Reclaiming Urban's Lost Landscape Spaces
Asraf Abdul Rahman & Suhandi Maskan

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Due to many urban problems and issues, urban designers try to look into various ways to improve our city. Urban infrastructures have been carved out intensively around the world since the end of World War II, but the urban renewal process has been criticized for making our cities as we see today. Our cities have been planned to give priorities to cars, buildings, and infrastructures resulting much of our natural greenery being destroyed.

Furthermore, modern movement in architecture has resulted in buildings designed not in relation with the surrounding landscapes. They ignore the importance of streetscapes, urban squares and garden and other important outdoor spaces, leaving voids in between blocks. Most of these spaces have become lost spaces (Franck, 1986). In addition, urban infrastructures have been designed not in coherent with urban landscapes resulting in spaces within the infrastructure left unused. Urban infrastructures are better designed so that they are not static but dynamic as well as usable for the good of urban dwellers (Hauck & Kleinekort, 2011).

There is also a call to turn our infrastructure from grey to green for greener concept (Center for Green Infrastructure, 2011). The lack of greening in our urban environment has been linked with stress and urban dwellers inability to cope with many demanding task of urban life (Suhardi, 2004, 2013).

Without landscape, parks or greenroofs, the cities will be dull and chaotic. It is due to the fact that they could provide from the places of contemplation, socialization and relaxation as well as aesthetic values, whereas urban spaces should be designed for these particular functions (Minguet, 2010). Landscape architects as a stewards of the land are always at the forefront in championing the issues of urban greening in tandem with Frederick Law Olmstead’s, a father of Landscape Architects, vision about urban greenery. When he designed Central Park in New York in 1858, he argued on urban park with pastoral and country image is important to articulate urban life for the psychology and physiology benefit of human beings (Spim, 1989).

Final year BLA project’s objective is to allow students to choose their own projects and they have to demonstrate their abilities to work independently to solve design problem via planning and design. Several students choose to do urban design exercises and the issues that they worked at were very easy from one another ranging from urban heat island to urban parks. Nevertheless, regardless of the variety of issues, one of their projects’ objectives remains similar which is to add more greenery in the urban area. They feel that the current urban landscape needs to be reclaimed to enable to make our cities better places to live.

Two artefacts representing various urban landscapes planning and ideas are presented here. Nur Adibah in her bold design entitled “Underground Living Park” in Kuala Lumpur Golden Triangle tries to reclaim the lost landscape by proposing landscape spaces underground because he is concerned with the loss of green spaces in the cities due to development. The underground landscape spaces act as a linkage tool between two multi-storey buildings. In addition, the underground landscape also become a ground floor for the garden above it. Nur Adibah managed to show how city landscapes can be reclaimed in innovative and creative ways but this landscape is limited, to construct them may not be economically viable.

In conclusion, landscape as a main component of urban greenness will always be appreciated and cherished by everyone. The landscape can provide a big variety of aesthetic values, it could be used in an exciting way, it could be used in an exciting way, it is therefore, there are many opportunities to use landscape in innovative ways. Landscape architects as the stewards of the land are always at the forefront in championing the issues of urban greening in tandem with Frederick Law Olmstead’s, a father of Landscape Architects, vision about urban greenery. When he designed Central Park in New York in 1858, he argued on urban park with pastoral and country image is important to articulate urban life for the psychology and physiology benefit of human beings (Spim, 1989).

In conclusion, landscape as a main component of urban greenery is an important aspect in our urban life. It is therefore, there are many opportunities to use landscape in innovative ways. Landscape architects as the stewards of the land are always at the forefront in championing the issues of urban greening in tandem with Frederick Law Olmstead’s, a father of Landscape Architects, vision about urban greenery. When he designed Central Park in New York in 1858, he argued on urban park with pastoral and country image is important to articulate urban life for the psychology and physiology benefit of human beings (Spim, 1989).

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Jury Review

Khalilah Zakariya
This project is an interesting contemporary design approach to solve the issues of unappealing infrastructures. The idea of merging the green corridor and grey infrastructure can create a connection between human use, environment and left-over spaces. The flow is well presented and the design process is clearly articulated. The master plan images offer a creative alternative to activate the infrastructure. The development area of the open plaza however needs to respond to urban heat and microclimatic needs of users.

Devendiran S.T. Mani
Overall content of background information and site analysis are well defined and represented with good layout and charts. The design process and concept are also acceptable. "The use of 'Permaculture' is a positive idea for sustainable development. The student however did not elaborate enough information in detail. The Master plan is informative and shows the designer's intent. It would be better if the designer shares the overall picture of ethno-Botanic Theme. The planting palette would need to provide a very comprehensive list of species and are very ornamental, which is very vital for the theme."
The design focuses on the development greenery environment of Community Park that integrates with the existing community and unusable space under large infrastructure such as flyovers and overpasses. "Merged" as a main concept is defined as a combination or blend two or more things gradually to become single entity. In the design concept, the merging of green environment and grey infrastructure will overcome the site issues of lack of community's green spaces and impact of air pollution on site. Thus, the proposed landscape design would give opportunity of transformation from no-man's-land into a thriving recreational park for the community. The strength of the project is based on the original concept that merged two landscape entities into a new landscape paradigm of public spaces. In contrast, the merging of water bodies into design is still lacking from application point of view. The project would benefit from further study on the prospects of plants selection to reduce the impact of air pollution.
Projection of Prismatism
Shureen Faris Abdul Shukor, Asraf Abdul Rahman & Mohd Vazid Mohd Yunus

This project explores the ability and probability of using the spaces underneath Kuala Lumpur as a park and urban connector due to the lack of green spaces in the city centre. The concept 'Projection of Prismatism' combines three elements: reflection, refraction and triangular shape which resulted in the use of lines and colours. The strength of the project lies in the bold and radical ideas projected during the design process. The proposal indicates in-depth exploration of ideas and thoughts during the process, especially in the area of ecology sustainable strategy in using swale and rain garden. Aspects concerning safety and security were also given considerations. It would be interesting for future study if more exploration could be carried out on the type of plants species suitable for the underground spaces.