



## Beyond function

Design of a house needs to meet certain criteria :

- Number and size of rooms
- Structural integrity
- Energy Efficiency
- Safety requirements, etc.

But the Architect adds livability, beauty, feeling

### Use & Pleasure



## Beyond function

The functional aspects of SuDS:

- Flows
- Volumes
- Treatment


*Put the Funk in  
Amenity*  
“Put the Funk in  
Functionalism”




## What is ‘amenity’?


*“a desirable or useful feature or facility of a building or place.”*

*“the pleasantness or attractiveness of a place.”*

What is 'amenity'? 



Amenity is as diverse as we are

What is 'amenity'? 



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## What is 'amenity'?



Amenity is as diverse as we are

## Considering amenity



Any landscape deserves consideration of the experience of people using it. Ideally that landscape will be deliberately designed to give people using it a positive experience.



## Considering amenity

Before SuDS, the degree of interaction between the users of a space and the surface water drainage system was essentially limited to this:



## The SuDS Landscape

SuDS manages surface water at or near the surface.

In doing so, that water flow and the features and devices used to shepherd it through the landscape have an impact on people's experience of that place.



## SuDS in the Host Landscape

SuDS impacts on the Host Landscape

- Appearance
- Sensory character
- Meaning
- Connection
- Usability



## SuDS in the Host Landscape



Poorly designed, SuDS can be a dangerous no-go area with only modest visual interest and very little biodiversity.

It can detract from the amenity of it's host landscape.

## What does amenity require?



Similar to the criteria for biodiversity set out in 'Ponds, Pools and Lochans', amenity requires the following from SuDS :

- Controlled flow of relatively clean water
- Structural diversity
- Connectivity

## Source control = clean water



Without source control SuDS features may be polluted, dirty and unattractive:



## Source control = clean water

With source control, rainwater quickly becomes a resource that can contribute to the Host Landscape.



## Structural diversity = visual interest

SuDS can contribute hugely to the visual quality of a landscape





## Connectivity = legibility

A SuDS scheme which keeps the flow of water at the surface is easily understood by users and for maintenance.



## Accessible & safe

SuDS should be accessible throughout and designed to be safe.

NOT LIKE THIS :



## Accessible & safe



SuDS should be accessible throughout and designed to be safe.

BUT LIKE THIS :



## SuDS contributing to amenity



Examples from Robert Bray Associates and abroad

























