

## The Transforming Garden symbolising the Process of Restitution

Gardens throughout history have been symbolic - of an agricultural lifestyle, of economic progress, of affluence and power, of order, of a love for growing things, of political power or socialist ideals, of horticultural endeavour, etc.

Restitution, however, is an altogether different prospect, as Restitution is a paradigm, a concept and a process. This is something better described by ecology and evolution of landscape over time than by a static garden.

In this sense the better alternative to a formally-arranged and installed garden, and instead a garden that is highly symbolic of transformation, recovery, evolution, the death of the old to give life to the new, to name but a few pertinent metaphors, is the following:

The Transforming Garden begins as a field of alien 'Green fertiliser' vegetation - in this case a nitrogen-fixing Lupin or Lucerne crop which is mown down after flowering and worked into the existing soil (no fertilisers or composts required) as a living fertiliser, followed by a crop of Vetch (Nitrogen-fixing, winter-growing forage plant) which is in turn worked into the soil.

The second phase of this garden process, the following Spring, is the planting of pioneer species - a beautiful indigenous garden in itself;

The third phase, several years later, is the planting of the climax/final plants - below the protective screen of the pioneers - to grow into the final garden form, which is envisaged as an indigenous forest edge ie at least one large non-invasive-rooted tree with forest-foliage below, on the cooler west side of the garden, grading down to grassland on the hotter east side of the garden.

The process's narrative and symbolism would be written on a plaque to be unveiled this November, alongside the pots and the field of Lupins, and the project could be tweaked and nursed along through the years to cater for/reflect an evolution of thought.

It is envisaged that this form of garden creation, along with the pertinence of the process and the inherent up-front cost and time savings that it entails, make it a very attractive option to consider.

NOTE that this garden's final form would be the result of an evolution over time. The current garden plan does not reflect this anticipated outcome.