

Dialogical Connectivity

Osman Mohd Tahir

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Microclimatic Design Ina Krisantia, Mohd Nazri Saidon, Murad Abd Ghani & Abd Aziz Othman

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Dialogical Connectivity

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Quality living environment among urban dwellers is becoming vital. Urban landscape as green infrastructure in urban areas serves as a component of regeneration strategies that promotes a conducive and pleasant urban environment and simultaneously creating a better environmental quality for life. Demanding urban issues such as climate change, urban head island effect, solar radiation, poor pedestrian linkages, extensive carbon emission as well as lack of quality and innovative public spaces need to be address accordingly. Hence appropriate, creative and innovative urban landscape planning and design solution is crucial and becoming significant in developing and creating quality outdoor spaces which contribute towards quality environment. Through proper landscape planning and design, it could create connection between the outdoor and indoor spaces with meaningful and consequential experiences. It could create a logical connectivity by means of exchanging of idea, discourse and at the same time promote channels of communication between the designers and the users. Rational justification, coherent and valid ideation and consistent analysis could unite the spaces and create more meaningful and conducive living environment.

In realizing this desire and aspiration, four projects have been selected through a series of rigorous and comprehensive selection and judgment from a collection of the final year landscape architecture projects. These projects represent new design ideas and innovation in creating the outdoor urban spaces and its connectivity to the surrounding spaces towards quality urban living environment and sustainability. The projects selected include the "Microclimatic Landscape" design at Southern Integrated Terminal, Bandar Tasik Selatan, the redevelopment of historical Pudu Jail as "The HEAVEN" in Kuala Lumpur, the redevelopment of Zoo Negara as "The Wonder Zoological Park", and the redevelopment of Jalan Hang Tuah in Kuala Lumpur as an "Epitome: Movement In Synergy of Structural Network and Landscape". These projects introduce the sustainable green aims with tropical green living environment approach in mitigating these urban issues. The projects integrate green architecture in the urban infrastructure, combine naturalistic with realistic environment, improve the microclimate and spatial linkages, develop sensational and natural feeling and at the same time indulge the users towards environmental sustainability. In the mean time, one of the projects explore the sensibility of design through hypothetical realm, taking abstraction as a form of attraction and dynamism as a vitality force in creating excitement and changing the environment.

In conclusion these selected projects represent the innovative thinking in urban landscape planning and design and evoke new dimension in connecting urban spaces towards quality living environment and sustainability.

Jury Review

Manipulating the Microclimate by Hasanuddin Lamit & Nik Malik Zainal Abidin

The site analysis and appraisal have addressed the relevant aspects such as accessibility, microclimate and accessibility. However the proposed concept of "Manipulating the Microclimate" is questionable since the noble aim of most environmental designers is to work with the climate rather that interfering with it. Furthermore, it is difficult to ascertain whether the design proposal is able to change the microclimate. In spite of that, many of the information and design suggestions in terms of facilities and furniture indicate a commendable effort to address the microclimate. As a whole the design character has the sense of grandeur that befits an architectural structure such as the terminal building itself. The hard and soft landscape concept is in line with the idea of addressing the climate such as trees that improve the air quality, and provide shades as well as wind deflection.

The truth in this project is to provide a conducive environment through landscape treatment. The designer has all the components of providing shade to the pedestrians through covered walkway, shading trees, shade sculpture and wall insulated by creepers. Nevertheless, when putting the individual facilities together, the designer did not succeed to articulate where they were really needed. However, the overall graphic presentation is commendable.

The Green Heaven by Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain & Lee Wern Ching

This final year design project is about planning and designing the green living and evolutions of architecture in hotel environment for ex-Pudu Prison, Kuala Lumpur. The site of the project is very challenging and it is one of the very sensitive places in the Kuala Lumpur city center. The overall understanding of the site is well defined. The project starts with the site interpretation and developing ideas and design process. The design idea and interpretation is commendable with continuous flow and good articulation of spaces. Through its good and innovative design process, it shows the planning and design ideas on how to create a good urban living environment. Although the architectural illustration looks dominant in the presentation, this project contributes very much in terms of its design philosophy of integrating the arts, spaces and building orientation. These ideas would be more exciting if the designer relate and reflect the design with the local culture, history and heritage. The concept using "Heaven" is interesting and it should be extended and visualized through the outdoor and vertical landscape design. Thus, it will help to portray and support sustainability and green landscape design concept.

The designer has identified critical micro climate issues to be addressed in this scheme. The scheme seemed noble in its attempt to uplift the site and its surrounding by addressing almost everything relevant, be it environmental or economical. However the designer should tackle a much more important and fundamental issue prior to undertaking the design process. The site is sensitive both historically and economically. The challenge of any designer is to juggle both these entities and to meet both ends in order for the scheme to be a success. The scheme borders into architecture practice. Although there is question of the need for giving up much needed green space for a high rise tower, I applaud the designer's effort in imbuing environmental friendly building practices into the tower.

Illusion of the Wilds by Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain & Lee Wern Ching

The project is about redesigning the landscape for the Zoo Negara. It is a very challenging project which required high standard of understanding the animal behaviors in order to provide suitable places and spaces within the limited space and site constraint. The tasks involved are exploring, experimenting and discovering with varieties of animal species and habitat together with forms to generate spaces and places. The understanding of the design guidelines for animal environment supports the designer to provide the basic design ideas of the overall project. The different zones provided for different animals are interesting in order to attract visitors to visit each of the zone and this help to generate moods and journey to visitors. The varieties of plant species introduced in this project help to create multilevel of animals green enclosure and richness of activities for the interactive between the landscape human and animal exhibits. A metaphor but literal design motive and concept in interpretation leave some aspects of the design much to be desired.

Overall the designer has done adequate studies to justify his design and has identified relevant issues to be addressed. The layout seemed coherent and fluid in it pedestrian flow which is a very important aspect in any zoo layouts. Although there is a lack of freshness in its design but I would not fault the designer because designing for animals requires very specific skill sets and studies into zoology and many other sciences. Applying ideas that has been proven successful in the other part of the world is not a bad idea.

Synergized Landscape Network by Hasanuddin Lamit & Nik Malik Zainal Abidin

The design stands on the line between being an abstract design and a work of graphic landscape. The master plan graphic presentation is brilliance however needs further information regarding space and place making, its contextual significance, and contribution to the immediate surrounding areas. The 3D visuals or images are evocative and impressionistic which may help to explain the modern and abstract approach and premise of the design. The idea and design development is most commendable and the succinct use of colors of red, grey and black is admirable. The idea of using large layouts for the presentation is appropriate for the design. The overall work challenges much conventional wisdom of design and presentation but still suggest thoughtfulness in thinking and creativity. As a whole it is a commendable effort and rather contemporaneous in thought and interpretation.

An urban project that requires a strong and vibrant design to pull the four main architectural structure together that are the Albulkary Mosque, the Police Headquater, the Pudu Jail Complex and the Shaw Condominium. The proposal show an abstract study of vehicular and pedestrian circulation pattern tying in with the LRT station. The resulting structure is contemporarized like and abstract sculpture in itself. A statement user has to recant with within the metropolitan center of Kuala Lumpur. However, pattern and form alone cannot create the quality of the place, as in the case of the design of the plaza. Here, the dawn plaza, the garden of hope and the dusk plaza will eventually be merely open spaces from dawn to dusk. Consideration need to be given for over abstraction in design that can disintegrate it meaning and giving way to dead spaces which will attract negative activities. Despite that the presentation as an art work is a masterpiece!

LEGEND

1. Terminal Building 2. KLIA Transit Station 3. KTM Station

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- KIM Station
 LRT Station
 Drop-off Area
 Pick up Area
 Bus Stop
 Green Covered Parking

- 9. Transit Plaza 10. Green Atrium 11. Cooling Scenic Platform
- 12. Greenery Zone 13. Retention Pond

- 14. Pond Fountain 15. Green Link Bridge
- 16. Greenroof 17. Photovoltaic Panel 18. Sculpture

- 19. Railway 20. Covered Pedestrian Bridge 21. Circular Ramp







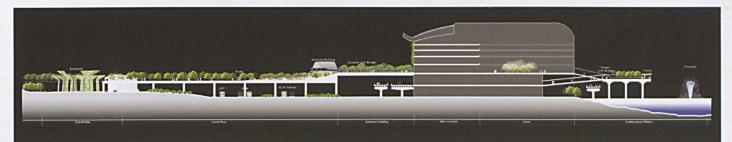
Manipulating the Microclimate

Ina Krisantia, Mohd Nazri Saidon, Murad Abd Ghani & Abd Aziz Othman

The existing design of the Southern Integrated Terminal in Bandar Tasik Selatan consumes high energy, produces extensive carbon emission, and has poor pedestrian linkages. To mitigate the problems, a system modeling is introduced by manipulating the microclimate. The vertical and horizontal landscape intercepts solar radiation, reduces radiant energy supplied and acts as a wind

tunnel to increase the convection of heat and energy. The green rooftop garden, the vertical green wall and the streetscape improve the microclimate and the spatial linkages. The design is a relevant solution to the urban heat problem.





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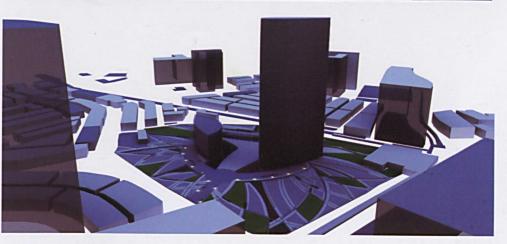
The Green Heaven

Osman Mohd Tahir, Roziya Ibrahim & Asraf Abdul Rahman

The project embellishes the environmental and spiritual character of the historical Pudu Prison, Kuala Lumpur. A new green living environment is introduced as a new landmark development in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The work integrates green architecture in an urban infrastructure. A subtle blend of landscape and architecture creates a small green HEAVEN; a tropical green living environment. It purifies the historical prison hell spiritual values. A feeling of sensation and naturalness in this design is evoked by Strelitziareginae (bird of paradise), symbolizing the sympathy of a human soul. The overall development will evoke the human indulgence towards environmental sustainability.







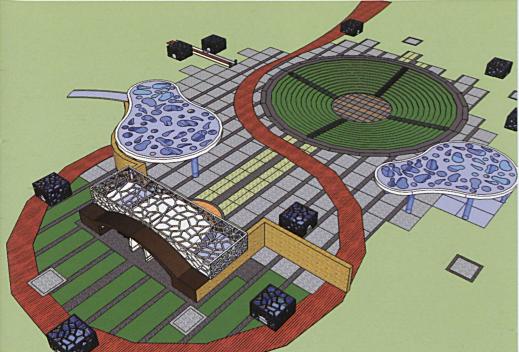
Illusion of the Wilds

Roziya Ibrahim, Osman Mohd Tahir & Asraf Abdul Rahman

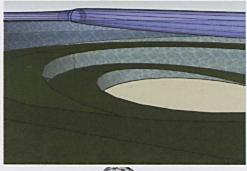
The Illusion of the Wilds has transformed the typical surrounding of Zoo Negara environment into a lively "Wonder Zoological Park". The adopted contemporary zoo design emphasizes more on conservation than merely a display of animals thus enhances the design of the zoo environment. A combination of naturalistic and realistic imitations of the animals' natural habitats allows the visitors to explore the experience of living in the wild. The proposed zoological park has a variety of activities for experiencing wild life.

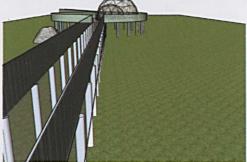
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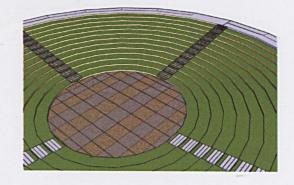










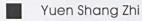


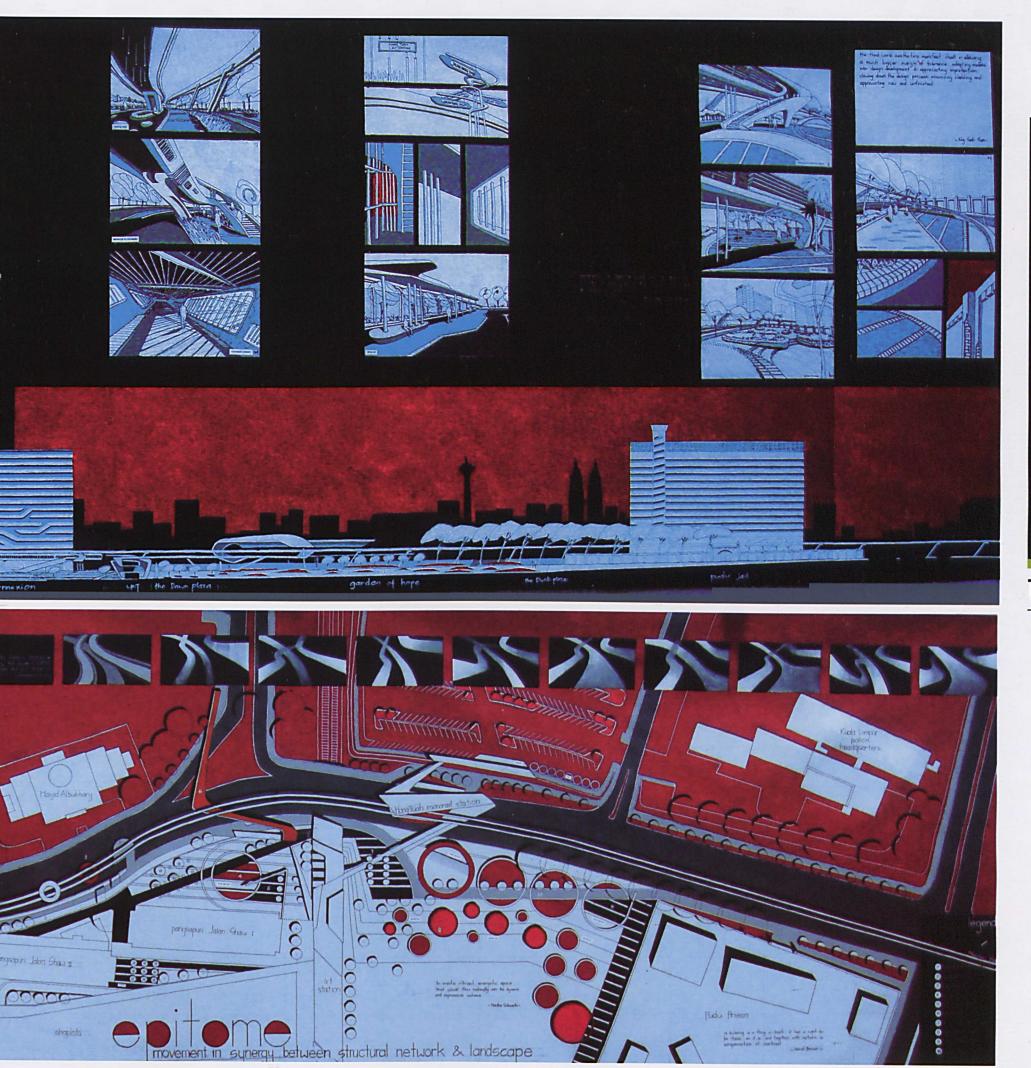
Synergized Landscape Network

Noor Azizi Mohd Ali, Norsidah Ujang & Kamariah Dola

Located at a highly critical and most condensed site at Jalan Hang Tuah in Kuala Lumpur, this project explores the sensibility of designing layers of unfolded urban landscape and architectural spaces through hypothetical realm. It addresses the significance of the existing structural network and the integration of conceptual elements through 5 idioms which are abstract and concrete, bridge, dynamism, folding and filling. Design approaches introduce experimental and experiential vertical domains in between spaces. Unexpected landscapes fill the gap and link the spaces and set itself. The project exemplifies provoking architectural experiences throughout the place.

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