

Accreditation Guidelines

This document is designed to be a guide to applicants for accreditation by the Garden Design Society of New Zealand (GDSNZ).

Introduction

Accredited membership of GDSNZ recognises the professionalism of your qualifications and practice. It will provide you with the benefits of belonging to a professional organization.

Your application will be assessed by an Accreditation Board. The Board is made up of 3 members: an accredited practitioner in landscape design; an accredited landscape academic; a practitioner in another design discipline.

Process

1. **Application form** completed and sent to the Society treasurer with application fee of \$150.
2. **Information evening** to explain requirements, and provide documents outlining responsibilities of accredited membership (CPD and Ethics) .
3. **Preparatory workshops** with a mentor to assist preparation of your work portfolio.
4. **Portfolio** of documents supplied to the Board 2 weeks prior to interview.
5. **Interview** with the Board.

Membership Categories

There are 2 membership categories to apply under:

1. As a practising garden designer
2. As an academic or researcher in the field of garden design (Please contact Board registrar for requirements)

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS – Practising Designer

Members of the Society may have practices that vary significantly. It is expected that the documentation may vary accordingly, but ought to be a comprehensive representation of your practice. You will be expected to demonstrate competence in the spatial design of gardens, in conveying your design process to clients and in overseeing the satisfactory implementation of your designs.

A combination of relevant qualifications and work experience is required. A benchmark of a 2-year tertiary qualification and work experience equivalent to 3 years full-time is required, but variations to this may be acceptable at the discretion of the Board.

1. Qualifications: please supply copies.

2. Work history: an outline of work history and scope of projects. Include a brief description of how you position yourself in the industry ie. any specialism.

3. Design philosophy: a positioning statement that situates your design practice with reference to some of the following: contexts, garden design history (indigenous/local/international), ecology, cultural influences, eg art, architecture, design, literature, and/or particular garden design/er precedents.

4. Methods of practice: design process and how you communicate your ideas to clients, contractors and other professionals, including the sequence and range of different representational techniques. These may be sketches, diagrams, models, and/or technical drawings (digital or analogue,).

5. Projects: 4 or 5 representative projects of your practice, preferably showing a good range of type and scale. This may include built or unbuilt, competition entries, or gardens that have been peer reviewed, such as accepted Garden DesignFest gardens.

All these projects should include:

- site evaluation
- client brief
- design statement including design inspiration / driver/s
- design drawings showing development process through to developed design.
- before and after photos

An understanding of spatial design should be evident in the drawings or photos.

6. Documents: representative examples of:

- communication with client, contractors, nurseries, council, etc
- samples of planting plans
- construction drawings
- resource and building consent applications
- variations to design and works.

These should represent the type of work you do and be sufficient for work to be progressed from client enquiry, through design to completed built jobs.

These need not be associated with the projects outlined in section 5 above.

To be presented in A3 landscape format (a digital version is acceptable)

INTERVIEW

Once you have provided your portfolio, you will be given a guide to the interview.

Practice: Initially you may be asked to further explain your practice and how you are positioned in the industry.

Portfolio: The interview is likely to provide a brief summation of your portfolio, and then address any issues arising for clarification or expansion.

Design process: You may be asked to explain such things as design philosophy or influences in more depth than the portfolio shows. Further explanation of your design process and design development may also be sought.

Spatial design: Articulating an understanding of spatial design will be expected.

Relationships and communication: The Board may want clarification on aspects of client relationships and communication, and also with other industry members.

Accredited membership responsibilities: The Board will check that the applicant is aware of the **Ethics Policy** and **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** requirements of the Society.

BOARD RESPONSE

Within a couple of weeks the Board chair will report back to you with a summation of the portfolio and interview. It may be that there are additions or amendments that the Board would like before awarding your accreditation. Once these are fulfilled you will be accredited.

When you are accredited you will be able to use the letters *ProfAccredGDSNZ* after your name. You will also be able to have a presence on the GDSNZ website with samples of your work, and links to your own website. In addition there are extra benefits an accredited member has in attendance at workshops, etc.