

Villette is very much an object in the Paris cityscape as well as an environment for those who use it. To be urban design, park design and architecture need to be integrated into a single-design approach. Bernard Tschumi did this in the design of the Parc de la Villette. It is, however, still predominantly a landscape architectural scheme containing architectural elements.

Major reference

Baljon, Lodewijk (1995). *Designing Parks*. Amsterdam: Architecture and Nature Press.

CASE STUDY

Kuching Waterfront, Sarawak, Malaysia: a waterfront park as a catalyst for urban redevelopment (1989–93)

Kuching lies on the Sungai Sarawak 20 kilometres in from the sea. The city's riverfront used to be the regional shipping and distribution point of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. It intervened or acted as a seam, depending on one's point of view, between the commercial area on Main Bazaar and the river. The commercial area contained Chinese shophouses, a high-rise hotel and office buildings. The development of a road network and air transportation during the 1960s and 1970s, and the change in shipping technology led to the abandonment of the godowns (warehouses) and the general deterioration of the waterfront. The river wall had deteriorated, mud-flats filled former shipping channels, and squatters had built shacks along the waterfront. At the same time it was a lively colourful area of fishing boats and commerce. The area contained historic buildings, commuter jetties, and government and commercial buildings. It was also a mess.

The client for the redevelopment of the waterfront was the Sarawak State Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), a statutory agency established in 1972 to promote the industrial, commercial and

socio-economic development of the state. SEDC's Tourism and Leisure Agency has been responsible for carrying out a number of joint ventures with private developers. These works have included cultural facilities, golf clubs, shopping areas and hotels that cater to tourists from East Asia, in particular. Most of the properties carry international brand names, such as Holiday Inn, Arnold Palmer and Crowne Plaza. In order to upgrade the image of Kuching, the re-invention of the waterfront became a necessity.

In the early 1980s the Chief Minister of Sarawak envisaged a new link between the city and river but it took some time to initiate a project that would achieve this end. In 1989, SEDC was assigned the role of developer of the waterfront by the state's government. The next year it, in turn, hired the project team. The team was comprised of a local and an international consultancy. The former was United Consultants (Kuching) and the international team was Conybeare Morrison and Partners, a Sydney landscape architecture and urban design firm. It was the latter that led the design effort from beginning to end.