

## NEWS RELEASE

7 July 2010

### **New Landscape Institute President focuses on investment**

Jo Watkins CMLI has taken over as President of the Landscape Institute, the professional body for landscape architects. Speaking after his first Council meeting on 1 July, Watkins said, "The new government has set out its agenda for the country, including tackling climate change, developing a culture of localism and securing best value for money. These values are at the heart of what we do as landscape architects so amid general economic anxiety we have an exciting story to share."

Watkins continued, "Good quality landscape has a positive impact on the lives of ordinary people. It also engages everyone from food experts, to poets and it remains high on the green political agenda. It is my intention that the Landscape Institute should place itself at the heart of these debates. I have always believed that the role landscape architects play in shaping our cities and countryside is essential if we are to fulfil our potential as a society. Our members offer an unsurpassed level of professionalism and technical expertise in the sphere of environmental design."

Jo Watkins was born in Swansea and now lives and works in Blackheath. He has been a landscape architect for 25 years having trained at Thames Polytechnic. He has worked for the Scottish Development Agency in Glasgow but has spent most of his career in private practice, the last 10 years as a partner in Watkins Dally. He recently left his partnership and now works as a consultant. He has taught landscape architecture at Greenwich University, London Metropolitan University and at the Bartlett, University College, London. He has served on the Landscape Institute Council for 12 years. The presidency runs for a period of two years.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

The Landscape Institute is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape. The Institute's accreditation and professional procedures ensure that the designers, managers and scientists who make up the landscape architecture profession work to the highest standards. Its advocacy and education programmes promote the landscape architecture profession as one which focuses on design, environment and community in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit.

The Landscape Institute represents 6000 members who include chartered landscape architects, academics, scientists and students. Our members work for a range of organisations such as local authorities, government agencies and in private practice. They are involved in a broad range of tasks including masterplanning, environmental assessment, public consultation and design.

The Institute provides services to assist members including support and promotion of the work of landscape architects; information and guidance to the public and industry about the specific expertise offered by those in the profession; and training and educational advice to students and professionals looking to build upon their experience.