

Functional Spaces in Landscapes

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The landscape architecture profession has grown rapidly in recent years and has played a major role in present development as the nation moves towards improving sustainability and quality outdoor spaces and environment. The scenario has to be closely tied to the education and training of students as future professional landscape architects. The general purpose of landscape architecture education and training is educating students by enhancing their intellect as well as developing their capabilities in the relevant field.

The department has tailored a curriculum towards developing students' technical knowledge and analytical skills as well as understanding the complexity of outdoor tropical environment to fit human needs and sustainability. As in any design programme, a special concern is on the design studio works. They are systematically organised on the basis of type and scale to describe a comprehensive pattern of courses leading to a degree in landscape architecture. Fourteen works illustrated in the following pages were selected by judges as examples of the landscape architecture studio exercises which relied on the rational taught process.

Beginning with the first year, Space Fragmentation is a work resulted from the Basic Design Studio to gain understanding about creating spaces and space interrelationships. Students explored their ideas about spaces and showed their creativities in creating various conceptual spaces. The bulk of this work is devoted to the 3-D conceptual model of 1M³ cube.

The second year works focus on landscape site planning for solving the issues and problems of a specific site in a moderate small scale. Complimenting Nature is a project reflecting the pristine greenery of Tasik Raban in Perak. A thorough study was conducted earlier involving nature and ecological principles.

The first and second year studio works deal with basic and fundamental landscape design principles and processes. The following two years continue with landscape planning and design involving comprehensive studies and solutions.

Natural Breathing Spaces highlight the concern for a natural environment and landscape resources. The ecological movement and the importance of nature's conservation nowadays have brought new levels of interest in the approach of ecological design. The adoption of this approach to the work of landscape design has however increased the potential for informal recreation in addition to increasing natural habitats for animals and plants.

Institutional Spatial Interaction emphasises on the institutional landscape design. This perspective refers to the principles of noting design that determines how indoor and outdoor spaces interact between each other.

Finally, Urban Revitalisation represents a conscious arrangement of urban spaces to enhance the quality of urban environment towards sustainability. The works deal with the complex issues of urban environment. They provoked students' thoughts and triggered deeper exploration on design issues and solutions for urban spaces.

In conclusion, all studio works provide indications that outdoor spaces are coming to the fore in design thinking. They are affirmations of good and collaborative designs. It is hoped that students will contribute to introducing new ideas and forming good practices in meeting the challenges and seeking solution for landscape architecture of the 21st century.