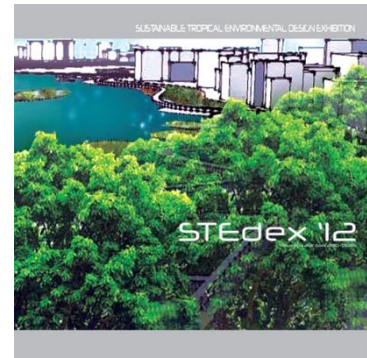


## **Revitalisation Urban Spaces**

*Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*

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



STEdex'12 – Mohd Yazid Mohd Yunos, *Revitalisation Urban Spaces, Sustainable Tropical Environmental Design Exhibition 2012*, ISSN : 2180-0685, Vol : 4, [90-91], Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia

The rapid increase in population, in conjunction with increase in the rate of urbanisation, had led to unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of urban landscape spaces in Malaysia. These eventually resulted in the gradual loss of open spaces in the city, due to increasing demand for built up area. Projects in the urban landscape design studio accentuate designing landscape as a livable space that exists in urban environment. These 4th year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture projects have exciting potentials in revitalising development in urban city by injecting 'Spirit of the Space' that make possible for changes to happen. The big challenge was how students need to design and accentuate the abandoned, failing and underutilised sites of grey fields with respect to the integrity of existing elements of value, cultural, historical and activities in the area. Greyfield site normally yields lesser revenue or lower economical return due to being poorly maintained, their need for revitalization to suit the current trend of urban development is critical. Hence, efforts by the students to take up the challenge to turn these sites into profitable, vibrant, livable and exciting sites at par with their surrounding are much appreciated.

In realising this aspiration, four projects have been selected through a series of rigorous selection and judgement. Among the works are the Revitalisation of Pudu Plaza, XY Greenery in Pekeliling area, Greyfield Redevelopment for the Plaza Rakyat and Transformation as a Living Territory. These projects represent creative new design ideas and innovation to revive a strong emotion and inject new life for the dry and dying sites. As the spaces exist in the midst of rapid development in the city, the selected projects are chosen based on reality of the issues such as site uniqueness and environmental richness. The quest for creative and innovative urban landscape planning and design

solution is urgently needed for creating solutions for better quality outdoor spaces and environment in the city.

Chio Kang Er in his proposal for the Pudu Plaza, Kuala Lumpur that was built in 1998, argues that the current environment of the plaza is monotonous with poor linkages, lack identity and lack the Genius Loci. His idea to revitalise the Pudu Plaza space by changing its ambience is rigorously brave and drastic. He applies the concept of 'Spirit of the Space' as the basis for design to accentuate users' experience to feel the spirit of the space, whether indoor or outdoor. The design highlights green building approach and promotes nature as entity that should be respected.

Nor Shida Abd Jalil works towards enriching the landscape at abandoned housing projects which are located at Jalan Tun Abdul Razak as known as Pekeliling Flat. The lost of spirit and soul of the space was regarded as not vigorous for living. She highlights the XY Greenify concept by introducing green area vertically and horizontally in response to the limited space and high land value of the area. The XY Greenify concept means to integrate human needs with natural surroundings, by blending together the innovation of green building approach to reduce waste, energy and heat. Indeed, sustainability approach in her design is without doubt has maximized the potential of the natural surroundings such as the rivers and matured trees as articulated in her design ideas.

Yong Jia Yu committed his design on grey field revitalization for the abandoned Plaza Rakyat. He sees the unbound potentials of the Plaza Rakyat such as its activity, movement, building, heritage and visual elements. He highlights that the abandoned site of the Plaza Rakyat has directly caused space fragmentation and disconnection to its surrounding. From the aspect of movement, the site has too many dead ends as roadways and pedestrian ways where people or vehicles are unable to move fluently from all directions. His site analysis and appraisal addressed the relevant aspects thoroughly, such as connectivity and linkages, activity, accessibility, microclimate, visual and historical. The design idea of 'Bond the Unbound' interprets the issues excellently to provide continuous flow and articulation of spaces to create the Integrated Transportation Hub. The hub functions to form bonds with its surroundings, creating a more cohesive and harmony environment. The work is a noble attempt to deal with the emerging of public's needs to be incorporated into the design.

Chen Fei Wen project demonstrates the concept of Transformation as a Living Territory, playing with the flux movement and its flowing characteristic to connect the lost of existing spaces. Her idea is to create outdoor spaces as a part of a living territory that could enhance communal spaces. Her design also implies that waterplays as essential role in human living environment which could create

pleasant and tranquility in such bustling environment. This design captures the richness of the place and creates new exciting community spaces which eventually contributes towards a higher quality urban living.

In conclusion these selected projects represent the innovative thinking in the grey field revitalization in urban area and evoke quality ambience in the ever changing urban spaces. As a whole, these projects represent forward thinking, and outstanding innovative and creative thoughts to suit the current technological advancement and urban progress.