HOW TO BELONG
LANDSCAPE-LED MASTERPLANNING

START WITH PEOPLE AND HOW THEY LIVE.

NEXT WORK ON THE SPACES AND PLACES THAT SUPPORT THIS.

ONLY THEN, SORT OUT THE BUILDINGS.
THE SITE
BOUND BY A RAILWAY, ROADS AND A CANAL

- Railway station
- Park
- Railway lines
- Derelict sidings
- Listed building
- Mature trees
- Storage yards
- Industrial buildings
- Derived industrial buildings
- Secondary road
- Busy main road
- Terraced housing
‘THE ENCLAVE’
THE WAY THINGS OFTEN ARE, WITH SHAPE-LED MASTERPLANNING

Weak and unclear links to station, with leaky space at entrance

Isolated new park in the wrong place

Orientation of uniform slab blocks limits the number of apartments with canal views

Mean, under-scaled and poorly connected public realm by canal

Ill-defined public and private space with no relationship between fronts and backs

Tower creates windy and unpleasant corner

Tall buildings block out summer evening sun

Insular: no links created with existing community

Over-development beside busy main road

Design does not respond to local grain or street pattern

Heavily shaded canyons between slab blocks

Leftover space used for car parking

Only apartments at front get canal views

Listed building is hidden

Car dominated public realm

When you put shapes on the site plan first and everything else has to fit around them, the fitting becomes the purpose of the design.

First life, then spaces, then buildings
A short essay about landscape-led development by Selina Mason and Andrew Harland, LDN Design
‘HOPKINS WHARF’
THE WAY THINGS ALWAYS SHOULD BE, WITH LANDSCAPE-LED MASTERPLANNING

"First life, then spaces, then buildings"
A short essay about landscape-led development by Selina Mason and Andrew Harland, LDA Design

"MASTERPLANNING IS A SOCIAL ENDEAVOUR. IT IS NOT ABOUT CREATING A PLACE FOR BUILDINGS BUT CREATING A PLACE FOR PEOPLE."
HOW DO YOU PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE?

1. Write a good brief
2. Appoint the landscape architect first and create a collaborative team to lead the process
3. Masterplan using landscape as the determining theme
4. Learn from the site and its context
5. Focus on making a sociable place
6. Lead with the landscape in public consultation
7. Improve environmental security through landscape
8. Commission the skills you need to make the right decisions

*LDA Design* is an independent creative consultancy helping clients to deliver places which work well.

We provide landscape-led masterplanning, design and planning services to developers, landowners, communities, universities and government.

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