Urban Landscape Development
In Different Culture

delivered by:

This Guy
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• To look at various factors that inform the creation and perception of ethno and urban cultural landscape.

• To investigate the strengths and limitations of these interventions.
Greffe (2008): What is a Urban Cultural Landscape?

- Traditionally, a landscape is considered as an expanse of natural scenery that people come to see and enjoy.

- A landscape comprises the visible features of an area including its **physical elements** and **human elements** such as human activity and the built up environment.

- But in a city, the urban landscape changes with the position of the viewer, or even better, the “flaneur” – a person leisurely strolling through its streets.

- The landscape then becomes an experience.
Greffe (2008): What is a Urban Cultural Landscape?

i. Urban Cultural Landscape as a **Form of Visualization**

ii. Urban Cultural Landscape as a **Form of Experience**
Form of Visualization
Form of Visualization
Form of Experience
• Big Q: Do urban community able to recognise cultural identities of a particular place based on landscape design?

• Country like Malaysia has experiencing an increase ethnic diversity and has a long history of immigration stretching back over centuries.
• The ethnic mix, especially in urban areas, is complex and dynamic (why?) in their relationships.

• Between ethnics showing differences of culture and even between different generations of the same ethnic.

• It is worth to focus on appreciating the common understanding between different ethnics at that point in time.
• The built environment is a platform for embodiment of a society and where cultural norms and practices take place.

• For a sustainable urban development, urban designers need to stress of cultural sustainability and acknowledge diversification of cultural heritage in city planning in general, and in urban landscape design in particular.
Why are cultural landscapes important?
Cultural landscapes are a legacy for everyone. These special sites reveal aspects of our country’s origins and development as well as our evolving relationships with the natural world. They provide scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational, and educational opportunities helping communities to better understand themselves.

Why is it important to protect cultural landscapes?
Neglect and inappropriate development put our irreplaceable landscape legacy increasingly at risk. Too often today’s short-sighted decisions threaten the survival and continuity of our shared heritage. It is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard our nation’s cultural landscapes. The ongoing care and interpretation of these sites improves our quality of life and deepens a sense of place and identity for future generations.

http://tclf.org/landscapes/what-are-cultural-landscapes
What are Cultural Landscapes?

Cultural Landscapes
Provide a sense of place and identity; they map our relationship with the land over time; and they are part of our national heritage and each of our lives.

• They are... sites associated with a significant event, activity, person or group of people.
• They range in size... from thousands of acres of rural land to historic homesteads.
• They can be... grand estates, farmlands, public gardens and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways, and industrial sites.
• They are... works of art, narratives of cultures, and expressions of regional identity.

http://tclf.org/landscapes/what-are-cultural-landscapes
There are Four Types of cultural landscapes and a site can fall under several categories.

**Designed Landscape**
A landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect or horticulturist according to design principles or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition.

see: Donnell Garden, Sonoma, CA

**Vernacular Landscape**
A landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped that landscape. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, family or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of those everyday lives.

see: Acoma Pueblo, NM

**Historic Site**
A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person.

see: Olana, Hudson, NY

**Ethnographic Landscape**
A landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that the associated people define as heritage resources.

see: Nine Mile Canyon, UT

http://tclf.org/landscapes/what-are-cultural-landscapes
Multi-cultural Urban Landscapes

Cultural reflection of urban landscape design

• Territory
  ❑ Community gardens → ethnic communities can express a sense of ownership.
  ❑ Community created a space of territorial domains where users re-created a lifestyles similar to that in their culture, in their original place → a place that showed an attitude of self-determination.
  ❑ The design of such spaces could includes aspects of refuge, recreation, cultivation and cultural expression.
  ❑ The spaces will thrive when there is a strong sense of belonging/attachment from communities.
Casita Rincón Criollo

The oldest and largest casita in New York

Place Details »
Place Matters Profile

Casitas are small houses surrounded by gardens created to recall the look and feel of the Puerto Rican countryside. One of the city's oldest and largest, Casita Rincón Criollo, currently occupies its second city-owned site in the Melrose neighborhood of the South Bronx. Also known as “La Casita de Chema” after founder José Manuel “Chema” Soto, or simply “La Casita,” Rincón Criollo was built in the late 1970s, when Soto and his neighbors reclaimed an abandoned, garbage-filled lot on the corner of 158th Street and Brook Avenue. One day Soto had had enough of the sights of destruction that daily greeted him in his neighborhood, known more than any other part of the city for its scope of devastation in the 1960s and 1970s. Choosing a vacant lot he passed regularly with his daughter, he plunged in and began clearing debris. Other residents joined him, and soon around fifty people found themselves taking care of land they did not own. Together they created a little home of their own in the Bronx, and called it Rincón Criollo (“Downhome Corner”). Casita members used this corner to gather, garden, hold community events, and pass down musical and cultural traditions. The bomba and plena musical group, Los Pleneros de la 21, led by National Heritage Award Fellow Juan Gutiérrez, emerged from Rincón Criollo.

In 1987 La Casita de Chema joined the city’s GreenThumb community garden program, but a decade later
The Casita
Gardens of New York
Cultural reflection of urban landscape design

• Education
  - Community gardens ➔ case of Black Environmental Network in UK.
  - Multi-cultural garden highlights the educational importance for children (both ethnic minority and native majority) ➔ history behind the development, origin of plants and new home.
  - Allow children to benefit fully from the richness and relevance of inter-cultural exchange.
  - Casitas ➔ internal education (represent the way of ancestors used to live in past) ➔ expressing the importance of handling down cultural connections to younger generations.
Multi-function: Urban landscape + children activity area (function) + generating energy (sustainable/renewal)
the carousel is designed to educate children about alternative energy methods
we believe that teaching children about alternative methods for generating electrical power through their own physical experiences sends a subtle message about the potential for a creative and more sustainable approach to urbanism', says the designers.
Cultural reflection of urban landscape design

• Symbolic significance
  - Many designs for multi-cultural urban landscapes employ a range of symbols in order to contrast this space with another.
  - Ceremonial gateway, artworks, flags, decoration and carefully chosen plants or building styles can all be used to portray a cultural attachment or represent a country of origin.
Urban landscape design + image of the place + sense of place + community identity
Chinatown ➔ Chinese-ness
• Symbolic significance (cont.)

- Good or bad? To exclude or to include? To contain the space or to celebrate the space? People judgement and culture of the majority...etc.
- Designing space for urban landscape to remember of their past home, maintain ties with tradition → selecting image of Pakistani, Far Eastern, African identity → creating stereotypes and emphasize difference to the majority culture at the expanse of difference within the minority culture.
Cultural reflection of urban landscape design

• Settings for memory
  ❑ Past studies:
    ✓ An urban Chinese American community (older residents who had been born in China) → more likely uses the parks in traditional ways – TaiChi, playing dominos, strolling and chatting → as compared to the younger US-born (Zhang and Gobster, 1998).
    ✓ Asian immigrant women in UK mentioned about how much they enjoyed extended family gathering in open spaces in home in India and how much they wished to see similar possibilities in the UK (Burgess et al., 1988).
    ✓ Participation (uses of open spaces) provided an opportunity to recapture certain elements of their way of life back in the home country → Polish immigrants in Edmonton (Stodolska, 1998)
Cultural reflection of urban landscape design

• Settings for memory
  - Memory can be expressed in material culture, and can help frame a rationale regarding an often exaggerated use of symbolism.
  - People who move across national and cultural boundaries often bring aspects of the old life to the new; nostalgia is intrinsic to the human condition.
  - Name us **items** that you used for withdrawal/or as comforters in searching for new experiences?
• Settings for memory (cont.)
  - Culture is reflected [physically], in the plants, architecture; [socially], through structures of the community and tradition ways of meeting, [ritually], through the use of gardens as places of celebration and ceremony.
  - The restoration of nostalgia focuses on maintaining a collective identity and sense of belonging.
  - Urban landscape can evolve to reflect both types of nostalgia → the re-creation and reinterpretation & the transferred and the transforming.
  - Creative engagement is needed to open the way to new ideas and expressions of society → cultural diversity (as a guard against absolution).
Landscape design for campus + transferring the image + bringing back memory + sense of homely + maintenance cost
Armstrong (1994) identified a common sequence of intervention and modification over time by migrant groups:
- Food
- Shops/restaurants
- Places of worship
- Modified houses
- Recreational places

It is not easy to determine impact of culture on the physical landscape → volume of people arriving at one time and the density of spatial clustering (Cozen, 1990).

The case of Chinatowns → from rejection to acceptance.

Economic power and ability for modification of larger aspects of the built environment.
Landscape design during special events?
Landscape design for campus
Conducive learning environment?
Designing the Urban Landscape To Meet 21st Century Challenges

Martha Schwartz, a professor at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, explains in a Yale Environment 360 interview how creative landscape architecture can help cities become models of sustainability in a world facing daunting environmental challenges.

BY DIANE TOOMEY

Green Roofs are Starting To Sprout in American Cities

Long a proven technology in Europe, green roofs are becoming increasingly common in U.S. cities, with major initiatives in Chicago, Portland, and Washington, D.C. While initially more expensive than standard coverings, green roofs offer some major environmental — and economic — benefits.

BY BRUCE STUTZ

To Tackle Runoff, Cities Turn to Green Initiatives

Urban stormwater runoff is a serious problem, overloading sewage treatment plants and polluting waterways. Now, various U.S. cities are creating innovative green infrastructure — such as rain gardens and roadside plantings — that mimics the way nature collects and cleanses water.

BY DAVE LEVITAN

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Dave Levitan is a freelance journalist based in Philadelphia who writes about energy, environment, and health. He has written articles for places like Time, Forbes, The Chicago Tribune, and The Guardian. He is also the author of several books on technology and urban development, including the New York Times bestseller, “The Next American Metropolis: Housing, Mobility, and the Quest for More Sustainable Communities.”

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Urban landscape ➔ encouraging social and cultural integration? Or widening social and cultural separation?

How cultural diversification can create sustainable urban landscape? And what would be the relationship between economic power and communities’ capabilities to modify the larger aspects of the built environment?