

Complimenting Nature

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Studio LAN 3002 Site Planning Studio Year 2 of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture conducted a course work in the district of Lenggong, Perak. The place is known by its own pre-historic values and made famous by the discovery of 'Perakman' as well as the historical caves. In addition, it is set in a serene natural setting which is well-preserved until now. Tasik Raban is recognised as one major pulling factor for natural landscape enthusiasts. Basically, the site is categorised as a sensitive landscape area. The site is located in-between the Highway that connects the East and the West coasts of Peninsula Malaysia. It is 15 kilometers from Kuala Kangsar and 20 kilometers from the town, Grik. Nevertheless, the site could never be a real attraction to visitors if it is only a place to pass by. The course work required groups of students to analyse the site to identify its potentials for future development.

Based on their analyses, three potential landscape design proposals with sustainable landscape approach were put forward. The designers are Chen Fei Wen, Kong Kok How and Raymond Ling Guang Kowng. These four landscape design proposals bring about concepts that are relevant to current condition and the future of Lenggong district especially in the vicinity of the unique Tasik Raban.

In the individual approach by Raymond Ling Guang Kowng, he had used a more down-to-earth concept but fulfils the objectives. The concept "Chambered Shell" with organic shapes succeeded in making the spaces and activities to blend in naturally without affecting the ecological values of the site thus yet adding values to the natural environment.

On the other hand, Kong Kok How—in a contemporary—approach used repeated geometrical shapes with the concept 'Ripple' to create different types and characters of spaces. Spaces were designed to suit all age groups for them to enjoy. The geometrical spaces influenced the flow of activities to be more coordinated and systematic. The beauty of the visual qualities was also a concern. 'Ripple', in overall, has enlivened the chosen site.

Chen Fei Wen's 'Stream of Life' concept depicts what is supposed to happen in a water sport complex that is located in a sensitive area. The designer succeeded in conserving the original topography by blending in multiple levels of organic spaces with the existing unique environment. Practical spaces are to give comfort and at the same time to be functional to users. The objective to have water-based recreational spaces is successfully achieved.

Overall, the course work has given the opportunity for students to be more explorative and to understand landscape site planning especially in moderately-scaled sensitive areas. Emphasis has been given to attain more sustainable and competitive design, appreciating and respecting physical characteristics as well as conserving and improving the culture and visual of the surrounding.