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## Knowledge Integration between Planning and Landscape Architecture in Contributing to a Better Open Space

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### Abstract

This research investigates the process and matters concern in planning for open space in urban residential area. In Malaysia, for developing a residential neighbourhood, urban planner will prepare a layout plan that applies government policies. However, the roles of a landscape architect only take places once the layout approved which has resulted to inappropriate zoning for open space in neighbourhood area. Hence, the open space is not fully utilised by the residents. Therefore, this paper explores the connections between urban planner and landscape architect in planning for open space in the residential neighbourhood.

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**Keywords:** Knowledge integration; urban planning; landscape architecture; open space

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### 1. Introduction

Open green spaces usually function as corridors for fresh air supply and facilitate good air circulation in general. It enhances the recreational quality for the public and the overall image of a place. The amount of the provision, distribution, and the ease of access to green spaces are key contributors to social and ecological functions in urban environments (Barbosa, 2007). However, these key contributors, perhaps, can occur by the knowledge integration of urban planner and landscape architect. Good landscape planning came from the knowledge integration of these two professions (Antrop, 2001). A successful implementation of landscape demands careful thought on how landscape planning concepts and thoughts can be translated and communicated to people who have to consider much more aspects than just the one

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dealing with landscape. Concepts, theories and methods from planning also need to be given careful thought in order to contribute to a successful implementation of landscape. Therefore, this paper explains the area of knowledge on planning of open spaces in the perspectives of urban planner and landscape architect. This leads us on how to integrate urban planner and landscape architect in planning of open spaces in the urban neighbourhood.

As stated by Chiesura (2004) and Tsitsoni (2002), urban greenery is an important fundamental for the quality of life in our increasingly urbanized societies. The enhancement of urban green spaces or urban forests is one of the ways, which has the potential to lighten the adverse effects of urbanization in an appropriate manner, and creating cities more attractive and comfortable to live in (Ridder et al, 2004). Green spaces of urban greenery are better known for their non-market or intangible benefits than market or tangible benefits. For example, the annual output of forest ecosystem goods and services of Beijing, China has been estimated around US \$ 6.3 billion. A study done in Beijing suggests the value of non-marketable product is 6 times more than the material goods (Wu, Hou & Yuan, 2010). Apart from Beijing, another study also are undertaken in Guangzhou, China, indicates that more than 50 % of its residents use urban greenery for recreational purpose and stress-relieving (Jim & Chen, 2006). Bolund and Hunhammar (1999) also have stated that urban open spaces provide many services that are directly used by residents. In a residential neighborhood, urban greenery such as parks, playground and recreational area provided are more for the purpose of relaxation, relief from urban stresses and to encourage the social contact. This is parallel with Volker & Flap (2011) that stated by providing meeting opportunities, they can raise the potential for developing social ties. As has been stated by Tsitsoni (1999), urban greenery refers to open spaces or green spaces such as parks, avenues of trees or any types of garden. In order to implement green spaces in the residential area, it has become the responsibility of planners and landscape architects. Figure 1 shows the integration part by landscape architect and planner field (Antrop, 2001).

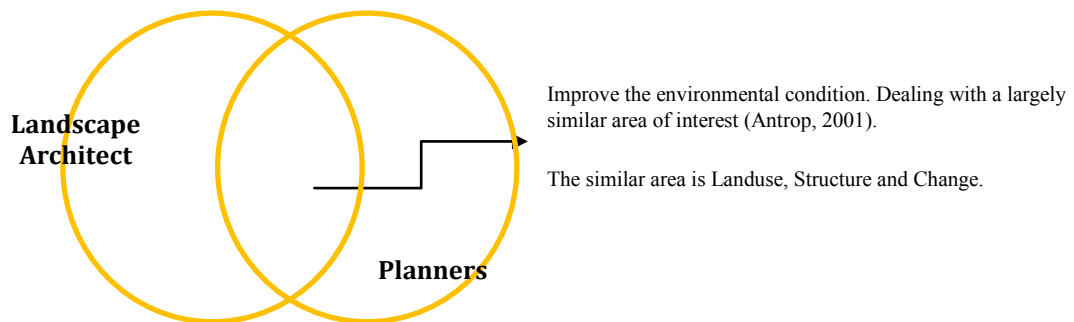


Fig. 1. Integration area of landscape architecture and planning knowledge

Figure 1 shows the integration area of landscape architecture and planning knowledge in order to have a good landscape planning. According to Antrop (2001), the similar areas that deal by both landscape architects and planners are land use, structure and change, in order to ensure the improvement of environmental condition. In this scenario, landscape architects offer the new insights about the processes acting in different spatial structures and scales. For example, the current situation in Malaysia in getting planning approval for housing development, planner will prepare a layout plan that take government policies, guidelines and other technical requirements into consideration. However, the planning layouts are prepared without involving the expertise of a landscape architect. This planning process should be reciprocity in understanding the criteria needed by landscape architect in planning for open space in order

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