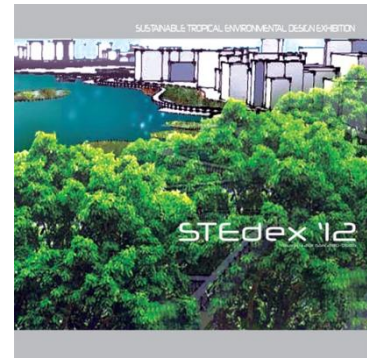


## **Jury Review : Soul of Nature**

*Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*

<http://www.vlmp.upm.edu.my>



STEdex'12 – Marek Kozlowski, Kashino Naohiro, **Jury Review : Soul of Nature**, *Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 4, [66-69], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

-Marek Kozlowski

There is no reference to issues, problems and justification. The reader may have this question, “What is the site context and background? What are the motivations behind proposing a therapeutic forest in Bukit Nenas?” The project needs clear and in depth analytical work, articulated goals and objectives, and statements about the site relation to the city. Creating a therapeutic park in the middle of KL may constitute innovative, creative planning and design thinking. As mentioned earlier, the project requires much more in-depth analysis and justification. The presentation is rather average and does not fully reflect the intent of the project.

The Relic Rhapsody

-Kashino Naohiro

Analysis through physical, biological and cultural attribute is thoroughly conducted. From the analysis, it is natural that a way of conservation should be learnt from Orang Asli who has been managing the forest sustainably for centuries. However, this important information is not being carried and translated in the design sheet. The work displays moderate creativity of landscape facility without practicality. It shows a very good presentation with flowing layout and greeneco-oriented visual materials.

-Marek Kozlowski

This work furnishes sufficient information regarding the site both in terms of background and context. Good in depth analysis covering visual, biological and cultural aspects concluded by a comprehensive synthesis. The goals and objectives are clear and the design strategy aimed at recreating the past is a reflection of innovative thinking aimed at reintroducing natural ecosystems within existing urban areas. The design strategy is further reinforced by proposing project phasing for its implementation. The issue of accessibility has been addressed. The in-depth analysis followed by a well structured design/planning strategy reflects creativity and authenticity. Good presentation

quality clearly communicates the analytical and design components of the project.

### Capturing Nature

-Kashino Naohiro

An observer does not feel the goal achieved and problem solved by the project. The actual reason why the problem occurs should be precisely analyzed. The benefit of the stilt structure should be made known. It is costly and only worth when sustainability can be described. "Mori hako" should be read as "Mori nohako", and if it is Japanese, it needs explanation. Good presentation with horizontal and vertical display layers.

-Marek Kozlowski

There are no statements about issues, problems and justification for the project. The site introduction and context are all too vague. The analytical component is also missing, and it seems that the project jumps straight to the formulation of goals and objectives. The goals and objectives are too general and straightforward, aimed at creating a forest information centre. The idea of creating a knowledge and information centre in the middle of a tropical forest is an innovative and cutting edge proposal. However, the physical links and accessibility to the surrounding areas have not been fully considered. The design proposal provides integration between the outdoor and the indoor spaces allowing the forest to meander inside the building. The feature contributes to creative and innovative design thinking. Good and informative presentation, easy to read and navigate.

### Nature Unfolding

-Kashino Naohiro

"The whole conduct environment failed to merge with its nature setting", based on the description on the work panel. On contrary, an observer may have another view in which the function of the existing facility and its relation with the surrounding forest is the key issue of the project. The goal "to provide a landscape which filter nature and architecture" might be achieved in the physical design sense but the function and activity of the landscape and building should be determined in the study. Sustainability is not mentioned in the work. More information with case study or comparison with similar facility may strengthen the proposal. This work provides reasonable presentation with sketches and sections.

-Marek Kozlowski

There is no information about the site, therefore it is not clear where the site is and what are the surrounding areas. There is no section addressing issues and problem and lack of in depth analytical work. In addition, the goals and objectives are not really clear to give explanation on the intent behind the project. The idea of landscaping an area between existing buildings does not constitute any form of innovative thinking. In fact, improving spaces between buildings by the way of landscaping is not new and a very common practice. The reader cannot identify much creativity behind this project apart from an idea to improve an existing area located between buildings. The presentation is rather good and informative, however, lacks the necessary details.

The Return for Return

-Kashino Naohiro

Good sequence of project development is displayed and issues are clearly stated. The concept of the "return for return" makes an observer feel distant from physical practicality of the development, but zoning, rehabilitation tactics, stage development are well described. Canopy observation point of ringpath matches with the natural surrounding and this is innovative. The work is very well presented with flowing sequence. Transition among 2020, 2040, and 2060 can be clearer.

-Marek Kozlowski

There is not much in depth analysis and insufficient information regarding the background and the site context. The work lacks details regarding the justification and motivations behind the design. However, the objectives are clear with the design strategy aimed at conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement. The project should also focus on physical links and accessibility, for example, how does the proposal relate to the surrounding areas of Kota Damansara. The Master Plan should indicate the boundaries of the proposed zones. The idea of returning a natural forest with rich biodiversity reflects creative and innovative design/planning thinking. However, accessibility and relation to surrounding areas should be fully addressed. The presentation is good, depicts the real intents of the project. Feel the Layers, Feel the Forest

-Kashino Naohiro

The practice of reducing nature resources should be addressed as the global sustainability issue. In the project titled "Feel the Layers, Feel the Forest", the typical four layers of a tropical rainforest are well described with each attraction and character. But a loop of attraction/ facility should be planned and integrated with a centre, an F&B outlet, a typical path, a hut, a resting space, an information booth, etc. Instead of spot attractions, towers could be horizontally linked so that one does not need to come down to climb another tower. The entire circuit could be organically integrated. Good presentation with smooth flow and attractive pictures.

-Marek Kozlowski

The project refers to the Kota Damansara Forest Reserve. The section addressing issues and current problems and justification for the proposed project is too vague. There should be more information about the existing state and the reasons for undertaking this topic. The section dealing with analysis of the existing situation seems to be missing as the project jumps straight to the formulation of goals and objectives. The goals and objectives refer to the provision of different forest layers for research and education purposes. However, it is not clear what user group is this project addressing. Clarification is also needed on the relationship of the Forest Reserve to surrounding urban areas and accessibility, as aspects of physical connectivity and accessibility are important for this site. The idea of creating a Forest Reserve with different forest layers is innovative and contributes to the field of landscape planning. The design strategy aimed at experiencing and exploring different layers is no doubt an authentic solution that constitutes an innovative and creative approach to landscape planning and design. The overall presentation is good however there is no clear reference to the proposed layers on the Master Plan.

Rivers Adytum

-Kashino Naohiro

The site selection must be of the designer's admiration of the site which is very much of the reason and should not be hesitated to be mentioned. Reincarnation of water's fate is interesting but practical materialization of the concept is expected in the study. Literature in landscape conceptualization is creatively conducted. Reference of actual literature might add a convincing effect. Sustainability of water can be emphasized by the said reference such as poetry. Good presentation with repeated circular visual display.

-Marek Kozlowski

The statement of issues is rather too vague, there should be more clarification on the justifications and motivation for selecting such a topic. The goals and objectives are clear, aimed at protecting an existing riverbed from erosion. The design/planning of the proposal is centered on five layers (space, movement, construction, planting and materials). The idea is no doubt interesting and should require further detailed exploration. The design strategy of introducing five different layers reflects creative and innovative ideas, however, it is not well portrayed in the overall presentation. The overall presentation is rather average, due to the fact that the main issues are not highlighted and the lettering is too small, making it sometimes difficult to read. The presentation does not clearly communicate the real intentions and motivations of the project.