

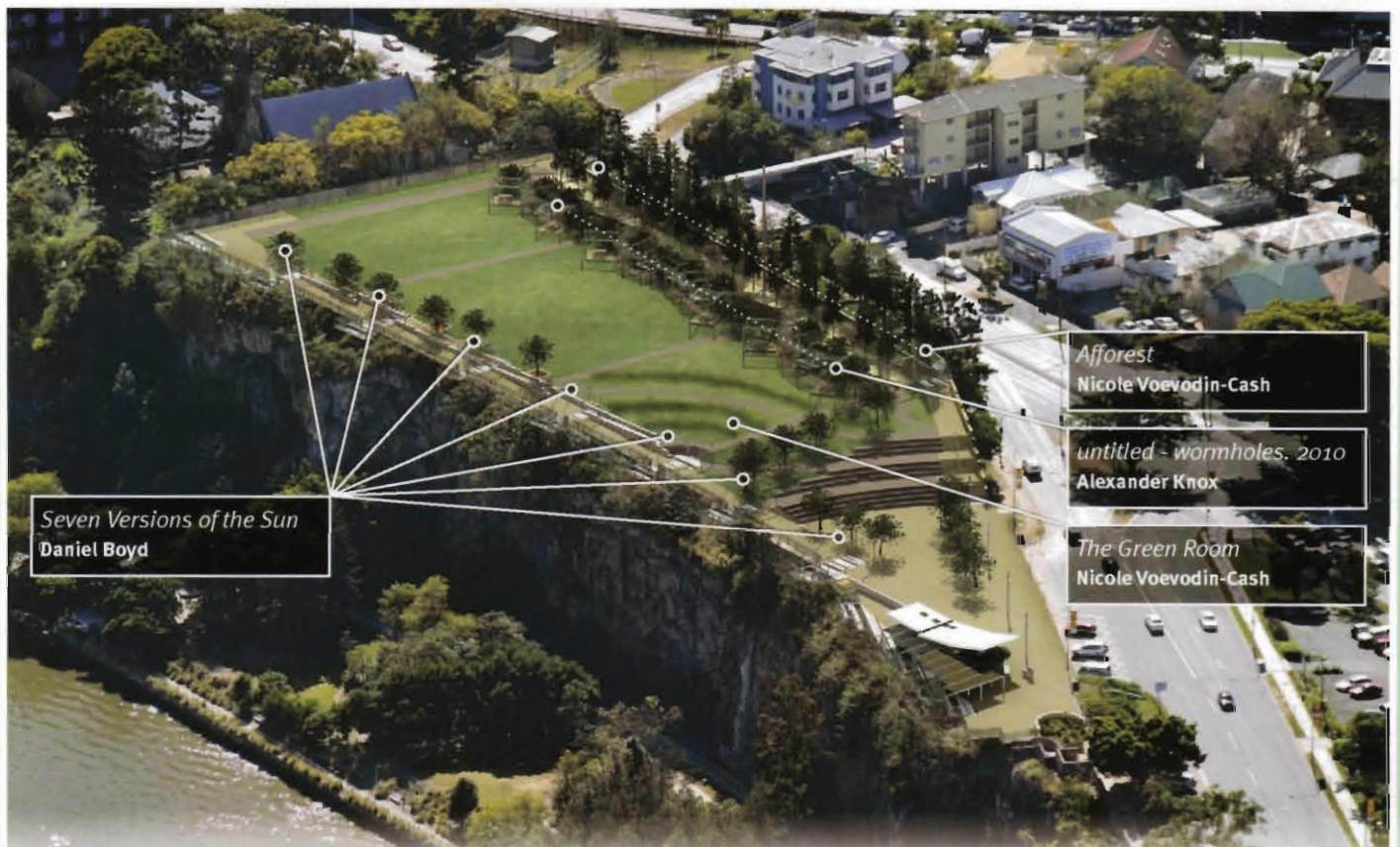
Kangaroo Point Park Public Artworks

art+place

This project is funded by the Queensland Government through art+place the Queensland Government Public Art Fund, Arts Queensland and the Department of Public Works.

Toward 
Tomorrow's Queensland

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This brochure has been produced by the Public Art Unit, Project Services, for the opening day of Kangaroo Point Park, 24th January 2010. A full catalogue of the artworks will be produced when all works are finished and installed in the Park.

Afforest, The Green Room and A study: of different ways of being

Nicole Voevodin-Cash

Overview

Some people will barely notice a difference and adjust to the works as part of the natural landscape. Others will be surprised by the shifts and moods that the artist creates. But there is much more in these works than just subtle physical interventions in space and are redolent with references to Queensland history and culture.

The parks design is not just for summer, the park is also for winter, where people can enjoy open sunlit spaces, or enjoy romantic and intimate evening interludes in private spaces that the artist has suggested by the art. The art is not just about aesthetically pleasing objects the artwork presents to the viewer and participant a highly practical way of intervening with the place. This allows the viewer to recognize how a park can change naturally over different seasons or by human intervention.

The park is a place for everyone, a space that allows for both public and private activities and a levelling of social class.

Afforest

Artwork partially installed—to be completed late 2010

This sculpture is a forest and consists of avenues and lines of species—Hoop, Wollemi and Cycad at the rear, Kauri in the middle and Bumpy Ash in the front, the protector and shade provider of the forest. As these trees grow they help to create spaces and moods and powerfully represent life and the development and growth of the state of Queensland. A sculptural arbour meanders its way through the last 2 avenues of trees crossing it like a DNA strand, further emphasizing the trees as the life force of the site. This arbour will grow a purple flowering Petrea, the 'Queens Wreath' or commonly known as the sandpaper vine.

Afforest is a space in which people can move through and under and is like a giant tunnel of nature joining a series of spaces or rooms. Each entry path into *Afforest* will be marked by a series of 'shaped' trees (grafted *brachychiton acerifolius*), grown, pleached and shaped specifically for the park and planted later in the year in 2010.

In this sense *Afforest* becomes a different kind of contained space which exaggerates and heightens our relationship with nature, emphasizing through the shaped tree humans manipulation and control of nature and our role in the natural environment.

The *Brachychiton* has been selected for shaping because of its quick growth and because its bark was once used by Indigenous people to make fishing baskets; in so doing to weave and shape these trees today is a reminder of the trees past use and reminiscent of white settlers gardening practices brought from their homeland of 'grafting' and 'pleaching', a contemporary version of both traditions. All the other trees are past cabinet trees of the region.

Pine trees symbolize: creativity, life, longevity and immortality.

Purple colour symbolizes: royalty and romance.



RIGHT: Image by Yukiko Nakano 2009

FAR RIGHT: Image of Petrea Vine courtesy of the Artist

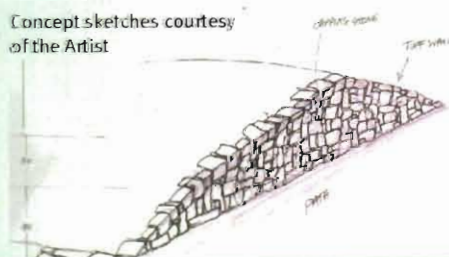


The Green Room

Is essentially a soft amphitheatre and ironically by name *The Green Room* suggests a room, but this room is an open environment; it is a space which brings people together, confines people and suggests possibilities of interaction and encounter. It is an artwork that people will be able to walk through, sit on, play on, picnic on, sleep on, dream in, and meet at, and from afar they will be able to admire and enjoy its shapes and colour. The (purple) umbrellas though temporary (for the opening day) will further focus these activities as a room within a room. Whilst *The Green Room* is more a contained amphitheatre like space the "theatre" takes place on the amphitheatre seats as opposed to the stage, allowing the focus on the cityscape especially at night.

A row of warm white lights will light the central pathway cut through the the work exposing the 'tuff' (granite) through *The Green Room*, reminiscent of theatre row lighting. The trees to the right on entry to *The Green Room* will glow red and on returning and walking out of the space the colour will change to a warm white light, the colours and lights add depth and a playful romanticism to the site.

Concept sketches courtesy of the Artist



A study: of different ways of being

A temporary artwork installation for the park. Opening: Day 24th January 2010

A study: of different ways of being strongly supports the dialogue between outside and inside and between place and space creating a physical environment of leisure.

Three sensory elements form the basis of this work:

OLFACTORY: has been created from the inspiration from this quote from Mark Twain;

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."

Dried lavender and chamomile will be laid on the paths that intersect *Afforest* and *The Green Room* and as people walk through these works they will inadvertently release the smells of the colours they are surrounded by.

TOUCH: purple parasols will be handed out on the day and as people wander and swirl these they will create purple moving flowers moving through the park. People can also take their positions under the purple flowering petals of randomly placed umbrellas for protection from the elements and the creation of smaller intimate zones within a public area.

SIGHT and SOUND: is found on the entry nodes of *Afforest*, to temporarily bring attention to the future planting of the beautifully espaliered and shaped trees. Six large inflatable 'ghost' trees will be created and positioned where these trees will eventually be sited. These ghostly reminders of trees past, present and where future woven trees will be installed. On the day these 'works' will be a spectacle and visual drawcard from the city to the park on this memorable day.



Image by Yukiko Nakano 2009

Conclusion

The term sense of place^[1] has been defined and used in different ways by different people. To some, it is a characteristic that some geographic places have and some do not, while to others it is a feeling or perception held by people (not by the place itself). It is often used in relation to those characteristics that make a place special or unique, as well as to those that foster a sense of authentic human attachment and belonging.

In summary, a sense of place is a social phenomenon that exists independently of any one individual's perceptions or experiences, yet is dependent on human engagement for its existence.^[2]

^[1] investigation of the way in which the concept of place relates to certain core philosophical issues such as the nature of ground, of the transcendental, and of concepts of unity, limit, and bound.

^[2] Seamon, David, 2000. *A Way of Seeing People and Place: Phenomenology in Environment-Behavior Research.*