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Public Space as Landscape Experience of Happiness: A Surprise Public Garden amidst Water and Large Blocks of Woodland

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A Surprise Public Garden amidst Water and Large Blocks of Woodland as a Model for the Development of Urban Green Space

The suggested ecological concept of urban green space is a series of gardens by the water edge connected through a network of footpaths with large blocks of woodland, creating therefore a natural framework at the city's waterfront perimeter. Nature reserves are also located around the edge of the city and linked via the woodlands to man-made ecosystems which penetrate into the urban fabric and encourage wildlife. It is a design scheme about how multi-sensory experiences can be merged with landscape architecture in order to integrate humans into spatial landscape elements creating meaningful places, and producing distinctive memorable designs which harbor extraordinary experiences that promote happiness. By artfully exploring and applying multi-sensory experiences as a key design tool to the field of landscape architecture, designers can integrate the mind, body, and soul into the senses to create optimal experiences. The designed peripatetic pathways and platforms are simple in architectural synthesis since it was limited in the use of simple geometric forms of small dimensions: square surfaces 4.00 x 4.00m and orthogonal surfaces 4.00x8.00m in a stark contrast with the complexity that characterizes the city fabric.

The proposed illusionary designed natural

place for relaxation is close to a contemporary dense city where human beings may dwell and explore its natural ecosystems of fauna and flora. It represents a series of gardens-platforms and large blocks of woodland close to the water edge which achieve similar dislocations of space and incitements to the imagination. It is a peripatetic garden that shares its place between the movement through the natural ecosystem and the archipelago. It is a fictional place of happiness made out of enclosures and openings, views towards the sea and the natural ecosystem, large blocks of woodland, a garden path between the visual and the tactile. Water adds a touch of magic to the scenery. It reflects the many moods and colors of the sky, and its surface is patterned and textured by the multiple landscape elements and forms.

The proposed large blocks of woodland bring immense value to the overall scheme, including from environmental benefits and physical health to the more subtle components of well being like stress levels and happiness. Urban woodlands may contribute to the kinds of vibrant spaces that people want to inhabit and the kinds of cities that residents can't help but feel connected to once landscape architects admit and celebrate their role in creating vibrant urban environments.

The series of gardens-platforms and large blocks of woodland become as a result of body/space, feeling and felt, viewed beyond the ordinary "ways of seeing" landscape and touched, addressing the walking experience, a poetic matrix of a living zone of vegetation, wood and stone, a utopian project that may be a lesson for the contemporary practitioner of landscape design. Colors and textures create a bubble of happiness, a tribute to science and wonder, an earthly paradise where visitors will be able to connect with nature and ultimately with their own human souls.



city within
Landscape happiness



Happiness and Public Space: Exhibition edited by Marchela Sepe

Human affection towards urban green spaces originates from our need for nature. It provides us with the reminder that we are connected with the land from the very beginning of our lives. We need to take off our shoes on occasion-walk in the grass, feel the sun on our face, breathe the warmth of the sun. And we need the opportunity to be able to stretch as well. Public space has always been a source of quality within the urban fabric as evidenced through history. Designed landscapes are important parts of our environment, they affect our experiences, feelings, memories, and ultimately the lives we live. Therefore, to explore the connection between landscape architecture and the human experience through geometries and materiality is a serious design task.

The suggested ecological concept of urban green space is a series of gardens by the water edge connected through a network of footpaths with large blocks of woodland, creating therefore a natural framework at the city's waterfront perimeter. Nature reserves are also located around the edge of the city and linked via the woodlands to man-made ecosystems which penetrate into the urban fabric and encourage wildlife. It is a design scheme that has several sensory experiences can be merged with landscape architecture in order to integrate humans into spatial landscape elements. The design process and producing of an interactive memorable design through experiential opportunities that promote happiness. By utilizing the natural ecology and sensory experiences as a key design tool to the landscape architects and designers can integrate the mind, body and soul into the spaces to create optimal experiences. The designed peripathic pathways and platforms are simple in architectural synthesis since it was limited in the use of simple geometric forms of small dimensions: square surfaces 4.00 x 4.00m and orthogonal surfaces 4.00x8.00m in a stark contrast with the complexity that characterizes the city fabric.

The proposed illusionary designed natural place for relaxation is close to a contemporary dense city where human beings may dwell and explore its natural ecosystems of fauna and flora. It represents a series of gardens-platforms and large blocks of woodland close to the water edge which achieve similar dispositions of space and elements to the imagination. It is a peripathic garden that shares its place between the movement through the natural ecosystem and the human-made. It is a fictional place of happiness made out of experiential elements. It is a place that opens up a view towards the water and the city, creating a large scale of interaction between the water and the tactile. The design process is a journey to the sensory, reflecting the many moods and colors of the sky and the surface, textured by the multiple landscape elements and forms.

The proposed large blocks of woodland bring immense value to the overall scheme, including from environmental benefits and physical health to the more subtle components of well being like stress levels and happiness. Urban woodlands may contribute to the kinds of vibrant spaces that people want to inhabit and the kinds of cities that residents can't help but feel connected to once landscape architects admit and celebrate their role in creating vibrant urban environments.

The series of gardens-platforms and large blocks of woodland become as a result of body/space, feeling and felt, viewed beyond the ordinary "ways of seeing" landscape and touched, addressing the walking experience, a poetic matrix of a living zone of vegetation, wood and stone; a utopian project that may be a lesson for the contemporary practitioner of landscape design. Colors and textures create a bubble of happiness; a tribute to science and wonder, an earthly paradise where visitors will be able to loosen the grip of the ordinary, regain faith in the human species, and its capabilities and rediscover the myths ways to connect with nature and ultimately our own human souls. Such attributes ultimately lead to a sense of well-being, a sense of achievement, magic and wonder. Paraphrasing Oscar Wilde's statement about the function of architecture, we can argue that landscape architecture is about surprise and the creation of sensational places that offer the gift of happiness to all human beings. Landscape Architecture is about reflecting on man's existence on earth through gentle inventions on the land that offer to ordinary people the emotion of newness, a sense of delight and pleasure, a borderland between reality and fantasy to escape the trappings of the modern world and reconnect humanity with nature. This is what landscape architects can do, nothing more.

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