The outside has been brought inside at the Belfast campus this semester.

‘SCALE’, an exhibition of the practice of landscape architecture, will be in the foyer until the end of March 2011. The exhibition is the backdrop for a series of events coordinated by Emily Smyth, Course Director for Landscape Architecture in the School of Architecture and Design, supported by funding from University of Ulster Cultural Development and the Landscape Institute Northern Ireland. These include a lecture by architectural critic and theorist, Dr Charles Jencks, on 10 March, and a seminar on 24 March to debate the application of green infrastructure policy in Northern Ireland and Belfast in particular.

SCALE is a measure of proportion, time, management, change and diversity – all essential matters in landscape architectural practice. The exhibition includes the work of eleven landscape architectural practices in Northern Ireland, demonstrated through the various elements and stages of landscape architecture schemes and projects. These are represented in a diversity of formats, from feasibility study and survey, public consultation and evaluative work, concept and sketch designs, working drawings and specifications, and photographic record of schemes before and during implementation, and subsequently maturing. This design work is supported by the elements of on-site practice itself, in the form of street furniture, paving, and planting generously on loan from suppliers for the duration of the exhibition.

Landscape is a process of change, the interaction between people and the environment. The ‘leafless sticks’ that were introduced into the foyer in the middle of February are changing each day as spring progresses - now in bud, leaf and catkin, the foyer is becoming an encapsulated external environment, with a park bench to sit on under the evolving tree canopy.

The SCALE exhibition is accompanied in week 6 by a student exhibition ‘Momentary Landscapes – a snapshot on an ever evolving timeSCALE’. This is curated by Celia Spouncer, student on the MA art in Public programme, and presents on ‘table landscapes’ the work of students from across the Belfast campus.

Emily Smyth
School of Architecture and Design
28 February 2010