

Transcript: Robin Gay reflects on the profession's development in New Zealand

"Since I retired in '96, partly through ill-health, I've been able to sit back and observe and I see a still fairly young profession around the country but one that is far more viable than what it was. People are involved with a wide range of issues and people themselves have personally taken themselves to considerable heights, both in a professional sense and working in other fields, such as the Environmental Court commissioners and so on.

And I think that's great, that the profession is perhaps not seen solely and fixedly as one person doing one job but the amalgam perhaps of several dimensions in the environment which they can turn their hand to or advise on and be involved with. And I think that local authorities are more aware than what they ever have been, of the need for good advice and use landscape architects for a wide range of jobs.

And the profession, in a consultant sense has grown and grown and there are people throughout the country now who can stand up as good if not better as any in the world, I think, and practice landscape architecture in a way that suits New Zealand. We've grown out of the syndrome of having to watch what overseas countries do - still use them as a guide but be able to stand on our own feet in a professional sense."

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