

Research Insight – Landscape Planning and Architecture

BACKGROUND

People enjoy a better building experience and significant cost savings when they plan to develop a landscape plan coupled with architectural designs. Smart homeowners know that to build a perfect abode, involvement of the landscape designer and architect is required at the earliest stages of the building process.

Planning the design of the property and the house brings finer organization to a construction project. If all the experts think together, it not only helps to meet the homeowners' needs, but also elevates their goals. It also guarantees that the structure functions well with the elevations of the place. Owners, at the beginning, should consider what sort of appearance or experience they need to fulfill, and the colors and materials that make them presentable.

NEW SKYSCRAPER DESIGNS COMBINES URBAN LIVING WITH LUSH GREEN GARDENS

In Downtown, New York, a bunch of skyscrapers plan to consolidate urban living with the advantage of a suburban style garden. The proposal for the building comprises of all the floors dedicated to hanging gardens, sprouting in the sun's rays. The firm ODA New York envisioned extending the usual Manhattan skyscrapers vertically, including gaps of around 5 m between two storeys.

Inside these openings are luscious green landscaped gardens that are conveniently accessible directly from the building's apartments. Evidently, the designs would be like around 1400 square foot of open garden at every 2800 square foot apartment.

These designs will decrease the wind weight on the building, supply adequate sunlight to maintain the greenery and enhance overall natural light – complete without sacrificing the innumerable 360-degree views of the Manhattan skyline. This approach will be different from the traditional New York's corporate-dominated buildings. It is believed that such a residential building will create a novel way of urban living, rendering some of the extrinsic benefits that are missed by living within inner city housing.

The skyscraper near the heart of Manhattan – at 303 E 44th Street. This will be supervised by developers Triangle Assets. The construction will begin in mid of 2016.

RESEARCHERS ADVICE TO CREATE LANDSCAPES WITH YEAR-LONG VISUAL APPEAL

It is a well-known fact that the appearance of plants and trees change between seasons. A new finding from Temple University recommends landscape designs in temperate climates that people could enjoy the whole year. Researchers were able to determine perceptions and preferences of people by using photos that depict landscapes in various seasons, which portrayed color complexity of different scenes. Changing vegetative color influenced the human perception and impacted the complexity estimations and preference ratings. Basis these parameters, landscapes can be created with a visual appeal year-round.

Scientists, installers, plant growers and designers can benefit from knowing and estimating if people favor landscapes

containing categorical colors, prefer perceptual colors or neither.

Participants at architecture project sites in New York and Pennsylvania were told to rate the landscape scenery in every of 48 colored photographs that portrayed stages of plant growth – flowering, winter dormancy, foliation, and senescence. Moreover, participants were questioned to predict the vegetation richness of the landscapes in each of the photographs. As a result, the researchers found that the participants opted for foliated landscapes.

This study proved that most of the people liked scenes that were lush green than those that were brown. It means that landscape designers and architects should usually consider the colors displayed during foliation by plants and other vegetation. For instance, the use of evergreen trees and shrubs during landscaping could help steadying the consumers preferences rather than dropping during winter season. Researchers also concluded, to use those plants that bear colorful stems or berries, plants that break winter dormancy beforehand and those which enter winter dormancy later.

This analysis was published in the recent issue of the journal HortTechnology.

WHAT HOMES LOOK IN THE FUTURE IN THE EYES OF ARCHITECTS

American Institute of Architects on the occasion of their 10th anniversary of its survey on home designs trends, asked a committee of more than 500 architects what they estimate to be the stellar changes in home design over the next decade. Instead of giving a futuristic answer of robotic helpers and conveyor belts, the replies underscore that the industry will have to struggle with long-term world-wide environmental shifts and demographics.

Trends they described included were emphasis on materials that doesn't make anyone sick, storm-proofing and attributes to help live in the same place well till old age. It also includes younger households to put off buying a home until they are ready to purchase one.

They identified five trends, they are – disaster-resistant designs, healthy building materials, designs catering to an aging population, energy-efficient design, and smart-home automation.

GLUCKMAN TANG WILL DESIGN TWO NEW ART MUSEUMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Gluckman Tang Architects has been elected to design two new museums in Massachusetts, USA. They are 16 thousand-square-foot Global Contemporary Art Museum (GCAM) and 324 hundred-square-feet Extreme Model Railroad and Contemporary Architecture Museum.

Constructed as a 700-foot-long part of two historic freight stations in Western Gateway Heritage State Park, the Extreme Model Railroad museum will be a warehouse to one of the world's biggest collections of active O-scale model trains, running through a trainscape designed by renowned architects, including the notable Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, and Gluckman Tang.

Thomas Krens, former director of New York's Guggenheim Museum quoted that an art museum is an 18th century idea contained in a 19th century box, which nearly fulfilled its structural destiny toward the end of the 20th century. Most acclaimed museums in big cities, and many private collectors, merely do not have the area to display the plethora of artistic creativity that has been created in the recent modern era. GCAM will be a model alternative of what museums are supposed to be, he added. It will

exclusively showcase private art collections.

HOW A ROOF GARDEN HELPS IN WARDING OFF FLOODS

Recently, there has been a rise in the extreme weather conditions all over the world: from dreadful flooding in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, North America's record cold snap, to one of the wettest winters till date in the UK.

Weather anomalies are difficult to predict and harder to tackle. In some cases, there is little we can do, other than enhance our readiness and recovery response. Nevertheless, there is one thing we can do to act at smaller measure in more regular circumstances like flooding from cloud bursts and intensive showers.

In the old era, people had handled floods easily but modern urban development has given us a set of new challenges. More urbanization of the landscape means more rainwater staying on the surface rather than seeping into the soil. As a result, water floods the roads and drains more speedily, dodging few features of the natural hydrological cycle.

Roof gardens and rooftop plants coupled with rainwater collectors and rain gardens (little patches of greenery) can help delaying and spreading the outcome of heavy down pour for a long time. An approach adopted to replace the vegetation and wetlands that have been lost to concrete. The idea is to mimic a more natural flow of water.

A strategy called known as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) aims to manage rainwater more naturally. SUDS are especially helpful in managing small but frequent floods from rainfall similar to un-urbanized landscape. It has three objectives – catching and slowing down the flow of water; improving the quality of water (by capturing and treating the pollutants contained); and providing a green space so that people can enjoy and where flora and fauna can flourish.

Sustainable urban drainage is already being practiced and has great results in Portland, Oregon, where 3500 trees have rescued the city. It also helped Malmö where use of water channels and retention pools has helped a regular flood stricken area. In Scotland, it is being added to a Greenfield predevelopment.

SUDS can prove to be sustainable answers to our urban water management troubles. They can provide us better urban constructions, improved livable neighborhoods, and cleaner rivers and streams.

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