

Apichat Promrit 2014: Interpretation of Landscape Aesthetics in the Thai Present-day
Context: The Study of Krung Rattanakosin Inner Area. Master of Landscape Architecture,
Major Field: Landscape Architecture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor:
Assistant Professor Cattaleeya Jiraprasertkun, Ph.D. 204 pages.

Literature reviews indicated that there are limited numbers of research on landscape aesthetics - most of them focus on the study and development of physical aspects of landscape, visual aesthetics in particular, consequent to the direction of landscape design and research which has developed in the same way. This thesis aims to read (understand) and interpret landscape aesthetics in other dimensions apart from concrete or physical aspect. Hence the framework to read and interpret landscape aesthetics is proposed, consisting of 1) physical, 2) non-physical, and 3) realistic aspects - all dimensions are superimposed in the complex and rich contexts. Accordingly, the inner area of Krung Rattanakosin is chosen as the study area. This research applies qualitative research method and several methods of data collections, comprising documentations, field study, interviews and observations. Overall, the thesis has developed the understanding of how landscape aesthetics in such complex area have been expressed. It is found that several dimensions of landscape aesthetics are involved, including aesthetics from nature; from built environment such as space, place, architecture or other kinds of structure; as well as aesthetics from more abstract features such as culture, traditions, beliefs, religious, ethics, nostalgia, everyday life and phenomenology of place. These aspects of landscape aesthetics have been articulated under the three domains of the framework - physical, non-physical and realistic. The reading exercise in Krung Rattanakosin Inner Area generated better understanding on the meaning of landscape aesthetics which contain both obvious and obscure characters. Furthermore, the thesis could conclude that the processes of constructing and understanding landscape aesthetics for each person is different, depending on their background of perceptions, memories, knowledge and also experiences. It is hoped that this thesis would contribute to further development of landscape aesthetics theories whereas the proposed framework and method of interpretation would be useful for the researches in other contexts.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature