



FFC Landscape Architects
Landscape and Garden Design Consultants

FFC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS **Landscape and Garden Design** **Consultants**

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PRINCIPAL:

Francis F Colella DipLA MLI

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1986-present Principal Landscape Architect, FFC Landscape Architects

1984-1986 Atkins Sheppard Fidler & Associates. National Garden Festival, Stoke-on-Trent.
Design Co-ordination Team – Landscape Architect.

1982-1984 Percy Thomas Partnership Birmingham & Bristol, Landscape Architect. Landscape Projects of £20,000-£100,000.

1979-1982 Peter Hing & Jones, Birmingham.

1975-1979 Alan Young & Partners, Dudley.

QUALIFICATIONS

ONC Construction
HNC Building/Architecture
Diploma Landscape Architecture (B'ham)
Part IV Landscape Institute
AutoCAD City & Guilds 4351.
Cert 4 Arboriculture
UCD dip Historic Gardens Restoration

AFFILIATIONS

Professional Member, Landscape Institute



INTRODUCTION

The Practice was founded by Francis Colella Dip.LA CMLI in 1986, following the completion of a two year commission with the Design Co-ordination Team at the Stoke-on-Trent National Garden Festival. Previously Mr Colella had been employed with major Midlands Practices including Percy Thomas Partnership and Peter Hing and Jones.

The Practice of FFC Landscape Architects is a highly professional and dedicated team based in Staffordshire and Solihull, and offers landscape design services throughout the Midlands, Potteries and North West, with several projects being undertaken in Europe.

The Practice was previously registered with the Landscape Institute for 20 years and currently carries full Professional Indemnity Insurance.

The Practice has won several local and major awards and has been associated with many high profile projects as well as acting as a sub-consultant to other Architectural and Landscape Practices and as an advisor to Heritage and Design Review Panels including Urban Vision (North Staffs).

FFC Landscape Architects aim to offer competitive services with a high design flair and skill. The Practice has a sound knowledge of construction, from a dual qualification in Building and Architecture, and places great emphasis on clear concise drawings and documentation and on site inspection to ensure high standards.

High standards of presentation and confident delivery have been important aspects of our work when dealing with Planning Appeals and when giving Expert Witness Evidence by report or in Court.

Expert Witness

Other specialist skills have been gained as an Expert Witness, primarily in the field of domestic Garden Designs and Construction resulting in the production of Proofs of Evidence and several related Court presentations.

Since 1986, at the inception of his Practice, Mr Colella has been able to combine many years of Professional Practice and experience with his training, both in Building Technology and Design and as a Chartered Landscape Architect.



Littleton Colliery- upon completion



Littleton Colliery- as it was



Housing courtyard



Ladera Woodland Lodge park



Wedding Garden Moddershall Oaks

A practical and professional approach has been valuable in assessing and evaluating disputes at various levels, including many Expert Witness Statements, both as a Single Joint Expert, or as an Expert to either Claimant or Defendant. The schemes on which the Practice has been involved have always been 'down-to-earth' projects involving normal clients in day-to-day problems and solutions.

Recent Expert Projects

Burns vs Victoria Building (2005)	Site works appraisal
Manders vs Statueshop (2005)	Examination and report on pool and decking defects
Twigg vs Paradise Nurseries	2008
Hackney vs Hawtree Landscapes	2007
Porter vs Howson	Update 2007
Shepherd vs Gaskin	2009
Cornbury House	Landscape evaluation for Higgs and Sons
Mr G Ney	Report on works 2010
Keresley House, Coventry	
Sharland vs Creative	2013
EAB vs Watrett	2012
Vale View Ashover	Garden Works 2012-14
Eden Heights	Garden Works review 2015
Warwks Trading Standards Dept	Leamington 2012
Hughes Avenue, Newcastle	Nuneaton 2012
Mrs Hall The Downs	Garden study 2014
Altrincham	Technical report-neighbour dispute 2017
Jakielka vs GKD	2015
Bovis vs Watson	2016
Mr Rogge vs Marcus Barnett	2017
Ruewell vs LV	2018
Morgan vs Sykes	
Bath Trading Standards case	2018
Tai vs Rouse Landscapes	2019

Also various Planning Appeals and Landscape Visual Impact Assessments, some of which have had to be presented to Planning Inspectors in Appeal situations.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE- SOME OF OUR OTHER WORK

Coal Authority Projects



Private Garden



AWARDS

BALI – Trident House, Housing Dev.
 BALI – Old Brookside, Sheltered Housing.
 BALI – Cyfartha Industrial Estate.
 NGF 1986 – 6 Gold, 4 Silver Theme
 Garden Awards.
 Green Award – N. Staffs Herald & Post.
 City of Stoke-on-Trent Landscape Award.
 S Staffs DC Conservation Award.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

The Principal has developed considerable expertise within the field of Golf Development, having worked closely with Dave Thomas Ltd on projects in the UK, Europe and Far East.

This expertise has been valuable to many organizations including The Golf Corporation, General Golf Developments, Leeds Golf Developments and several independent Golf Clubs and consortiums. These Services have assisted Clients in preparing feasibility studies for new courses as well as in the physical development and implementation of Golf facilities ranging from full par 72 18 hole courses to par 3 pay as you play courses and training facilities.

LANDSCAPE AND TREE STUDIES

We have been involved with several Pre-Development Landscape studies of sites,

Over the early years we were fortunate to have been involved with some exceptionally interesting and challenging Land Restoration projects for the Coal Authority. These have involved detailed Appraisal of each site, implementing technical solutions and resolving Planning issues. Sites include:

Hem Heath Colliery, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.	Reclamation of tipping area using sewage filter cake. Restoration to grassland and tree plantations. In conjunction with Severn Trent Water Authority.
Golborne Colliery, Wigan	Restoration of tip following coal washing operations to grassland, football pitches, wetlands and tree plantations. (Filter cake amelioration in conjunction with STWA).
Brereton Colliery, Rugeley	Restoration of tip using imported sub-soils to grassland and tree plantation.
Littleton Colliery	Restoration of Colliery site following demolition to grassland and trees using imported sub-soil materials.
Littleton Tip & Quarry	Ongoing phases on the Colliery Tip and ARC Quarry area for reprofiling and amelioration.

Health Authority Projects

Our early work in PTP Architects revolved around hospital schemes. We have been pleased to have been able to maintain this type of work and have been involved with schemes ranging from the Landscape Assessment and Rationalization of Health Authority Estates, through Schemes for small Mental Health Units to Sensory and other Courtyards.

We have also assisted several Authorities on designing and reviewing car parking provision on sites, often in conjunction with the retention of trees as a prime concern. These include:

- North Staffordshire Health Authority
- Mid Staffordshire Health Authority
- South Staffordshire Health Authority
- Mid Cheshire Health Authority.
- Leighton Hospital Trust

Collaboration

As well as sourcing work and undertaking projects in its own right, the Practice has collaborated with other Practices as a Sub-Consultant dealing with specialist elements of large projects or with short time scales.

- Eachus Associates, Kidderminster
- Hulme Upright & Partners, Stoke-on-Trent
- Bower Mattin, Macclesfield
- Peter Hing & Jones, Birmingham
- PCPT Landscape, West Bromwich
- Birmingham City Council
- Luczak Associates, Warrington

often relating to the potential Impact of Developments on trees. This has involved the survey and recording of tree and vegetation cover on sites and the appraisal of such vegetation.

We are pleased to record that our services in this field have assisted a good many schemes to achieve a Planning Approval by evaluating and assessing the condition and protection of trees in a realistic and practical manner.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Meaford Hall and parkland.

St Margaret's Churchyard, Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Sidway Hall, Newcastle, Staffs

Stoke-on-Trent College.

OTHER SERVICES

Landscape Assessment & Appraisals for Planning Inquiries & Planning Applications

including:

Re-development of land at Tunstall for Norcross. Developments. (Hulme Upright)
Housing Development at Baddeley Green, Stoke-on-Trent, for Allen Homes.
Development of land for Royal Doulton, Stoke-on-Trent. (Hulme Upright).
T G Holdcroft, Stafford (Forshaw Greaves/Adams-Holmes).
Factory Extension Eternit Clay Tiles, Madeley (Hulme Upright).
Along with Developers and Architects, Mr Colella has been appointed as Expert to aid Community Groups.

OTHER INTERESTS

Active Committee member with The Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust (1990-2016)
Staffordshire Environment Forum Member
Parent Governor Cicely Haughton School, Wetley Rocks
Vice- Chair Wetley Moor Forum (2004-2005)
Design Review Panel member Urban Vision North Staffs.
Conservation Advisory Working Panel, Newcastle under Lyme BC
Master Craft Potter/ demonstrator (Part time) Wedgwood craft Studio, Barlaston.

Xternal Dimensions, Lichfield & Alcester
FIRA Landscape Architects, Birmingham.

Historic garden Restoration

During the last building recession, anticipating a slow down in workload, Mr Colella undertook a qualification in Historic Garden Restoration on a part time basis, one day a week at Reaseheath College resulting in a University College Diploma in Historic Garden Restoration, building on a personal and professional interest in the subject and many years of involvement with Staffordshire Garden and Parks Trust.

Incidentally, the slow down never came and the course was completed in conjunction with a full Practice workload.

Arboricultural Consultancy

In addition and following on from the above, Mr Colella undertook an additional qualification in Arboriculture on a similar part time basis, one day a week at Reaseheath College resulting in a qualification in Arboriculture (Cert 4). this was intended to supplement experience gained on many projects over the years and to formalise skills in relation to BS 5837:2012. The practice now undertakes Pre- Development tree surveys and Arboricultural Impact assessments adding considerable experience to the design of developments in sensitive tree environments.

RECENT LANDSCAPE PROJECTS:

Phase 2 approval for 23 lodges at Ladera Retreat, Congleton.
Memorial garden Britannia Stadium
Wedding garden and lakeside venue, Moddershall Oaks
New Offices Bet 365, Stoke on Trent.
St Dominics school redevelopment, Stoke on Trent.
Sidway Hall, Newcastle under Lyme.
Car Park and access road, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Landscape management plan, Four Oaks Tennis Club.
Bet 365 Leisure Building, stoke on Trent.
St Giles Cheadle (Pugin Church)
Lodge Park, Wrenbury, Cheshire
Sidway Hall for Mr John Coates
Broughton Hall Pool House, Eccleshall Mr J Caudwell
Keele University Misc schemes
Garden Designs for Pride in Gardens, Knowle, Solihull
St Georges, Edgbaston