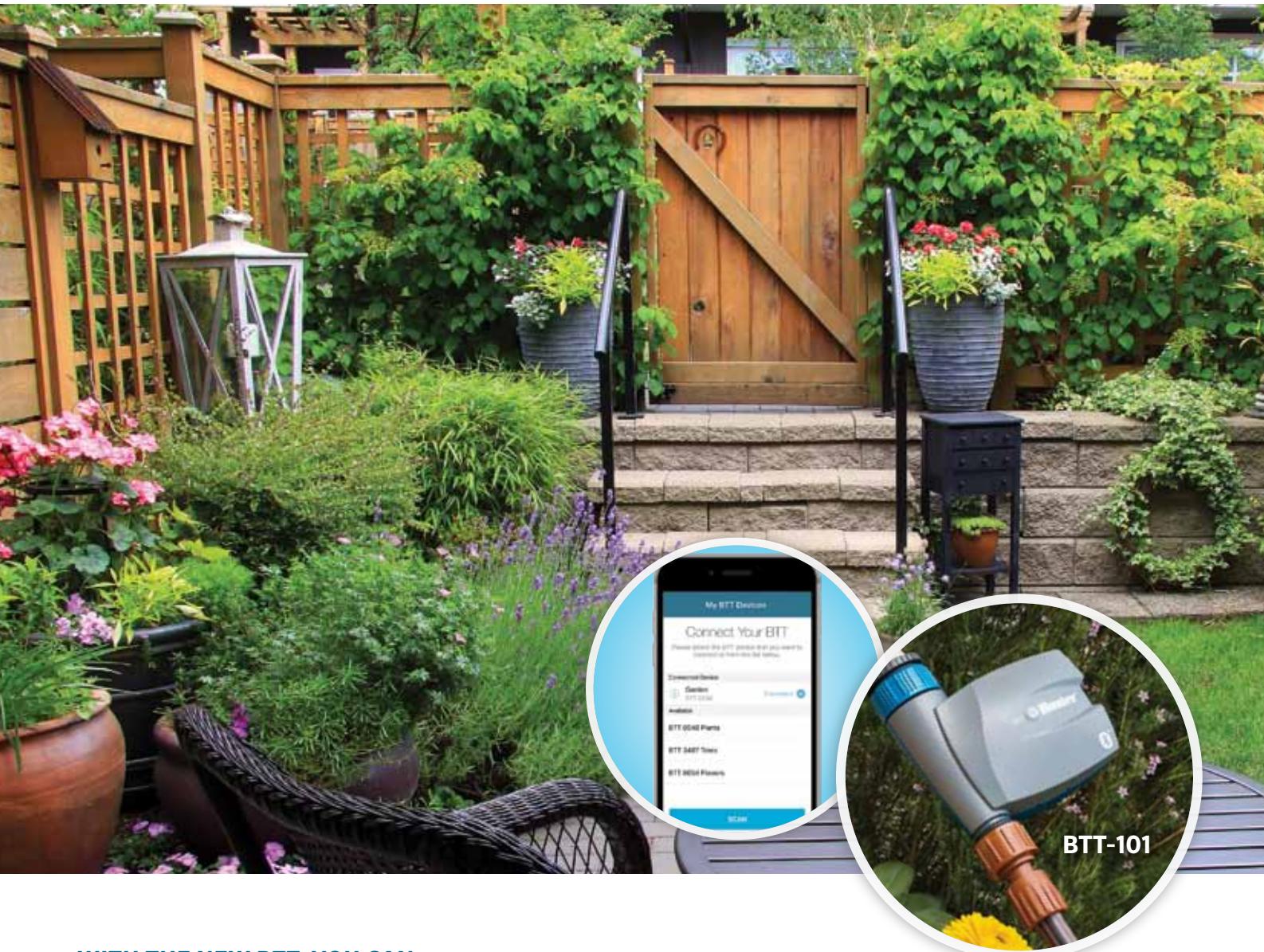
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