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Community-oriented landscape design for sustainability in architecture and planning

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Abstract

Sustainable design has a lot to do with society, economy and environment's principles, and these elements should be considered in design process. Social aspects of sustainability, is in need of community participation. Participation in the design process especially in landscape architecture and design is one of the most important factors which are emphasized in recent years and new theories. The paper is to propose a systematic guideline to find community needs and demands in order to develop a community-oriented landscape design. This model developed to meet sustainability in architecture and planning, which is examined in case of Iran, Tehran, Majid-Abad Park.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The urban outdoor spaces have exceptional environmental importance with regard to their contribution to the reduction of various types of pollution and to the improvement of microclimatic conditions. Furthermore, urban open spaces make positive contributions to human health and well being and they lead to an important contribution to human thermal comfort in exterior spaces [1]. Beside aesthetic, psychological and health benefits, natural features in cities can have other social benefits [2]. Aspects such as “amount of public green spaces per inhabitant”, “public parks” and “recreation areas” are often mentioned as important factors to make the city liveable, pleasant and attractive for its citizens. It is strongly believed that developing more sustainable cities is not just about improving the abiotic and biotic aspects of urban life, it is also about the social aspects of city life, that is—among others—about people’s

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satisfaction, experiences and perceptions of the quality of their everyday environments [3]. So a good strategy for a sustainable landscape development should not only focus on sustaining the physical landscape resources, but it should also and perhaps most of all guarantee that the residents can participate in the landscape development [4]. Sustainability indicators for urban development should include more parameters about public spaces and green open areas, as well as indexes reflecting citizens' satisfaction and perception of their living environments [3]. This paper direct to the importance of urban parks for the well being of the citizens and for the sustainability of the city they live in.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Community and Advantages of Participation

Concepts such as 'community' and 'community participation' have been intensively problematized in recent decades in both developed and developing countries. Contexts are indeed different and varied [5]. The word 'community' is an umbrella term that is defined and applied in a myriad of ways [6].

Citizen participation is, however, a lot more than just consulting people for the successful resolution of social, cultural and economic issues related to environmental conflicts. The primary goal of participation is to give proper responsibility to people for, and control over, their lives [7]. The importance of community participation has been emphasized in the 5th Development Plan of Islamic Republic of Iran that highlighted the necessity community-oriented approaches, especially in landscape architecture.

2.2. Participation in Process Design

• 2.2.1. Process Design

To produce an object-design and, as far as necessary, a realization design, one may want to design the design process itself. However, as in the realization process, in many cases already some kind of design process may be in place. Experienced individual architectural or engineering designers, or small teams of them, tend to use informal procedures for their design processes, which they have developed over time through their initial professional training and through subsequent experimenting and learning...Professionalization of process design has progressed much less than in object and realization design. As we will see this may be related to the fact that in object and realization design one designs respectively material objects and processes with strong material elements, while in process design one designs human action systems, which are of a fundamentally different nature [8].

• 2.2.2. Importance of User's Participation in Process Design

Armstrong (1993) observed that the individual has a natural claim to participate in decision making related to his/her situation with both psychological and social needs to feel control over his or her own life conditions. He explains that decisions become better when the persons who are affected become a part of the decision making process [9]. if one longs for decision making and esteems the design of expert and participative technical solutions over those designed through , object and realization design, the technical/ participative approach is likely to be used. Main stages of the design process can comes into account a general decide model Identify, design, selection, implementation and evaluation of environment are the main stages of the design process, see figure 1.

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