

**Investigation of The Relationship Between Aesthetics And Ecological Values In
Landscape Architecture**

Duygu AKYOL^{1*}, Sema MUMCU²

¹Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi Peyzaj Mimarlığı Bölümü, Trabzon

²Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi Peyzaj Mimarlığı Bölümü, Trabzon

*Sorumlu Yazar: duyguakyol@ktu.edu.tr

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ABSTRACT

Basic components of landscape; natural characteristics, human effects and aesthetic qualities. Natural features and human impacts form the ecosystem and the existing landscape under this ecosystem. But today the landscape; The ecosystem is thought to be a separate part of the ecosystem. These definitions cause the ecological values of the landscape to be defined differently over time and the correct positioning of the landscape in the ecosystem cannot be made.

The fact that the features of the landscape are abstract and tangible and that the aesthetics are abstract, and the interpretation of the ecology under the concrete characteristics causes the relationship between the two concepts to be constantly confronted in the landscape and design and planning scales, and often the two qualities cannot be used in a project study. This point is the biggest problem; In terms of aesthetic value of the work is pushed to the background of the functionality, which actually causes the ecological dimension to be thrown into the background accordingly. Considering that the concept of aesthetics is divided into two as sensory aesthetics and symbolic aesthetics under the head of environmental aesthetics, we can see that both functionality and aesthetics can be used together in the symbolic aesthetics stage, and ecological values are involved due to this functionality.

Within the scope of the study, rhetoric about aesthetic and ecological values in the discipline of landscape architecture will be put forward and suggestions will be made about the two-valued approach and design and planning scale studies.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Landscape, ecology, aesthetic, ecological design, aesthetic values

INTRODUCTION

In Turkey, largely in a very urban green space designed with aesthetic concerns, nature and detached from the overall cycle, far from ecological concerns, the physical conditions of the area they are located and incompatible with the cultural infrastructure is located in the town of tissue as artificial fields.

These areas, created by transferring large resources and away from ecological and financial sustainability approach, are considered as a different unconscious consumption area in the rapidly depleting world for the purpose of creating magnificent landscapes.

In contemporary societies, environmental awareness that started with the kriz Urban ecology "movement in 1970s as a result of the environmental crisis of the world continued to develop in the 1980s [1] was introduced.

Within the framework of the concept, the development and protection of urban ecosystems have become increasingly important in the aim of sustainable cities and environmental balance.

This trend, called ecological approach in landscape design and management, has brought a different perspective to today's practices.

In this essay we explore the relationship between landscape aesthetics and ecology and discuss some issues for planning, design, and management that can arise when aesthetic goals come into conflict with ecological ones.

Our goals in this collaborative effort are to identify areas where we have come to agree about the aesthetics–ecology relationship and to clarify those areas for further scrutiny in research and application. We also point out where our perspectives diverge and suggest where additional work might resolve these differences.

The aesthetics–ecology relationship is a powerful but widely misunderstood manifestation of nature–society interactions, and we believe the landscape scale of human experience.

Last, we discuss how landscape design and observer knowledge interventions might serve to make aesthetic and ecological relationships more complementary in order to achieve ecological goals, and we discuss the practical implications of such interventions.

Interactions between aesthetics and ecology in landscape perception

Considering landscapes, what does aesthetics have to do with ecology? We contend that there is an intimate yet complex relationship between aesthetics and ecology that has important implications for those interested in landscape ecology—including natural scientists, modelers, geographers, land planners, designers, and managers.

This relationship also is relevant for social scientists, environmental philosophers, and others studying the causes and consequences of landscape change.

Aesthetics has not been a principal concern of many of these individuals, however. Indeed, some would argue that aesthetics has little if anything to do with the ecology of landscapes.

The linkage of landscape aesthetics and ecology

First, as we have stated above, landscape aesthetics provides a critical linkage between humans and ecological processes.

As humans, our sensory system is tied closely to our emotions, and of our emotions, pleasure has a fundamental influence on how we respond to the stimuli of our world.

The idea that landscapes are perceived as aesthetically pleasing means that people are able to distinguish beautiful scenery from a variety of landscapes. Based on habitat theory of evolutionary hypotheses, people considered aesthetic preferences to determine whether the landscape was suitable for survival [2]. Ecological and aesthetically pleasing environments provide valued experiences that can improve a person's quality of life [3]. This implies that these types of landscapes were beneficial for both human and ecological well-being. Environmental changes and urban sprawl have caused landscape resources to be under attack; therefore, it has been advised that people appreciate and protect landscape resources whether for environmental aesthetics or ethics.

Interactions Between Aesthetics and Ecology In Landscape Perception

Ecological concepts such as biodiversity, ecological health, and ecosystem services were heard of little, if at all, when aesthetics first began to affect landscape management policy[4].

Educational campaigns have helped to raise public awareness and spur action. In some situations, ecological arguments are supplanting aesthetic ones as justification for protecting the non-commodity values of landscapes. But while ecological knowledge can help foster an intellectual understanding of new management policies, such knowledge may not translate into aesthetic appreciation of ecologically beneficial landscapes[4].

This disjuncture between aesthetic experiences and ecological functions is at the heart of what we refer to here as the aesthetics–ecology debate. Humans cannot directly sense ecological quality, though there may be a tendency, based on evolutionary processes and cultural expectations, to assume that good ecological quality is associated with good aesthetic quality[4].

In some cases aesthetic and ecological values will be positively correlated, but there is no guarantee this will always be true. What is aesthetically pleasing may or may not reflect ecosystem health. Neatly tended countryside and metropolitan landscapes may be perceived as beautiful, but the deep green of fields or lawns sometimes signals poor ecosystem health[4].



Figure1 : Example of designed landscape area Figure2: Example of Natural Landscape area

A conceptual model of landscape aesthetics and ecology

Although we come to this topic of research from different disciplinary backgrounds and experiences, we all find that environment-behavior models developed in environmental psychology provide a useful starting point for describing the relationship between landscape aesthetics and ecology[5].

Environment and behavior are often described as transactional and contextual; transactional in that humans and the environment help to define and transform each other by their mutual interactions over time; contextual in that human behavior is shaped by the qualities of particular places and situations.

Change is an important outcome of person-landscape and person–person landscape transactions, and changes that occur within a given context and scale affect other scales of both socio–cultural and ecological systems[5].

In this figure we build upon these ideas in a conceptual model that attempts to make explicit the relationship between aesthetics and ecology. As with most environment-behavior models, we portray humans and the environment as discrete but interacting sets.

What distinguishes our model from others is its attention to the scale of landscape patterns that constitute what humans perceive as their surroundings. This is the critical perceptible realm where aesthetic experience occurs and where intentional actions toward landscapes can directly or indirectly affect ecological functions.

Significantly, this perceptible realm provides the most active intentional contact between environmental and human phenomena— where the process of perception leading to action most directly links human systems with ecosystems.

LANDSCAPE TYPES MODIFY AESTHETIC EXPERIENCES

Wildland landscapes

The aesthetic experience most often associated with wildland landscapes encountered in the context of recreational pursuits has typically emphasized natural scenic beauty or what some have called a scenic aesthetic. Landscape perception studies conducted in this context have generally shown a strong, positive correlation between perceived scenic beauty and perceived naturalness.

We acknowledge that naturalness is an ambiguous and contested term, and that most if not all “wild” landscapes are in fact significantly influenced by human activity. Yet despite the slipperiness of this concept, there is a preponderance of evidence suggesting that for many wildlands, perceived naturalness maps closely with more objectively quantified indicators of ecological quality. In wildlands, landscape patterns that are perceived as natural are often also perceived as scenically beautiful and thus scenically beautiful landscapes may often be of high-ecological quality[6].

Agricultural Landscapes

Care is an aesthetic that, unlike the scenic aesthetic, depends on perceptible cues of continuous human presence. It invites human engagement in changing and maintaining landscapes, and this engagement is perceived as benevolent. Reflecting situational expectations different from the scenic aesthetic, landscape features that are cues to care are read not only as pleasing patterns and colors, but as social gestures of neighborly consideration.

Agricultural landscapes also exemplify the effect that situational context has on aesthetic experience. Farmers who are regularly engaged in working the land often have sophisticated knowledge of the ecological processes that affect agriculture, as well as nuanced perceptions of landscape features that are salient to the success of agricultural enterprises[7].

Metropolitan Landscapes

Metropolitan landscapes embody perhaps the greatest variety of aesthetic experience types. Metropolitan areas include private lands such as residential and business land uses as well as public open spaces such as parks and conservancy areas. They range in extent and location from very small plazas and yards in the center city to large conservation areas at the urban fringe.

These landscapes are highly dominated by human intent, though they often include intentionally natural areas or abandoned sites that can look quite wild. Finally, their cultural character reflects the diversity of the groups that maintain or have an interest in the landscape, and may cater to ethnic preferences as well as class, user, and interest group preferences[8].

The Status Of The Turkey In Landscape Ecology And Aesthetics

In Turkey, largely in a very urban green space designed with aesthetic concerns, nature and detached from the overall cycle, far from ecological concerns, the physical conditions of the area they are located and incompatible with the cultural infrastructure is located in the town of tissue as artificial fields.

These areas, created by transferring large resources and away from ecological and financial sustainability approach, are considered as a different unconscious consumption area in the rapidly depleting world in order to create magnificent landscapes.

In addition to this, the intense use of the area brought with the aim of getting the most benefit from the area damages the natural structure.

Designs, which are often created with high aesthetic concerns, tend to load a different landscape character into the area and change the aesthetic perception of the users from nature to structure over time [9].

Cranz (2000)[10] emphasizes that this change in aesthetic values changes the lifestyle and consumption perception of the users negatively, and argues that these practices, which are far from sustainability concerns, cause damage to the ecological balance as well as the rapid depletion of natural resources.



Fig.3. Example of landscape design from Turkey

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Related to landscape change, we suggest that landscape patterns that elicit aesthetic responses of immediate pleasure or displeasure are an important starting point for formulating actions to affect landscape change.

While certainly not all aesthetic pleasure from landscapes is a response to ecologically beneficial landscape patterns, we do argue that future landscape patterns, human experiences, and actions can be devised to create landscapes of all types that are ecologically beneficial and simultaneously elicit aesthetic pleasure.

Landscape planning, design, and management that address the aesthetics of future landscape patterns, then, can be powerful ways to protect and enhance ecological goals.

Working together on this collaborative paper has forced us to sort through our various disciplinary perspectives, experiences, and differences to arrive at some common understandings about what ecology has to do with landscape aesthetics, and to more sharply delimit areas for future inquiry. Our conceptual model of aesthetic–ecological relationships is indeed a work in progress, and we invite others to critique and expand upon what we have explored here.

On the other hand, the view that glorifies the aesthetics brought by popular culture also influenced the viewpoint of the natural and cultural environment and caused the urban landscape to be considered only aesthetically and decoratively. This perspective, which limits the ecological functions of urban green

areas by decreasing natural value, has turned to applications requiring high energy and natural resource usage in order to reach the expected aesthetic product.

Turkey also "in charge of local governments on urban green spaces, not given professional sufficient staff subject for political reasons or lack of sufficient educational and cultural infrastructure of the unit administrator can be represented as a different reason for the current implementation approach.

The first movement towards the solution of the problem should begin by recognizing the importance of the issue and forming public opinion. The responsibility in this respect is predominantly on our universities, which constitute the scientific basis. The relevant requirements and current developments should be brought to the agenda by the scientists in relevant environments, and scientific meetings should be organized with the participation of interest groups in order to share knowledge and increase awareness.

And finally, local governments should be included in these programs and awareness raising and mobilization of non-governmental organizations should be adopted as a general policy. For this purpose, scientific meetings, training seminars should be organized and the publication and distribution of printed information should be organized. The concepts of ecological design and sustainability should be included in the agenda of vocational education. Professionals who will step into the profession should be assimilated to these concepts and to evaluate these concepts regardless of the size of their professional practices.

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