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# The Importance Aspects of Landscape Design on Housing Development in Urban Areas

Fitrynadia Mohd Shahli<sup>\*</sup>, Mohd Ramzi Mohd Hussain, Izawati Tukiman and Nurbazliah Zaidin

*Department of Landscape Architecture, Kulliyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), 53100 Jln Gombak Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA*

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## Abstract

It has been proven that proper landscape planning and designs with the sustainability concept and approach help to create a conducive and responsive environment of housing development. This paper presents a brief of conceptual view on the important aspects of landscape design on housing development in urban areas. The review is based on the theoretical framework of the relationship between landscape design in planning and designing the housing development in urban areas as well as how it acts as an added value to the sustainable residential landscape design. A review on previous researches and journals are doing in providing a theory on the importance aspect of landscape design in housing areas. It is hoped that this paper may possibly provide significant information on landscape design towards influencing the prices and values of the house. This paper also can become an indicator towards enhancing the sustainability of living environment.

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## 1. Introduction

A good quality of housing area can be highlighted as an important issue in creating a sustainable living environment. According to Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020 [1], the city must be functional, live and impart a sense of community and belonging. In addition, it must also provide a clean, healthy, safe and caring

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<sup>\*</sup> Corresponding author. Tel.: 006-03-61964000 ext 6286; fax: 006-03-61964864.

E-mail address: [fitrynadia@gmail.com](mailto:fitrynadia@gmail.com).

environment that caters to the needs of all. Innovative designs, provision of the latest conveniences and facilities, variety of choice, quality of finish and attractiveness of the layout, shall become a priority concern especially in landscape design. Therefore, the concern about the importance landscape design in supporting a quality of life is needed especially in the context of housing development. Meanwhile, the little attention has been given to landscape design in prospect of buyers. Thus, based on the issues highlighted, the effectiveness of landscape design which can help in increasing house prices and values need to be studied in order to attain the sustainable housing development.

This conceptual-review paper will focus on the importance of landscape design in influencing housing development. The review will develop a theoretical understanding of landscape in housing areas with a compatible used by its elements and characters that can give positive impact toward prices and values of the house.

Since landscape design becomes a new branding for housing development nowadays, this review will deliver a conceptual understanding in promoting landscape design in sustaining living environment in the country. It is also important in order to achieve the National Landscape Policy [2] action plans which are to require at least 30% of urban development areas as green areas as well as to reach the vision of National Landscape Policy to transform Malaysia into The Beautiful Garden Nation by Year 2020 Landscape Design for Housing Areas.

## 2. Landscape Design for Housing Areas

Landscape is an essential part of the environment. Landscape, which includes topography, vegetation and associated plants and soil, water bodies, and their spatial configuration, is one of the most visual needs of people [3]. They add that human-nature interactions lead human beings to have contrasting preference on the surrounding landscape and environment because a pleasing landscape can bring mental and physical benefits to people. The understanding and preference by people on their surrounding landscape provide a challenge for policy-making and implementation in housing property. According to Williams and Tilt [4], landscape design is the art of developing property for its greatest use and enjoyment. Thus, an effective landscape design can become integral part of a good community environment.

This view is also supported by VanDerZanden and Rodie [5] who state that landscape design blends arts with environmental, physical and biological of science which mainly focus on outdoor space. They also further explain that well-defined landscape space can enhance the quality of living areas which meet people's preferences. Besides that, according to VanDerZanden and Rodie [5], landscape design is not only limited to plant material only. It also focuses on the hardscape that complement the plants in order to create a successful design. A well-defined landscape space can create a quality of an environment and provide a conducive living space in residential. This landscape design might be able to become a factor influencing the price and value of the property. In relating to landscape design and housing properties, Smith et al., [6] suggests that housing is an activity that is deeply connected to a sustainable environment. The connections are as follows:

- Housing is a basic human need and its quality; price and availability are crucially important to a quality of life.
- The location, planning, layout and landscape design of the house make an important contribution to the community spirit.
- The siting of the houses and the materials from which they are made, and the uses their occupants make of such resources as energy and water, all have major environmental implications.

Thus, housing can be seen as the central element which can link together economic development, the environment and social welfare in achieving a sustainable environment and society (Fig. 1). According to Gause et al., [7], landscape design can be used as a tool to make a community more sustainable and contribute

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