

The Similarities and Differences between Urban and Sub-urban Landscape Design

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The Similarities

Hardscape

- Manmade element. Ex: seating, signage, lamp post, bollards, hard surfaces, etc.
- To provide comfort, safe and durable surface for users.
- To divide the different routes according to use.
- To indicate other elements such as stairs, curbs, ramps, embankments.
- To integrated design by materials: cost and maintenance.

Waterscape

- Water in the landscape around us appears in a natural and designed form. In design, it is an element that interweaves function, symbolism and effect.

Bad examples of Hardscapes



Uneven pathways
No pathways

Good examples of Hardscapes



Cater all type of users

Bad examples of Softscapes



Good examples of Softscapes



Composition



Examples of Waterscape



Sound effect
Soothing and reflective

Element of surprise!



Examples of Nightscape



The Similarities

Choice of type towards functional and landscape qualities

- Dimensions: height, spread, form, texture, floral colours, fragrances and trunk characteristics
- Capacity to resist wind and provide shade
- Density of the foliage
- Growth rate
- Root system
- Maintenance

The Differences - Urban

Relationships to Buildings and Streets

Distance from buildings, Relation to sidewalk, Tree spacing

Public buildings

- Min 30% of the site from the public buildings reserved as green area.
- Hard and softscape for carpark, access road and pedestrian walkway.
- Avoid trees with wide spreading roots, poisonous and thorny. Select low maintenance plants.
- *Tapak kuda, Chempaka, Bungor, Tanjung, Kemboja, Tekoma. etc*

Sidewalk

- Trees should be planted with a min of 1m away from sidewalk.
- Same species along sidewalk.
- Medium size and dense for shade and control pollution.
- Clearance of branches 3m above ground.
- Min 2m width of earth mound as border between street and sidewalk.
- *Bunga Cina, Batai Laut, Mahogani, Angsana, Bafia, etc.*

Arguments against the use of Plants in and around Buildings

- If planted too close to the building, the water requirements of some trees tend to change the moisture content of the ground and accordingly the dimensional changes of the soils can adversely affect the building foundation (use native and appropriate trees)
- Time involved before trees reach their effective shading height and cost involved (use fast growing creepers as temporary measures. Cost is dependent on planting height)

The Differences – Suburban

Understanding the meaning and value of sub-urban landscape

- Variety of landform: Undulating and flat grounds impose pleasant values to the landscape setting. Natural landscape in the village, which fulfill this requirement and encourage exploration.
- Visual pleasure: increases confidence to explore and appreciate the environment. The scenic vista in the villages engages the imagination.
- Sub-urban residential with its resources offers a natural experience that leads them towards a conducive living environment.

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