

Preface

The evolution and understanding of landscape thinking in Taiwan is based on agronomy and horticulture, and with the emergence and development of an agricultural society, our ways of thinking have been reshaped. Twenty years ago, the core of "landscape" was centered around floral garden technology, urban beautification and nature conservation. However, the global outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020 has devastated global social and economic activities. As the pandemic spreads, it is critical to rethink the landscape profession as a relevant profession and visualize future development.

The landscape profession ranges from territorial planning, regional planning, urban planning, and recreation planning to general landscape planning and design, garden design, cultural asset preservation and revitalization, and urban regeneration, etc. With the concept of sustainable development fusing in, the definition of the landscape has become more inclusive.

This article attempts to elaborate on the current legislative process, industry integration, and academic promotion in Taiwan from three perspectives. To start with, the legislation sheds light on the landscape value, and it also serves as a guideline for the overall landscape structure. Supplemented with professionals' feedbacks and experiences, the landscape industry and design thinking can serve as an impetus force for the government and decision-makers to rethink and redesign the way we interact with each other and the environment. Thus, we can identify ways to build sustainable cities and shape landscape resilience.

The landscape legislation development in Taiwan

1. Landscape professional development in Taiwan

The establishment of a university department entitled "landscape" 30 years ago marked the beginning of the development of the landscape profession in Taiwan. However, it wasn't until 1997 that the government began the "urban and rural landscape renovation campaign." Before that, the landscape profession wasn't recognized, and there were no consensus among various professions on how they view landscape.

Industrialization from the 1950s to the 1980s is known as Taiwan's economic boom. The massive investment in development and construction was a double-edged sword, income increased, but it took a toll on the environment, pollution and damage were severe. In light of this, environmental quality and protection started to gain traction, leading to the establishment of national parks and national scenic areas, and green areas

in cities have become important indicators of environmental quality.

As the living standard rises significantly, people are paying more attention to the quality of the landscape, but the overall landscape lacks characteristics and coordination. In recent years, many important natural landscapes or environments of great cultural, historical, and artistic significance have been lost due to new construction, resulting in losses in ecological environments and skylines.

From the spatial planning drafted by the government to land use and landscape-related plans at the county and city levels should align with sustainability, and various sectors should integrate and coordinate with each other. In the new era, Taiwan's territorial planning should put more emphasis on quality, environmental improvement, and territorial conservation and habitat creation. We will actively promote "landscape planning" as an important tool in the land-use control system to ensure that the development and utilization of land are carried out with respect for the natural environment and culture. And the environmental damage caused by urban development can be restored. These changes will also bring on transitional changes in the development and control system of traditional urban planning.

2. Why do we promote landscape legislation

It has been more than 20 years since the "urban and rural landscape renovation campaign" began in 1997, and Taiwanese people are paying more attention to the landscape and aesthetics in their surroundings. From Japan, the US, Germany, and the European Union's experiences in landscape development, we know that landscape covers an array of areas, from traditional gardens, parks to city squares, streets, open spaces, green spaces, schools, national parks, nature reserves, and the entire environment. The landscape is tightly connected with nature, cities and buildings. We used to view landscape as an external space of the city, but now we value it more than the façade. Nowadays, the planning of landscape must be coordinated with urban planning and architectural design to create a co-existing space for humans, cities and nature to meet the needs of social development.

However, in the absence of landscape law and guidance, local governments are not urged to adjust their plans and policy directions following the regulations, as in the case of national land plans or urban plans; therefore, "landscape planning" have failed to integrate local resources with major construction. Thus, it's hard to see cross-regional integration among urban and rural landscapes, stalling the development of urban

resources. In the planning of urban and rural development areas, in addition to traditional urban planning and urban design, the core value of landscape is to identify natural and humanistic landscapes in the environment that is worthy of conservation and preservation. And landscape should be aligned with the national land plan or urban plan so that they can serve as guidelines and standards for land use area and control.



Landscape Law Discussion

3. The process of promoting Taiwan's landscape legislation

We started to promote landscape law in 2002, and twenty years have gone by. The Ministry of the Interior submitted the bill to the Legislative Yuan for consideration twice in July 2003 and March 2005, but it was returned due to non-renewal of the bill at the end of the term; in 2014, Wen-Yen Chiu, a member of the Legislative Yuan at the time, proposed a draft of the "Landscape Law" in the Legislative Yuan again. Although the bill was supported by 78 cross-party legislators, controversy persisted because the content of the article involved the scope of practice of different professions, and the important aspects of the landscape weren't clearly defined. Although the preliminary examination of the bill was completed on November 18th, 2015, the subsequent consultation among the party caucuses was not smooth, and the bill eventually failed.

4. Future outlook of landscape legislation: Landscape Basic Law

The landscape law has yet to be enacted after 20 years' effort, but the "Landscape Outline Plan" for counties and municipalities has been promoted on a trial basis based on the draft, and most counties and municipalities continue to achieve sustainable development through the "Urban and Rural Landscape Transformation Campaign," responding to the demands for environmental protection, ecological conservation, and the preservation of humanistic and historical textures and environments. In addition, the landscape structure has been transformed into a guiding framework for the development of urban and rural spatial structures.

The concept of "Basic Law" legislation focuses on landscape values, strengthening the overall landscape system structure, and subsequent implementation and management, rather than competing with related practitioners, such as civil engineers, structural engineers, and architects.

This basic law can serve as guidelines to solidify landscape structure and raise the public's awareness of the landscape. Through the National Landscape Policy Framework, local governments are urged to incorporate landscape issues, consultation, and information into the hierarchy of national land plans or urban plans to enhance the value of urban and rural landscapes and to establish a landscape consultation mechanism to gradually promote the foundation of a landscape professional system.

Current landscape professional promotion and publicity in Taiwan

1. Expansion and extension of professional thinking in the era of big data

Our value is to "enhance the professionalism of our members, establish a landscape



December 30th, 2020, Discussion on Landscape Legislation



January 20th, 2021, Second Discussion on landscape legislation



May 4th 2021, Policy discussion held by the Construction and Planning Agency

professional system, and promote public awareness of the landscape profession." Moreover, we aim to promote landscape design, educate the uniqueness and importance of the landscape professional to the general public. This year marks the 11th year of "Landscape" journal, and more than 20 issues have been published. We've invited experts and experienced practitioners from an array of professions to discuss various relevant issues from the landscape perspective. The topics include how to accommodate different users' conditions and needs, that is create inclusive designs for all within a reasonable range; utilize green bases such as parks to effectively create detention basins and achieve water retention. Moreover, we couldn't overlook the impact climate change imposes on Taiwan, contributing to the most severe water shortage we've seen in the past decades. From this standpoint, we further explore the dynamic relationship between the green infrastructure and the current environmental landscape.

Aesthetics is no longer our sole primary concern, adaptation to and co-existence with climate changes are the end goals for the landscape industry. To keep abreast with the global trends, we strive to invite experts from all over the world to share their insights with us in the journal. It not only enriches our journal but presents the attitude and vision of landscape professionals.

This year marks the 8th Taiwan Landscape Awards, a major event in Taiwan's landscape industry. We've collected every award and have them published with the title of "The Collection of the 2020 8th Taiwan Landscape Awards." A total of 92 award-winning entries unveil that contemporary landscape is intertwined in our lives and culture, and they also answer to current environmental and societal issues. Moreover, one can observe the unique and bountiful entries came from the sophisticated integration of environmental contexts and professions. They depict the landscape environment of "life, culture, society, ecology and beauty."

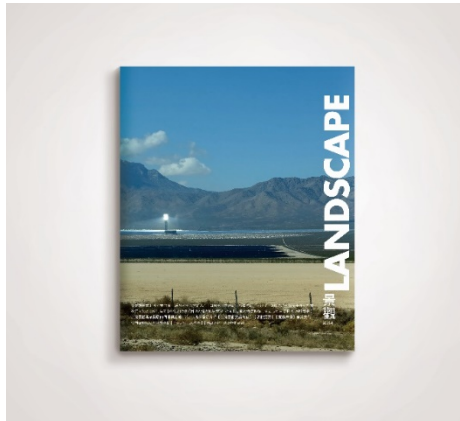
People nowadays use new media to learn about this fast-paced world, thus, the articles and case studies published in the journal, as well as the Taiwan Landscape Awards entries, etc. will be integrated into the new media so more people can have access to this wealth of knowledge. We're looking forward to it.



[11/11 Landscape PEACE GO] Taiwan's "landscape" turned a new leaf on November 11th, 2012. Those caring for our land and environment joined this event, pledging to connect passion, ecology, aesthetics, creativity, and land ethics. Working hand in hand, we'll put Taiwan on the map.

2. Visit cases studies to foster exchanges within the landscape community

Relevant articles aren't enough to grasp the breadth and depth of the landscape profession. Therefore, through on-site case studies, visits and observations of various outstanding works in Taiwan, we hope that practitioners will be exposed to more knowledge and build an interdisciplinary mindset of resource integration. After visiting, it's also important to create exchanges between different professional teams. The core is to foster governance thinking, urban life and natural landscape, this way, we can understand our environment and learn more about the essence and interpretation of designers' sophisticated works. It's an efficient way to boost exchanges between talented minds, stimulate innovation and create new images for our environment.



The journal "Landscape"



Inside the "Landscape"



The Collection of the 2020 8th Taiwan Landscape Awards



The designer explained the design and brainstormed with participants



Mesmerizing in the environment



Visit different award-winning sites to learn more about the background story of every design

Expression and legacy of Taiwan's landscape values

1. Landscape Professional Value -Taiwan Landscape Awards

TILA organizes the "Taiwan Landscape Awards" for the purpose of recognizing the contribution of outstanding landscape works' on the quality of Taiwan's landscape environment, and promoting Taiwan's excellent landscape works to participate in international landscape design competitions (e.g. IFLA Awards). Through this event, we aim to encourage Taiwan's landscape professionals to keep abreast with the world and to raise awareness of the landscape environment and the understanding of the landscape profession (landscape architecture) and landscape architects.

The 8th Taiwan Landscape Awards is very special. In addition to the significant increase in the number of entries, it was our first time inviting international judges, and we also moved the first and second stages of screening online due to the pandemic. Though faced with lots of obstacles, we were able to organize this event smoothly. It is the most complete, representative and international competition in the field of environmental landscape in Taiwan, and its selection criteria also speak to the professional values upheld by Taiwan's landscape profession.

In addition to the seven categories we've had, this year, we include the category of "the Practice of the IFLA-APR Landscape Charter" in the 9th Taiwan Landscape Awards. This category entails the landscape professional values outlined in the IFLA APR Charter (1. Sustainable management, 2. Guardianship, 3. Stewardship, 4. Identity, 5. Human health and wellbeing, 6. Place-making, and 7. Inclusivity). We invite more international juries to help refine the works created by the professionals so that landscape professional values can be expressed in line with the IFLA-APR charter.

2. Educational promotion and introduction to current issues - Student Landscape Design Competition

The Student Landscape Design Competition is entering its 16th year in 2021. In today's ever-changing world, the topics of this competition have been taken into account current environmental and social issues. This competition is a prominent platform for students and faculty of landscape design-related disciplines across Taiwan to stimulate and exchange ideas. Through the competition, they can ponder on contemporary issues and cultivate innovative thinking in the landscape community. In the past, the themes of the landscape competition were mostly oriented towards ecology, environmental crisis, environmental technology, artistic thinking, and user experience, which were expected to be more inspiring in terms of design creation.

Many landscape schools have made it a regular part of their design curriculum by making the annual competition an assignment. In the process of learning, it's important to take into account environmental safety, ecological balance, and aesthetic quality of the landscape to create a healthy and pleasant living space. With the teachers' experience and guidance, students will be inspired by more innovative and diversified integrated landscape designs. Moreover, students can be equipped with landscape values and think about the different possibilities in store for them.

3. Taiwan's Landscape Talent Gathering - Joint Student Graduation Exhibition

Every year, graduate-to-be from different colleges in Taiwan prepare for their graduation work for an entire year and display them in the joint exhibition in May before graduation.

The purpose of the exhibition is to provide graduates with an opportunity to express their creativity and skills, and to invite professionals from the industry and academia to provide insights and guidance. Through connecting and exchanging with counterparts, these students can learn from each other.

The world is struck with the pandemic in 2020, thus, we launched an online exhibition of students' works instead of a physical one. Whoever is interested can access the works of these students easily. The exhibition enters its eighth preparatory stage this year. To increase international exchanges and enhance Taiwanese students' perspectives, there's one section open for international students. Junior or fresh graduates of landscape schools from all over the world are welcome to display their works, a great opportunity to see landscape works from all over the world with diverse cultures and various perspectives. The works included in this exhibition are multifaceted and diversified.

It is hoped that the exhibition will not only enhance the cohesiveness of the landscape departments, landscape industry and landscape society but also promote mutual exchanges. Through the exhibition and students' works, the public can learn about the relationship between city and environments, care more about the environment and raise awareness on environmental landscape issues.



The gathering of talented and young landscape architects