

Landscape Design

Lecture 1

Introduction

The landscape is anywhere and everywhere outdoors, and landscape architects are shaping the face of the Earth across cities, towns and countryside alike. Landscape design involves shaping and managing the physical world and the natural systems that we inhabit. Landscape architects do design gardens, but what is critical is that the garden, or any other outdoor space, is seen in context. All living things are interdependent, and the landscape is where they all come together. Context is social, cultural, environmental and historical, amongst other considerations.

The elements of design, such as line, shape, texture and colour, are used to create these images, and the process allows the designer to both communicate with an audience and to visualise the site in order to act upon it. The science includes an understanding of natural systems, including geology, soils, plants, topography, hydrology, climate and ecology. It also includes a knowledge of structures and how they are built, such as roads and bridges, walls, paving and even the occasional building.

They are working on urban regeneration and master-planning projects, tackling environmental hazards, designing Olympic sites, and creating the public squares, parks and streets we all use.

At present, Greenery areas play a main role in the construction and master plan of towns and cities. The need for green spaces was emphasized on as a must for colonial establishment of people in urban area since long time ago. Nowadays, main part of world's population is living in cities and towns, therefore greenery has a strategic importance in the urban establishment. Therefore, urban design should depend on construction of greenery area as being determining principles of city's design.

With the constant increase in the population number in Kurdistan region including transportation and communication facilities and the large number of factories, vertical and horizontal expansion in dwelling there is an urgent need to expand the green spaces. The importance's of green areas are more in the cities than in the villages and countryside where agricultural land, because there is no value in any city without green areas. Therefore, the gardens with its trees, shrubs, flowers and climbs, including children and adults playgrounds (play area), with stairs, fences, fountains and lakes they are all represent the face and personality of any residential area.

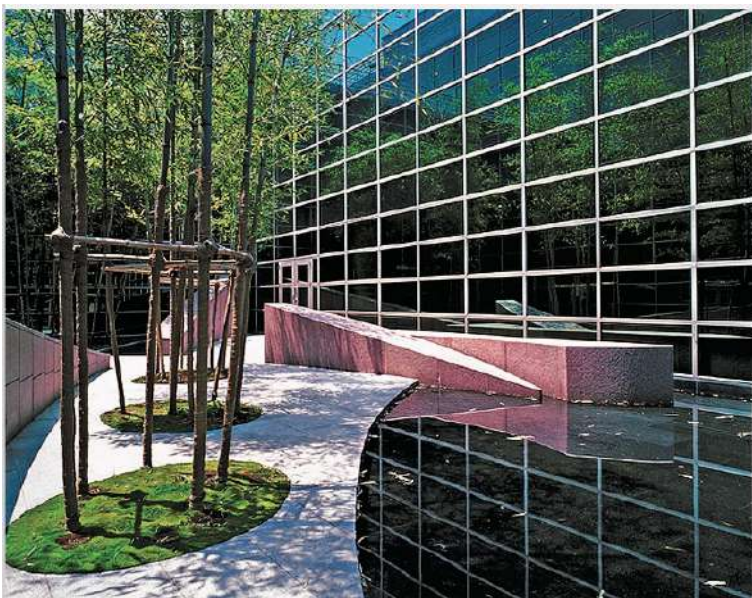


Green areas lead to protect the environment from pollution which affects the citizens health, as well as providing shade, humidity raise, purifying, reducing noises and adjusting the heat, they also perform the functions of planning as it works to identify the cities, residential areas and the separation of the various facilities beside Beauty and coordinate fields as well as comfort zones and so on.

Ecosystems in Kurdistan may be fall under three distinct categories: steppe (Plane land) vegetation, forest vegetation that includes hills, foothills and mountain in lower altitudes. Whereas high mountain vegetation (Alpine vegetation) include vegetation in high altitudes. However, the zonation of Iraqi Kurdistan may be found in.

Nowadays, greenery has become one of the necessities of urban planning for the population, in order to improve their ways of life and enjoy the flavor and beauty of healthy nature, spending their leisure between beautiful plants and wonderful art images to get entertainment. Gardens and parks which are going to be open to public through which, dreams, hopes and the aims will be achieved which is in fact, the goal of every one in life.

Public parks in and outside the cities is becoming quite common nowadays, generally small park are found within cities, whereas, the huge once, are mostly exist in the outskirts of cities and towns, the obvious reason is, to achieve most quiet, calm yards, full of fresh air away from the crowd of the cities.



**Courtyard in the LG Chemical
Research Centre, Seoul, Korea**

This courtyard by Mikyoung Kim derives its contemplative beauty from the great precision of its design. A simple, elegant relationship between bamboo, moss, stone and water create a highly sculptural composition.

A Brief History of Gardens

History of establishing garden and greenery in our planet may go back to almost 3000 years B.C. All believe that people in Mesopotamian were a pioneer in this respect. They applied different methods of irrigation, punctures and broaching for gardens till Hammurabi's legislation in 2000 B.C. Asorian established garden across mountains along with temple walls and fences. They used holy plants around the gardens such as *Salix*, *Pinus*, *Myrtus* and others. Whereas throughout Babylon period gardens was quite similar to that of Asorian, they gave more attention to ornamental plants and flowering ones, they separate tree orchards from vegetable garden they established Hanging Garden also (Hanging garden of Babylon was once of the seven wonders of the world). However, gardens throughout Pharaonic periods were used to flourish general temples and royal ones. Printing on the walls that reflect the garden shape, design and plant type, that still have been left and sustained up to nowadays.

There after comes the Persian style of gardens that started almost 600-500 years B.C. Royals gentleman and kings have given more care and attention to greenery in this period. They separate ornamental gardens from fruit and vegetable garden, they were first who modified wall gardens, hanging and aquatic gardens. They introduced planting trees along water channels with greenery areas such as *Cupressus*. Along with Persian period and after, history of garden go back to Romanian and Greek period, they modified Persian and Pharaonic gardens to more geometrical shapes. However, they were first who introduced fountains in within garden. They used and separated medicine plants from others. Whereas, Chinese style did not start till 100 years B.C. which was characterized with addition and introducing waterfalls to the garden and orchards. The history of garden progress through periods of Islamic -Andalusian and Indian style then go on to Italian till French style in 15th century. Whereas English style reflect in two forms as natural style and new door ones. Then comes the recent design where American style integrated with European and Islamic ones. Much more of this history may be found in previous references.

Finally, it's quite clear that the design of garden nowadays is the outcome of all those successive of development and changes in garden design along the integration of the last 5000 thousand years of garden history.



Hanging Gardens of Babylon

The temple complex at Karnak near Luxor, Egypt



a) Aerial Photo of Fin garden enclosed between walls. b) A view of Fin garden central Pavilion, Water way Circulation, fountains and basins.



Gardens of Versailles

Hampton Court Palace

Glossary of Landscaping Terms:

Landscape Gardening

The art of landscaping considered as fine arts, which requires full knowledge of plant species, forms and nature of growth as well as cultivation methods and colors of flowers to put it in the right place in the garden next to the great and broad imagination to link these elements to give the desired final shape of the park.

Landscape Design

Landscape Design is the art of arranging or modifying the features of a yard, an urban area, or other space for aesthetic or practical reasons.

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architecture is the design of outdoor public areas, landmarks and structures to achieve environmental, social-behavioral or aesthetic outcomes.

Landscape planning

Development of policy and strategies for larger areas of landscape.

Landscape science

The study and administration of processes and systems, both physical and natural, in ecology and the environment.

Masterplan

A plan or strategy for a complex development or environment and the supporting documents that detail how the plan will be costed, built, administered and managed.

Botanical Garden (B.G)

Botanical gardens are institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education.

Arboreta

Arboreta are typically parks in which trees and shrubs are cultivated, usually for scientific and educational purposes. Historically the focus of arboreta has been on woody trees and shrubs

Greenery

Greenery is a promoter of a positive environment at the city and town level.

Deciduous

A plant that loses its leaves in the winter.

Evergreen

A plant whose leaves or needles are green year-round.

Annual

A plant which grows to maturity and dies within one season; most are frost-sensitive.

Biennial

A plant which produces a vegetable one season, a flower the next season, then dies.

Perennial

A plant living for a number of years.

Fertilizer

A material added to feed plants rich in nutrients, usually nitrogen (often lost with frequent mowing), phosphates and potash.