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The Green Building Index (GBI): An Innovation in Landscape Architecture

Author:

Norhanis Diyana Nizarudin, Mohd. Ramzi Mohd. Hussain & Izawati Tukiman
Department of Landscape Architecture, Kuliyah of Architecture & Environmental Design, International Islamic University
Malaysia, P.O. Box 10, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: norhanisdiyana@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper presents a review of the Green Building Index as a new innovation in the landscape architecture scope of works. The Green Building Index (GBI) is a green rating system introduced by the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) to evaluate the performance of buildings across a broad range of environmental considerations. Apart from evaluating the building's performance, the landscape design aspect has become a major part of the overall GBI assessment through the criteria of open spaces, landscaping and the heat island effect. The paper is intended to highlight the important role played by the landscape architects to conserve natural areas, encourage restoration of the habitat as well as maximise ecodiversity through native and adaptive vegetation. It is hoped that GBI may possibly be a new innovation and value-adding measure to give the landscape architecture field a leading role, together with architecture and other sectors, in the built environment industry.

Ecology is The Basic Education in Landscape Architecture

Author:

Siti Nutul Rofiqo Irwan, PhD.
Dept of Conservation of Forest Resource, Fac. of Forestry, Universitas Gajah Mada Yogyakarta
Prof DR Ir Zoer'aini Djarnal Irwan, MS
Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Technology (FALTL), Trisakti University, Jakarta Indonesia
Email: amboaini@gmail.com and zurade@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Landscape architecture education attempts to provide professional training in the planning, design, and management. The physical development of many disciplines has changed the environment and landscape in many areas, such as infrastructure construction, house building, transportation extension and others. The trend of using concrete, steel or glass materials in developments has shown an absence of orientation towards sustainable development. These symptoms appear whenever green spaces and parks become victims and are turned into lands of concrete. Problems of forest encroachment and illegal logging have also caused various problems, such as erosion, flooding and climate change. If these cases are not taken seriously, increased desertification will occur.

Landscape architecture is considered to be a tool for shielding the environment, because landscape architecture is the science and art of caring for the environment. Landscape architects as experts are always trying to minimize environmental damage (vulnerability) and to enhance the benefits of the environmental utilization process by seeking the improvement of environmental functions, beauty and the balance of the environmental components of ecology.

Environmental management must be integrated among ecosystem components based on an ecological approach. The environmental problems not only have local effects, but also regional and global effects. Urban development has a negative impact because the urban construction results in air pollution, bad odor, greenhouse gases, dust, noise, trash, heat, etc. which can increase the temperature in a city. Many habitats are also damaged, even destroyed. As many landscapes and ecosystems have been damaged, aesthetics have faded and they are no longer beautiful. Migration of birds has been affected, resulting in the sound of birds being seldom heard, especially in urban areas. Urban congestion has become familiar, as well as flooding, erosion and landslides, which often take away a lot of material and result in human casualties. In certain areas it has been difficult to obtain clean water.

The problem is how to build and maintain the environment, with an integrated and continuous conceptual approach towards landscape ecosystems, and with a balanced perspective.

Indonesia's tropical ecology and ecosystem diversity should be developed to explore the principles of national ecological wealth. The ecosystem's diversity of flora and fauna makes Indonesia like a string of emeralds on the equator. Vegetation in the ecosystem has the role of manufacturing solar energy into potential energy for other creatures, as a source of mineral nutrients and as the biggest contributor in improving the environment's quality.