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Faculty of Engineering

Ain Shams University

# **SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE IN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS URBAN DESIGN**

By

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## STATEMENT

This thesis is submitted to Ain Shams University for the degree of Master in Architecture. The work included in this thesis was accomplished by the author at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering; Ain shams University.

No part of this thesis has been submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other university or institute.

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to reach a set of comprehensive guidelines and checklist for sustainable landscape measures in university campuses. The study managed to examine the state of campus landscape in some of the contemporary universities in Egypt and check the application of sustainability regarding campus landscape.

The thesis is based on four qualities affecting sustainable landscape. The qualities are: Physical qualities, ecological qualities, individual use qualities and social qualities. The integration of these qualities covers two pillars of sustainability which are environmental and social sustainability. The two first qualities target how physical urban properties could function efficiently performing the required benefit and at the same time serving and protecting the ecosystem. The last two qualities focus on another factor which is the user.

The first four chapters included theoretical data from literature, reports and best practices clarifying the application of sustainable measures in landscape and its reflection on the university campus landscape. Physical qualities included: Connectivity, edges and gateways, different circulations on campus, spaces and facilities provided. This aspect focused on the efficient operation of campus and how to reach optimum cases related to urban design. Ecological qualities included: Water, vegetation, soil and materials. This aspect focused on less consumption of resources and energy, enhancing and protecting nature and returning back to nature resemblance. The individual use qualities included: Wayfinding, safety and identity. Individual use qualities discussed ease of movement, interaction and sense of belonging of users. The social qualities included: friendship formation, group membership, communications, spatial separation based on social characteristics, gender differences, participation and the impact of physical space on social space.

The methods used are deductive in the theoretical part reaching compilation of different elements to be added on the guidelines' checklist. Some relevant points from "SITES" rating system for sustainable sites were added to the list. The process of validating the list according to the guidance of expertise in the field of landscape architecture occurred. Questionnaires and interviews' questions were formulated to use for the selected case studies based on theoretical part. A cross-cutting relational table was generated to highlight the interactions between different qualities complying with the main target of sustainability creating a holistic and integrated approach.

The selection of the three cases –American University in Cairo (AUC), German University in Cairo (GUC) and British University in Egypt (BUE) - was based on recently opened campuses that could be more manageable and updated to

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apply the measures of sustainable landscape. The three campuses are of different sizes sharing the desert common environment. Cases were analyzed according the checklist by visiting the cases and discussing points with units responsible for landscape management on campus. Questionnaires were distributed online and interviews were conducted to understand further relations on campus from different users.

According to the studied cases, the sustainability of landscape is still only achieved in limited fields especially the ecological qualities. Physical elements are mostly fine due to the good design of campuses especially the AUC. Even though AUC was the only campus of the three cases having actual steps towards the implementation of sustainable measures before construction and during operation, many aspects are still not achieved. Many elements need to be taken into consideration before construction as water systems, vegetation and soil. The main motive is the economic benefit in most cases while the ecological benefit is not obvious. The study resulted in a comprehensive comparison highlighting the main applied measures and main defects, a cross-cutting relational table for each case showing the integration between qualities positively and negatively, and the classification of the compiled checklist showing the degree of application.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>STATEMENT</b> .....	i
<b>BOARD OF EXAMINERS</b> .....	ii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	iii
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	iv
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	vi
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	xi
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	xix
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b> .....	xxi
Introduction.....	xxii
Overview.....	xxv
Research problem .....	xxx
Research Hypothesis.....	xxx
Research objectives .....	xxxi
Research scope and limitations .....	xxxi
Research Methodology .....	xxxv
Research Structure.....	xxxix
Previous Theses.....	xli
<b>PART 1 THEORETICAL PART</b> .....	1
<b>Chapter 1: Physical Qualities of Sustainable Campus Landscape</b> .	3
1.1 Introduction.....	5
1.2 Connectivity and permeability of Campus Landscape: .....	5
1.3 Campus edges and gateways.....	10
1.4 Different circulations on the university campus.....	10
1.4.1 Criteria for efficient circulation systems and their interaction .	15
1.5 Spaces .....	18



---

1.6	Utilities, services and amenities on campus.....	22
1.6.1	Buses and taxis .....	22
1.6.2	Parking .....	23
1.6.3	Street furniture.....	24
1.6.4	Lighting.....	25
1.7	Conclusion .....	26
1.7.1	Cross-cutting relations of physical aspects with other aspects .....	27
<b>Chapter 2: Ecological Qualities of Sustainable Campus</b>		
<b>Landscape</b>	.....	29
2.1	Introduction.....	31
2.2	Water .....	33
2.2.1	Storm water management.....	35
2.2.2	Water conservation .....	57
2.2.3	Water reuse and water recycling.....	58
2.2.4	Water storage.....	60
2.2.5	Irrigation.....	60
2.3	Vegetation.....	64
2.3.1	Relevance to the site .....	64
2.3.2	Vegetation providing ecological qualities .....	67
2.3.3	Vegetation protection techniques .....	70
2.3.4	Sustainable planting design and management .....	71
2.3.5	Salvaged and reused vegetation.....	76
2.3.6	Special vegetation uses .....	76
2.4	Soil .....	82
2.4.1	Soil in site assessment.....	83
2.4.2	Soil composition, characteristics and layers.....	86
2.4.3	Characteristics of soil.....	89
2.4.4	Modification of soils .....	96

---

2.5	Materials .....	102
2.5.1	Lifecycle of construction materials.....	103
2.5.2	Impact of materials .....	105
2.5.3	Materials' assessment .....	108
2.5.4	Different materials .....	112
2.6	Conclusion .....	116
2.6.1	Cross-cutting relation between ecological qualities and other qualities .....	119
<b>Chapter 3: Individual Use Qualities of Sustainable Campus Landscape .....</b>		<b>121</b>
3.1	Introduction.....	123
3.2	Legibility and Wayfinding .....	123
3.2.1	Way finding strategies .....	125
3.2.2	Process of design .....	126
3.2.3	Some criteria for the way finding signs and designs .....	128
3.2.4	Sustainability linked to wayfinding .....	129
3.3	Safety .....	130
3.3.1	Safety through design criteria.....	130
3.3.2	Safety through individual perception.....	131
3.4	Territoriality and identity .....	133
3.4.1	Placemaking by buildings and building elements.....	134
3.4.2	Landmarks of landscape elements .....	138
3.4.3	Style as a factor of place making.....	139
3.5	Aesthetics on campus .....	140
3.5.1	Visual Character .....	142
3.6	Conclusion .....	142
<b>Chapter 4: Social Qualities on Sustainable Campus Landscape .</b>		<b>145</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	149
	Different types of social interaction.....	152

---

4.2	Friendship formation .....	152
4.2.1	Some criteria for friendship formation in open areas and walkways .....	153
4.3	Group membership .....	154
4.3.1	Informal social centers on campus.....	155
4.4	Communications.....	156
4.5	Identity and territoriality as a social quality.....	157
4.6	Different Social Distances .....	158
4.7	Spatial separation due to social characteristics .....	159
4.8	Gender differences affecting social quality.....	160
4.9	Public participation and its impact .....	160
4.10	The relation between physical spaces and social interactions.....	163
4.11	Conclusion .....	163
4.12	Generation of basic checklist, questionnaire and questions for interviews .....	163
4.13	Cross cutting relations between 4 studied qualities .....	164
<b>PART 2 EMPIRICAL PART .....</b>		<b>147</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Case Studies: American University in Cairo, German University in Cairo &amp; British University in Egypt .....</b>		<b>149</b>
5.1	Introduction.....	169
5.2	British University in Egypt (BUE) Fig. 67 .....	169
5.2.1	Physical qualities on campus.....	171
5.2.2	Ecological qualities on campus .....	178
5.2.3	Individual use qualities on campus .....	182
5.2.4	Social qualities on campus .....	186
5.2.5	Conclusion for BUE campus .....	188
5.2.6	Cross-cutting relations for BUE campus.....	188
5.3	German University in Cairo (GUC) Fig. 98.....	191
5.3.1	Physical qualities on campus.....	192

---

5.3.2	Ecological qualities on campus .....	199
5.3.3	Individual qualities on campus .....	202
5.3.4	Social qualities on campus .....	206
5.3.5	Conclusion for GUC campus.....	209
5.3.6	Cross-cutting relations for GUC campus .....	210
5.4	The American University in Cairo (AUC).....	213
5.4.1	Physical qualities on campus.....	214
5.4.2	Ecological qualities on campus .....	226
5.4.3	Individual qualities on campus .....	231
5.4.4	Social qualities on campus .....	235
5.4.5	Conclusion for AUC campus.....	238
5.4.6	Cross-cutting relations for AUC campus .....	239
5.5	Comparative analysis of the three case studies .....	243
5.5.1	Schematic percentages according to checklist.....	243
5.5.2	Comparison of the three campuses .....	246
<b>Conclusions and Recommendations .....</b>		<b>255</b>
	Classified checklist .....	257
	Conclusions .....	278
	Recommendations .....	281
<b>Further Research.....</b>		<b>282</b>
<b>References.....</b>		<b>283</b>
<b>Appendices.....</b>		<b>292</b>
	Appendix A (Interviews) .....	294
	Appendix B (Questionnaire) .....	298

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## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 Different aspects of sustainability covered through the research .....	xxxii
Fig. 2 Exclusion of economical aspect .....	xxxiii
Fig. 3 Structure showing the theoretical and the application parts.....	xl
Fig. 4 Clarification of different connectivity definitions (Tresidder, 2005) .....	7
Fig. 5 Bochum University Campus (Dober, 2000, p. 108) .....	13
Fig. 6 College of San Mateo (Dober, 2000, p. 109) .....	14
Fig. 7 University of Guelph (Dober, 2000, p. 110) .....	15
Fig. 8 Typical Campus Street Layout at a Crosswalk in UNB Fredericton Campus. UNB Fredericton Campus Plan P.79.....	17
Fig. 9 Typical Campus Street Section at a Crosswalk in UNB Fredericton Campus. UNB Fredericton Campus Plan P.79.....	17
Fig. 10 Different types of space organization (Dober, 2000, p. 162) .....	19
Fig. 11 The comparison between the concentrated flow of water and the dispersed one (Calkins, 2012 kindle version).....	37
Fig. 12 Diagrammatic layout showing the introduction of stormwater management techniques on Princeton University Campus .....	38
Fig. 13 Green roofs of dormitories of Princeton University, photo by Brian Wilson .....	39
Fig. 14 The construction board of the project of the bioretention in Missouri (University of Missouri Campus Facilities, 2013) .....	40
Fig. 15 The final steps of the bioretention project in University of Missouri (University of Missouri Campus Facilities, 2013) .....	41
Fig. 16 The small yellow signs at Pierce County Environmental Services, Tacoma, are an excellent example of creating fun education opportunities that lead visitors through the design from one treatment system to another (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2585).....	42
Fig. 17 Signs with names and characteristics of used vegetative species (Carol R. Johnson Associates, 2012) .....	42
Fig. 18 The scale and accessibility of the storm water design at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR, is an excellent example or recreation opportunities (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2602).....	43

---

Fig. 19 The recirculating rain water system at Tanner Springs Park in Portland, OR, is an excellent of water that is safe and touchable because of the small shallow design (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2633).....	44
Fig. 20 The signage that accompanies the porous paving and bioretention at High Point Housing, Seattle, WA, is an excellent example of public relations opportunities (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2666).....	45
Fig. 21 The Courtyard in 10th@Hoyt, Portland, OR, is an excellent of aesthetic richness opportunities as the rain trail is captivating and easy to follow. (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2698).....	46
Fig. 22 A side view of the Horticulture Services Building (Macdonald Campus, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, Canada) (Adamowski, 2014) .....	49
Fig. 23 Different designs of porous pavements (Mackzulak, 2010, p. 152) .....	50
Fig. 24 Photo showing the parking lot with permeable pavement (McNally, Joubert, & Philo, 2003).....	51
Fig. 25 Rain garden on the University of Seattle Campus (Seattle University Campus, 2014) .....	52
Fig. 26 Green roof vegetation (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2956).....	53
Fig. 27 Diagram showing the composition of intensive and extensive green roofs (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 2947).....	54
Fig. 28 Photo of Doherty Hall and Gates Center green roofs courtesy of Brad Temkin, 2011 (Carnegie Mellon University, 2014) .....	55
Fig. 29 Typical vegetated swale (Adapted from Portland BES Manual; Drawn by Simon Bussiere) (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 3224) .....	56
Fig. 30 Typical bioswale with micropools section (Adapted from Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, drawn by Simon Bussiere) (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 3273).....	56
Fig. 31 Two methods of using bioswales in parking lots on the University of Regina Campus (DIALOG, 2011, p. 69).....	57
Fig. 32 Vegetation used for wind breaking and for breeze directing (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 4851) .....	68
Fig. 33 The role of deciduous trees between summer and winter (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 4865) .....	69

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Fig. 34 Santa Fe Community College , source: <a href="http://www.panoramio.com/photo/27612151">http://www.panoramio.com/photo/27612151</a> .....	73
Fig. 35 Santa Fe Community College School of Arts and Design, source: <a href="http://www.panoramio.com/photo/27612180">http://www.panoramio.com/photo/27612180</a> .....	73
Fig. 36 Native meadows used instead of lawn .....	75
Fig. 37 Kudzu plant, an invasive species .....	75
Fig. 38 The food garden in Gary Comer Youth Center in Chicago encouraging youth to produce their sustainable food on site, designed by Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects, photo from Scott Shigley (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 5467).....	77
Fig. 39 The master plan of Shenyang Architectural University Campus highlighting the zone for growing rice (Turenscape, 2014) .....	78
Fig. 40 An overview of the rice fields .....	79
Fig. 41 The process of planting the rice.....	80
Fig. 42 Reading areas within the rice fields .....	80
Fig. 43 Different ecological processes supported by soil (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 5818).....	82
Fig. 44 A section in excavated agricultural soil showing the disturbed soil (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 5905).....	87
Fig. 45 Soil texture by feel method, Adapted by Colorado State. Source: (Roadside Revegetation, 2014).....	90
Fig. 46 Two diagrams showing different aggregate stability of soil .....	92
Fig. 47 A sample for used Soil Textural Triangle indicating maximum bulk densities (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 6520) .....	93
Fig. 48 Installing vegetation through structural soil on site (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 7358).....	101
Fig. 49 A: shows an opened unsustainable system while B: shows a closed more sustainable one (Benson & Roe, 2000, p. 225) .....	103
Fig. 50 The existing rail structure of The Highline that was reused as a neighborhood park and promenade (Calkins, 2012 kindle version, p. 8454) .....	111
Fig. 51 Diagram showing the different strategies of way finding (based on a hospital project) (Gibson, 2009, p. 45).....	125