



# **An Ecological Garden**

## **A new future for a concrete channel**

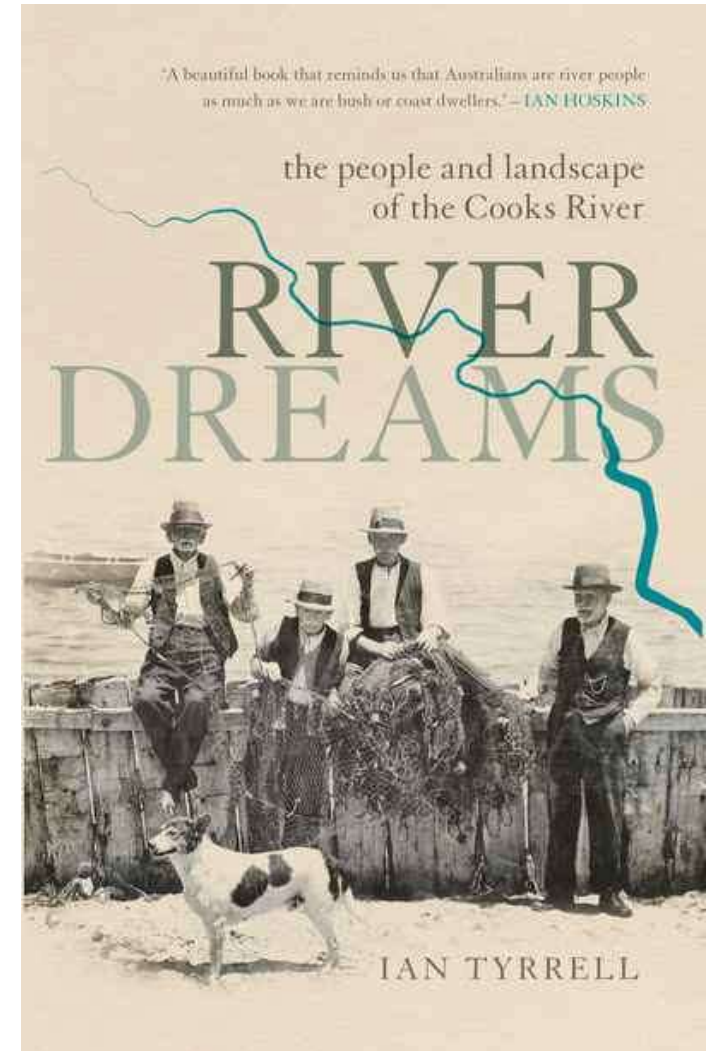
David Knights

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Underpinnings

# # 1 River dreaming

- Historical study of how European values shaped the post-colonial history of the Cooks River
- Rivers are socially and culturally produced
- In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries communities articulated a set of dreams for the river's transformation



# Riverscapes: social production



19<sup>th</sup> century: country living and pastoral ideal



Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century: middle class search for the village garden landscape

# And....

By the early 21<sup>st</sup> century **new dreams for restoration** of the 'natural' river emerged dreams that had their own aesthetic character.

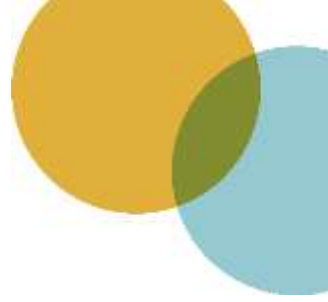
Whether the new 'green' and ecological conception is a clear break with the past **or a continuation of the desire to control the river and bend it to a human aesthetic** is a question.....



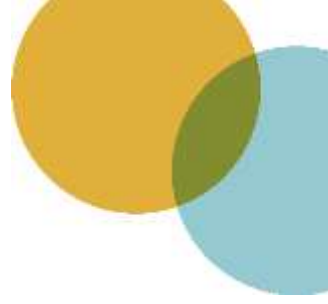
21<sup>st</sup> century  
naturalisation works



# #2 River Aire

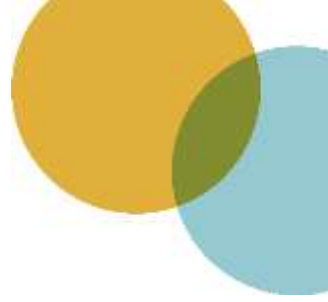


# River Aire

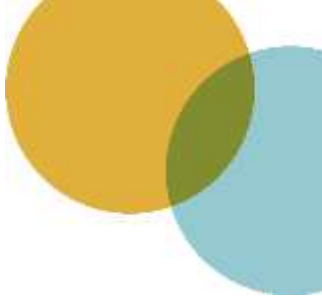


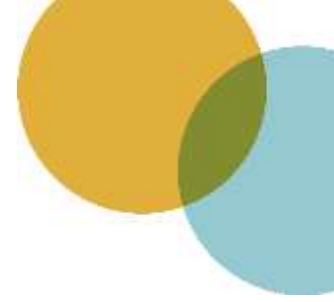


# #3 Bungonia Creek





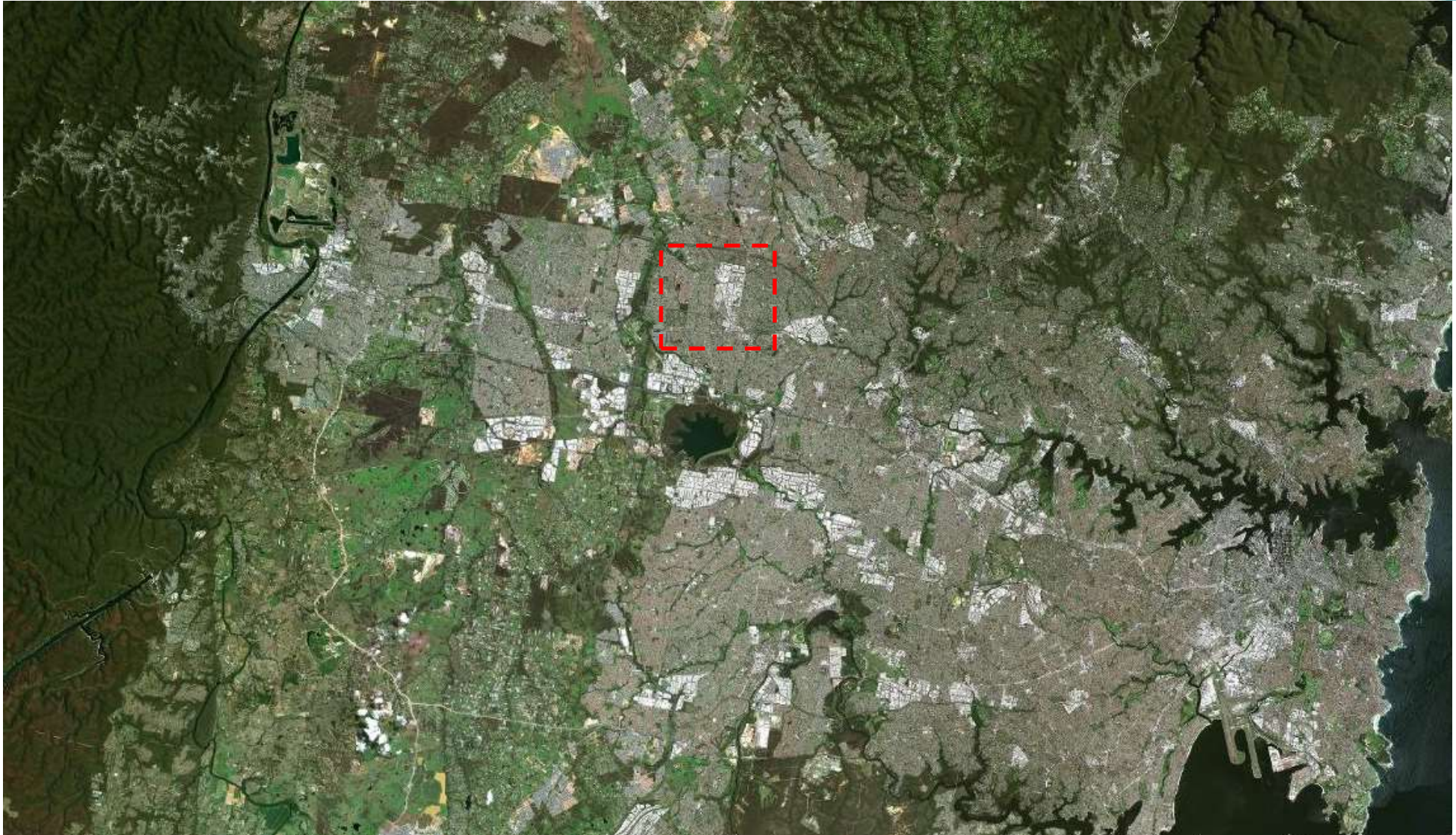




Fairwater project



# Western Sydney









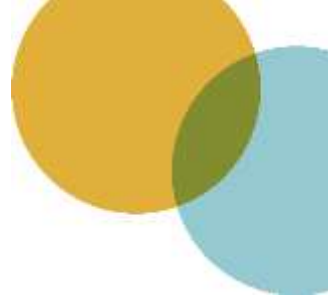
# Concrete trapezoidal channel





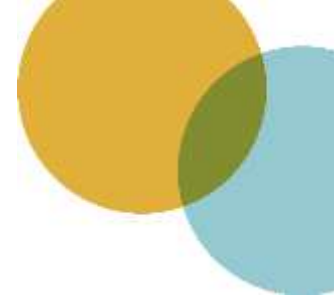
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# Cultural remnants



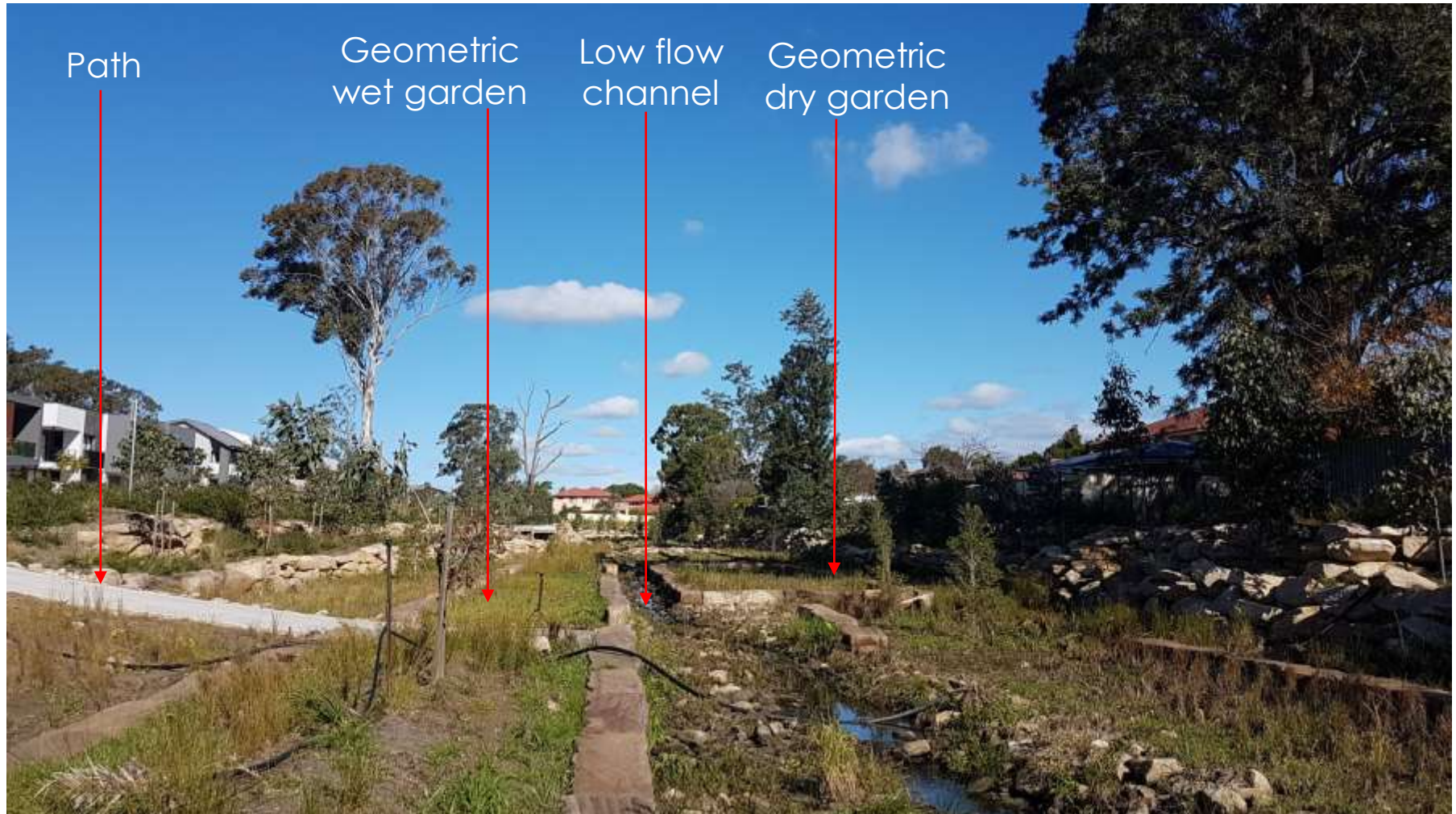
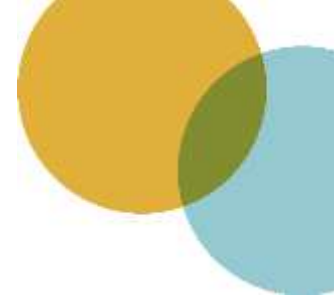


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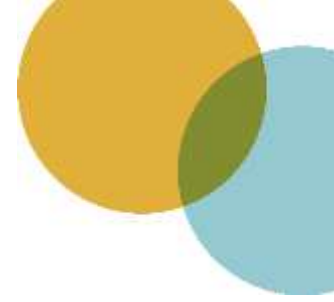




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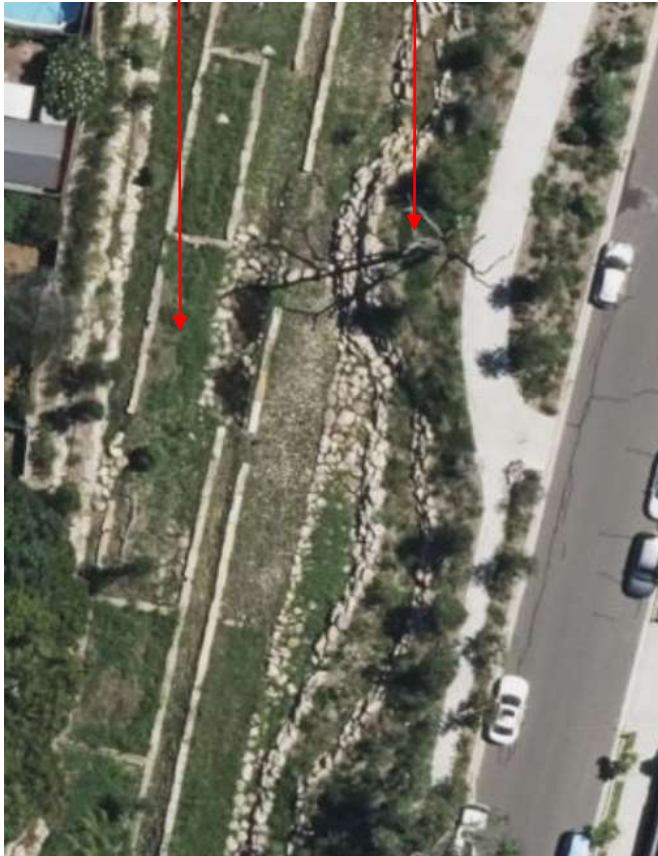




# An inverted tapestry

Geometric  
+ formal

Organic



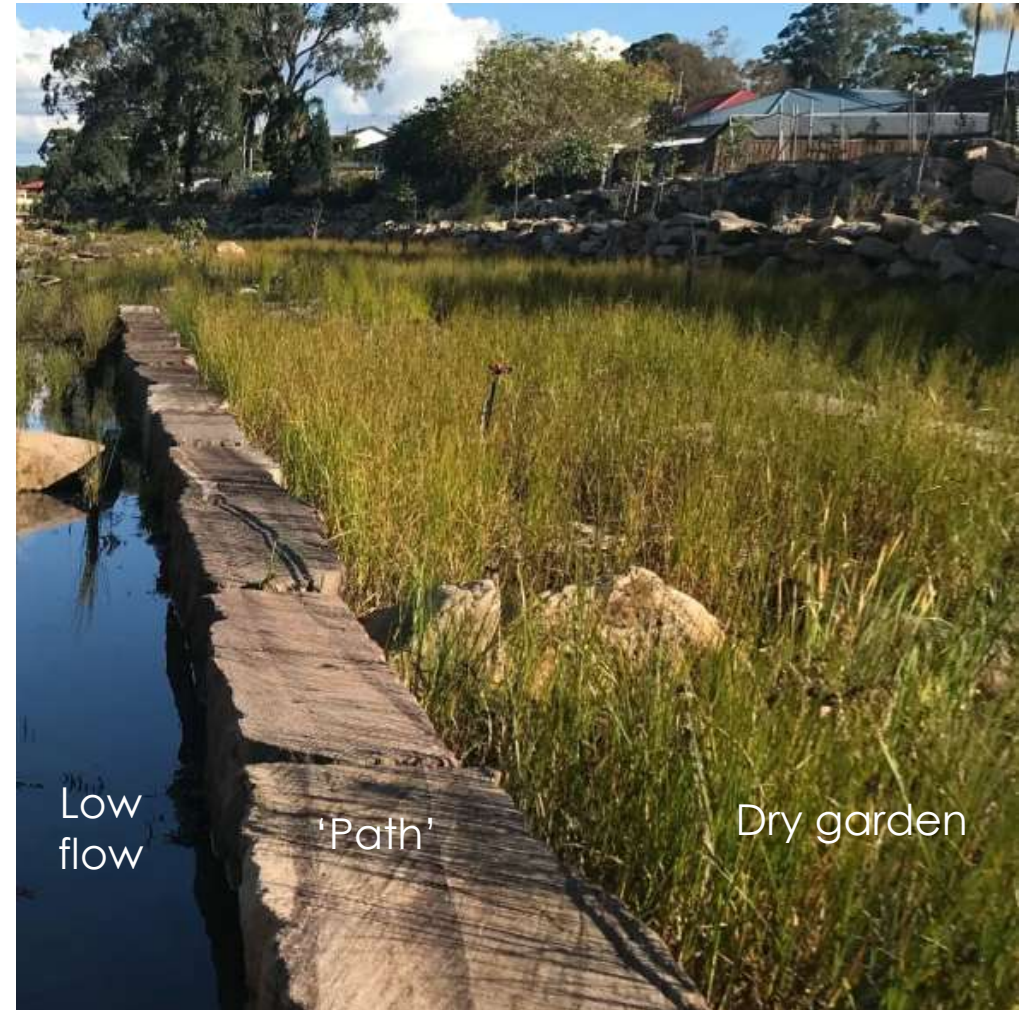
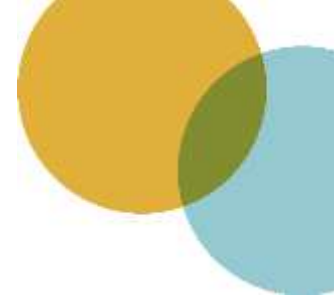
Geometric  
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# Ecological garden





Design thinking for sustainable  
cities