

Reflection

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Track: Landscape Architecture

Graduation Studio: Flowscape

MOTIVATION THROUGH FLOWSCAPE

The graduation studio of flowscape explores infrastructure as a type of landscape and landscape as a type of infrastructure (cf. Strang, 1996). Landscape infrastructure actually integrate “flows” which are nature and human process and movement and “scapes” which are defined and considered as spatial entity. Under this background, I choose the topic of sustainability of living environment which relates to urban public landscape structure and urban growing process. The motivation is to get a kind of landscape network which works well with rapidly developing modern cities.

CASE SELECTION

Majority of modern cities along the world are facing with a same issue of urban regeneration. When the city develops, the scale of city is expanding; the urban function is becoming more complicated, refined and overlapped; Some cities bring more land under cultivation and some develop satellite cities. More or less, they ask more lands and to a certain extent, forcibly occupy the space for nature. Petržalka, the new city part of Bratislava, of which is Slovakia's capital. Petržalka is blocked by country boundary lines of Austria, Slovakia and the River Danube. The urban area of Petržalka is fixed and limited. Hence, it is not feasible to expand city to meet the requirements with urban development. I choose that special site to look for a landscape solution to upgrade the city environment condition in limited space and bring its current spare area into full play.

NEW APPROACH OF PUBLIC LANDSCAPE SPACE DESIGN IN URBAN CONTEXT

At first, my goal is using the urban public space design to develop a sustainable living environment. I use Layer Approach as methodology to find the problems and shortage of current landscape space, to develop new landscape architecture. After that, linking those new spots and get a new landscape network.

I use Petržalka as an example to test how this method works. Through the recognition of layer analysis and specific problems within it, coming up with my research question: which kind of living environment can be regarded as sustainable?

I do some research and survey and at last adopt the PPS: sociability, uses & activities, access & linkages and comfort & image. Combining the condition of Petržalka, it comes increasing the interaction of Petržalka. Here is my research question: How to use landscape as infrastructure of urban space to enhance the interaction of urban public space and create high-quality living environment?

With the result of Layer Approach analysis, case study and further site reading and analysis, I utilize a new structure built process instead of the former that develop a network through

many high potential urban redevelopment. Firstly, based on the potential mapping, I begin with the central part of Petržalka (canal) and divide the spots into different types: canal edges, water room, recreation spot and neighborhood yard. I choose specific point of each type and make the design as a model for other same type points. The urban regeneration will happen in the center and spread to the corner of city with its transport, and finally lead to a free overlapped of nature and urbanism.

WHAT COULD WE LEARN FROM THE APPROACH?

The new approach is not from spots to surfaces as former, it is from surfaces to spots. By this converse, it gives a tonic for the development of whole Petržalka. Landscape architecture become the stump of the tree named Petržalka and gradually growing branches.

In wider context, for instance, when it comes to metropolitan cities, plenty spared green space maybe not exists there. However, we can divide the great city into several smaller zones and point a landscape core of that zone, which helps tidy and refine the specific spirit. From the perspective of large scale, landscape cores mean potential commercial or transport spots of city. With numbers of them, it helps to moderate contemporary urban disease, such as excessive dense area. Moreover, the connection of landscape cores can be developed into new transport lines, making a higher efficient urban infrastructure system. The new approach provides an integrated design framework of organizing urban public space and also considers the bottom-up initiatives. It provides an overall spatial planning structure and also gives the flexibility to develop and operate.