

Visual assessment and factor affecting visual rating of human-made landscape elements in Wetland.

ABSTRACT

Visual quality of landscape is becoming an important element in eco-friendly design for nature-based tourism areas in Malaysia. However, the majority of the human-made landscape elements of nature-based tourism areas such as buildings do not harmonize with the natural environment and are considered as not eco-friendly in design. A study was conducted in Paya Indah Wetlands aimed to determine factors that affect visual rating of human-made landscape and to determine visual rating of human-made landscape at the study site. This study used selected photographs of the human-made landscape elements in Paya Indah Wetlands representing different types of buildings, park furniture, parking features, pedestrian facilities, drainage and signage. The scoring scheme for visual quality and landscape features was valued using the six basic design elements, namely, form, line, colour, texture, shape and space. Data were gathered from 100 experts using a structured questionnaire with surrogated photos, distributed equally among landscape architects and architects. The results of regression analysis revealed that the visual rating was affected significantly by the respondents' age, sector of employment and professional memberships in certified bodies. From the result, it showed that more than 60% of the respondents give visual ratings to the human-made landscape elements in Paya Indah Wetlands ranging from scores of 1 to 3 (means from 1.51 to 3.2).

Keyword: Visual ratings, Wetland, human-made landscape elements