



A view through the new public park at Knockrabo, with simple boundary treatments, intimate relationship to the housing and a portion of the main swale (seen on the right) planted with native planting and which takes surface water run-off from the development further up the site

Mature trees and extreme topography

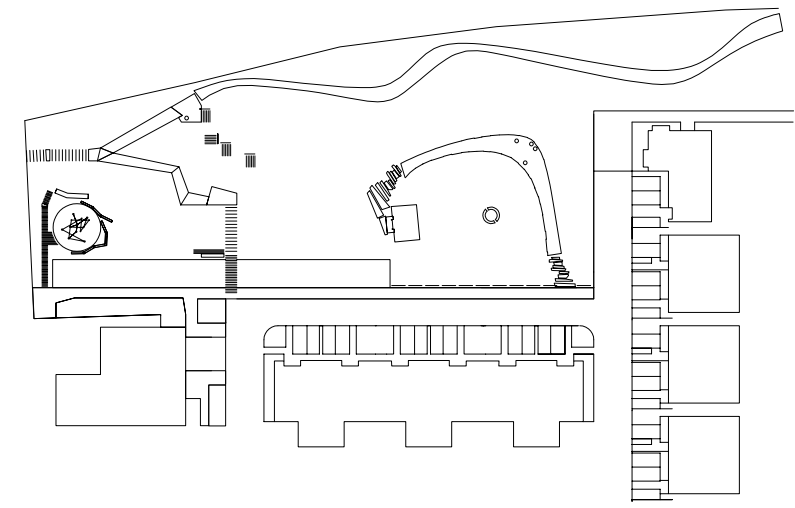
Generating a pragmatic and fun geometry

Knockrabo is located approximately five miles south of Dublin's city centre on lands rising away from the river valley and ascending towards the hills of Wicklow. The underlying geology is granite and the topography rises at gradients from 1:20 to 1:12 from the north of the site towards the south. Ultimately this topography is the generator of the site plan and the landscape strategy for this project. Add to that the presence of majestic redwoods planted during the Victorian era and the technical requirements become very apparent. The new landscape is dominated by the large redwoods, both visually and in terms of how the new topography is composed. The landscape plan is a pragmatic composition of open-ended and independent forms, either horizontal surfaces and terraces or three dimensional forms providing a fun but accessible experience of the new park and attendant landscape spaces throughout the residential scheme.

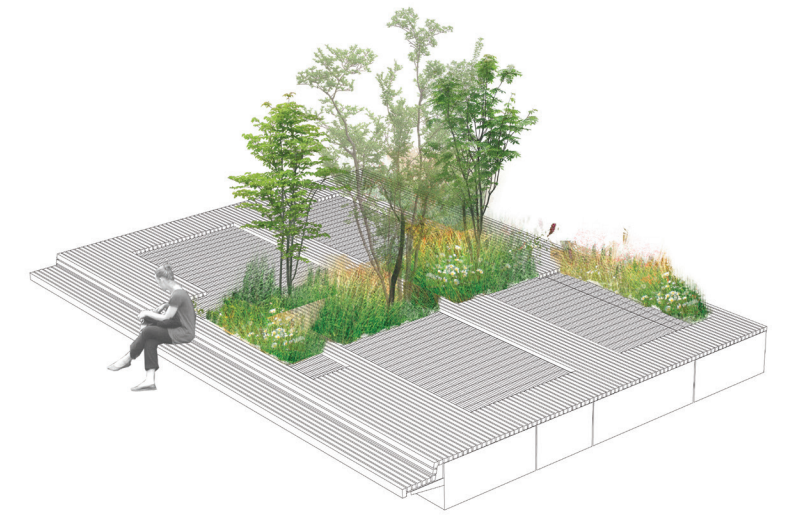
Living - housing and landscape

Quality of materials and space

One of the main objectives of the landscape design process was to replicate or match the quality of materials and space between building and landscape. Only when the private domain and the public, or shared, experience are treated as one, does a fully integrated and durable landscape emerge. This has been achieved at Knockrabo without excessive cost and with sustainable use of resources where possible. Given that much of our formative experience and most of the city's physical environment is delivered through residential development, we feel that opportunities that arise for innovation and quality in the residential arena must be exploited by landscape architects.



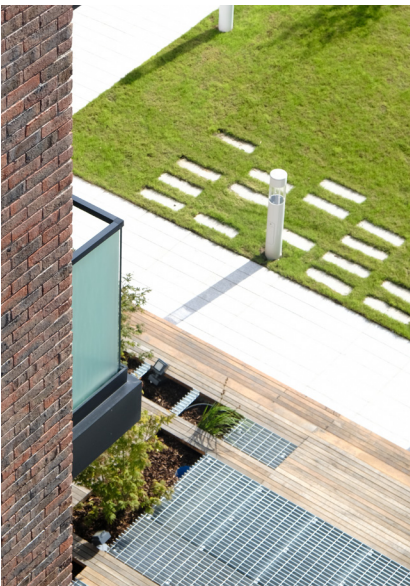
Extract of the landscape plan for Phase 1 of the public park, illustrating the use of geometry to occupy and provide comfortable access to the steeply sloping hill (NTS)



Design intent drawing of the ventilation detail concealed as a planter with seating



Features in the new public park (from left to right) - natural play trail; footpath to playground; steps and handrail



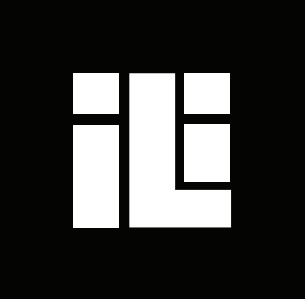
The apartment courtyards with integrated ventilation, seating and planting

Attendant landscape treatments/features at main pedestrian entrance



Two views of the new public park looking north, with historic water tank building retained and mature redwoods (left) and swale to the foreground of the climbing frame (right)

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DESIGN AWARDS 2020