

Landscape Architecture Design (Dr. Seiko Goto)

Mission

The study of landscape architecture emerged in the United States during the 19th century, beginning with the development of Central Park in New York City. Landscape architecture involves a multi-disciplinary approach that contributes to the design of outdoor spaces, including national and urban parks as well as private gardens, with the intention of achieving various environmental, social-behavioral, or aesthetic aims. Although nature has always been important for the wellbeing of any organism, the role of designed landscapes has changed throughout history. Our research examines how landscape design can be used to solve environmental and ecological problems, and support the wellbeing of the people who interact with the designed space. We are constantly encouraging our students to develop their abilities and emerge as leaders in both environmental design and horticultural therapy.



Main themes of studies

Landscape Design for Society

Ground zero was opened in 2011, 11 years after the suicide attacks known as September 11 attacks, which was broadcasted worldwide. The new space was designed as the symbol of United States which symbolizes not only the most advanced building technology and economic strength but also to cover the “feeling of danger” and give visitors a cool New Yorker’s amenity space. We research such contemporary landscape designs in the world, and review various functions and expectations of the landscape design for urban cities.



Landscape Design for Historic Preservation

Byōdō-in, one of the most representative Pure Land gardens in Japan, was erected in dedication to Amitābha by Fujiwara Yorimichi (990–1074) in 1053, the first year of *mappō*, when the concept of Pure Land first became popular. The garden and temple were reconstructed based on thorough research of historic accounts in order to represent the image of Pure Land during the Heian period. Researching historic gardens throughout the world to determine how they should be rediscovered and implemented in the 21st century is one of our main areas of investigation.

Landscape Design for Horticultural Therapy

Horticultural therapy uses gardening-related activities to aid in patients' mental and physical rehabilitation, and was first developed in the United States. As the beneficial effects of horticultural therapy were established, it was adopted for use in rehabilitation programs at many Japanese medical institutions. Our research examines which activities, plant selection, and garden design, are best suited for both Japanese climate and culture.



Landscape Design for Meditative Effects

Zen gardens are a unique style of garden that were developed in order to aid meditation by providing tranquil viewing spaces. The soothing effects of some Zen gardens, such as the gardens located at Ryoan Temple, have led to similar designs having been implemented or maintained for hundreds of years. Our research aims to determine the true benefit of viewing a tranquil space and whether any soothing effects or medical benefits can be quantified scientifically. Ours research involves a multi-disciplinary approach and collaboration with other professionals at universities throughout the world.

