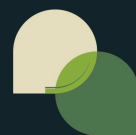


ECOLOGICAL LITERACY FOR DESIGNERS

a multimedia catalog of perspectives from ecologists reflecting on their collaborations in the design, construction, and management of the built landscape



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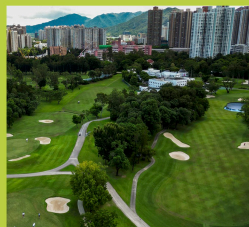
Objectives

1. To provide a catalog of new, diverse set of content about ecology in design for student access and for teaching and learning activities in blended and self-learning formats.
2. To establish an interview format and standard case study questions for continuously adding content to the catalog.
3. To improve the ability of design students to communicate with ecological scientists and specialists through reflection and participation in dialogue between landscape architects and ecologists.
4. To supplement and update existing planting, ecology, and design tracks of the landscape architecture curriculum with ecological design case studies and a network of contacts to draw on from across a variety of geographies and urban contexts; and to 'future-proof' the undergraduate landscape program's (BA(LS)) planting and ecology tracks by digitally archiving the knowledge and experience of ecologists doing project work, and building lessons around this collective experience.

Projects



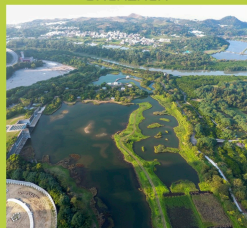
Dasha River Eco Corridor
Shenzhen



Fanling Golf Course
Hong Kong



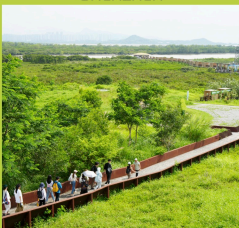
Ho Sheung Heung Wetlands
Shenzhen



Hong Kong Wetland Park
Hong Kong



Sha Po Marsh in Park Yoho
Hong Kong



The IBC Memorial Garden
Shenzhen



Hung Lung Hang Forest Plot
Hong Kong



Tung Chung East New Town Extension Eco-shoreline
Hong Kong



Wuhan East Lake Corridor
Wuhan

Interviewees

Dasha River Eco Corridor, Shenzhen

Dr. David Gallacher, Regional Director, Environmental & Ecological Planning, AECOM

Keqian Yi, Landscape Architect, AECOM, Shenzhen

Fanling Golf Course, Hong Kong

Paul Leader, Director, AEC Ltd., Hong Kong

Ho Sheung Heung Agricultural Wetlands

Kami Hui, Arborist and Conservationist

Hong Kong Wetland Park

Elizabeth Leven, Ecologist and Landscape Architect

Hung Lung Hang Forest Plot

Dr. Billy Hau, Ecologist and Principal Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, HKU

Wuhan East Lake Corridor

Yujie Cao, Urban Planner, L&A, Wuhan

Dr. Lihong Wang, Ecologist, L&A, Wuhan

Tung Chung East New Town Extension Eco-shoreline

Dr. David Gallacher, Regional Director, Environmental & Ecological Planning, AECOM

The IBC Memorial Garden

Qingxi Lu, Landscape designer, Guanzhou Turescape

Sha Po Marsh in Park Yoho

Paul Leader, Director, AEC Ltd., Hong Kong

Abstract

A full education in landscape architecture heavily relies on knowledge established within the field of ecology. The undergraduate landscape architecture curriculum at HKU, integrates ecological principles across various domains, from plant selection and site design, to environmental planning and the study of large-scale landscape systems and their management. Even our history and theory courses intersect with the evolving discourse in the science of urban ecology and sustainability. Yet, despite their many shared values, common interests, and overlapping language, interdisciplinary engagement between the fields of landscape architecture and ecology is rare and prone to mutual misunderstanding. As a result, ecological knowledge transfer into the landscape discipline is slow and often mistranslated; tends to rely on a small subset of experiences or cross-disciplinary texts; and favors abbreviated Theoretical or methodological concepts over detailed knowledge gained from applied research or practice. In other words, there is a crucial link between landscape architecture and ecology, but this link is imperfect and in need of reinforcement.

The project Ecological Literacy for Designers, funded by a Teaching Development Grant (TDG), aims to bridge this gap by creating a "catalog of ecological perspectives" for both students and educators. This catalog features a series of short interviews with ecologists who have collaborated with designers or worked on constructed sites. Interviewees were chosen from diverse ecological sub-disciplines, geographies, and traditions, providing a comprehensive set of case studies that focus on communication, collaboration, and critique between the two fields.

These interview clips are accessible on the project website (<https://ecodesignliteracy.hku.hk/home>), facilitating a flipped-classroom or blended-learning format. Insights from these interviews can be integrated into various courses within the Landscape Architecture curriculum. This project benefits students by offering a rich repository of interdisciplinary voices, enhancing their communication skills in landscape architecture, and better preparing them for ecologically impactful projects in Hong Kong over the coming decades.

Videos



Ecological Mitigation Design:
HK Wetland Park before EIA ordinance



Wetland Restoration for Damselflies
The Case of Sha Po Marsh in Park Yoho



Soil and Hydrology:
Integration of Indigenous Knowledge



East Lake Ecological Planning:
Integrating Landscape, Ecology & Planning



East Lake Ecological Water Restoration:
A Systematic Approach



Agricultural Wetland Management:
Collaboration between ENGOS & Farmers



Ecological Planning and Design:
Shenzhen's Dasha River Ecological Corridor



Ecology and Engineering:
Landscape Architects as Translator



From Manicured to Enhanced Ecology
The Case of Fanling Golf Course



Native Species Reforestation Plot
The Case of Hung Lung Hang, Ta Kwu Ling



Hong Kong's First 'Eco-shoreline':
Collaborations, Experiments and Lessons



Moving Soil for a Park:
The Case of the IBC Memorial Garden, Shenzhen



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