

Nurturing Nature for Man

Mazlina Mansor
Ismawi Hj Zen
Jamilah Othman
Nor Zalina Harun

IIUM PRESS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



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Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Mazlina Mansor, Ismawi Hj. Zen, Jamilah Othman and Nor Zalina Harun:
Nurturing Nature For Man

ISBN: 978-967-418-128-4

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :

IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.

No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3

Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves

Batu Caves Centre Point

68100 Batu Caves

Selangor Darul Ehsan

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CHAPTER 1

OBJECTIVIST PARADIGM IN SCENIC BEAUTY ASSESSMENT

Jamilah Othman

Department of Landscape Architecture, Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
International Islamic University Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Interest in landscape preference research of the contemporary is responded to scenic beauty assessment in the issues of landscape planning and management. The presence of landscape assessment paradigms has provided good theoretical foundation to researchers with various professional backgrounds. This paper is set to conceptually describe two landscape preference theories that are grounded under the premise of the objective paradigm. The paradigm explains the importance of having the experts with the Art and Design or Ecological background to assess the scenic beauty of a landscape. In summary, it is believed that the expert from the discipline of landscape architecture must rigorously involve in the landscape assessment research, in which the subject matter is significantly relevant to the profession.

Keywords: Landscape preference; Objectivist paradigm; Scenic beauty; Assessment and Expert - based

INTRODUCTION

Research interests in the preference and assessment of scenic landscape have been the issue in various disciplines; e.g. forestry, geography, landscape architecture, psychology, environmental studies and recreations (Zube, et al., 1982). In relation to that, both Zube and Daniel provided comprehensive analysis on the conceptual approaches and theories used to assess scenic beauty in landscapes. The theories introduced are linked to the issues of landscape planning and management, which have been significantly referred by many contemporary researchers. The current approach to the landscape preference of scenic beauty is related to the product of the landscape, and the reactions of an observer, who experiences that landscape (Clay, and Smidt, 2004). This explains that landscape preference seeks to determine the scenic beauty dimension, with some landscapes being more beautiful than others (Dining, and Vining, 1983).

On the other hand, Ervin Zube (1931 – 2002) and Terry Daniel (1989) are among the pioneers, who have contributed great works in the study of landscape preference. Their contributions to the study are thought significant, where the focus is directed to the discipline of environmental behaviour. For instance, the work of Zube, et al. (1982) has shown the complete exposition on the theoretical aspect of landscape preference and assessment (Gobster, Palmer, and Crystal, 2003). Zube and his associates are most notable for their