

AIDAN J. FFRENCH MILI Landscape Architect
NATURE BASED PLACEMAKING



A registered corporate member and past president of the [Irish Landscape Institute](#), **Aidan led a distinct rise in the profession's growth and national profile (2005-2009)**. The first landscape architect on Ireland's leading current affairs radio show, *Morning Ireland* (RTE Radio 1), he wrote '*Manifesto for Irish Landscapes*' (ILI 2007), calling on the State to make significant commitments to landscape and parks policies. **The manifesto led to the first legal definition of "landscape" in Irish law**. Ahead of the 2007 general election, he co-authored the **Irish Urban Forum's cross-disciplinary manifesto 'A Better Quality of Life for All'**, which lobbied political parties on a range of critical policy issues, that remain deeply relevant and urgent today.

Obtaining a master's degree in **urban landscape hydrology** led to a strong interest in **Sustainable Drainage**, especially **Rain Gardens**. With 35 years in public and private sectors, including spells with Mitchell & Associates and the London Borough of Ealing, **Aidan's portfolio comprises design projects, parks master-planning, urban planning, play provision, social-housing and strategies for Green Infrastructure and Trees/Urban Forestry**. In 2022, Aidan retired from **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Dlr Parks & Landscape Services)**, after 28 years of diverse experience, finishing as the project manager/lead author of the new ***Dlr Urban Forestry Strategy (2022-2031)***.

Aidan remains active in advocating **Landscape Architecture** and **Urban Placemaking**. **In 2023 he established a private consultancy, NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS, focusing on Nature-based Solutions and Urban Forestry** by applying **co-design, ethical philosophies and progressive praxis**. He is also a member of several environmental NGOs, including CRANN, Native Woodland Trust, *Rewilding Wicklow* and *An Taisce*. Aidan is a *Laudato Si' Animator* (Catholic Climate Movement, ref. Pope Francis's seminal 'eco-encyclical', *Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home*, 2015). He has spoken at Irish and international conferences, and written articles for several journals, including CRANN and *Village* magazines. He is currently writing the first book on Irish Urban Forestry.

An outdoor enthusiast (hiking, sea-swimming), photographer, singer and amateur actor, when not designing places, you'll find Aidan relaxing in one, usually by the sea!

www.linkedin.com/in/aidan-ffrench-a7405417/

www.instagram.com/aidanjff/