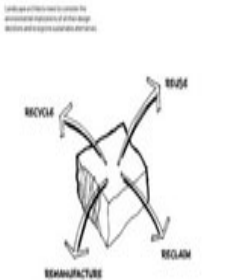


Landscape Architecture: An Introduction

Recycling and everyday practice

There are increases in the costs of raw materials - timber, stone, metal, plastic - in use in earth building. Timber can be used as a substitute for plastic or concrete solutions, but designers can move away from plastic and use local, unprocessed materials. Recycled materials are one step forward, much as you have seen waste. This is already common practice with materials such as steel and aluminium, but a good practice with all materials. Concrete and masonry can easily be reused, as can paving tiles in both stone and pre-cast concrete. There is a long tradition of reusing bricks, but it is based on the bricks being strong to reuse. The brick is much stronger than new, made under the very same conditions that made the new brick - so why not just send it back to the maker?



Part of the modern solution is to use the in-situ building materials that are added, such as traditional construction is an embedded carbon and low embodied energy compared with that of steel and brick.

In the UK a common practice is to use and reuse, whether stone, brick or concrete, on sites of previous buildings. Such construction is high in embodied carbon, high in embodied energy, expensive and often only a single use. In contrast, it is a common practice in many continental European countries to use bricks and stone paving on sites. The UK should adopt a similar practice. Landscape architects should always question what they do.

Avoid use of precast concrete, and to a smaller extent, precast concrete for paving and water retention by making concrete on site. Recycling is not just a question of the initial capital costs in a project, it should be factored into ongoing development. The opportunities for embedding recycling and sustainability into landscape architecture practice are endless. The above examples may seem small but collectively they can have a significant effect.



7 Robert Holden Recycling and everyday practice

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