

“Images of an Ideal Landscape”

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Underlying Values and Perceptions

- Characteristics of the perception and evaluation of Dutch landscape scenes:
 - Unity
 - Land Use
 - “Naturalness”
 - Maintenance or upkeep
 - Historical Continuity
 - Spaciousness

Agriculture and Environment

- The Dutch landscapes consist of highly productively farmland, and the intensity of use is high and increasing
- The environmental impact is frightening: the pollution of soils and groundwater is reaching dangerous levels in certain areas. Deeper aquifers are being affected and the quality of drinking water is at risk.
 - This process is almost reversible, and the result is that we have a “time bomb” in the subsoil.

The Landscape of Ecosystems

- “Living Rivers” of the Dutch chapter of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) [1992 Proposal]
 - Intention: to dig up and remold the floodplains of the highly regulated stream flow of the Rhine
 - This costly project is to be financed by the sale of clay sediment recovered from the plain to be used for the production of bricks and roof tiles.
 - Reintroduces habitats into river landscapes
 - The layout of these eco-landscapes shows a highly complex array of adjoining habitats
- “Design with Nature”
 - The landscape of the ecocrat as opposed to the technocrat
 - Conflicts:
 - Digging up large parts of existing farmland for the sake of new variety in habitats means erasing traces of natural landforms

Landscape as a System

- Interconnectedness is often ignored
- Four subsystems: economic, ecological, management, and visual
- The underlying motive is a “quest for certainty” leading to a “quest for control”
- Does not tell us how to design and cannot serve as the only way to look at landscape

The Landscape of Added Values

- Landscape as a whole is too complex and must be dissected into certain component parts
 - Land use
 - Land form

- Vegetation
- Helps predict the impact of new development in particular places
- Conflicts between the new and existing
- Making a leap forward by imaginative design is an apparently unheard of possibility

The Landscape of Space

- The cooperation of local communities and independent individuals is required
- Landscape plans cannot precisely prescribe landscape form in the long run; one cannot control or fix space in a living landscape
- Space is a result of the boundaries that define place in a given period of time

The Landscape of Place

- Comparing elevation change with soil maps
- Whenever the size of new elements such as housing areas exceeds the limits of the soil type units, a different approach is called for

The functional Landscape

- Modern development occurs at a large scale and changes are sudden, in contrast to the continued slow development of landscapes of the past
- Functionalism has emerged as the new basis for landscape design
- A “good” landscape is a landscape that functions in an optimal way, in social, economic, and ecological spheres

Other views of Landscape

- Landscape design is a self-proclaimed task of cultural renovators
- Four functions are seen as types of land use and are called “planning sectors”
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Nature conservation
 - Landscape
- Landscape is defined as the total amount of land surface needed to plant trees and shrubs
- The engineer traditionally dominates the planning process