



PHILLIP JOHNSON
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

PRESENTS

HABITAT

A LANDMARK DESIGN IN SUSTAINABILITY
AT THE 13TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

March 12, 2009: Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscape Systems (formerly Greenmark Landscapes) and the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) invite you to go walkabout in the largest and most ambitious installation ever featured at this international event from April 1–5. HABITAT is a spellbinding billabong oasis which celebrates our country's enviable natural beauty, showcasing the true possibilities in sustainable landscape design.

Over 600 square metres of native Australian wonderland centres on the tranquility and life prescribed by running water. HABITAT is an ode to water conservation, capture, storage and efficient use; and the landscape aims to challenge our imported vernacular in "beautiful" garden design. Like every Phillip Johnson design, this installation demonstrates the creation of habitats which become an oasis for indigenous flora and fauna, inviting people to give back to the earth that has given us so much.

The cornerstone of the HABITAT design is educating people on water conservation, as well as the use and benefits of native plants, sourcing local materials, self sufficiency (permaculture & aquaculture) and the use of recycled/recyclable products. A fire-prevention system is critical feature of this installation. HABITAT is a timely demonstration of landscape design principles for the 21st century.

HABITAT is aesthetically breathtaking – granite Hanson stepping-stones will transport you into a landscape where the rainforest meets the Australian outback. It's a testament to the fact that nature never goes out of fashion, and more importantly a landscape that will not only stand

the test of time in our harsh Australian environment, it will flourish.

Native plants, including Boabs, Eucalyptus, Lomandra, Banksia, Myoporum, and Acacia populate the landscape, the seed run off of which will encourage new growth and habitat formation. Indigenous aquatic plants thrive in the billabongs and creek, acting as a natural filter to clean the waterways. All Phillip Johnson designs are the product of years of nature study to understand truly sustainable design practices.

Billabongs and running water are the focal point of HABITAT. Take a hot shower in front of a thirteen-ton granite boulder and be revived by nature. Follow the meandering creek from the Upper Billabong through the gorge that runs along the outskirts of the orchard and vegetable garden, which is completed by friendly chooks. Walk across the Sunset Viewing Platform made of recycled timber supplied by Australian Recycled Timbers and drop your fishing line into the enormous Lower Billabong – will it be silver perch or trout on the lunch menu today?

Take the catch of the day to the stunning fire pit for cooking. When lunch is ready, take a seat at the recycled plastic and stainless steel table by Outdoor Nation and gaze upwards to the blown glass chandelier hanging from the trees, made by renowned glass artist Miles Johnson. Why do you ever sit indoors? After lunch, choose to lie in your hammock and listen to the waterfall cascade; or perhaps you prefer to follow the stepping-stones and gentle contoured hills up from the creek to sit atop the hand crafted stone wall, by premier stone mason David Long.

Land contouring to encourage maximum run off, as well as a 5 metre tall stainless steel rain water tank, and a connection to storm water drains are just some of the innovative techniques used in this exhibit to capture and conserve water. The water that fills the billabongs has been collected from path and driveway run off. The billabongs not only form a protective fire barrier around a residence, they act as a water source that can be connected to the home via a reticulation system and activated when fire strikes. This fire-prevention system can be activated remotely from a mobile phone.

This installation has been created from materials sourced within a 100km radius of the site - there are only two exceptions here - being the solar panels courtesy of True Solar Time which are no longer manufactured in Australia; and the pond liner which is manufactured in NZ – however that being used at MIFGS was direct from a supplier in Collingwood, Victoria.

HABITAT represents a long list of “firsts” for MIFGS. It’s the first ever installation to include live animals; it’s the first installation to include billabongs; the first site to run off grid – the entire site is powered from a 27 metre wide

solar wall (adorned by a spectacular vertical garden); and the first to feature a fire prevention system. The whole site is designed to work with the existing trees thanks to the efforts of arborists Greenwood Consulting – which also led to the first ever approval from Council to hang anything from the 100 year-old plane trees. It’s also by far the largest site ever commissioned.

Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscape Systems is incredibly proud to be involved with MIFGS, and more broadly to be educating the broader community on sustainable landscape design – working to rebuild our earth and inspiring people and children to reconnect with nature.

Phillip Johnson will be part of a daily panel discussion on the benefits of native plants in landscape design from 12pm – 12:45pm at MIFGS.

Visit HABITAT in front of the fountain on the grounds of the Royal Exhibition Buildings at MIFGS.

Go to www.phillipjohnson.com.au for further information.

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MIFGS EVENT DETAILS

April 1 – 5, 2009

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDINGS CARLTON

Open daily from 9am – 5pm (until 6pm on April 3 & 4)

Tickets from RACV on 13 13 29 or www.racv.com.au

