

# Meaning of Landscape

## ENPL232

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# Landscape

- Human (agric., social rice field china, Egypt
- Use, human intervention, Planning

# landscape

- The word landscape (in German *Landschaft*, Dutch *landschap* and the old English word *landscipe*) combines two words; land means both place and people, and 'scape' means shape (Jackson, 1984).
- To Americans, landscape means a natural scenery, whereas in England a landscape associates people with place (Jackson, 1984; Spirn, 1998).
- In the twentieth century, the words environment and place were frequently used to replace the term landscape (Spirn, 1998).

- “landscape is not a **scenery**, is not a political unit; it is really more than a collection, **it is never simply a natural space, or feature of natural environment; it is a system of man-made space on the surface of the earth**. It is always artificial, always synthetic, always subject to sudden or unpredictable change. We create them and need them because every landscape is the place where we establish our own human organization of space and time”. Jackson (1984: 156)

- “land becomes landscape when it is described or seen in terms of its physiological and environmental characteristics. Landscape varies according to these characteristics and according to the historical impact of man on it. Thus landscape is a reflection of dynamic, natural, and social systems, which means that landscape is dynamic and ever changing” (Laurie, 1986: 1& 7).

- Olwig (1996; 2005) argues that the definition of landscape has been shifted from landscape as scenery to a landscape as polity and place, where a landscape is conceived as a political and cultural entity.

- “Landscapes are the expression of interaction between the natural environment and man’s activities who tries to make his environment more suitable for his needs.” (Antrop, 1998: 156)

- “A zone or an area as perceived by local people or visitors, whose visual features and character are the result of the **action of natural and/or cultural (that is, human) factors**. This definition reflects the idea that landscapes evolve through time as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human. It also underlines that a landscape forms a whole, whose **natural and cultural** components are taken together, not separately.” (European Landscape Convention, 2000: Article 1: a)

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- “The term landscape ceased to define as a way of seeing, instead becomes potentially expressive of being in the world itself: landscape as an environment, location or setting of engagement and involvement. Landscape as “lifeworld”, as a world to live in, not a scene to view.” (Wylie, 2007: 149)

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- The equivalent term to ‘landscape’ in Arabic is *Al Manthar* or *Al Mashhad*, which in the Al-Mawred dictionary is defined as the “beautiful scenery” or the “natural rural beautiful scene”. The verb “to landscape” means to change the scenery and make it look better. *Manthar* is derived from the verb *nathar* which means to look or see, and *mashhad* is derived from the verb *shahada* which also means to see. Both *Manthar* and *Mashhad* mean landscape (Ba'albaki, 2005). The following words are also used in Arabic: seascape (*mashhad Albahar*), landscape (*mashhad rifi rae'a*), scene (*mashhad*) and scenery (*mashhad*).

- “In its original meaning, *mandhar* or *manthar* denotes what the eye sees, beautiful or ugly, without limitation, and with reference to a space or to an object that can be a mountain summit or some other elevated point. The word *mashhad* also evokes landscape but with a second meaning, that of scene. This meaning is very characteristic in miniatures: the figures seem to be performing roles. **The landscape is the scene in which the action takes place.** This hypothesis arises because the name *Mouchahid*, spectator, is derived from the verb ***Shahada*: to be a witness of something.** This suggests that one is watching a spectacle that could be a natural environment.” (Latiri, 2001: 3)

- The Arabic definition also involves a scene that may be part of nature, urban, everyday life and aesthetics. This scene could be pleasing or not. **The word *Khala* in Arabic, meaning nature, is associated with meditation (Latiri, 2001).**
- This means that the word landscape in Arabic is not always linked to beautiful scenery; it also implies ordinary landscape.

- Edward Said: memory, place, landscape 1999
- William Mitchell: idology 1999
- Samar Nazer: place, space, landscape  
everyday landscape 2008

- “Cultural landscapes are those which have been intentionally modified by humans but nature still plays some role. They range from landscape with traces of human habitation and agriculture, to heavily modified landscapes of intensive agriculture and sparse settlements of indigenous cultures. Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.” (Brady, 2003: 70)
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# Landscape architecture

- Portion of landscape which is developed and shaped by man, beyond buildings, roads, or utilities and up to wild nature, designed primarily as a space for human living(not including agriculture and forestry)
- It is the establishment of relations between building, surfacing and the other outdoor construction, earth, rock forms, water bodies, plants and open spaces, and the general form of the landscape; with primary emphasis on human content. It is the relationship between human beings and three-dimensional outdoor space.

# Practice of landscape architecture

- Evaluation
- Landscape planning
- Landscape design
- Urban design



# Theory of landscape architecture

- **Natural process** (geology, soil, topography climate, vegetation, ecology,
- **Human factor** (cultural variation use, appreciation, perception, behavior, needs)
- **Methodology** (problem defined, factors and variables, given values, computer drawing analytical techniques)
- **Technology** (means by which design is implemented and policy depend on, material and machinery)
- **Values** have to be lived experienced, ethic environment quality aesthetic ecology