



Courtesy: Fenella Griffin, Untitled Practice

## Landscape Detailing for Great Streets

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- **Prepare a design and identity guide for your high street** that details public realm and shop front improvements to provide a welcoming environment that supports new and existing businesses.
- **Prepare a strategy that focuses on narrowing carriageway and increasing footway.** Raised crossings, 'Copenhagen' crossings at side roads and pocket spaces for resting and programmed events can help create healthy high streets.
- **Construction detailing requires good understanding of levels, drainage and below ground services** and a technical specification of paving materials and sub-base to ensure the new surfacing doesn't fail under vehicle loading.
- **Undertake regular street furniture audits** to remove redundant signage markings, street furniture and advertising boards as a cost effective means of improving the streetscape.
- **Be creative with cycle segregation and hostile vehicle measures;** a more integrated landscape treatment using street furniture, SuDs and planting can provide delineation between footways, cycle routes and motor traffic.
- **Consolidate street furniture within furniture zone and maintain obstacle free pedestrian zone along shop fronts.** Footways should be a minimum 1.8m wide. Provide regular seating and include space for wheelchairs. Provide a mix of sizes and back and arm supports to help people sit down and stand up.
- **Decide where the trees go first as they provide the rhythm and the structure.** Find out where the utilities are as they are expensive to divert. Dig trial pits to see what's there and take soil samples to test for contamination and suitability for planting.
- **Select the right tree, big trees are more expensive to maintain and more difficult to establish.** Check the British Standard on guidance for root zone depths and detailing. Trenches and structural 'crate' systems may be required in busy high streets however simple planting pits can also provide trees with a good start.
- **Staking is cheap and easy and also offers some form of protection.** Underground guying is usually preferred in city centres as it takes up less room. Where protection from vehicle strikes is required consider using street furniture instead of a guard.
- **Contemporary planting design should aim to create plant communities that evolve into stable environmental systems that are resilient and able to withstand urban conditions.** A plant community where species are compatible with each other and are planted in similar conditions to their natural habitats will thrive.



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**Speakers:**

Fenella Griffin, Untitled Practice

Paul Tagliarini, WSP

Ian Hingley, Urban Movement

Giacomo Guzzon, Gillespies

**Attendees: 115**