

H> As a practicing GP for over 15 years in Scotland having worked in many positions and practices throughout the country I have been acutely aware of socioeconomic inequalities including gender, racial, class inequalities and many other forms of social or cultural discrimination during this period. These issues have been at the heart of my work in General Practice and have clearly been at the root of significant suffering and ill health within our communities for many years. <H

G> During this time it became apparent that modern medicine though striving to care for disadvantaged populations was fire fighting an exponentially growing burden of ill health, an ageing population and advancing or constantly evolving technologies. Unfortunately the profession is very often limited by financial constraints and short term visions of health care delivery or public health provision. A heavy focus on certain therapeutic approaches or interventions though absolutely vital within the reductionist paradigm of evidence based medicine also sometimes distracts from finding a holistic or broader epidemiological or social balance. <G

F> Through my increasing awareness of this paradoxical situation I became trapped in a double bind where practicing without questioning or confronting these underlying structural or systemic concerns was hypocritical, confusing and often not endurable. As a result I spent some time in Public Health but again was unable to connect with the real serious, pressing emergent challenges. Wanting to be involved in a movement towards a new health paradigm based on both salutogenesis and pathogenesis I committed to training in Landscape Architecture as a vehicle to confront these issues proactively and manage this escalating tension. <F

E> It also became apparent that the ill health of varying social groups resulted from entrenched modern, neo-liberalist or hierarchical structures and that certain groups could be helped or supported by other disadvantaged or pressured groups and vice versa. This complex situation offers rich potential for synergy and positive change. Considering safe contexts in which to have these difficult conversations, interactions and experiences while limiting harm, as well as my own love of the Scottish outdoors inspired my interest in the power of Landscape Architecture and its potential to provide a hopeful and peaceful transition towards a new, fairer and better way of living. <E

D> My work centres around the identification of special or specific sites that can promote necessary human and environmental or ecological interactions through the immanent properties and emergent potential of the sites. In my portfolio these sites and interventions support conversations about natural cycles, challenging life transitions, socially and environmentally sustainable economic propositions and facing difficult or challenging aspects of our shared histories. <D

C> Recurring themes include water, geometry, scale, immanence and emergence. The work also identifies that capitalism in any form was always going to be seductive to certain self serving groups and unavoidably harmful to our natural environments. <C

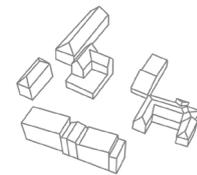
B> My work is based on a critical response to these issues and dilemmas with a sincere respect for the economics and democracy of space. <B

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I am motivated by working towards a new type of society based on respect for the natural world, the imagination to find value in all life, and the prioritisation and care of our environment as a metaphor for how we care for each other as we move forward together into new challenges such as the global climate crisis or novel public health problems associated with our increasingly globalised and hyper connected world.



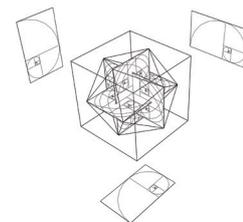
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