

If urban open space regeneration is to truly succeed, landscape architects must become an integral part of the process. **Noel Farrer** provides a personal view.

Regen a space



🔗 *Clients and funding agencies do not always understand the important contribution landscape makes to urban regeneration. In this scheme, public access to the canal was only achieved through the determination of the landscape architect.*

All images: Farrer Huxley Associates

Why are there so few schemes in inner city communities, which have contributed to real change in people's lives?

I am conscious that Farrer Huxley Associates, like many landscape practices can design to a high standard and deliver work on time and to budget, but I also realise that these elements are a given and that many other skills are required to achieve success.

In this article I wish to highlight the major areas which, in our experience, are fundamental to improving the urban landscape where people live; and the role the landscape architect should have in delivering it.

Thinking about cost and time

Cost and programme often frustrate the delivery of meaningful consultation. I believe firmly that bespoke consultation driven by end users is the only way to achieve success. In many projects we find that fees and programmes fixed prior to consultation deny real opportunities to provide relevant consultation.

While I live in the real world and understand that funds are not limitless, I do believe that educating clients to recognise the importance of the outcome of meaningful consultation will allow them to understand the value of the exercise and hopefully fund it better.

