

Nurturing Nature for Man

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

Studies on community have received a lot of attention from various fields particularly in the built environment and social sciences disciplines such as behavioural psychology, landscape architecture, sociology and anthropology. This chapter defines a community and the issues that surround the aspect of planning and design of a community in the built environment. It reviews the fundamental parameters to achieve sense of community. The understanding on sense of community is significant in landscape architectural study such as in the Bachelor Degree of Landscape Architecture programme, Department of Landscape Architecture, International Islamic University Malaysia. Community design studio subject has taught students to understand the aims of a community through research and proposing ideas for community landscape designs. The ability to comprehend the needs of a community in terms of physical, cognitive and social ensure that the students' will nurture their knowledge in community design for their future practice in the profession.

Keywords: community, sense of community, community design, landscape architecture

INTRODUCTION

A community can be defined as a group of people with a common characteristics or interest living together within a larger society. The community may be identified from their way of life (such as campus environment for college students, a community in a fishing village or school's environment for teenagers). A community can also be identified as an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location (Hall and Porterfield, 2001). The community can be recognised from its specific trait (e.g. traditional values, religion). Nonetheless, overall, the basic concept of a community is that it is a group of people sharing a physical space with a common trait and is bonded together by a shared identity, and common culture. In short, the community is typified by high degree of social cohesion (Phillips and LeGates, 1981; Hall and Porterfield, 2001).