

# RESPONDING TO EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS: IMPLICATIONS FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE THEORY AND PRACTICE

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## 1 **ABSTRACT**

*The physical consequences of biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and climate change have been well documented, and more is being said about emotions connected to major environmental impacts. This paper explores the role of design theory and practice in addressing environmental losses and changes to places of personal and collective significance. I draw upon the early literature on associated emotions and affect, including work from the ecological humanities, psychology, and biology, and pull this together with the work of artists and curators to explore the implications for landscape architecture theory and practice. Designers generally focus on creating beautiful and pleasant places where one might connect with nature in a positive way. They do not often engage with emotions such as grief, anxiety, guilt, and despair. Yet, as illustrated by the important role played by memorials in most societies, designed spaces can serve as important points for publicly addressing traumatic histories and memories in collective forums. While landscape architects have done the important work of highlighting human intervention in the landscape and making ecological processes evident in designed terrains, I explore how design practice might also respond to the emotional aspects of environmental loss and climate change. Such sites can play a role in transforming public grief into political action, but to do so they must move beyond pastoral forms, lament and nostalgia.*

## 1.1 **Keywords**

Anthropocene, Climate Change, Design, Extinction, Memorial