



LEEDS STREET TREE GRATES

HEINE JONES

In 2011, HeineJones designed a tree grate solution for the Maribyrnong City Council. Located in Footscray the design provided an interpretive solution which described the function and intent of the new 'raingarden'. The design has won a coveted international SEG award.

OVERVIEW

In 2010, HeineJones designed an interpretive solution for a 'raingarden', part of a Maribyrnong City Council streetscape redevelopment in Leeds Street, Footscray. The 'raingarden's' structure is hidden and therefore difficult for the general public to comprehend. Twenty-two trees are planted along the footpath, all of which use Water Sensitive Urban Design principles. Collectively, the trees form a raingarden, which uses local rainfall to wash the streets and water trees. The remaining water is filtered, cleansed and fed into

the Maribyrnong River. Our task was to explain the raingarden's hidden function and intent. To work, HeineJones solution had to be integrated into both the raingarden's hardware and the footpath, while also being presented at each of the 22 trees. It had to be robust and safe, but also engaging.

The solution features simple, large-scale word elements laser cut through the 10mm steel plates housing the trees. The abstract words, some of which are presented in Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic, form part of a poem. The full poem, laser cut into the design at a

smaller scale, makes reference to the local Maribyrnong River and describes the rain garden's function and intent.

The solution engages the public in an emotive and highly legible way; the passage of water into the raingarden system is through the interpretative information itself. Reading the poetry forces a thoughtful consideration of not only its meaning, but also the raingarden's function and intent.

While apparently simple, HeineJones solution presented many challenges. These included the

engineering requirements (laser cutters and hot dip galvanisers), technical limitations, and the challenge the communication itself presented. The project required a collaborative approach between us, the engineering team, the council's Urban Design team, Melbourne Water, and the production team. The result was so well received that Maribyrnong City Council has used it in all the new rain gardens across the municipality.

SEGD 2012 Merit Award Winner

KEY FACTS

Client: Maribyrnong City Council

Scope: To design an interpretive solution which described the function and intent of a new 'raingarden' which was to be installed as part of a local street-scape

Timeline: Delivered on time: December 2011

Location: Leeds Street Footscray

Detail of laser cut steel plate.



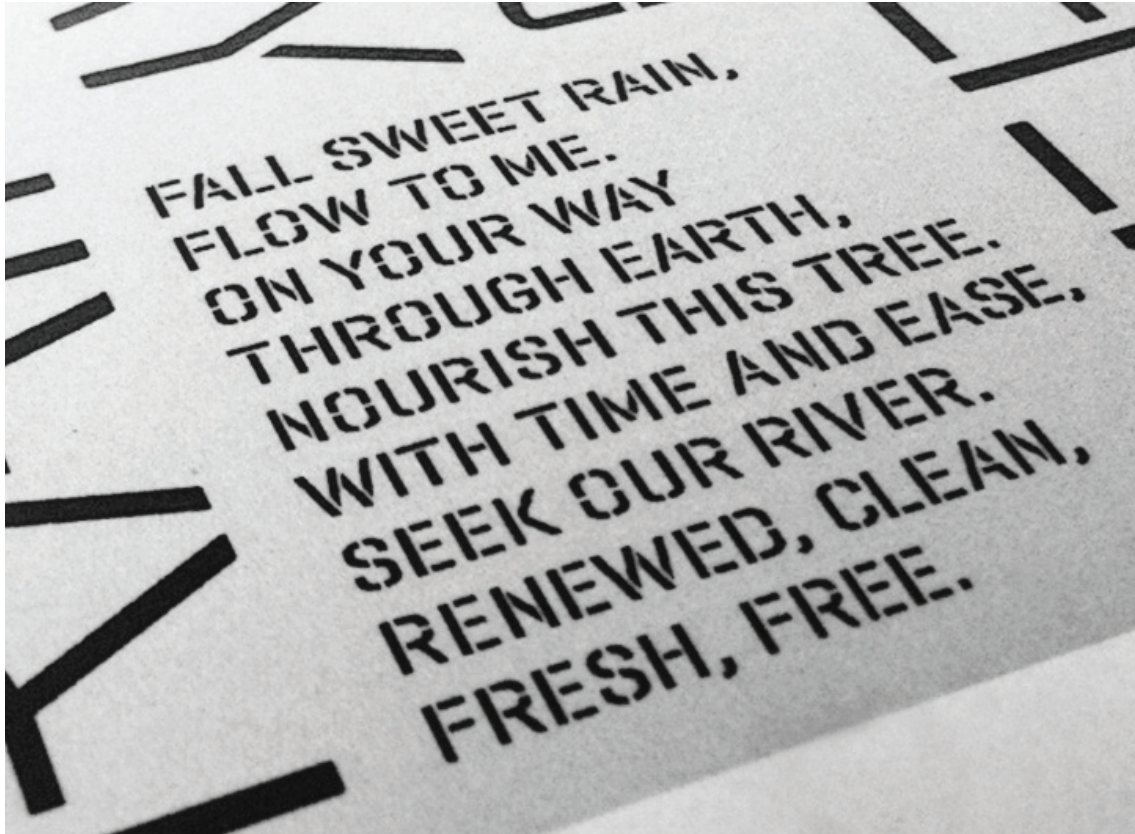
Top: Detail of Vietnamese language, Below: Street view of Tree Grate displaying Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic languages.



Top: Local produce being sold next to Tree Grate, Bottom: Detail of Chinese characters.



Top: Documentation of poem, Below: Reflection of clouds on steel plate.



Documentation.

