The Relationship of Social Equity and Landscape Architecture

Madison Quincke | Seminar III | Fall 2018

Table of Contents

A Landscape Architect's Responsibility

As landscape architects, I envision our role to be leaders not only in the realm of design but also socially, environmentally, and even politically. I've heard many times that landscape architects are the fabric which hold a project or different types of people together and I hope that we continue to do this. I hope that as a profession we stay humble yet focused. We should see ourselves as advocates for the present and the future along with the environment and people. There is strength in unity which landscape architects can emphasize in the design process by creating more community centered projects. I envision landscape architecture involving and educating people within all social classes about the importance of the environment to understand that to have a healthy life we need a healthy environment.

This booklet will be compiled information from weekly submissions of blogs that are tied together with the topic of social justice. Social equity has affected all aspects of landscape architecture in both positive and negative ways. Although it presents more design opportunities for landscape professionals, the problems that have risen from this political crisis is a hard topic to 'solve' only with design. The goal of this booklet is to educate the reader about social equity in the landscape and understand the true rights of people and their interaciton with nature.

What is social justice?
The belief that every individual and group is entitled to fair and equal rights and participation in social, educational,and economic opportunities. Social justice addresses an agenda for increasing understanding of oppression and inequality and taking action to overcome them.

-ASLA

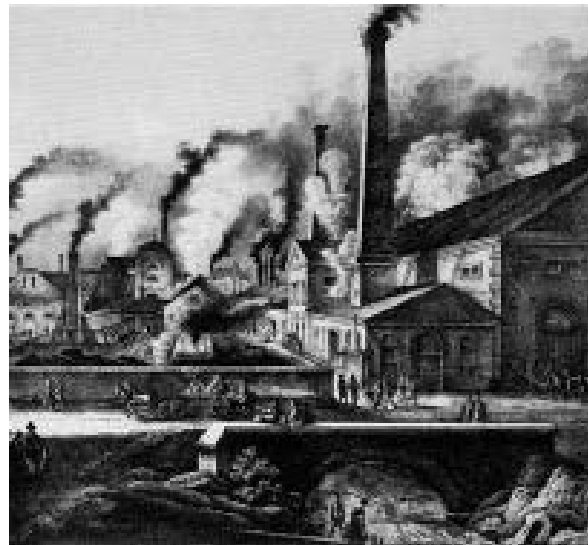# History and Evolution of Environmental + Landscape Planning

After thinking about the readings and the lecture, it is clear that history has impacted the environment we live in today. Some of those eras throughout history moved us forward in time while some have slowed our progress down.

The first era, moved us forward for its time. During the progressive era, people like William Kent and "Capability" Brown were focused on bringing the beauty of landscape inot the forefront of people's lives. Opening the door to the ideas of environmental planning was a crucial step in time that began to introduce people to their environments around them. Then when the industrial age arrived in the 19th century, cities were expanding, immigrants were overcrowding the northeast, and public space was nearly non-existent. The role of environmental planning came into play to implement public spaces that can serve large neighborhoods or cities which integrated landscapes into the city as well as increased the awareness for public health and mingling of social classes. Olmsted and Ebenezer Howard were both huge influences

First Era: Capability Brown's landscapes were picturesque and pastoral.

during this time.

Following the industrial era, the 20th century brought new ideas to the world of environmental planning. Instead of focusing on the aesthetic and public aspects of the city landscape, the focus shifted to environmental assessment. Preservation, advocated by John Muir, and conservation, by Gifford Pinchot, in combination with the previous advances in environmental planning became the determining factors on how the landscape was treated. Government influence also played a role during this time by creating important agencies advocating for conversation and preservation but unfortunately it wasn't enough. Much like today, business and economic factors determined priorities for the land and sprawl began as people wanted to

Industrial Era. https://wattsupwiththat.wordpress.com/2016/08/25/new-climate-reconstruction-study-claims-humans-have-been-causing-warming-since-the-onset-of-the-industrial-revolution/.

get away from the dirty city.

In the third era, World War II caused the "environmental issues to take a back seat to international conflicts" (Daniels, 184). Because of the neglect, pollution within the environment became a real problem and it soon was apparent that the combination of environmental issues, economic growth, public health, and landscape beauty can all work together to form a great quality of life. Overall, this would be the birth and the beginning of modern environmental planning.

Third Era: Trying to clean the mess of the industrial era.

Next,the fourth era, was an era of fallback. Many political regulations created by Reagan and Bush administrations "retarded environmental progress" (Daniels, 186). Business interests overpowered environmental issues so environmental

planners began giving incentives to encourage positive environmental resolutions. They knew that change needed to happen and with the new expansion of the Internet, green infrastructure and sustainability became new options for advancing environmental change.

Lastly, the fifth era is all about expanding the ideas of sustainability and the era we are currently living. This era truly combines the social, ecological, business, and incentive aspects of sustainability. As the beginning of the 21st century started planners have taken the opportunity to become leaders in development realizing the change that needs to happen for issues such as sprawl, pollution, climate change, governmental influence, and that people MUST adopt Aldo Leopold's land ethic.

In conclusion, the first era revealed the necessity to make spaces that are created for the people, give a sense of place, access to public health, and are aesthetically pleasing. These aspects of landscape architecture have been and will always be in the foundational principles to landscape/environmental planning because it is the people we will always need to accommodate whether it is the public, a client, a donor, or a government official. Secondly, the idea of creating accessible public space for any time of day, in a central space of the city, and for all social classes to interact will, at the end of the day, always be a goal for green space within urban cities. The fifth, or current era has so much potential for landscape architects to step into the role of political officials who are "suppose to be in charge" of the environmental change.

We are at a time in history, that it is time to utilize all of the tools, people, software, and knowledge of the past and apply them to the future in order to make an impact.

Obviously, we cannot return the environment to its original state but like John Muir always advocated for, natural change can happen overtime. If we can put creative problem solvers like landscape architects and planners paired with development or government presence, then there can be an alternative route to many environmental challenges. People are moving back to cities due to costs and efficiencies of life so we need to take advantage of that time now, create better infrastructure, design greenspace within the cities, and repair social spaces so that encroachment into protected areas can be controlled and we can preserve the natural environments we have left.

It was clear how just a few people throughout history directed the era of landscape and its policies. It is also important to recognize that not all of these people are landscape architects. Often times, especially today, it is the government who determines how important the landscape is economically, environmentally, and socially. The downfall of this is the local citizens living in unsuitable environments do not have a voice in these decisions when they should. Is this right socially? Organizations like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) are constantly changing their views, goals, and advocating for the people and the landscape to help fight political power.

Sustainable Landscapes. https://www.theolinstudio.com/featured-projects/#/11th-street-bridge-park/.

The Old LAF Declaration vs the New LAF Declaration

"For over 50 years, LAF has been identifying priorities and strengthening the discipline to meet weighty environmental, social, and economic challenges. We believe in the power of design to create a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable world."

- LAF

The LAF is one of the largest guiding organizations of the landscape architecture profession for students and working professionals. The foundation strives to provide educationals activities, scholarships, and an interactive community backed up by their declaration. The orginal declaration was written in 1966 but was recently updated in 2016.

The first and second "declaration of concern" had many similarities and contrasts. First, it is important to mention the amount of "concerned landscape architects" who wrote each document which demonstrates how much the field of landscape architecture has grown between 1966 and 2016. The first declaration was written by "a small group of landscape architects who shared a concern for the quality of the American environment and its future…" (LAF, 1966). This small number in contrast to the 700 participants in the 2016 declaration is stunning. In one hand, one must remember that the field of landscape architecture was just beginning to bloom in the late 17th century therefore it makes sense that such a small number of people were "concerned" about the American landscape, on the other hand, one must wonder how in the world 700 people wrote one declaration- all in agreement.

Secondly, the 1966 declaration mentioned very specific landscape issues that were occurring during that time. Some of these issues were Lake Erie becoming septic, how New York was low on water, the Potomac River filled with sewage and lastly, air pollution. It is interesting that most of the issues mentioned in the declaration were all water related whereas, in the 2016 declaration, broader issues such as climate change, rising seas, species extinction, and human ethics were mentioned.

One topic both declarations saw eye-to-eye was the depletion of natural resources. The 1966 version referred to the depletion as landscape architect's responsibility to be educated, understand the process of natural resources, to "clean it up" and that only then can landscape architects interpret the landscape correctly. The profession of landscape architecture was so small at this time that the declaration of 1966 was to inform the public about the responsibilities of, as well as the need for more landscape architects. When the declaration was written, America was just entering the industrial age, a time of economic growth but not with the best environmental practices. Only once does the document mention anything about the people's role in the environment stating, "He [Landscape Architecture] is essential in maintaining the vital connection between man and nature" (LAF, 1966). Even in this statement, the responsibility of change is on the backs of the profession to make the connection between people and the landscape.

In contrast, the 2016 declaration, wrote of natural resources as if we have already ruined what we can and now we have to change our way of living. This is a complete different perspective than the 1966 document, putting the responsibilities of change in the hands of the people writing, "…appreciate humanity's role as integral to its stability and productivity, we can build a new identity for society as a constructive part of nature" (LAF, 2016). This statement really shows, that the mindset of landscape architecture indeed changed from educating and recruiting landscape architects to, now essentially, education and recruiting the people.

Overall, I believe both declarations had valid concerns and arguments for their respectable times. It makes sense that the first declaration was expanding the profession of landscape architecture and that their "call to action" was about the education of new landscape architects creating a 4-point program to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice. For this time in history, it was important to recruit more landscape architects, educate them well, and only then, think about implementation of practice. They recognized that it takes people FIRST to make change in the world.
The 2016 declaration was/is much more about the implementation of this knowledge and change that needs to occur putting the pressure on the "land ethic." This statement is a powerful one, "… landscape architects are uniquely positioned to bring related professions together into new alliances to address complex social and ecological problems" (LAF, 2016). The profession is still at work on the 2016 declaration's "call to action" as we have succeeded in extending research to prove environmental issues but we haven't completely and successfully created a communion between humans and the natural world. This will be the biggest challenge for today's generation of landscape architects to overcome.

Looking into the future, which the film "Less a Declaration than Some Thoughts" talked about, I see many opportunities and

constraints. As the speaker, Marc Treib spoke about, we can continue to talk about landscape architecture in a way of bringing people and nature together or bringing different disciplines together to create something better but in doing this, we are also contradicting ourselves. We tend to view our policies, implementation, and advocacy in many categories or as the Treib referred to it as "either/ ors." As natural as it is to have options, I think he was trying to bring to the viewer's attention that we must stop looking at change in options.

As landscape architects, we must stop viewing sustainability and beauty as two options because, in reality, they need to work together. As the Treib noted "…We [people] don't care about the sustainability, we care about the beauty" (Treib, 2016) and it is completely true. But instead of wasting our time thinking about the "either/ors" of which is more important- sustainability or beauty- and instead do what is right.
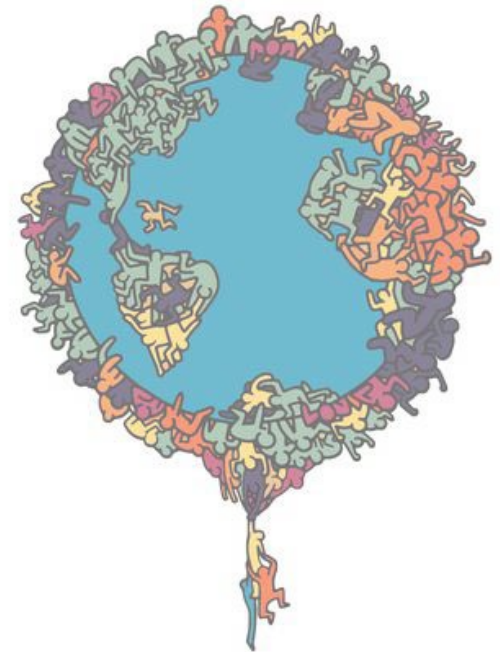Why can't design solve the "both/ands"? We have the knowledge, tools, and professionals to make landscapes achieve both aspects which in turn will please both the natural world and society. If 700 landscape architects can come together to create a cohesive, integrated call to action plan for the profession of landscape architecture, why can't we create the same for implementation of change?

The declarations have recognized in full the significance of human interaction with nature to create change. Socially, every person in the world would need to be represented in acts of change which is almost impossible as it is the nature of people to be different. There continues to be economic and political divide which adds to the challenge of 'getting everyone on the same page.'
People claim independence and ownership of the land yet we are not willing to change or sacrifice our lifestyles to create change.
What are people's rights to place?

(Unknown Author, 2018).

People's Right to the City

Two people in the mid-1900s drastically shaped the experience people have within the city: Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs. Not only did they advocate for what they believe in but in that process they brought many different types of people together. This argument in history was one of the first about social justice and developing public space.

Robert Moses' wanted the city to become a booming urbanized, fast-paced concept. In the film, Jacob vs Moses: An Urban Fight, Moses said that "Cities are created by and for traffic." He wanted to implement major veins of transport infrastructure throughout the city. In doing this he believed the city could be this large, grand scaled system that provided large amounts of economic benefits. "Robert Moses…did to the whole New York metropolitan region what Haussmann had done in Paris. That is, Moses changed the scale of thinking about the urban process and through the system of (debt-financed) highways and infrastructural transformations, through suburbanization and through the total re-engineering…" (Harvey, p.5). But what Moses was really doing was presenting ideas that were unacceptable for the lifestyle for the people living within New York. His plans would have destroyed low-income and minority neighborhoods and created a capitalist hub.

As Harvey said, "…[we] live in divided, fragmented and conflict-prone cities. How we view the world and define possibilities depends on which side of the tracks we are on and to what kind of consumerism we have access to (Harvey, p.9). Not only would Moses' highways increase the divide socially but also physically, creating a separation between places and people.

Jane Jacobs on the otherhand, believe in social justice or people having their own rights to their environments. Cities to Jacobs meant being able to walk to work, having unique neighborhoods, short blocks, "eyes on the street" and mixed-use development within the blocks so that there could be a variety of people, jobs, and population density. Because of Jacobs, people within the city of New York had a voice. Although her passion was writing, Jacobs stood up for what was right, and was also an activist. This speaks words to who she was and supports the reason people of the city saw her as a leader and therefore readily and willingly followed her during protests.

The disagreements between Moses and Jacobs, allow city planners and even landscape architects to begin to understand the power of people as well as capitalism and government. Although, this fight could have been a typical top-down scenario where money wins, the people won instead.

Moses's plan for huge expressway system cutting through Manhattan, NY (Sagalyn, 2016).

On page 1 Harvey writes, "…what kind of city we want cannot be divorced from the question of what kind of people we want to be, what kinds of social relations we seek, what relations to nature we cherish, what type of daily life we dire, what kinds of technologies we deem appropriate, what aesthetics values we hold." As future planners and designers we need to remember this. There cannot be a balance if there is an imbalance between money/power and the citizens.

Like Jane Jacobs, we need to advocate for what is right, what are rights are, and for our desires in public space, neighborhoods, community development and on a global scale, the way we view our planet. Change cannot happen if we do not use our voices persistently and in unification. Like Harvey wrote, "We have, however, yet to see a coherent oppositional movement to all of this [protection of the city] in the twenty-first century. There are multitudes of diverse social movements focusing on the urban question but …they have yet to converge on the singular aim of gaining greater control over the surplus…" (Harvey p.14). Because if we don't speak our opinion, "…man's most successful attempt to remake the world he lives in more after his heart's desire. But, if the city is the world which man created, it is the world in which he is henceforth condemned to live. Thus, indirectly, and without any clear sense of the nature of his task, in making the city man has remade himself" (Harvey p.1).

"The freedom to make and remake ourselves and our cities is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights"

-Harvey, p.2

Jane Jacobs actively participating in protest again the expressway (Sisson, 2016).

People's Right to the Environment

Now, in the 21st centruy, the world is not only debating the people's right to the city but also the environment. New technology and research has began the era of sustainability. We as a human civilazation are trying to figure out a balance between our needs and desires of the city with the natural environment.

In my opinion, the two environmental factors that are the most significant in shaping the built environment are water and topography. Since the beginning of time, we have discovered the benefits of water and how crucial it is for living. Most cities were built around some presence of water. We use it as a place for transport both daily and recreationally, importing and exporting goods between cities, regions, and countries, and lastly, a place of visual importance. But when living by a type of water body, it does place threats onto the development around it as well as the water body itself. Water systems determine where people can or cannot live due to its risk of flooding and how close people can get to the water because of its changing and instable banks. One problem with developing cities near water bodies is pollution. Polluted stormwater runoff, waste disposal, and some human interaction with water are damaging. It risks the development's source of water and in result, until today, people in many places have turned their back, covered up the source, or have engineered techniques to mitigate the pollution in water bodies.
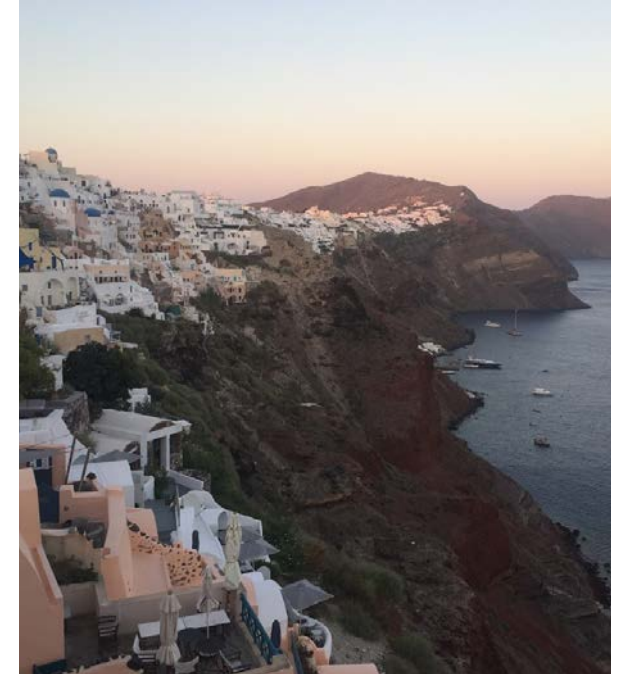
Topography is another environmental factor that influences development. Humans naturally build in places where the topography is not as dramatic or instable. This is because it requires a lot more money, effort, and time to do otherwise. For example, in most cases, we are more likely to build in the valleys of mountains rather than on the slope or on top of that mountain. Topography also changes more frequently over time than a more flat part of the earth due to erosion and vulnerability. In addition, water runoff erodes the earth much faster on steep slopes which makes this much more vulnerable during storms or natural disasters such as earthquakes. It is also much more difficult to build dense urban environments on dramatic topographic zones because is not ideal for reaching resources.

I feel that these two factors are the most influential because they physically determine where society can and cannot build.

But do we, as a human population, have the right to build anywhere we want?

Little intervention on extreme topography or near oceanside in Crete, Greece (Quincke, 2018).

Building on topography and next to ocean in Santorini, Greece (Quincke, 2018).
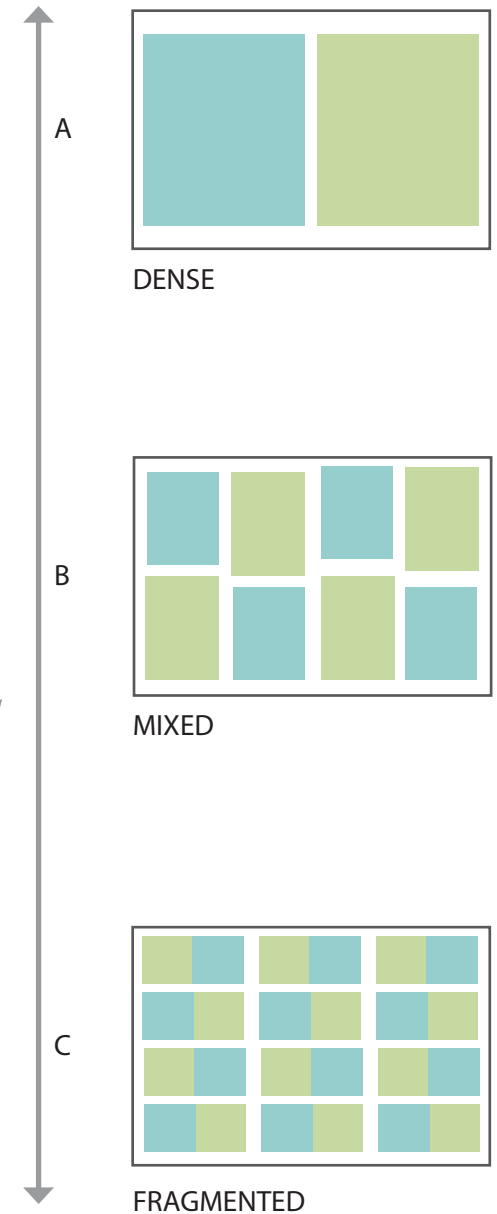
The idea of integrating nature into cities is a very intricate and complex topic. In an ideal world we could live with two extreme environments of nature vs the city as separate entities or completely fragment nature to intermingle with the city.

The concept of completely fragmenting nature for green space to be integrated into cities has many positives and negatives. Through an environmental lens, this option is destroying diverse communities of animals and vegetational life. As we talked about in class, if there is not enough space for all the layers of the ecological processes to happen, that ecological community is going to be less resilient if affected by change. In contrast, if you look at this solution through a social lens, then everyone has their "own piece of green space" plus it is accessible to all social classes. Fragmenting green space depending on the size of the green space (for example, if it is a block vs a backyard) is very different. If we were to strategically transform a block of the city into public green space and repeat this several times throughout the urban environment, it would be beneficial and allow more plants and animals to thrive. If green space was fragmented into strips of backyards, it would only be benefiting the people. Another constraint to giving everyone their own private "backyard" it is decreasing the amount of social interaction between neighbors and social classes.

Secondly, if we were to preserve all the remaining large ecosystems such as a prairie, forest, or national parks, ecologically that ecosystem is going to thrive and be more resilient in the case of a natural disaster or indifference. This would require that all people and development be contained within a certain boundary. Our cities would need to expand vertically instead of horizontally. If this solution was achieved we could control the amount or what type of expansion we did into the preserved areas of the natural environment.

At the end of the day, to be socially equal and considerate of all organisms on earth, we need to serve both animals and people as one cannot live without the other.

The best option for survival of both human and natural systems, would be mixed. The built environment can be contained and built dense while the natural environment is big enough to grow, strengthen, and build a rich ecosystem. If we were to move toward this model in the future, it could impact large mountainous and forested regions. Current practices are already putting these ecosystems in danger for deforesting too many trees. The next blog will talk about the correlation between urbanization and deforestation.

A — DENSE

B — MIXED

C — FRAGMENTED

Nature and City Interaction Diagram (Quincke 2018).

Deforestation + Urbanization

There are many reasons as to how rapid urbanization has happened over the past decades.
Some of the top causes are:
1. Population Growth
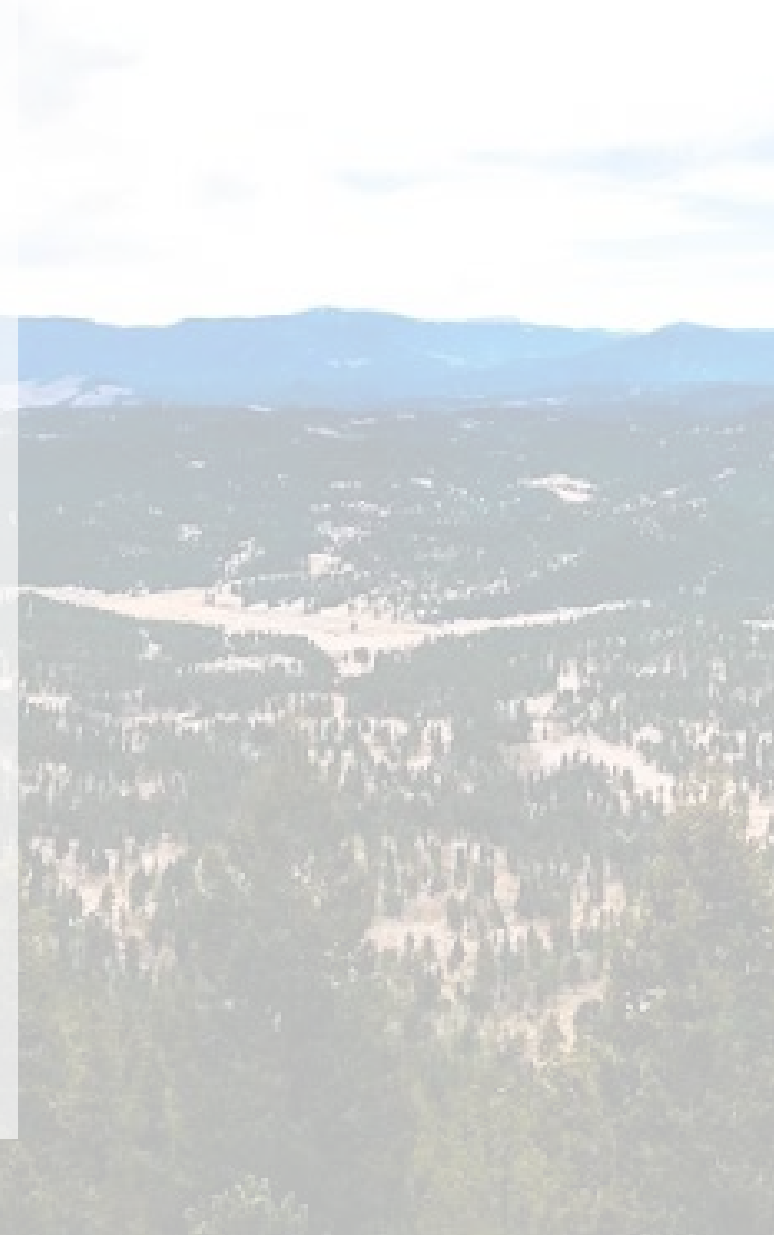2. Rural Urban Transformation
3. Employment Demand

Because there are more people in the world, there will be an increase in the amount of people created as time passes. Unfortunately, though, the pace at which the population is growing is too fast and causing serious environmental damages as the world is consuming, polluting, and spending more. The second cause is rural urban transformation. People originally wanted to move away from the cities because of the gross conditions and lack of space. But now, people living in the suburbs are realizing the difficulty of access to daily necessities such as transportation, the grocery store, social environments, and even education for their children. In result, "the world's population has grown from 2 percent to nearly 50 percent of all people living in an urban area. In 1975 only four megacities existed; in 2000 there were 18" (Torrey, 2017). Today there are approximately 46 and its still growing! (Science Museum, 2018).
The third and final reason described in this post is the expansion of employment demand. As all of the other factors are taking place and people are moving back into the cities, of course living expenses go up. It is the simple and logical idea of supply and demand. Because of this, people need jobs and not just any job, a good paying one. "It has long been accepted that urbanization attracts people to towns and cities because those are the places where jobs can be found. The pull of the city results from the expansion of the urban labor markets" (Gottman, 1978).

So, what are the effects of these three-rapid urbanization causes? The answer is complex, but in short, there are many environmental consequences. For example, because there is a higher concentration of people within the cities, there is an increase in air pollution as well as water runoff since there is less green space and trees to absorb and cleanse the air and water. In addtion, because of the speed at which the cities are growing, we cannot build more or remodel the infrastructure we have today which is mostly from the industrialization time period. That means people are living in either insufficient, poor spaces or expensive, high-end living contributing to the social gaps within cities. Lastly, with more people, comes more consumption. As stated before, people are moving to the cities for jobs so that they can make money to live comfortably (Prugh, 2016). As population increases, so does the amount at which those people consume because resources are readily available. In result of more consumption creates more waste which our earth cannot accommodate or break down fast enough generating, yet another pollution issue.

Affects from rapid urbanization is killing strong, diverse, and indispensable forests around the world.

Almost all of our products we use are made from the forested ecosystem and its trees. In Singapore, for example, in 1812 82% of the country was covered in evergreen forest. Then in 1950, rapid urbanization began. In total, Singapore has lost 90% of its forest, less than 5% of its original mangroves have disappeared, and 39% of all native coast-land plants are extinct (Mah, 2014). These numbers may sound fictitious, but the destruction of forests is happening all over the world.

So how do we solve it?

The issue is, we cannot stop gaining resources from our forests. As stated before, we get nearly all of our built products from the trees. A few solutions to mitigating deforestation is through close management, implementation of forest certification and legality verification as well as promoting sustainable forest communities by conserving forests. Respectively, the last strategy was implemented in Africa's Congo Basin Rainforest and has been considered successful as "total deforestation averaged between 1-2% during the 1990s-2010 period, compared to about 3-4% for Latin American during the two decades" (Yale University, 2014). "In 1999 the Yaounde Declaration, where [the six countries of the Congo Basin] promised to cooperate to conserve the forests of the Congo Basin. In the last 10 years…

more than 10% of the forest is now covered by two massive conservation areas. And at a second summit in 2005, the Democratic Republic of the Congo committed to protecting another 150,000sq km" (WWW, 2011).

Reusing the same land while conserving the rest is a method currently being used in Krui, Indonesia. Many people within the country were taking advantage of the forests, cutting to make profit and doing so without any licenses. To combat this, "In 1998, a decree issued by the Indonesian government enabled communities in Krui to register for concession rights over the area of state for land planted with their agroforests…the decree has been instrumental in stopping outsiders' attempts to appropriate these agroforests" (Kusters et. all, 2007).

Overall, as a city, region, country, and nation everyone needs to do their part in strategizing how forests are used for a resource. As a population, we need to remember that what we do to another forest in another country eventually affects ourselves.The next few blogs will be written about specific places and site which are trying to improve the connection between humand and nature. The first example will be a river located in my hometown-Osawatomie, KS. The second will be a greenway system in Houston, TX and the last will be about small-scale implementations in Peru.

Colorado Mountains (Hake, 2018).

The Marais des Cygnes River | Osawatomie, KS

Background

The Marais des Cygnes river is 217 miles long stretching from a small town named Reading, Kansas to Shell City, Missouri. The river is a primary tributary of the Osage River located in Missouri (USGS, 1981).

Environmental Profile

Because the river is quite long, it is surrounded by a variety of uses such as development encroachment, robust agricultural lands, grazing lands, two critical wildlife habitat areas, natural wetlands, and small suburban cities. Although not severe, there have been many contaminants found in the river of the Marais des Cygnes including "…dissolved oxygen, nutrient loading and fecal coliform bacteria which have caused eutrophication and excessive biomass and sediment" (KDHE, 2012). The main sources of these impairments include "…livestock production, home wastewater treatment systems, crop production, and stormwater runoff" (KDHE, 2012). From observations of the portion that flowed through my hometown, Osawatomie, it is surrounded by dense riparian forest that creates the north boundary of the town. There are very tall river banks, five bridges, including a railroad track, that allow vehicular connection to the northern towns and always seemed very clean aside from a lot of wood or tree trunk debris by the dam.

Length and width distances of the river (Google Earth, 2018).

People- Water Interaction

Despite these water impairments and because they are not visual impairments, many people interact with the river. Creamery Bridge, the largest bridge connecting the city of Osawatomie to the north, has had a manmade dam built to help mitigate the fast pace flow of the river. There are several areas along the Marais des Cygnes where it has been dammed for the same cause, and at one point, even creates Melvern Lake in Osage County, Kansas. Creamery Bridge is the primary location in Osawatomie where people can interact with the water as a very large parking lot was created encouraging passive uses of the river such as relaxing and fishing. The most common activities that occur are fishing, canoeing, rope swinging, swimming, and a place for "hoodlum" hang outs. It is strongly encouraged to not swim or go into the river though due to the fast pace waters and strong undercurrents that have, unfortunately, taken several lives. Lastly, research and common knowledge, proves the river is not known for its use in transport aside from recreational canoes or kayaks especially since all the dams and levee systems were introduced by the mid-1900s.

Flooding Potential

The Marais des Cygnes is highly prone to flooding during the spring/summer months. Unfortunately, the floods have been reoccurring since the mid 1800's (Chitwood, 1998). According to research, the average flood levels have been recorded between 30-35 feet and the historical high was 50 feet high in July 1951 (Chitwood, 1998). I personally experienced a flood in 2007 that crested at 36 feet high.

Three Types of Connectivity

Marais des Cygnes does not have the strongest longitudinal, vertical, or lateral connectivity. Out of the three types, the lateral connection to the river is in the best within Osawatomie. Mostly vehicular with some pedestrian access, bridges allow movement

across the river but only in five areas specific areas within the city of Osawatomie. Vertical connection is lacking due to the heights and conditions of the channel walls. Many areas of the channel are eroding and there are only stairs in one out of the five access points. Once the pedestrian reaches the waterfront they can (unsafely) vertically interact with the water itself through swimming/diving. Lastly, the longitudinal movement is by far the worst connection to the river. Unless the pedestrian is in good condition and likes recreational climbing, walking along the waterfront is difficult and is inaccessible for bicycles. In addition, the waterfront edge is inconsistent, making it hard to establish any kind of function along the banks.

Suggestions for Restoration

Overall, there could be better connectivity to the riverfront. Although vertical interaction with the water should remain discouraged

Watershed map (KDHE, 2012).

Marais des Cygne river in the summer and winter (Chitwood, 1998).

due to the strong undercurrents, the riverbanks could be developed and made more consistent for a trail system for walking and bikes along with well-designed, well lit areas for passive activities. Although the dense forest feeling of the river is nice, there could be opportunity to open up an area for better visual and physical access to the water. The parking area around Creamery Bridge has potential for expanded activity space, lighting, and accessibility to become a community space that is safe and attractive. Lastly, to help clean the water or prevent it's conditions from worsening, measures should be taken to reduce the impacts of wastewater, agriculture, and urban development on the river through strict policy, upgraded facilities, and an increase in educational opportunities so that people want to preserve the river.

In conclusion from this site, it is obvious human interaction with the river is causing some environmental damange. Is it even right to restrict people from the river? But isnt it also wrong to let people disturb the existing ecosystem through implementation of better design? In order for people to be connected to the earth, means they need to be able to interact with these ecosystems and implementation of design can create this relationship as long as the infrastructure is designed properly and minimumly. Decreasing social interaction with ecosystems such as the river could be detrimental in creating Aldo Leopold's 'land ethic' but designers and developers should not take advantage of this 'right' and always think about the environmenal affects.

Houston Greenways | Houston, TX

Background

Bayou Greenways 2020 is creating a continuous park system along Houston's major waterways, transforming more than 3,000 acres along the bayous into linear parks and adding more than 80 new miles of hike-and-bike trails. The project is being implemented across 150 miles of bayous and the first phases began in 2014. Aiming to transform the way that Houston's residents get around the city by 2020, it will mean that 60% of the population will live within 1.5 miles of a bayou. The overall project is in various stages of development and some sections are already open to the public. The goals is to connect people to nature, to their neighborhoods, and to one another.

The Greenway is broken up into 6 different trails which stretch between 9 major bayous. The $200 million project was able to happen because of a major bond referendum passed by voters in 2012 and a generous donation for the Kinder Foundation. It really goes to show how much the community and local organizations believe and want the trails.

Environmental Profile

When researching I found that there are hopes that this 'green-space renaissance' could redefine the way the rest of the world sees the city beyond the typical trappings of sprawl, pollution, and energy sector dominance. I like that the city is trying to redefine the city and move beyond just adding a small parks here and there.
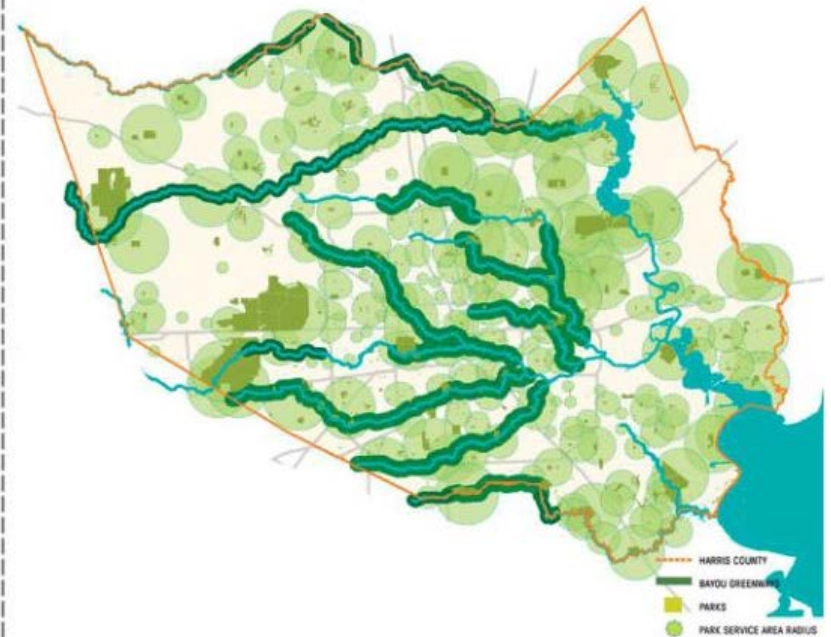
Although these improvements are great, the implementation of this trail is actively transforming people's daily lives.

Connectivity

There is a benefit in the high amount of interaction between the government at the state and city level interacting with the non-profit organizations and community members. There is a bond that is starting to happen between the commoner and the 'rule-enforcer' which needs to happen in every other city in the world. The intention and goals of the designers and organizations are being met throughout this trail.
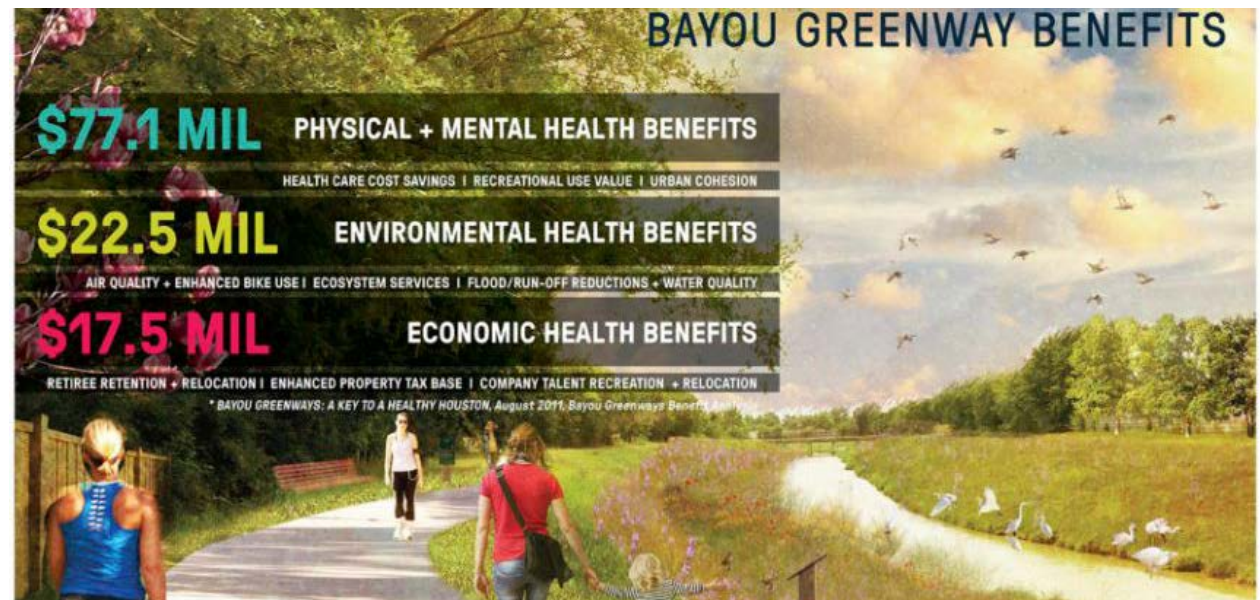

Bayou Greenways Map (SWA, 2016).

Weaknesses

One thing that isn't happening with the implementation of the trail is full connection between each of the trails. This means that some parts are not being served by the trail and those communities are not benefiting. Secondly, as with any development, there will be some damage to the natural ecosystem. There is no indication about how the designers intend to keep the bayous- which are marshy ecosystems- safe and protected from increased amount of use. The designs should be careful of pollution and deterioration of the ecosystems as more people are brought into these ecosystems. Lastly, the Bayou Conservation Association was not mentioned or did not seem to be involved in the process and implementation of the trails. Perhaps they are not in the articles and project information because it is assumed they are a part of the process or maybe they did not support the project?

Overall, the project is doing many great things for the city of Houston. Not only is the trail system providing a 'green network' for people to socialize and be connected to nature, but it is also changing the lifestyles of those within distance of the trail. It is increasing physical activity of all ages and many people choose to walk instead of drive now. It is also setting a good example to other big cities. With this in mind, there are a few suggestions for the trails.

Suggestions for Restoration

1.   Establish regular site check-up studies to make sure the marshes are not being polluted overtime and to pick up litter. This could be a good project to involve non-profits or local schools to teach them about sustainability and water ecosystems.
2.   Implement regular site survey or audit management schedules to monitor animal ecosystems and habitats. It is important that the construction of the trail does not destroy or alter existing animal shelters, food sources, and overall ecosystem
3.   I would also add more interesting trail activities or art installations to make the experience more unique than a typical paved trail. The trail could become a place of 'sustainable tourism' and educate users about the rich ecosystems, purpose, and significance of the marshes.
4.   Right now the trails are being implemented in a very 'patchy' way. I would recommend that the trails are constructed in a more formal and consistent way to prevent disturbing the ecosystems multiple times. Perhaps one trail at a should be created
5.   More lighting for night safety must be implemented. From current images it does not look like the trails would be very safe at night if families were to be walking home from the city or from a large event, ect. The lighting does not have to be wired but instead solar powered to save money, energy consumption, and construction costs.

Bayou Greenway Benefits (SWA, 2016).

Gardens, Greenspace, Health and Well-being | Lima, Peru

The NonProfit Organization

"The IUCI is a design activism, research and education program based in Seattle, Peru and Nepal. It focuses on the design, implementation and assessment of community-driven interventions in the built environment and places particular emphasis on the integrated, interdisciplinary design of distributed infrastructure and public space. The IUCI aims to improve human and environmental health and well-being, to build the capacity of designers and other professionals to work effectively with marginalized communities and to gather evidence that informs best practices in these contexts"(Spencer, Ben 2018).

Background

At a time when environmental crises are becoming more prevalent and the health industries are acknowledging the critical role the environment plays on human health, designers are stepping up to explore how landscape architectural interventions can address health issues. Informal Urban Communities Initiative (IUCI) is an initiative that began through the University of Washington. They completed the project while partnered with Land 8. Many under served communities throughout Peru were in need of assistance regarding their communities organization and creating sustainable natural systems. IUCI takes an interesting approach, by creating a collaborative experience with the communities that are being helped. Each

project addresses qualities, which include, "water quality, vector-borne disease, nutrition, and mental health and well-being. They also highlight the importance of a community-participatory approach, and bridges the divide between research and intervention, and landscape architecture and health.

Connectivity

This project brings the community together, creates a community park (active recreation), a public farmland (healthy food source) and provides a sustainable water source (with fog collectors). By providing public active space as well as a place the community can get necessities such as clean water, the project is increasing the communities health and well-being.

Planted Hillside to help with pollution runoff (IUCI, 2018).

Environmental Profile

Yes. They built 50 household gardens and provided a sustainable water source. Created a community park and improved the overall quality of life by making people happier, adding aesthetic value and brought the community together.

Weaknesses

There should be a higher installation rate of fog collectors throughout the city to increase water sources. There has been quite a few installed, but we believe that the villagers should take advantage of their extra space for the creation of water sources.

In conclustion the project created standards which could reach a broader community through replication of the projects. We saw this project as setting a standard for the quality of life for the people in ways which are affordable and obtainable. These projects in Peru are saving the environment in many ways such as protecting crucial bodies of water such as the Amazon from pollution, researching vector-borne diseases that come from mosquitoes, creating sustainable agriculture, and education the people about landscape architecture and the impact they are having on the earth. With this in mind, there are a few suggestions for the trails.

Suggestions for Restoration

The Fog Water Farms project could utilize their knowledge of the fog collectors and place them in many more places around the city of Lima.
Also, the work that they are doing are having big impacts on the cities but they are both implemented on the edges of the cities.
The projects should be in better proximity of the city center or villages so that all of the community has equal access.
The organization could be working to spread their work and initiative across a bigger scale by working in other countries.

View of Lima, Peru (IUCI, 2018).

Community Park and water collecting site (IUCI, 2018).

Political Fringe- The Pink Lake City

As a landscape architect it is important to understand the political views of each person involved in designing, developing, or implementing a project. It is also important to know how to place yourself in one's position for community meetings or a stakeholer meeting. Communicating in the profession is a crucial part of the job. This blog is about a debate completed in class where each student had to take a political 'side' about a controversal project proposed in Senegal. I took the position as an optimistic synthesis.

The proposed master plan for the new city in Senegal surrounding the famous and attractive Pink Lake, is inadequate. The plan is not considering many important aspects that is needed to create a successful, sustainable, and modern city. This is why I am against the proposal of the development:

1.   The plan is divided up into five phases all of which have different names and different design intentions. This is the first critique of the project. Because the project is divided up "strategically" as the promotional video would consider it, it is actually creating completely different segments of the city. All of these pieces are not working together to create a cohesive place. There should not be one section of the city that is just business, cultural, or just for wellness. This concept seems Utopian and not backed-up by good reasoning. Even if the master plan intends to intermingle all of the concepts throughout the city, it is not shown throughout the video, proposal document, and land use plan.

2.   Secondly, the project does not take the existing population into consideration. The proposal documents never acknowledge existing photos of the site, talk about existing living conditions or show any of the real people living in Senegal. Instead they capitalize on generic images of cultural activities, water sports, and the opportunity the city has for growth. Presenting this project as a "new slate" is not realistic. The plan does not protect current residents during construction or put it into the current phasing plan. The city is at risk for becoming gentrified, expanding economy for the rich while pushing the poor to another location.

3.   As a transition from the last point, the new development is for, and only for, the rich who can come to the "Pink Lake City." The economic growth that they are hoping for is in tourism. Although increasing international awareness about Senegal is a good idea, creating a project for only tourists without any authentic cultural integration is a bad idea. Tourists will began coming to the city, increasing economic wealth while also pushing out the native culture and habitat for animals.

4.   On that note, nothing is being done to protect the environment with this proposal. Increasing waterfront activities on the ocean and water activities on the lake is going to alter the way those ecosystems work. In addition to the water systems, the city is surrounded by forests. The ecosystems within those forest are also going to change has development is built right up to the edge and looking into the future, the development could sprawl into those forests. The promotional video did not mention any mitigation techniques about conserving forests or water ecosystems, what will happen when the sea level rises, or about educating visitors about the ecosystems that are there. These are all missed opportunities on the developer's behalf.

5.   Lastly, nothing is being supported with statistical facts or policies. How are they going to fund such a grand project? How much will a project like this cost? Who will have to pay? Especially if there is a tax increase for the entire city. There are no sustainability facts about energy conservation, how much revenue will be saved by using techniques to treat and recycle water, or with solar panels. Also, who will build this development? Likely the poor who need jobs and the money. This is not promoting social equity. Overall, it appears the government has proposed this plan without thinking about the smaller scale of government and its people. The "Pink Lake City" in Senegal has a lot of opportunity to do great things in this community but the entire plan needs to be rethought to be socially, economically, and environmentally successful.

Senegal Pink Lake City Master Plan (Illo 2009)

Social Movements

On the topic of communicating, it is important to also listen to the people or society your project is being implemented into. Social movements are one of the easiest ways to do that. Social movements are "loosely organized but sustained campaigns in support of a social goal, typically either the implementation or the prevention of a change in society's structure or values" (Turner, et al. 2018).

Doyle Timothy wrote about many different social movements which are happening all over the world, at different scales, with different people and social classes. He especially focused kon environment movements stressing that this type of movement is in fact a type of social movement. "Environmental movements are amongst the most vibrant, diverse, and powerful social movment occuirng today acorss all corners of the globe" (Timothy, 2004).

Social movements are formed for a certain group or population to advocate and stand up for related beliefs that can be economic, political, or socially related. Social movements are typically preformed as traditional public protests where anyone who wants to participates does.

New social movements are often class based and more homogenous. They are more focused on change in a larger scale therefore the "protests" take place over social media, online memberships, ect.

Lastly, the environmental movement is usually centered specifically on health, the way of life, and ecology. These movements are usually led by environmentalists and can take place at a site specific scale all the way to a national scale of membership (enotes, 2018). The following are examples of the three differnt types of social movements around the world:

Social Movement

Location: Greece (Across the county)
When: May 5, 2011
Movement: When Greece had a fairly good economy, the government decided to take advantage of it by running a large deficit. Then when the economy slowed down in the late 2000's their main sources of business-tourism and shipping- was put at risk. As a result, the country's debt began to build up. Increases in taxes and pay cuts for public spending caused riots across the country. Campaign: Activist organized by Direct Democracy Now! organization started protest in the major cities across Greece in May 2011. They first began through peaceful means by simply closing the business of airplanes, trains, or ferries in and out of the country. An estimated 100,000 people marched through the city of Athens and the peaceful movement quickly scaled to violent actions. Some activist tried to storm the parliament building where there were police and activist confrontation. With the use of tear gas, flash bombs, and smoke bombs the police were able to push the activist back. Several banks were also set on fire nearby. Five people died from inhalation of smoke from being trapped within one of the

Hundreds of people makes gestures at the Greek Parliament during the rally (Sandbrook, 2011).

Left and right wing demonstrators used weapons on each other during a mass fight in front of Greek Parliament (Sandbrook, 2011).

burning buildings.

After the campaign on May 5, 2011 there was still a lot of debate about the plan to help Greece recover from its budget deficit. Some said it might take Greece at least a decade to rebuild its economy. This campaign was the beginning of a series of socio-political movements that have happen since 2011.

New Social Movement

Location: United States (and around the world)

Movement: "Me Too" Movement is a movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault. It spread virally in the fall of 2017 as a hashtag on social media.

Campaign: It started out in the United States by Alyssa Milano an actress but quickly spread to countries around the world as people translated it into their own languages. Since the hashtag, there has been many attempts to educate men and women about the issues of sexual assault and harassment. Many men and women have come forward to tell their stories especially in the work environment. The movement was even taken as far as having the ME TOO bill passed in the US Congress in January 18, 2018 to change how sexual assault and harassment complaints were handled.

Environmental Movement

Location: International

Movement: Greenpeace is an organization established in 39 countries around the world who campaign around the world about topics such as climate change, over fishing and anti-nuclear issues. The organization is a NGO who does not accept funding from governments, corporations, or political parties and instead relies on their supporters and foundation grants.

Campaign: Greenpeace is known for their direct actions and is one of the most visible environmental organizations of the world. The practices of Greenpeace is to bring environmental issues to public knowledge through campaigns, fundraiser/benefit activities in local areas around the world, and marches. How do forms of social movements impact specific sites? The next few blogs will be written about examples

"Greenpeace exists because this fragile earth deserves a voice. It needs solutions. It needs change. It needs action."

-Greenpeace

Women and men gather to spread the word about #metoo in Edinburgh, Scotland. (Crocker, Oloffson, and Clark, 2018).

Conclusion

As one can see after reading this booklet, there are many components to landscape architecture and how it connects to social justice. Social equity is one of the most important components in any job today. By listening and understanding the needs of those around us, we can more efficienlty and empathetically provide the results that person, group, or region needs. Social equity can also mean thinking about other beings besides humans. We need to remember we live in world full of prospering ecosystems which contain so many lives that in return, sustain our lives.

The future of landscape architecture will require working and thinking from site scale to geographic scales, intermingling with the unexpected. Landscape architects will need to work with engineers, interdisciplinary designers, political officials, climatologists, non-profit organizations and many more. The problems that need to be fixed within the world are much larger than the field of landscape architecture itself. Collaboration and communication is key to beginning anything successful. Landscape architects need to be the 'glue' that holds everyone together combining our broad knowledge of politics, social justice, and the environment with experts within these fields.

"As a landscape architect, I envision our roles to be intertwined between the realms of the environment, the people, and policy. We should act as designers, advocates, educators, and citizens of the community reaching many scales in our daily work with forward-thinking goals and ideas. Overall, we have the opportunity to bond people and nature in a meaningful way, fostering stewardship, social interaction, and ecological thinking."

- Madison Quincke

Mini Eiffel Tower- Czech Republic (Quincke, 2015)

Citations

Title Page
Watercolor tree in hands. https://spiritualityhealth.com/articles/2017/10/31/new-entry

Page 4-5
Peaceful Protests. https://www.cnbc.com/2016/11/27/standing-rock-pipeline-protesters-vow-to-stay-camped-on-federal-land.html.

Page 6-7
Marsh, W. M. (2010). Landscape Planning. Wiley. (Selected Chapters)

Loh, P., & Barnett, K. (2010). Towards "Sustainability": A Colored Perspective on the Green Economy, 2–9.

Pickett, S. T. A., Burch, W. R., Dalton, S. E., Foresman, T. W., & Grove, J. M. (1997). A conceptual framework for the study of human ecosystems in urban areas. Urban Ecosystems, 185–199.

Flores, A., Pickett, S. T. ., Zipperer, W. C., Pouyat, R. V, & Pirani, R. (1998). Adopting a modern ecological view of the metropolitan landscape: the case of a greenspace system for the New York City region. Landscape and Urban Planning, 39(4), 295–308.

Page 8-9
Landscape Architecture Declaration (1966)

New Landscape Architecture Foundation Declaration (2016)

Author Unknown. 2018. http://freepik.adobe.vip/?index.php?goto=2&k=population-vector&isCat=1&isKeyword=1&color=red&vars=1&order=1

Page 10-11
Sisson, Patrick. 2016. Jane Jacobs in Today's City. https://www.curbed.com/2016/5/4/11580294/jane-jacobs-legacy-architecture-design-urban-planning.

Sagalyn, Lynne. 2016. Robert Moses' Highway Plan. https://www.mcny.org/story/cross-manhattan-expressway.

Page 12-13
Quincke, Madison. 2018. Photo in Greece.

Page 14-15
Hake, Bridget. 2018. Colorado Mountains. Photograph.

Page 16-17
Kansas Department of Health and Environment. 2012. Accessed September 14, 2018. http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/downloads/TWG_FinalReport.pdf.

Chitwood, Carol. 1998. Here We Go Again: Marais des Cygnes reaches highest level since 1951. Osawatomie Graphic. Accessed September 14, 2018. http://www.angelfire.com/hi/cjman/osawfld.html

Citations Ext.

Page 18-19
City of Houston. 2018. https://www.houstontx.gov/ecodev/bayou_greenways.html.

Page 20-21
IUCI. 2018. http://sqwater.be.washington.edu/wp/

Page 22-23
Illo Space Design Group. 2009. http://illo.co.kr/?portfolio_page=senegal-pink-lake-city-master-plan

Page 24-25
"Social Movement Theory: New Social Movement Theory" Research Starters eNotes.com, Inc. eNotes.com 8 Dec, 2018
<http://www.enotes.com/research-starters/social-movement-theory-new-social-movement-theory#research-starter-research-starter>
Sandbrook, Dominic. 2011. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2004550/Greece-riots-2011-A-crisis-tear-Europe-apart.html
Crocker, Laura, Elizabeth Olofsson, and Andrew Clark. 2018. http://www.wssociety.co.uk/features/2018/8/28/the-metoo-movement-and-its-impact-on-employment-law.
Greenpeace. https://www.greenpeace.org/international/explore/about/.

Page 26-27
Quincke, Madison. 2015. Mini Eiffel Tower- Czech Republic.