

book reviews

the spirit of the possibilities of the EU, the publication of *Fieldwork* has brought together a network of landscape enthusiasts who are synergistically planning various initiatives and collaborations. Diedrich says that the name *Fieldwork* literally refers to the nature of the work: work in the field, engagement by landscape architects with ground which is also a field, cultivated again and again over millennia. Flicking through the stiff pages (it's a large, heavy book), I see that the work is all of a high calibre, swinging between the extremes of expressionism and clinical Modernism. It is characterized by a search for design innovation with an emphasis on formal resolution. *Fieldwork* will be a regular publication every three years.

The new magazine *scape* is published in English and largely comprised of articles and essays that have appeared in *Blauwe Kamer*, now translated into English. In general these articles are excellent and worthy of translation, revealing an approach to urbanism that sees landscape architecture as integral rather than peripheral, and engaged with the complex modern city. To this foundation, the network of European landscape thinkers who were involved with *Fieldwork* have added project critiques and columns. The graphic style is bold and not precious, in an off-*A4* format. While currently focused on Europe because of the location of many of its writers, *scape* is clearly envisaged as an international magazine.

Along with the internationalization of *Topos* and the new journal *JOLA, scape* and *Fieldwork* represent a welcome sudden expansion of international landscape publishing. Given that a European design perspective. *Fieldwork* has a characteristic interest in formal design quality, this body of publishing provides access to a wide range of useful precedents that are substantially different from the American exemplars that Australia has traditionally referenced.

Review by
Julian Raxworthy

The Netherlands is renowned for its relentless flatness, but there is some topography along its eastern border with Germany. The town of Wageningen is perched on an escarpment overlooking the flood plain of the Lower Rhine, and is the home of an agricultural university in which the oldest landscape architecture course in the Netherlands is taught. In an old Dutch Arts and Crafts building from the turn of the twentieth century, landscape architect and publisher Harry Harsema established Schip van Blaauw, a publishing house dedicated to landscape architecture. It's a cute, long, flat, boat-like building (thus its name *Schip*, together with a reference to Professor Blaauw, whose laboratory it was) with Frank Lloyd Wright overtones. Harsema bought it from the university, from which he was also a graduate. It has a residence at one end, a lecture theatre at the other, a bar and terrace out the back and two floors of offices and studios. It is occupied by a number of different publications, holds the offices of other designers and is the picture of what a diverse area design publishing has become. Harsema established Schip van Blaauw for *Blauwe Kamer* (or "The Blue Room"), the magazine for the Dutch professional landscape architecture organization, which is the equivalent of Australia's *Landscape Architecture Australia*. He expanded by publishing the Dutch yearbook of landscape architecture and other books, and is now producing books for the English-speaking market. Initially translating interesting Dutch landscape writing, Schip van Blaauw is now publishing directly in English with the yearbook *Fieldwork: Landscape Architecture Europe* and the new landscape magazine *scape*.

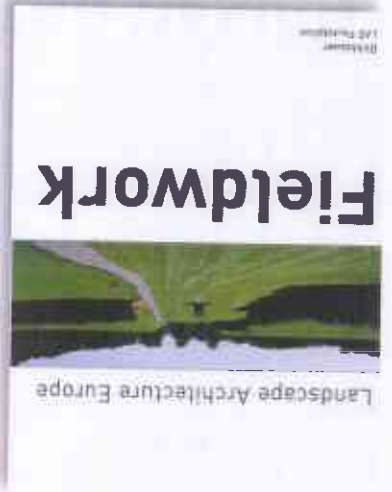
Fieldwork is a survey of contemporary projects from Europe, with essays ranging from biographies of important educators such as Jacques Simon to an overview of the physical environment of Europe. The projects were selected by some of Europe's top landscape architects and academics, and funded by a foundation, Landscape Architecture Europe. The jury included Henri Bava, from French landscape practice Agency TER; Danish landscape architect Stig Andersson; Michael van Gessel, from the Academic van Bouwkunst Amsterdam; and Lisa Diedrich, who has long been involved with *Topos*. In

Birkhauser Verlag, paperback, 2006, 89 pages
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scape (Volume 2)

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Fieldwork by
Foundation Landscape
Architecture Europe (Eds.)



Fieldwork

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