


ASIA PACIFIC CITIES SUMMIT 2007
 RENEWING ASIA PACIFIC CITIES

*Urban Nature for Everyone:
 The Value of Natural Places
 in Cities
 for Tourists and Local People*

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 Policy Study, November 2007
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 in terms of urban social changes, human
 rights and political reforms
 focus on governance, social and
 economic change





A reminder about our tourists...





A Puzzle

Why is it that:
 We spend huge amounts on our parks

But:


- People **love** some parks and keep coming back?



A Puzzle

Why is it that:

- People find other parks **disappointing** and do not return?



Poorly Designed Parks

1. **B**reak basic rules
2. **A**re monotonous
3. **L**ack complexity and mystery
4. **D**on't provide key requirements
5. **D**on't communicate well
6. **I**gnore *landscape research findings*

BALDDI



*With People
in Mind*



DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF EVERYDAY NATURE

RACHEL KAPLAN, STEPHEN KAPLAN,
AND ROBERT L. RYAN



BEES and *HoLiSTiCS*

Successful Urban Parks

1. people's preferences
2. **restorative**: help people recover from stress of daily urban life

The Natural Advantage:
Nurturing Nature



Restorative Powers of Nature

- *Pleasure*
- *Sustained interest*
- *Relaxed wakefulness*
- *Reduced negative emotions (anger, anxiety)*



in Restorative Parks. . .

1. Nature provides psychological and spiritual replenishment
2. Landscape elements are linked in a network

Restorative Parks



Four Keys to a Restorative Park



4 Keys to a Restorative Park

BEES



1. Being away
2. Extent
3. Environmental fit or compatibility
4. Soft Fascination

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Those were Four Keys
to
Healing and Restoration



Now. . .

Examples
how to create parks
to meet most people's
Preferences

H_oL_iSTICS

- *whole is more than the sum of its parts*
- through creative evolution, Nature forms wholes greater than sum of the parts
- environmentally and socially sustainable arrangement of space: essentially holistic



H_oLiST_iCS

- H** = Hint of a view
- L** = Landmark
- S** = Simple path structure
- T** = Tranquil and serene
- C** = Chance to see what's there
- S** = Small spaces made to look larger

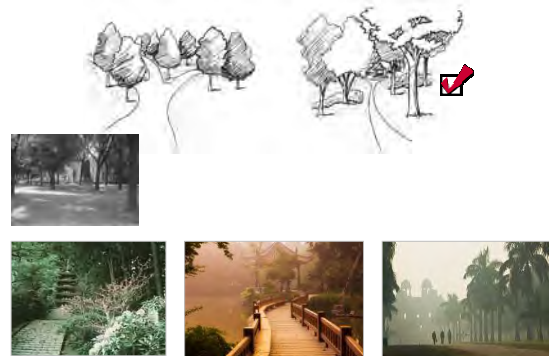
Preference 1: The *hint* of a view



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Preference 2: Path with a landmark at a focal point



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Preference 3: Simple path structure



Path Preferences

- narrow
- curved rather than straight
- sense of mystery
- designed to make small areas seem much larger

Simple path structure
Photo: Nadia Carvalho



Simple path structure



Simple path structure

A path with a combination of open and wooded areas



Photos: Nadia Carvalho

Smooth surfaces along paths
increase perceived width



Photos: Nadia Carvalho

Wayfinding:
good signs and maps



Wayfinding:
good signs and maps



Photo: Nadia Carvalho



A good sign that can make you cry



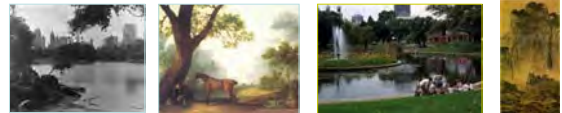
HoLiSTiCS

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Preference 4:
Tranquil and Serene



Tranquil and Serene



Tranquil and Serene





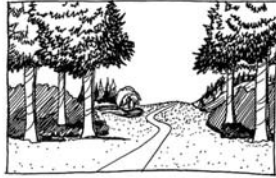
Try to avoid this



HoLiSTi**CS**

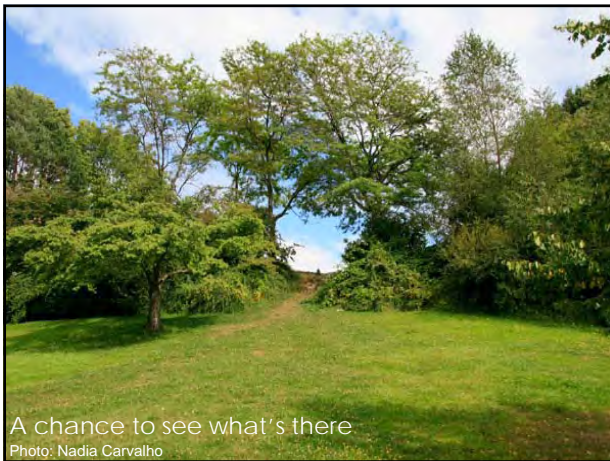
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Preference 5:
A chance to see what's there



Mystery and anticipation

The promise that one can find out more as one keeps going



Prospect Refuge



Photo: von Bredow, 2005

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Preference 6:
Making a small space feel larger

Divide area into separate regions with layers of less densely foliated plants.

Put finer textures and darker colors in background.

Put bolder textures and lighter colors in foreground.

Making a small space feel larger

Size is not important to whether a space provides restorative benefits

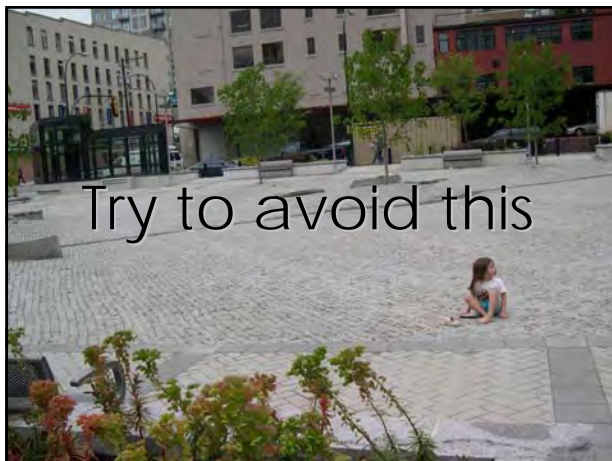
Big areas more interesting if divided

- Sense of enclosure
- Partial enclosure

Photo: Nadia Carvalho



Wide areas broken up



H_oL_iST_iCS

- Smaller spaces linked together to make complex wholes
- Mosaics in a network
- Web-like structures
- Mirror ecological processes
- Each space and links between them designed to encourage restorative experiences
- Woven into fabric of cities in a more holistic way

An insight from Cathy

Yi Jing 意境

- traditional Chinese garden design
- leaves people with a "Yi Jing"
- *mental world*
- to think and restore
- indicates good taste: in real life and art
- Chinese traditional painting and poems:
 - careful attention to details of Nature
 - beautiful views from different angles and distances

Cathy's Guidelines for Chinese tourists in Vancouver

1. **Connection** to the wider world
2. **Orientation:** gateways and wayfinding
3. **Landmarks**
4. **Choice points**
5. Opportunities to understand **cultural and natural context:** interpretation and maps
6. **Photography** opportunities
7. **Resting** places
8. **Safety**

Two recommendations from Cathy

1. Communicate local context, including cultural context
2. Orientation and wayfinding: airports, train stations, parks



Photo: Zheyu Zhou



Photo: Zheyu Zhou



Photo: Michelle Babiuk



Photo: Zheyu Zhou



Streetlight

Photo: Michelle Babiuk



Restorative Parks
Three easy ways to achieve them

1. BEES
2. HoLiSTiCS
3. Community engagement
(a conversation for another time)

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Community Engagement



Grateful thanks to:

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www.CityEyePhotography.com