The Shifting Landscape
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The Gift
Mohd Fairuz Shahidan, Mohd Fabian Hasna, Faziawati Abdul Aziz & Aini Jasmin Ghazali
Integrated Green Lifestyle
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The Shifting Landscape: Environmental Art
Fadzilah Abdul Aziz

Let's emphoric being able to paint a particular picture, or
to carve a statue and so to make a few objects beautiful.
Yet, it is far more glorious to carve and paint the very
atmosphere and medium through which we live... To
affect the quality of the day, that is the highest of arts
(Thomae, 1966).

Environmental art is not only confined to the work of artists,
but it is part and parcel of the landscape. As their scope of work involves designing
outdoor spaces it is in urban areas or the natural setting. In
line with that, the final project for the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture first year students required them to produce six live environmental art works in selected sites
demonstrating their understanding of site contents and
their application of basic design principles and theories in
their works.

The Course
This course covers the introduction to design and basic
design principles, design theories, idea and concept
development and process in creating a design. Firstly,
students were required to create a monochrome model that
displays the design of sites using planes and demonstrates
their knowledge of concept, development, design principles and form space and order. The
course also trains students to present their design ideas professionally. Apart from that, the course also covers a
site-specific environmental art project that focuses on the
students' ability to create designs that are sensitive and
responsive towards the chosen site.

A study trip to Singapore was carried out to expose the
students to public arts, its relation to the site and the impact
it had on the public. The students would then have a clearer
picture of designing space in urban areas and botanical
garden, understand the connections between space and
deed, furniture, as well as experiencing landscape architectural design in detail. After the study trip, three inventory and analyses were conducted at the Faculty of Design and Architecture, and another three at Seberang Lake. All six sites were chosen by the students based on
issues that they would like to highlight. The inventory and
analytical studies were produced in groups as well as the
final environmental art project.

Critiques and Suggestions
Overall, the students have shown their abilities to design
and present their ideas, as well as construct their art works
on site through this environmental art project. They have
managed to grasp the understanding of design processes,
ideas development, the importance of understanding the
site when designing, and for themselves the impact
their art works have on ideas. However, the scale of some
of the art works became an issue in which the works were
out of scale in context to the site. This was due to as most of
them were constructed of the studio and later brought to
the site. Suggestively, all future art works are constructed
on site during the eight weeks duration similar to what has
done by the Graffiti of Spiral group led by Muhammad
Fikri. The group and another two groups artefacts namely
the Gift and Integrated Green Lifestyle were selected for
future references.
Jury Review

THE GIFT

Salma Mohamed

It is an interesting attempt to create public art which would respond to the environment. Furthermore, the site application seems to be quite easy translated into the design concept. Overall, design ideas of the public art is commendable. However, the placement of the subject matter of the public art should be looking into more details such as the scale and proportion and location should be within the vicinity of the public space.

Natasha Nachricht

Good effort in thoughts and studies were given by students in their design process. However, certain levels of elaboration of studies and images of site, for example the site section and perspective drawing, were not taken into design process of certain high level or at concept stage. The site analysis and inventory did not work well with the overall design process that was made for this project. The scale of the artwork placed on the wall was out of proportion which was critical to the actual size of site. The installation was very good for deploying public art, making the public to better understand and appreciated public arts.
The Gift


"The Gift" emerges from a tale of storks that brought babies to houses in a town. It symbolizes fertility and is associated with birth. Thus, "The Gift" represents the notion of bringing new life to the society, an exciting and joyful event. Storks frequented the area of Sri Serdang Lake therefore strongly relates to the concept and is appropriate as a subject matter. The wing of the stork is used to represent the bird and it epitomizes the power of thought, freedom and speed. It is a means of trying to drive the rubbish ridden area and it hopes that this breeze of fresh air would eventually transform the area into a cleaner, livelier and attractive space. The colour white represents purity, perfection, innocence and completeness. Thus, a new beginning for the community. It creates contrast to the natural green setting whilst not being too harsh and thus still blending well. From afar, the artwork exhibits a flock of wings flying away to the sky through the repetitions of different heights and movement of the wings which is visually appealing and gives a sense of curiosity to the public. The wings were made out of imbraboard and three sizes of feathers were cut out and arranged to replicate the movement of wings.
The site selected for this artefact in Sri Serdang Lake is frequented by the local community for workout related activities such as aerobics and jogging. Therefore, it is only natural that the artwork represented and responded to the local activities here. ‘Integrated Green Lifestyle’ intends to convey the message on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle through a fun and artistic medium. Human-scaled figures in performing three different sport’s actions were constructed using plywood and mirrors. The mirrors were cut out into the shape of honeycombs to represent the sense of unity. The mirrored figures reflected the trees within the area. Therefore blending well with the natural setting thus not dominating the area itself. Simultaneously, from afar, the reflection of the sun flashes light into the mirrors which attracted attention of the users. The only drawback of this artwork was that the figures were dwarfed by its vast surrounding even though the figures were cut at human scale. Initially, only the glassed figures were placed on site. After critiques regarding the scale of the artwork were voiced out, six white figures were added to the artwork which gave a far bigger impact to the initial idea.