On Landscape Approach, Cultural Identity and Sustainability

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How to realize cultural identity and sustainability?

**Ecological, architectural, or landscape approaches to place identity and cultural identity**

**Regionalism and/or iconic structure as a strategy for identity:**
*Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Paris, Beijing, Kyoto, Geek Hill town, Malmö, Pueblo Indian*

**Shanghai, Dubai and Mumbai syndrome:**
*catching up and competition result in placelessness*
Cultural diversity as **biodiversity** and sustainability as **cultural concept**

Identity and coherence as **tourism resource** and **community enabler**

Identity as **product of sustainable living** and **evolutionary adaptation:**

„identity of or identity with”
Identity and Sustainability

Identity reduces competition and increase recognition and attractiveness

* a sign of ordered and distinctive place and people as well as place-people unity

Sustainability requires engagement of community and democratic and participatory design and aesthetic:

* attention to ordinary and everyday design rather than just a „show off”.

landscape is home and territory!
Why ecological design is not very well accepted in the West?

Ecological design
as integrative design (of space, experience and process)
and (re-)generative design,
but it appeared to neglect aesthetics, intention and individual creativity

Ecological approach
is anti-thetical to Western attitude to nature and design

Green is incorporated or appropriated as taken to sell non-sustainable designs of architecture and city.
words and conducts don’t match:

Human City

Champs-Élysées, Paris

Almere, NL

Green City

Urban Park

Emerald Necklace, Boston

Global City

Dubai

Expensive architecture as icon

Almere, NL

Living place as icon
Why is ecological design not very well accepted in the West?

To answer this question one must also ask why the modernity and modern design are so strong in the West:

_in modern time, landscape architects followed architects who in turn followed artists._

_Modern design_ was not functional or even aesthetic, but _an aestheticization of mechanistic function, industrial materials and technology._

(Koh, 2004)

Modern architecture also _privileged city over country, architecture over landscape_: a deeply western tradition

(Watts, 1958/70)

Modern design as applied to city and landscape was an architectural approach: form seeking, compositional, goal directed, colonial and imperial
Paradigm Shift

Ecological approach as opposed to engineering approach
Landscape approach as differentiated from architectural approach
Process based adaptive/evolutionary approach vs. formal compositional approach
Ecologic view of world vs. mechanic view of world
Architectural Approach

Architectural approach rooted/dominant in the West:

we don’t build to conserve and protect
we build to gain freedom and realize economy

Mathematic, geometrical composition

Villa Rotonda, Palladio, A., >1550. Vicenza, Italy.
and Villa Savoye, le Corbusier and Jeanneret, P., Poissy, France, 1929-1931.
Architectural Approach

Architectural approach (from Vitruvius to Modern design to Post modernism):

- anthropocentric,
- teleological,
- geometric,
- human over and separated from nature,
- design as visual, form giving, individual act,
- distinction from the context and colonizing the land,
- closed authorship of design,
- design separated from construction and management,
- seeking permanence and monumentality
Architectural Approach

Le Corbusier and Vitruvius
L.M. van der Rohe, German Pavilion, world expo 1929, Barcelona
What is architecture

Architects can not be taught
(Frank Lloyd Wright)

Architecture is.
(Louis I. Kahn)

There are architects, but no architecture.

Architecture remains as open concept.
Landscape not just as ecological but also as poetic processes is rooted and dominant in non-Western and East-Asian culture.

In East-Asia: no stylistic variation through history or function, but connected to and integrated with the landscape: field/quantum aesthetic vs. formal/material aesthetic

(Koh, 2010)

Feng-shui, a trigram sequence for a house and Feng-sui map, house site with lake.
Landscape Approach

Eco-centric,
adaptive and evolutionary,
geographic,
man with nature,
design as *positioning* searching fitness to place,
harmony with context,
design as community act,
design integrated with planning and management,
accommodating change and seeking exchange with landscapes
Landscape Approach

Positioning landscape central, and positioning landscape experience and awareness as central focus by framing landscape view or ambiguity between indoor and outdoor, city and country; conceptualizing architecture as part of landscape and community.

Focus on ordinary cultural landscapes rather than spectacular and iconic landscapes.
Landscape Urbanism describes a disciplinary realignment currently underway in which landscape replaces architecture as the basic building block of contemporary urbanism. For many, across a range of disciplines, landscape has become both the lens through which the contemporary city is represented and the medium through which it is constructed.”

(Waldheim, 2006, p.11)
What is then landscape?

Landscape is cultural concept and cultural practices.

Human as part of landscape or human as exploiter of landscape?

Landscape as material process or landscape as scenery for detached viewing.
The language affects the way we think.

"The word landscape in different part of the world"
10 interpretations (Motloch, 2001)

- Landscape as Nature
- Landscape as Habitat
- Landscape as Artifact
- Landscape as System
- Landscape as Problem
- Landscape as Wealth
- Landscape as Ideology
- Landscape as History
- Landscape as Place
- Landscape as Aesthetics
Germanic concept of landscape, *landschap or Landschaft*, refers to shaping: creation as well as management and conservation; region as well as board.

Attention to landscape in Western art and science appears in English landscape garden since 17\textsuperscript{th} century, whereas attention to landscape in East Asian art appears already from 11\textsuperscript{th} century. Yet Dutch has shown earlier appreciation of landscape since 13\textsuperscript{th} century.
The Chinese concept of **Sansui** includes landscape outside as well as landscape in the mind.

Landscape in China was model of life, *Tao*, not an object to be conquered and exploited. Landscape is not a view seen through a window frame but a place to be immersed in.

“*There is no out there out there*”
(Field theory)

Fan Kuan (ca. A.D. 930 – 1030), *Travelling among mountains and streams*, hanging scroll, ink and light colour silk.
Landscape approach to Urbanism: 10 Characteristics

Integrative Design
Generative, Regenerative Design,
Dynamic, Evolutionary Design
Strategic Design
Land Economic Design
Bottom-up Design
Phenomenological Design
Democratic, Ordinary Urbanism
Post-Modernity Urbanism
Eco-Feminist Design

interrelated and overlapping!

A Landscape Approach exists

Landscape approach

- to architecture:
  great pieces of architecture of inclusive and lasting appeals employed
  landscape approach

- to landscape architecture (vs. architectural approach to landscape):
  attention to ordinary landscape, performing and informing landscapes,
  landscape as starting point and central point, ecological and poetic design

- to urban/regional planning and design
  ecological network/system approach, „Design with nature”

- to civil and infra engineering
  - ecological engineering
  - infrastructure integrated in landscape
  - functional landscape
Landscape Approach exists

M. van der Rohe, house for E. Farnsworth, Plano, Illinois, 1946 - 51.
House Garden
for cultural identity and sustainability
Landscape Approach to Urban Park

Do we need parks in a landscape city?

Riverland, Wageningen, NL
Urban Woodland, Amsterdamse Bos, NL
Urban Agriculture, Rotterdam, NL
Landscape approach at Wageningen and Netherlands
Re-visioning the Closure Dike
from mono-functional engineering to multifunctional eco-engineering

Afsluitdijk
Master Thesis WUR
Monique Sperling
Re-visioning the Coastal Zone
from stiff, line defense to flexible zone defense

Medicating the Broad Coast
Master Thesis WUR
Ian Officer & Jo Groven
Tidal Zone as Energy + Flood Landscapes
Re- visioning New Orleans
Room for the River and Nature Development

Landscape as water machine
Methodological framework of the five-step approach to integrated visions (from Ph.D. candidate Sven Stremke)

1. present conditions
   - representation
   - process
   - evaluation

2. near future developments
   - change by current projected trends

3. possible far-futures
   - concretize existing context scenarios

4. integrated visions
   - change by implementable design

5. spatial interventions
   - impact
   - decision

Design charrette,
Scenario Approach applied to Energy Landscape

- Global Market energy vision
- Secure Region energy vision
- Global Solidarity energy vision
- Caring Region energy vision
Energy Landscape examples of the Master Atelier: “Designing Sustainable Energy Landscapes”
Landscape approach to urban design scale
A case of Saemangeum in Korea

3000 miles
Land of Silk Embroidery

Land of Morning Calm
dynamic, productive, time landscape:
open, self-regulating system

closed system
Sensitive Chaos and Euclidean Geometry
Saemangeum is also Culture, Memory, People

This is a farewell.

a landscape of body and heart
Large scale, long term project requires a different design strategy:
  - design - construction - management integration
  - strategic design followed by operational design
  - design integrated with planning and research

Development of a tidal land requires a non-linear, adaptive approach.
Plans compared

Saemangeum Land Use Plan
Absence of urban design
Low spatial quality

Dutch Vinex Land Use Plan
Presence of urban design
High spatial quality
Image compared

Saemangeum visualization
American / capitalist model

City of the Sun, Heerhugowaard, NL
European / welfare state model

What is this city for? Is it sustainable / ecological? Where is its identity?
Design must integrate with research and monitoring:
design becomes designing:
question driven design vs. solution driven design

Design must integrate with planning: design approach to planning (such as regional design) and planning approach to design

Differentiate strategic design from operational design:
beyond comprehensive Master plan toward open, under-design for framework or structure plan
Conditions for the Landscape Approach to succeed

Technology and best examples must exist **locally**

**Democracy**, transparency and participatory process for design must exist

**Non-authoritarian**
trans-sectural, non-linear
Practice and

**Explicit design strategy** and aesthetic language (e.g. Carl Stenintz’s integration of design with ecology, Koh’s aesthetic languages)

Dynamic simulation tools, digital tools
Landscape Approach to Saemangeum means:

1. Integrated Approach
2. Complementarity of Conservation and Development
3. Community and Participatory Approach
4. Taking time and ordering time
5. Landscape Infra and Infra-landscape
6. Visioning is only 10% of the job
7. Landscape and Cityscape are not Spectacles to look at
8. Landscape is body and home
9. Non-Euclidean
10. Multifunctional zoning and landscape
### Landscape Approach compared to Architectural Approach

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Architecture (Building Architecture)</th>
<th>Landscape Architecture</th>
<th>Urban Design and Planning</th>
<th>Civil / Infra-Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Landscape</td>
<td>City as an architectural</td>
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<td>Goal directed</td>
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<td><strong>Program oriented</strong></td>
<td>focus on: Form, structure, construction: architecture as representation</td>
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<td>focus on: Form, vision/visual</td>
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#### Landscape Approach:
- **Land / Site oriented**
- **Ecological**
- **Evolutionary**
- **Creation with conservation**
- **Seeks integration**
- **Poetic**
- **Agricultural**
- **Geographical**
- **Feng-shui**

- Architecture as part of landscape
- Indigenous architecture
- Organic architecture
- Geographic Architecture
- Ecological Architecture
- Phenomenological Architecture
- ‘Architecture as Landscape’
- ‘Building’ and ‘housekeeping’
- Indoor-outdoor integration (wall, interface as place)
- Space-Process integration (sustainable design)
- Land-based architecture:
  - ‘landscape/building’
  - roof becomes ground/land/topography
  - inversion of inside/outside, top/bottom

- Inclusive conception of landscape:
  - natural and cultural
  - high and ordinary culture
  - ‘special’ and everyday landscape
- ‘City as landscape’
  - beyond city as organism
- Land as land/people system
- ‘Landscape’ as a regional unit (identity of place)
- Landscape design as process, flux, far from equilibrium

- Blurring of city / landscape,
  - hybrid city / hybrid landscape and region
- ‘City as landscape’
  - beyond city as organism
- Recognition of suburbanization and urban / rural integrity
- Urban open space as frame, structure with point of departure
- Process ordering of growth and decline
- Sustainability
  - Haussman’s Paris, Washington D.C., Boston Emerald Necklace
- Introduction of biophysical, cultural
  - ‘Regional approach’
- ‘Landscape as Urbanism’
- Searching for city like country, country like city
- Antithesis of ‘generic city’

#### Landscape Urbanism
- **Infralandscape**
- Landscape / Eco-engineering
- Industrial ecology
- Process and spatial integration with landscape
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In Sum

1 We need to articulate the „landscape approach’ to be a coherent and relevant discipline

2 Landscape approach is „useful for cultural identity and sustainability of diverse scale including Malta.
thank you.

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References


Lang, Jon T. et al. eds. 1974, Designing for Human Behavior: Architecture and Behavioral Sciences, Dowden Hutchinson and Ross


