Cultural Landscape: Meanings and Design Implications

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Meanings of Cultural Landscape

• Any landscape bearing the impact of human activity, historic or pre-historic. It is a concept emerging from increasing recognition that human beings are a part of nature.

• Distinct geographical areas representing the combined work of nature and of Man (UNESCO World Heritage).

• Connections between human beings and the physical environment.

• Interaction between humankind and its natural environment.
Disciplines Studying Cultural Landscape

• Human geography and Sociology:
  Interaction and nurturing behavior

• Architecture and Landscape architecture:
  Buildings and green infrastructure

• Rural and urban planning:
  Settlement

• Agriculture:
  Cultivation of crops and settlement
Attributes of Cultural Landscape

• CHARACTERISTICS
  – Simple: e.g. daily experience of a child in a garden
  – Complex: e.g. gradual changes of community behaviors that shaped people’s functioning

• COMPONENTS
  – Tangible: Physical elements including plants, animals, topography and architectural structures.
  – Intangible: Attributes of the environment as well as social interactions and transactions.

• SCALES OF ECOTOPE
  – Macro: e.g. a farming community
  – Micro: e.g. a den for a child to play
The works of man express themselves in the cultural landscape. Cultural landscapes, associated with modification of the environment, appear with agro-ecosystems, and are the period when human influences are seen to override environmental ones.
Cultural landscape is one physically transformed by human action. Man expressing his place in nature as a distinct agent of modification.
Cultural landscape is one physically transformed by human action. It begins when man practiced agriculture, some 8000 to 10000 years ago.
Complex and Macro Scale

COMPLEX: Intricate forms involving time and large community
MACRO SCALE: Large area of rural landscape
TANGIBLE: Can be touch and experienced through
INTANGIBLE: Relate to the Buddhism values

Cultural landscape is one physically transformed by human action.
**Diversity of Cultural Landscape**

**BIOLOGICAL** : Life is sustained by physical and climatic elements

**ECOLOGICAL** : Human dependence on plant and animals

**CULTURAL** : Identity of place formulated by activities and behaviors of people

An array of elements and spaces experiential choices for people, resulting in regular contact with various open spaces.
Coherence of Cultural Landscape

- Readability of its environments
- Legibility of places and good connectivity
Summary of Relationships

Cultural Landscape

Social interaction

Emotional feelings to place

Physical interaction with natural resources lead to economic gain

Technology that leads to economic gain and modification of natural resources
Children’s Cultural Landscape

Home as Cultural Landscape

Physical Space

Shelter and Economy Benefits

Social Space
Community Integration

Inner Space
Emotional Bonds
**Cultural Landscape as Inner Space**

- **Place dependence**: connections based specifically on activities that take place in a setting, reflecting the importance of a place in providing conditions that support an intended use (Schreyer et al. 1981).

- **Place identity**: the mixture of feelings about specific physical settings (Proshansky et al. 1983) including how these settings provide meaning and purpose to life (Giuliani & Feldman, 1993).

- **Place attachment**: Emotional bond people have with place (Altman & Low, 1992)

- **Place rootedness**: bonding situation wherein people become so bonded to a specific place that they long for very few or no other.
The inner space is **emotional feelings** to a place that bond the children to the environment.
Implication: Designing Kindergarten

The kindergarten should provide an interactive, and explorative learning environment.
• Fragmentation disrupts the cultural identity of a landscape.
• Fragmented landscapes are patches that separated by non-coherence elements.
Implication: landscape resource assessment of rural landscape

GOAL
• To achieve rural amenities in Jasin District by emphasizing the rural and natural resources.

OBJECTIVES
• To support the development of sustainable community by optimizing the contribution of natural resources.
• To balance the nature and man by applying the concept of stewardship.
• To highlight the culture by identifying and creating the uniqueness of character and image of Jasin District.
• To enrich the existing life quality of Jasin people by improving their ‘bond’ to the place.
Implication to planning and design
The works of man express themselves in the cultural landscape. Cultural landscapes give us a sense of place.
Rural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes, associated with modification of the environment, appear with agro-ecosystems, when human influences are seen to override environmental ones.

Cultural identity is strongly associated with the ways in which people interact with their landscapes.
**Place identity:**
Self-identity and group identity are intimately connected with the events and history that are associated with the tangible environment.
• Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use.
• Cultural landscapes are:
  – designed and created intentionally by man
  – evolved organically
  – experiential milieu

The concept of sustainable development is widely interpreted as a need to achieve sustainability concurrently within environmental, economic and social spheres (United Nations, 2002).