

ACD, 25 YEARS ON...

I drove through Palmers Green last week, on my way to a site meeting and to re-visit an old scheme from the early days.

The first ACD office looked tiny and rather nondescript - an upper floor in an accountant's office in a minor road in a North London suburb...so what, it was a big step and here we are 25 years later! No coincidence that one of our cars has a registration plate of N13 ACD...



Palmers Green Plate...

Wildlife Pond at Alexandra Palace

Nearly 10 years in Local Government and with a latter-day specialism for interior landscape design, my ACD was born AC Design, providing the design support for the major interior landscape contractor at the time, whilst also beginning to branch out into the world of housebuilders.

ACD was one of the few specialist interior landscape practices at the time and the late 80's retail boom resulted in a range of major schemes, with Lakeside in West Thurrock perhaps the largest. Today when I visit Selborne Walk in Walthamstow Town Centre, our park has withstood the test of time, but just like Lakeside, interior landscape seems to have no place in current retail fashion...



Selborne Walk, Walthamstow, then,

and now...



Argos HQ



Award for Metro Centre, Gateshead 1988



Palms for Lakeside

During those early days we also worked for a little known developer called Michael Shanly, Fairview from Enfield and we established a relationship with a Bedford practice called Woods Hardwick. A little later, when we all suffered the late 80's recession, we worked on our first Barratt scheme and got to know Messrs Skilton, Cooper and Rogers at Derek Homer Associates. I also met another Charles Church refugee called Roger Rippon, representing a Barratt division doing a phoenix act at the time and later Geoff Armstrong from DPP. And so it goes...

ACD has rattled along and honed its skills in all areas of landscape architecture ever since, but more than most, we are the housebuilder's friend and confidante and I am proud to say we know and still work for every client (with one exception) and consultant we have ever met.

Times change and specialism with it, so too has ACD. The practice now includes ACD Arboriculture and ACD Ecology, to provide the complete environmental package under one roof. Well, three actually, because we now offer our services in Wiltshire, Surrey and Hampshire, providing an immediate regional service for our clients, and London N13 was oh, so long ago... well 25 years actually. So an enormous thank you to all our clients and especially thanks to all our staff past and present.

- Happy Birthday us!

Stephen J Dale
Managing Director

