



■ Faiz Hanis Mahfut

SEMHD WALK

ROOFTOP GARDEN

OPEN CIVIC HALL

BUFFER ZONE

AMPHITHEATRE

WATERFRONT

LIBRARY

SKYWALK

Landscape

8 Contemplative Landscape Attitude
Nor Atiah Ismail

STEdex'11

Contemplative Landscape Attitude

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2011 Landscape Architecture Department students' projects focus on the idea of Contemplative Landscape Attitude. It is a great challenge in the globalisation era where landscape design concerns on meaning and give meaning in a sustainable environment, rather than a cosmetic prevalence. This frame of mind allows students to be creative and innovative in conveying a track of thoughtful ideas on coherent spatial interpretation, sustainable environmental and social encounters and repositioning tropical landscape competencies. This year, students in the Landscape Architecture Department continue their tradition of empowering landscape scholastic knowledge through series of studios and lectures in the faculty. Their substance of knowledge is also broadened through a well-planned students' international travelling, working and learning experiences in Bangkok, Taiwan and South Korea, students' exchange programme in IOWA State University and students' internship programme in Indonesia, China and Singapore. These intriguing yet provocative teaching, learning and research approaches enable the department to increase cognitive domain of their students' achievement to a higher taxonomy level in landscape architecture study. The department also continues to strongly emphasise Student Centred Learning, in line with the University aims of moving towards Outcome-Based Education.

The foundation year of landscape students' projects entitled 'Between Realms' focus on coherent spatial interpretation. Landscape graphic skills, design elements and principles, technical drawings and plant materials exploration channelled the students' creativities and are reflected in their exciting projects that include collage, relief and sculpture. In these projects, the students have shown their ability in manipulating the power of 2-dimensional principles into 3-dimensional modelling, and exploited these design principles in creating meaningful experiential spaces. Flexibility and freedom in designing allow the students to discover, uncover and express their personal potential whilst developing their sense of confidence to move forward in this design school.

Greening the Landscape Spaces with the Paradox of Culture and People discovers students' potential in dealing with landscape site planning and design. The small-scale design projects enabled students to disclose the site's historical and heritage values, their natural and social significance and site potentials in detail. Students developed their design skills and abilities through design

processes. As a result, the students' Landscape Master Plan acknowledged and aligned their solutions with a comfortable and sustainable yet creative confluence of ideas.

The department's focus of meaning in sustainable landscape design is continued in the third year of the students' development through urban and sensitive landscape projects that are reflected as 'Dialogical Connectivity', 'Beyond Retrospective' and 'Scale of Nature'. Students' involvement with comprehensive landscape issues developed a stronger understanding of the importance of landscape sensitive and urban master planning. Their cumulative involvement with landscape design process, environmentally sensitive landscape design approaches utilizing Geographical Information System (GIS) and environmental engineering solutions congruent with the growing needs and requirement of the landscape architecture profession is justifiable. Projects that include 'Green Living Environment', 'Microclimatic Landscape' and 'Bandar Hilir Melaka' draw insights into particular landscape environmental pattern and social behaviour. Landscape design exploration of tropical wetland provides students with the essence of protecting Mother Nature while adapting considerable human interaction and intervention, without jeopardising its environmental sustainable importance.

The four-year Landscape Architecture Programme in UPM is designed to serve and sustain the tropical landscape design endeavour. The comprehensive fourth year final project reflects this particular interests and intentions. Through the lens of landscape, the students are able to get involved in various types of landscape projects with challenging contemporary social and environmental issues. These ranges of projects exhibit different degrees and attachment to landscape design through the term of Nature Manifestation. The interpretation of meaning and sustainable values in landscape are emphasized through urban and rural design, waterfront development, landscape sensitive projects, cultural and heritage exercises, thematic and health landscape development undergone by our final year students. Timeless form of design, imaginative essence, abstract design interpretation and environmentally sensitive solutions within the authentic cultural values are among landscape design solutions signifying our students' design temptation. In overall, the Landscape Architecture Department will continue to work hard to strive for the best local and international recognition, to compete in the local and international competitions and to signify the moving forward of world Landscape Architecture Programme.