

Seminar Booklet

Emphasis on Sustainability

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Vision Statement

The way that I envision the future of landscape architecture is the profession being fully recognized and taken as seriously if not more than architecture. With the current administration reducing funding and removal of certain programs it is more dire to voice out. I expect the nation to recognize the licensure of landscape architects as a separate entity from civil engineers. Also for the world to design landscapes for the climates they are in to encourage sustainability. My expected role as a landscape architect in the future would to design for the natural environment and restore the ecosystems to help mitigate flooding and future storm surges.

History & Evolution of Environmental & Landscape Planning

Each era has significance and without them we wouldn't be where we are today. It's hard to say the each decision in an era was the correct one, but they were made with careful consideration by someone. **The first large movement was the progressive era**, which was the beginning of physical planning and urban design in response to the unacceptable conditions of the cities. Influencer's such as Frederick Law Olmstead Sr., designed public spaces for all people to interact. Olmstead's idea then progressed to the City Beautiful movement which incorporated nature into cities and civic centers. **The last movement I will mention in the era is the preservation of wildlife and natural resources.** John Muir and Gifford Pinchot both had ideas to protect the natural resources. While their ideas were different, they still had protecting natural resources as the end goal. The first era provided the base for future urban and ecological planning and was the first environmental planning involving federal policies. **The second era involved regional ecological planning and natural science. This era took the pieces of conservation and preservation from the first era and expanded on it.** During the second era many policies and acts were created to preserve and conserve parts of the country. While these policies and acts were

in place, business continued to ignore the environment and the quality declined. You can see a quick decline after WWII when urban sprawl spread and industries expanded. With the expansion and loss of wildlife habitat it's assumed that the environmental problems weren't being addressed to the fullest extent. **The birth of modern environmental planning is the third era.** This was a time where people were in desperate need of change because of poor water quality, smog, and more. On April 22, 197" the first Earth Day was held. This brought attention to the poor environmental quality. Because of Earth Day and federal legislation, people become more aware of the environment. This era was assumed to have enough data collected from the government and knowledge to create a set of standards for water and air quality.

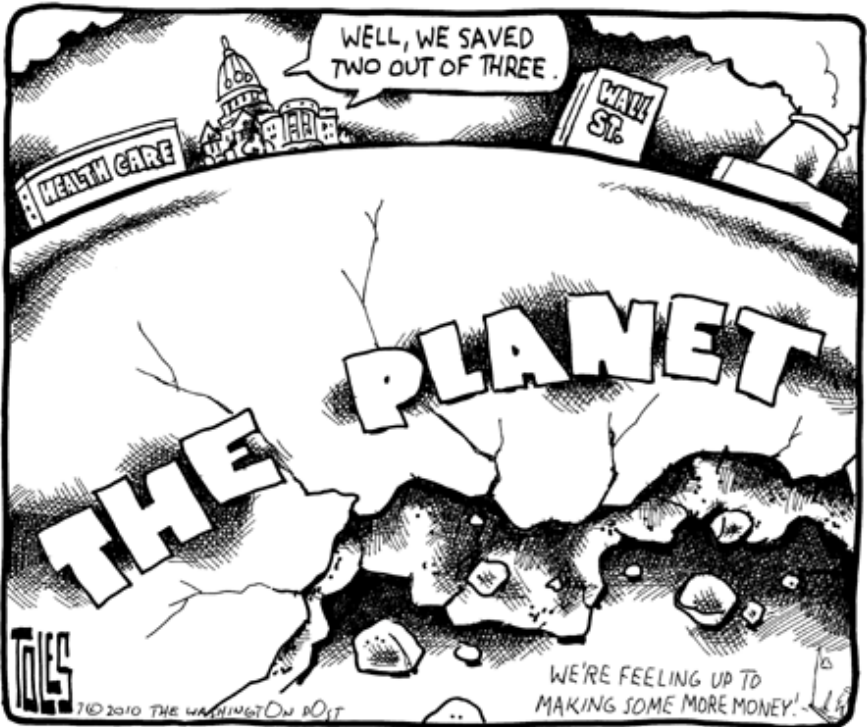


Figure 1

The fourth era seemed to be a trying time. It was questioned whether the government had too much of a hand in what is going on in the government or was it a bridge to sustainability. During this time the Bush administration tried enticing industries with incentives to reduce carbon emissions. The incentives were successful in some ways, such as going green can reduce production cost and increase profits. In some ways the government has tried to help with sustainability, but I find that the government focuses more on other matters. I believe the third and fourth eras really began to set clear boundaries and goals for the nation to follow and truly make a different. **Lastly is the fifth era which is planning for sustainability and the global environment.** As previously mentioned, we wouldn't be in today's situation without the previous four eras. Almost everything in the world has been altered by humans in some way. Therefore, pure nature ceases to exist. Human intervention has created problems that don't have solutions. As urban areas increase in population and density, it is important to design safe, healthy, and attractive places for people to live, work, and play. As environmental problems grow along with urban areas, it is dire to address environmental problems that do not seem to be implemented

or addressed by the federal government. Again, the decisions those made before us have impacted our lives. We now have to work with what was given to us and strive to do something better. Not only is it important to create designs that are beautiful, functional, and resilient, but to also be involved in the legislative side. The readings have shown evidence of how laws and acts can influence how was design. John Muir and Gifford Pinchot had ideas on how to protect the natural land. While they had some differences they still had a better interest than others. John Muir believes in preserving the natural environment we have while using little to no intervention. Gifford Pinchot believed that natural resources should be managed and used wisely by humans. I would like to think as humans we are wise and learn from our mistakes, but that is not the case. At this point in time I would side with John Muir and work to preserve the land we have. The environment has

designed itself before humans where here and did it in a way that it sustained itself. These natural systems are more complex than people can imagine and they deserve to be studied and left to run their course. These systems are typically degrading while humans are intervening and it's only recently that we are trying to fix what we messed with. If we would listen to what the land and nature is telling us, we could/should have been more successful.



Rivers and their Social Connectivity

In Southeast Missouri there is a spring fed river called Black River. When I was growing up my family would go to this river a couple times a month in the summer. The man spot to be was next to “K” bridge. It was the easiest way to get to the riverbank. You would find people wading in the water, eating, drinking, and always having a good time. Surrounding the river are camp grounds and a canoe/ kayak rental shop. The small town that surrounds the river and campgrounds is called Lesterville in Reynolds County. Black River receives its name because of the tint of the water which is due to the vegetation. Even though it is called a river it is actually a stream and is part of the 300 mile long tributary of the White River (“GNIS Detail - Black River” 2000). Black river runs southwardly through Reynolds, Wayne, and Butler counties



Figure 3

in Missouri and Clay, Randolph, and Lawrence Counties in Arkansas. The part of the river that I have interacted with is the East Fork which flows southwardly through Johnson Shut-Ins State Park. Johnson Shut-Ins has a pump storage plant called Taum Sauk pump storage plant and it holds water that is pumped into the upper reservoir and in 2005 the levee broke causing massive destruction but no deaths. The levee malfunctioned causing 10-20 feet of water walls and AmerenUE accepted full responsibility. The river tends to flood multiple times a year and the most recent crest was 9.37 feet in May, 2018 and the most recent historic crest was 23.23 feet ins April, 2017 (US Department of Commerce, N/A).

The river is capable of canoes, kayaks, and small boats, but nothing larger. The quality of the water is generally good but approximately 30% of the wells in the lowlands have nitrates (Cieslewicz, 2004). Having multiple floods a year causes erosion which weakens the river banks, but it is a natural occurrence. Some private landowners have tried armoring, channeling, and hard points but the MDC (Missouri Department of Conservation) hasn’t installed any improvement projects (Cieslewicz, 2004). Overall, I have always enjoyed Black River and will always be a special place to me. Even though it floods regularly, people will continue to enjoy this river in a recreational way. To me it has always been a clean and clear river that I will continue to go to. The river will continue to change especially with floods, but it will always be a place for families to enjoy.



Figure 4



Figure 5

Landscape Project Evaluation on the Neighborhood Scale

Rivermark || Sacramento, CA || LA: Fletcher Studio in San Francisco, CA

Rivermark is a 100% affordable housing unit in west Sacramento. The inspiration for the design comes from the sierra foothills. It emulates the geology of the area by using the fault lines and fissures that pull the landscape in interesting and dynamic ways.

What is good about Rivermark is that it is affordable housing in an area that is quickly densifying. As we have learned in the section about people’s right to the city, is that they shouldn’t have to move just because a new development is moving into the area. What makes these areas river in culture is the people. You will lose the uniqueness of the area is you lose the people. Another part of the project that is good is the high design. Many examples of affordable housing have basic design. This project had a goal to bring high design to all people inside the building and out.

The bad part about this project is the area is densifying. As the area grows,

new development comes in and that has the potential to bring in to businesses. Like I mentioned before, peoples right to the city brings up so many points about people. People are the heart of the areas, Just because the may be able to live there, doesn’t mean that they will be able to afford the things around them. At the moment the west Sacramento area hasn’t fully developed so there is potential to save this area from doing that.

As a mayor I would vote for the project, but I would have contingencies. I would want to ensure those in the Rivermark project would have access to a healthy living style. I want them to have access to healthy food and recreational activities. I want the area to have ample transportation types and transportation stops. Rivermark overall reached its goals of high design, recreational opportunities, and sustainability all within a restricted budget that is allotted for affordable housing.



Figure 12



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

Assessments of Inter-state Development Projects

Friendship Park/Tianjin Eco City || Sino-Singapore ||

LA: Grant Associates || 41 Hectare

Background:
The park is called Friendship Park to celebrate the two countries Singapore and China. The park also embodies the principles of sustainability and therefore, is also known Tianjin Eco-City. The park is adjacent to Gu Dao Canal and is currently under construction. Grant Associates masterplan goals is to translate the sustainability principles onto site by using contrasting landscapes and characters such as, water and land, nature and city, but still having unity in the design. The design has a central element that is a conservatory consisting of five glass biomes. The biomes host tropical plant collections and water gardens. The rest of Friendship park includes a wetland centre, urban dock, play areas, event lawn, and amphitheatre. The park is intended to be an all-season, international tourist destination.

Good:
The park has an even balance contrasting elements and a great infusion of architecture, infrastructure and landscape. The park will have an iconic look with the five conservatory biomes in the center of the park. Creating a centre that can be year round creates a destination that everyone can gather at. This park provides many types of spaces for all kinds of people that will foster social interaction. This park will be a place that major events will be held and become a special park to the surrounding community.

Bad:
This park will cause gentrification to the communities around it and with the size of the park, that is many people to displace. The

increase of tourism will also increase the amount of people who will visit the park. The increase of the population can lead to the pollution of the site with litter. Since the park is not completed, the construction has the potential to pollute the river if the right precautions are not taken.

Vote:
As mayor, I would vote for this project. Major cities lack the proper amount of green space for the public. The 41 hectare park would supply a major

amount of park to the surround city, while teaching the public about multiple ecosystems.

Guidelines for sustainability:

1. For social sustainability I would require a certain percentage of the surrounding communities to be dedicated to affordable housing.
2. Retain as many of the existing trees that do not interfere with the future architecture and infrastructure.
3. The water gardens throughout the park will be drawn from the Gu Dao Canal and recycled and reused.
4. Any hardscape used will be permeable.
5. Consideration of plants to reduce pest and disease problems. The clumping of plant communities to thrive in similar conditions.
6. Non-toxic pest and disease control for plants.
7. A group that is dedicated to the health and cleanliness of the designed wetlands.



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17

International Development Project: Assessment & Suggested Improvement

Background: Lotus Lake was originally a freshwater marsh until it was transformed into a reservoir for irrigation into the 1960s, and over the course of 50 years, compromised the water quality and depleted water levels from toxic sewage and lack of habitat diversity. Regardless, the area provides a crucial habitat along the migratory path of East Asia for 165 bird species, including 18 internationally or nationally endangered species (ASLA 2012). Development of the Tieling New City presented opportunities to enhance to the reservoir and promote coexistence between humans and nature, so the government established a 4,700 hectare National Wetland Park, with 629-hectare area around the lake to become the core habitat protection area (ASLA 2012). Improvements to the site were designed to limit human interference, and promote biodiversity by creating forest woodland, forest edge shrub-and-grass and brush habitat (ASLA 2012). The protection area

incorporates new embankments built 50 meters away from existing ones to promote the protection of mature trees, as well as to create more habitat diversity and complexity. Zoning was designated with different management plans to promote wildlife protection and public amenities for local residents. The site promotes ecological health as a part of a 67-hectare Treatment Wetland Zone water system by cleansing 60,000 tons of grey water per day, and the first city in Liaoning Province to have its entire sewage fully treated before discharging into Liao River (ASLA 2012). Three artificial islands, every 30 hectares in area, creating foraging and breeding habitat for the migratory birds. While much of the site is dedicated to wildlife habitat and natural vegetation, the Southern Recreation Zone promotes human activities such as bird watching, hiking, visiting the museum and exploring Lotus Lake.

Goals: Lotus Lake has four overarching goals: To restore the ecological functions and ecosystem services of the existing wetland, water quality protection, wildlife habitat, flooding risk and retention of water for irrigation. Enhance the overall ecosystem health of the health with a long-term management regime (ASLA 2012) Create engaging public open space with social amenities such as recreation and environmental education.

Good: There are four parts of this design the provide benefits to the immediate environment and regional community. The ecology is improved by enhancing the habitat diversity, water quality, and biodiversity. The Water Treatment Zone and new embankments reinvigorate the degraded marshland and provide amenities for both humans and animals. Around 230 native plant materials are implemented, and the water in the reservoir s managed to treat and

Project: Lotus Lake National Wetland Park || Tieling City, Liaoning Province, China || Designer: Beijing Tsinghua Urban Planning & Design Institute || Size:629-hectares

recycle grey water and stormwater. The site creates social benefits through public access to areas of the park for recreation, environmental education, and community outreach. Raising environmental awareness fosters stewardship and will enable more projects like Lotus Lake around the country. The site is an economic generator from the notoriety gained for the push for environmental stewardship, which had increased Tieling’s national reputation.

3 Direct Improvements:

- Provide more engaging active space for visitors to promote greater activity and knowledge of the area. These will include: exterior classroom spaces, a small amphitheater for local events and concerts, and more signage among the different ecosystem improvement to advocate for their application.
- Integrate the community with the project to promote environmental stewardship through dedicated annual activities and festivals that bring the

residents to integrate further with the area.

- Dedicate future funding to other animal species. With the funding, learning centers and specific habitats would be created.



Figure 17



Figure 18

The LAF Declaration, New LAF Declaration, and everything in Between

Something I first noticed between the two declarations was the amount of landscape architects that were involved in the process of writing the declarations. The declaration of 1966 had a “small group” while the 2016 declaration had “over 700”. This is proof that our profession has grown and that both declarations wanted similar things.

The declaration of 1966 was very concerned over the excessive and exploitation of the environment. It address how cities have separated themselves with nature and polluting environments. The concerns previously mentioned seemed to spark the writers of the 1966 declaration to advocate for expanding the education of the field. Another concern was the number of landscape architects. The writers knew there needed to be more in order to keep making a difference in world, especially to help with “the environmental crisis”
My first impression of the 2016

“We urge a new, collaborative effort to improve the American environment and to train a new generation of Americans equipped by education, inspiring example and improved organizations to help create that environment.”

1966 LAF Declaration

declaration seemed that the writers focused on creating ecological and social justice for all people and the health and wellbeing of communities and the earth. Breaking this impression down further I see that there is such a strong pull for focusing on the enhancement and redesign “in the context of their bioregional landscapes”. This specific quote made me believe to keep these landscapes thriving that we need to use local vegetation. Also, this declaration wants to bring other disciplines together because the writers know that this change has to happen with others and not landscape architects alone. While the 1966 declaration says that one must know a variety of things, it never directly calls other disciplines to action.

Both articles touch on how important it is to reduce the negative impacts we are having on earth but also how to prevent as well. Both declarations touch on the fact that we will always be

using natural resources but we need to change how we use them. The fact that both declarations touched on natural resources shows how much work that has been done and how much still needs to be done.

Reflecting on both the articles, I see that there has been progress, but there is still much more to be done. **I don’t believe we will ever reach our “goal” because times and circumstances change.** As long as we keep pushing and fighting to protect what we have than I believe we are well on our way. In many ways we have accomplished the “goals” of the 1966 declaration, but as far as the 2016 we are still working on those. With the current administration it is making the jobs of landscape architects even harder.

“As landscape architects we vow to create places that serve the higher purpose of social and ecological justice for all peoples and all species”

2016 LAF Declaration

We know that there need to be changes and we have worked very hard to have legislation back that up. Unfortunately, that is being undermined and will have substantial negative impact not only in America but the rest of the world. I feel that we are in a time now, that we have to fight even harder to accomplish the larger tasks at hand. This will require strong leadership from landscape architects and I believe we are well on our way to making some noise.

Unpacking the Built & Natural Environments

The two most significant environmental factors that are shaping and influencing the built environment is **flooding and climate change**. With the current trends of sea level rise we are seeing the negative effects along the coastlines. Specifically in the United States of America, some states have laws against current methods to protect the coast. North Carolina in 2011, passed a law that wouldn't allow anyone to use mitigation measurements against storm surges, because they wanted the coast for development. Today, North Carolina is seeing the implications of their choices. Storm surges such as hurricanes are leaving major destruction in their paths and law makers have yet to figure out what our actions are contributing to the problem. The earth is warming and the effects are sea level rise, temperature rise, heat waves, stronger storm surges, and more. These effects are changing our lives and sometimes we can't keep up with them. What should be happening

is the mitigation and preventative measures, such as, protecting the coast lines, mitigating green house gases, and being a part of the solution instead of the problem. **Both of these environmental factors are a large undertaking, but if there is no action to resolve them, then we will continue to see the degradation of our earth and society.** The current administration is making it difficult as a country to make these large changes. Therefore, it is up to the state and local governments to be a part of the change. Even further, it begins with one person. One

person wanting to change the way the earth is being treated and wanting to protect their homes and families. That one person can talk to their friends and families, or even call their local governments and express why it is dire to make these changes! The effects of flooding can take years to recover and it isn't something that people can control, but we can be better

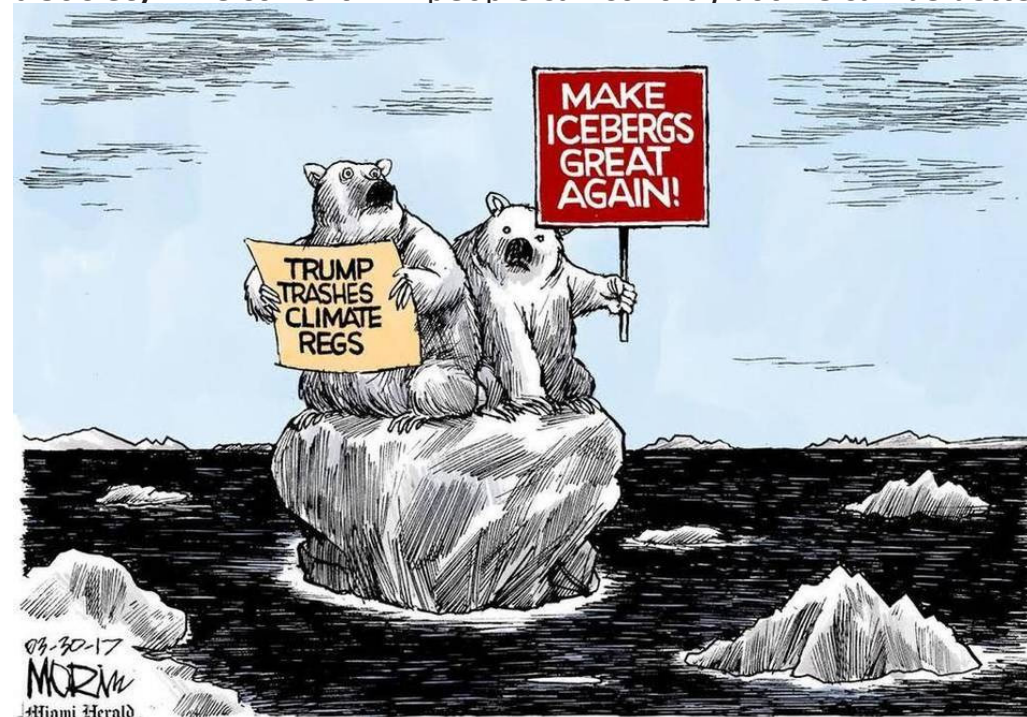


Figure 6

about preventing and mitigating them. As far as climate change goes, we can prevent and change a lot of the way we do things. This topic is more in our control because we created it. It is time to take ownership of our mistakes and move towards mending them. Incorporating nature into cities has been occurring for years and years. There are many views on how much nature should be in cities and I believe having a good mix is important. Having a dense portion of nature in a city could be offering it to a select group of people instead of providing nature to the masses. Having a dense portion in the city also only greens one area. When I am in a plane I would rather see a mix of green spaces than one large green space. Looking at a city that has green throughout makes me believe that the city, and people, itself are happier and healthier. Having nature mixed throughout the cities may not offer all the same opportunities as a dense green space, such as, a variety of wildlife and

vegetation, but the mixed does offer a piece of land for people to go and see aspects of nature and ecosystems. The mixed offers a place of social gathering within the local communities and can intensify the relationships of neighbors. When people enjoy their green spaces, they can create a sense of ownership and the space will be well kept. When nature begins to be fragmented we are impacting the ecosystems negatively. There is less biodiversity and the spaces may not be well kept. The spaces might become degraded because the upkeep is too much or some groups may take to much ownership to one area and no one else can enjoy the space. There is less social interaction between the neighborhoods and people may stick to

the greenspace that is closest to the. That is why having a mixed amount of green space in the cities is vital. The ecosystems have a better chance of thriving and the social interactions will be increased compared to the fragmented and the dense green spaces.



Figure 7

People's Right to the City

Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs had a very clear vision for urbanizing major U.S. cities. In my opinion it seemed like Moses was geared towards the urbanization of cities, or what he thought was urbanization, and Jacobs was geared towards the peoples best interests. Moses believed that the way to advance the city was through transportation. Specifically through major highways and infrastructure that would go through the core of the city to make it more efficient. He had similar thoughts to that of Haussmann. "...urban process and through the system of (debt-financed) highways and infrastructural transformations, through suburbanization and through the total re-engineering..." (Harvey, pg. 5). Moses wasn't only thinking about the change of the city core, but he was also interested in the change of the metropolitan area. Moses did not take peoples lives in to consideration when he proposed this idea for New York City. Low income residents would have been

displaced and the economy would of changed dramatically. I believe that Moses judgement began to become clouded by the financial gain.

Jane Jacobs fought for the people who would have lost their homes and business. She became the voice for these people and by doing so, she gained a large following that backed her up. This following made the issue more known and began to shine light on the issue. The areas that were considered slums are still important part of the urban fabric. Each area has their own form of identity that play a larger role into the urban fabric. She fought to keep these identities present and creates and pedestrian friendly environment that didn't include major vehicular traffic. **While I believe that Moses thought he was in the right, he wasn't.** As a designer we



Figure 8

are taught to promote the well-being, health, and safety of the public. What Moses was doing was promoting mass displacement and larger infrastructure that would change the dynamic of the city forever. Because of Jacobs the uniqueness of New York has stayed intact. But in reality we cannot choose

one type of view over the other. We need to take the two and find a way to merge them together to build a better city. Harvey discusses how the urban process has gone global. We see places like Spain and Britain paralleling the United States (pg. 7). The balance that needs to take place is now involving all different kinds of infrastructure such as dams and highways, all debt financed, are changing the landscape (pg. 7). The urban growth depends on the development of financial institutions and arrangements the require credit to sustain it (pg. 7). The role of debt has played a crucial role in the urbanization of cities and it seems dangerous. We live in society where debt is okay and welcomed, because without it you may not own a home, car, or have a college degree. **As urban growth transforms and develops we see a change in lifestyle.** "Quality of urban life has become a commodity for those with money, as has the city itself in a world where consumerism, tourism, and

cultural knowledge-based industries have become major aspects of urban political economy" (pg. 8). The city should not be geared only towards the wealthy but also the middle and lower class. Cities are seen as a melting pot of people. In my opinion we see that in terms of ethnicity versus ethnicity AND class. I believe urbanization is important in cities like Moses wanted, but not to the extreme. I also agree with Jacobs on protecting the areas that are middle to lower class because they enhance the diversity of the city. It is really important to create a blend of the two to create a successful urban city.

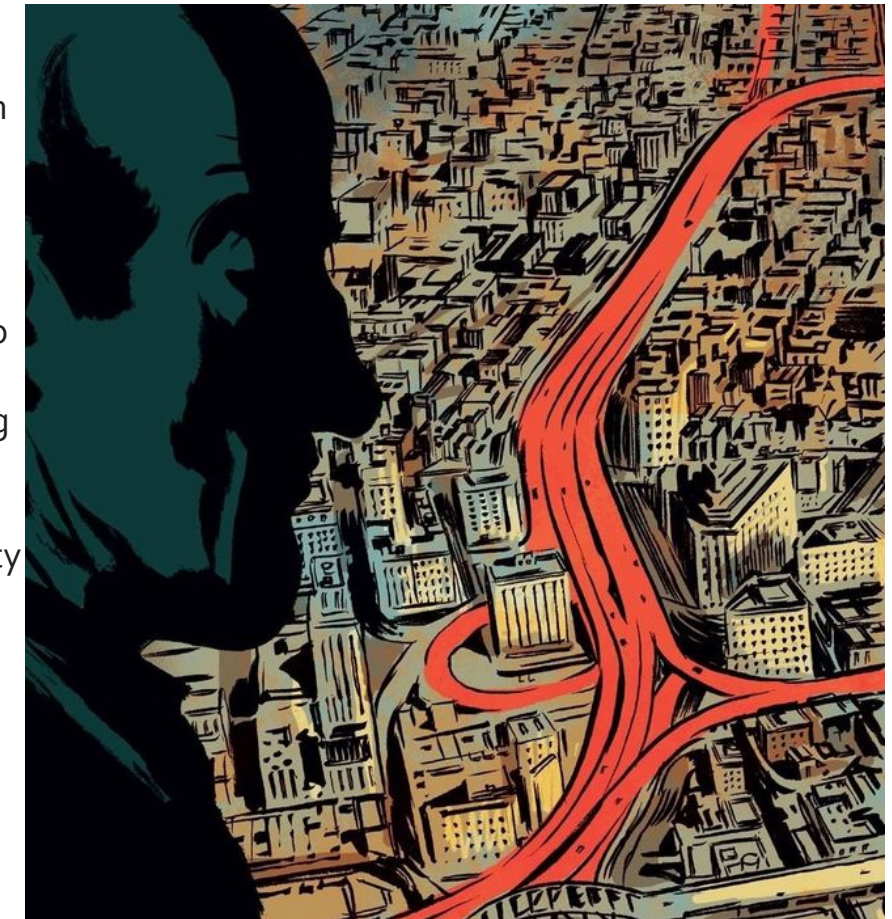


Figure 9

Deforestation & Urbanization

Rapid urbanization has many explanations but the three I will be touching on today are growth in economy, suburban to urban migration, and resource availability. All three are aspects that make cities attractive and people want to live where there is opportunity, convenience, and fun. **Economy:** As a society we were once a factory driven country, but now we are an innovative hub and cities host many of these companies. Since urban areas host many job opportunities, people want to be where those opportunities are. Therefore, we see an increase of people and buildings in urbanized places. As our society has advanced, the cities are now seen as clean and full of opportunities. At one time they were dirty and it is where the poor lived. Therefore, the rich didn't want to interact with them. Now cities are the melting pots and place where

an individual can keep advancing. **Resource availability:** Humans want to be near where the resources are because they are needed to survive. The issues is, over consumption of resources. We do not thing about the effects and how long it may take to find or grow new resources. Therefore, we see a decline in the resources we had and have to quickly find a new one to replace the old one we depleted. I believe that it is vital to protect the forests that we have and rebuild the ones we have depleted. We do not

realize how much of a connection we have to forests. They are where many of our resources first came from before technology advanced, but we still find many of our resources in forests today. Such as; metals, wood, food, etc. These sources are precious and many people do not have any regard for them. In cities where forests are not prominent, I believe we should plant more trees in the existing parks and use the vacant lots in cities and turn them into parklets. I believe that Manhattan, Kansas is an example of an urban forest. Manhattan

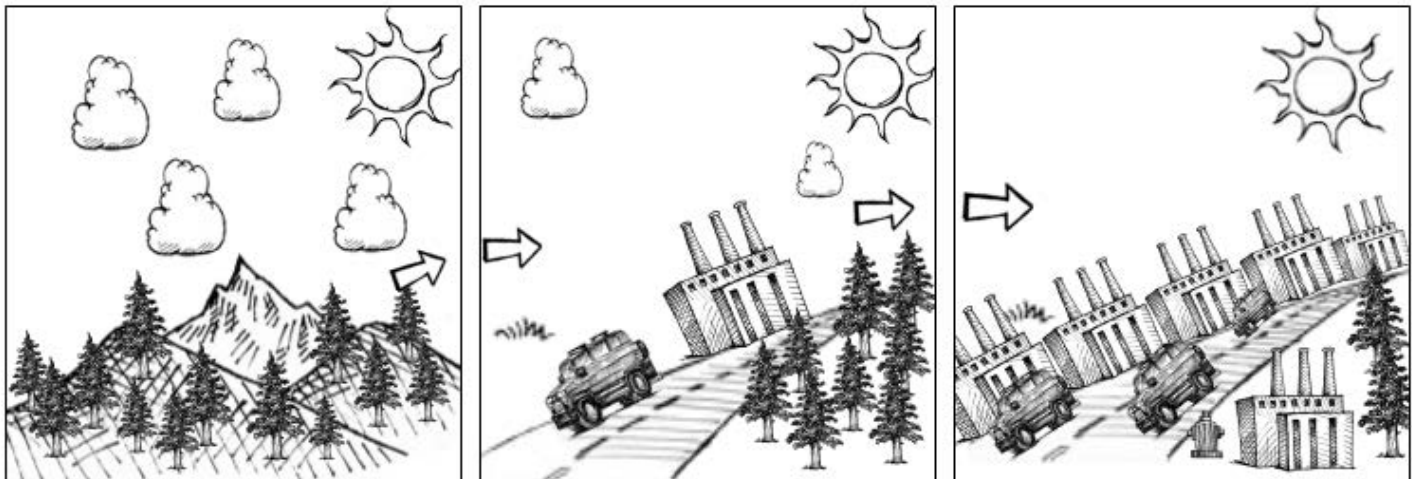


Figure 10

may not be considered a traditional urbanized city, but in 1863 when Kansas State University was founded the landscape wasn't near the landscape today. Manhattan barely had any trees and today the town is covered with trees and that makes the town feel and in my opinion look better. A city that is a successful urban forest is Singapore. They are using the concept of urban forestry to protect the soil, absorb rainwater, enhance biodiversity, and more. Singapore is called the 'Garden city of Asia' and they use this phrase as a marketing strategy to attract investors (McCafferty, 2017). Even if Singapore is using this concept to attract visitors and investors, they are still enhancing their ecosystems and the lives of those who live there. It is important to better the ecosystems around us and if that means we can reap some of the benefits, than so be it.

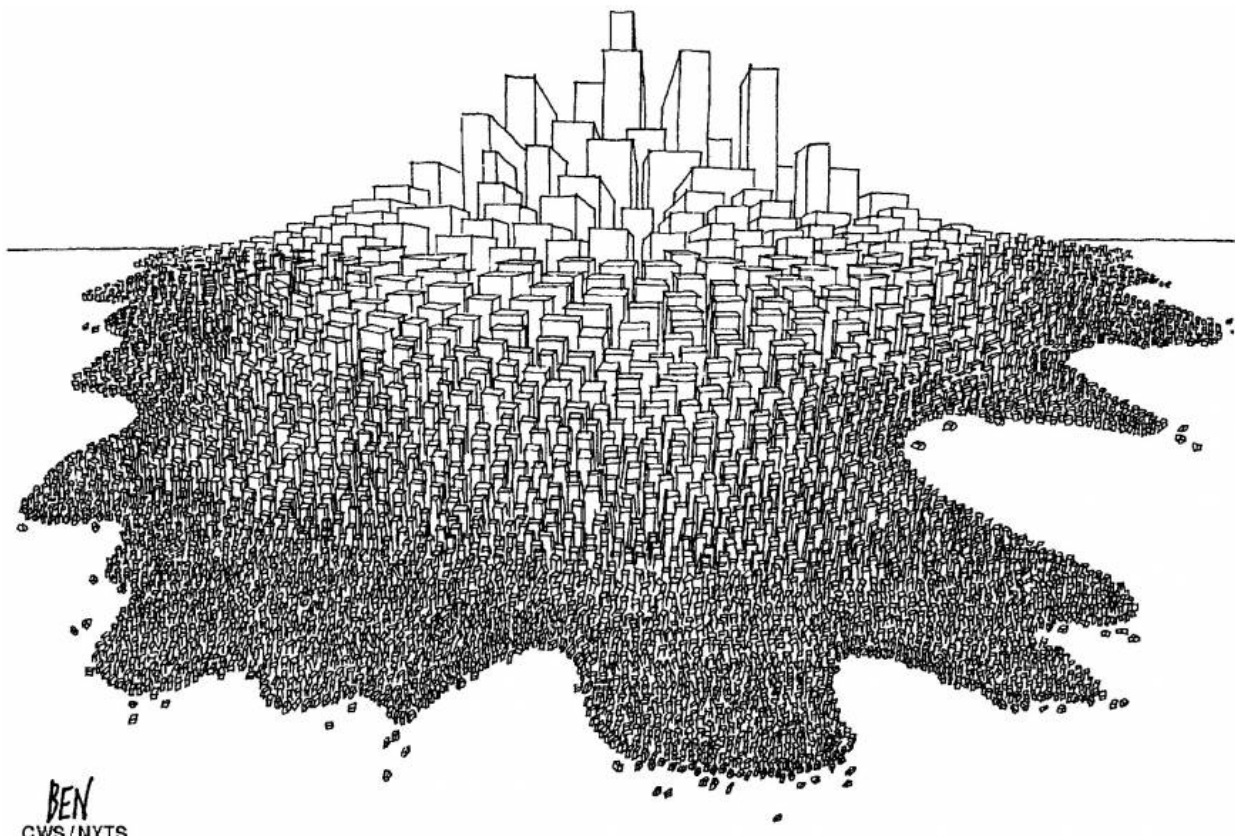


Figure 11

The Landscape Debate

I am against the approval of the Senegal Master Plan. The area surrounding the Pink Lake is forest and villages. The context is a precious resource that would be demolished for the benefit of outsiders more than the local communities. These communities probably have been there for many generations and the change that would occur if the plan was approved would be significant. The plan is suggesting there would be diverse culture and be a diplomatic and economic benefit. These benefits would only be to those who have wealth. The plan wants to include 66 embassies that would enhance the “diversity”. The only diversity this would bring is in ethnicities, but not in social diversity. It is believed that the Master Plan would bring political stability to Senegal because of the introduced multi-level government system, but I believe that the government would continue to be the same or benefit the wealthy foreigners compared to the locals.

The master plan has a major focus on education. While focusing on education is important and should be a driving factor in the master plan, I believe that it will only benefit those who live directly in the community and that would be wealthy. This plan does not address existing factors like locals and ends up displacing them. This furthers the separation of social classes. As separation occurs so does the education. The plan has good intentions with the education agenda, but it would not work because the other factors are not being executed in the best way for all people. The last point I would like to touch on is how the Pink Lake Master Plan is sustainable. This plan is in no way sustainable or even taking the context into consideration. The plan is exploiting a natural rare resource. On top of exploiting the rare lake, the plan is contributing to mass deforestation. The current context shows the beauty of the forest and how it surrounds the

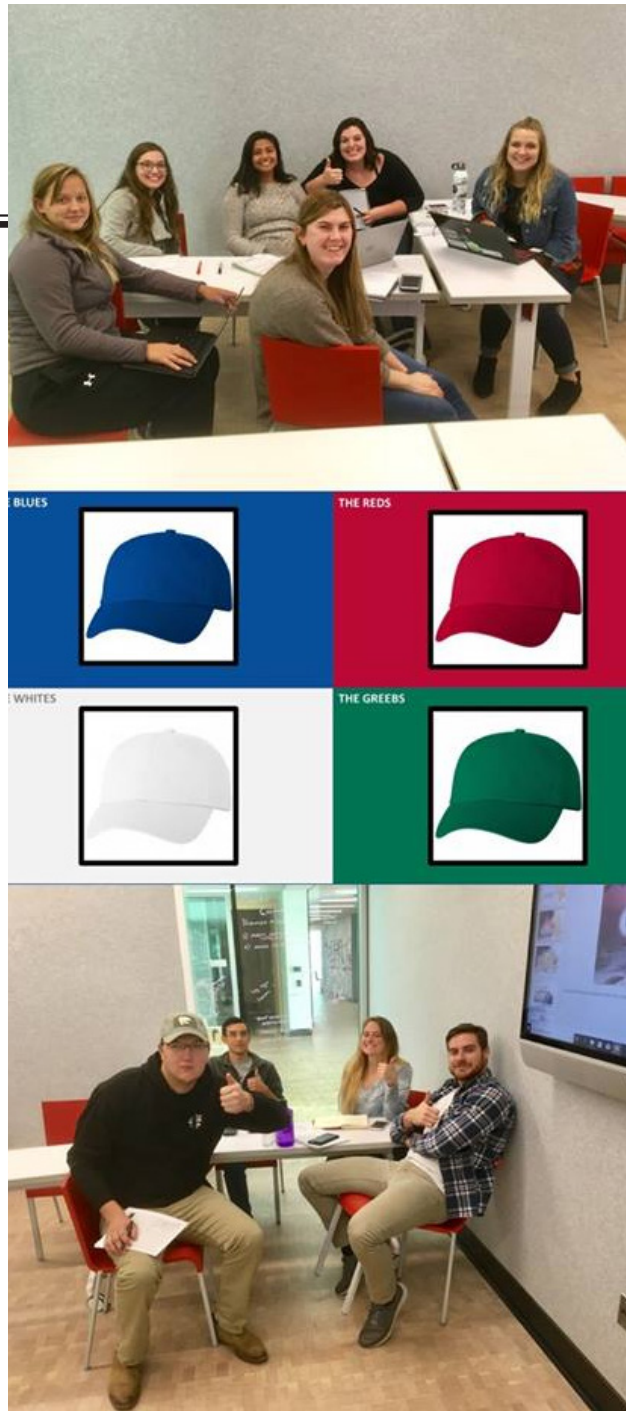


Figure 19

lake, making it a striking feature. All of the building would bring in a lot of pollutants that currently are minimal or don’t exist. The lake is not near a city and doesn’t receive the direct effects of city pollutants, but this plan would ensure that it would. The sustainable aspect of the plan in the video was so briefly mentioned with no evidence to back it up, lead me to believe that they did not think about it in great detail. Overall, the Senegal Mast Plan would devastate a natural resource and cause deforestation contributing to the rising climate change. The lack of consideration for the locals and nature is appalling. The plan feels rushed with little research or thought put behind it. I believe this reflects how the President at the time handled the project before his term was up and should not be approved to advance.



Figure 20

Vision Statement Revised

As a future landscape architect, our duty is to design for people in a way that is inclusive for all while being thoughtful of the surrounding context. As time goes forward, we have to adapt to the changes that occur. Currently we are in a situation of designing for rapid climate change and we have to be sensitive to that while designing for the client. We need to keep pushing for the integration of disciplines, advocate, educate the public about landscape architecture and the role we have in society.

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Figure 8
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