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

By: Hazreena Hussein, PhD. reenalambina@um.edu.my





## 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**



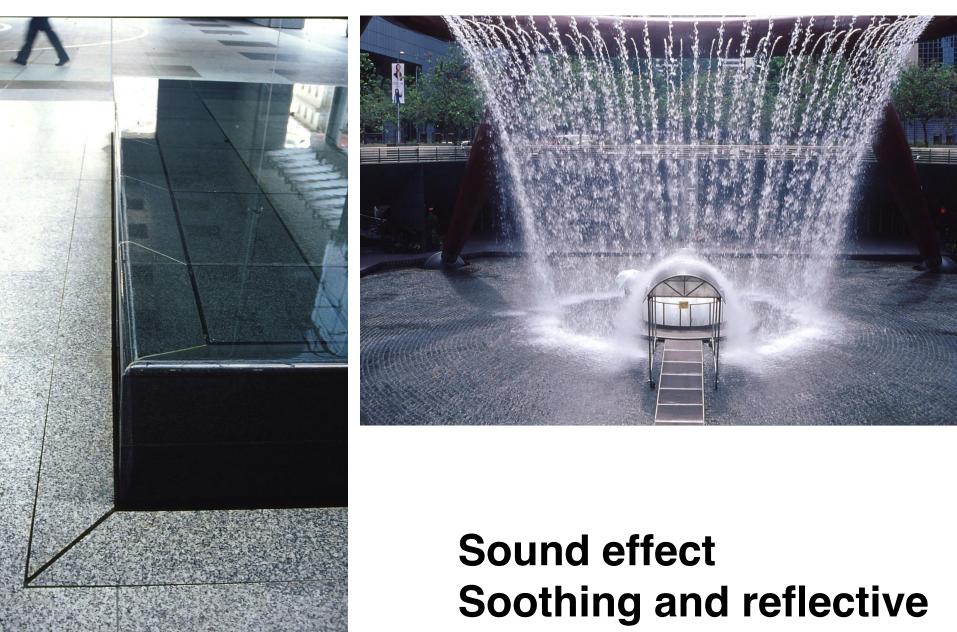
## Good examples of Softscapes



#### Composition



#### **Examples of Waterscape**



### **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** Sidewalk Trees should be planted with a Min 30% of the site from the min of 1m away from sidewalk public buildings reserved as Same species along sidewalk. green area. Medium size and dense for Hard and softscape for shade and control pollution. carpark, access road and **Clearance of branches 3m** pedestrian walkway above ground. Avoid trees with wide Min 2m width of earth mound spreading roots, poisonous as border between street and and thorny. Select low sidewalk. maintenance plants. Bunga Cina, Batai Laut, Tapak kuda, Chempaka, Mahogani, Angsana, Bafia, etc. Bungor, Tanjung, Kemboja, Tekoma. 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.

#### References

- Arnold, Henry F., Trees in Urban Design, New York, 1993
- Cerver, F; *Redesigning City Squares and Plazas*, New York, 1997.
- Holden, R; International Landscape Design, 1996.
- Ho Shaw Chin; Trees in Urban Spaces, 2001.
- Serra, J; Urban Elements: Furniture and Microarchitecture; 1996.
- Simo, M; Sasaki Associates: Integrated Environments, 1997.
- Lyall, S; *Designing the Landscape*, Thames and Hudson, 1991.
- Lynch, K; *The Image of the City*, The MIT Press, 1997.
- Grant, W. Reid, From Concept to Form in Landscape Design.
- Website search for:

#### Paley Park, New York

#### The Datai, Langkawi

credit to: http://theredrabbits.blogspot.com/2013/08/aerial-view-of-bandung-from-fly-over.html credit to: http://www.ugo.cn/photo/ID/en/61397.htm

## Thank You