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Urban Design & Landscape Architecture: Two Professions, One Goal?

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Abstract

Urban Design and Landscape Architecture are designated as new arts /sciences that are formed through a combination of different artistic and scientific disciplines. The formal emergence of urban design happened in 1960's while landscape architecture existed from the beginning of 20th century. Success of these fields even after a century can mainly attributed to their focus on environmental quality of public realms in cities. The modernity of these two fields and activities regarding their goal and their view towards the aspects of the public domain, have resulted in ambiguous definitions which have made distinguishing them difficult. This article reviews the background features of the two fields such as definitions and approaches to understanding concepts and signifies the separating and identification points with suitable suggestions at the end. The results of this work show that the differences of the two fields, are related to the "scale and functional domain", "intrinsic emphases on particular environmental variables" and their "backgrounds". The identification points also depend on their association with architecture, urbanism and environmental design and management as the most important task.

Keywords: Urban design, landscape architecture, outdoor space, environmental quality.

طراحی شهری و معماری منظر: دو حرفه، یک هدف؟

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چکیده

«طراحی شهری» و «معماری منظر»، هنر و دانش‌های جدیدی می‌باشند که از هم نشینی رشته‌های مختلف علم و هنر و در اثر بی‌توجهی رشته‌هایی همچون معماری و برنامه‌ریزی شهری به کیفیت محیط بیرونی زندگی انسان‌ها، در طی یکصد سال اخیر پدید آمده‌اند. مرور نوشتگان تخصصی و منابع موجود، حاکی از وجود اشتراکات و افتراقات فراوانی در مبانی و رویکردهای حرفه‌ای دورشته می‌باشد. وجود پارادایم‌های متنوع و بعضاً متناقض در حیطه دو دانش، نوعی درگیری را میان این دو سبب گردیده است. که این مسأله به شکل‌گیری خلأ دانشی و حرفه‌ای میان دو رشته طراحی شهری و معماری منظر انجامیده است. دغدغه خاطر کشف و تحلیل خلأ دانشی میان دورشته به منظور اتخاذ تدابیر کاربردی و ترمیمی، ایده، خواستگاه و ضرورت اصلی پژوهش موردنظر را تشکیل می‌دهد. یافته‌های این نوشتار نشان می‌دهد که نقاط افتراق دو رشته، ریشه در مسائلی مانند «مقیاس و حوزه عمل»، «تأکیدات ماهوی بر مولفه‌های خاص محیطی» و «پیشینه» آن دو دارد و نقاط اشتراکشان نیز با وابستگی آنها به بحث «ارتقاء کیفیت عرصه عمومی شهرها» به مثابه مهم‌ترین هدف، مرتبط است. درانتها، مهم‌ترین توصیه‌ها و پیشنهادات به منظور پر کردن خلأ موجود، از قبیل تعیین محدوده وظایف و مقیاس پروژه‌ها به تفکیک هر رشته، تأکید بر الگوی تعاملی میان دو رشته و تأسیس رشته‌های میانی دورشته در دانشگاه‌ها و موسسات آموزش عالی سراسر دنیا بالاخص ایران اشاره شده است.

واژه‌های کلیدی: طراحی شهری، معماری منظر، فضای بیرونی، کیفیت محیطی.

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Introduction

Landscape architecture and urban design are two branches of architecture and urbanism. During the last century, these two professions, because of the spread of activities and the importance of the quality of open (exterior) spaces in human societies, have been presented as two independent fields of study. By improving theories like free time, the topic of the quality of public realms became more emphasized. Therefore, to answer questions raised by these two subjects, majors like landscape architecture and urban design were used. These two branches deal with the recognition and design of city in different levels. Moreover, it should be known that their results and outcomes are tangible and objective in practical areas.

The study and review of the literature, pertinent to architecture and urban design, for reaching sound definitions and approaches related to these two domains - landscape architecture and urban design - can clarify many of those related or paradoxical definitions and concepts. However, because of the novelty and new ideas in these two branches of scientific and practical domains, the amount of confusion and uncertainty in terms of theories and definitions has increased. Therefore, considering the areas of approach and definition, creating a clear and distinct border between these two branches seems crucial. This research aims to clarify the nature, definitions, and approaches of these two branches and, finally, set out the similarities and differences between these two branches leading to a substantial conclusion.

The method chosen for this research is 'content analysis' of the current and prevalent literature in architecture and urbanism to find definitions and approaches appropriate to landscape architecture and urban design. Moreover, this method aims to analyze architecture and urbanism and put them into categories with other similar approaches and definitions while pointing to their similarities and differences, with the purpose of demonstrating the achievements of each major.

To reach to clear points of commonality and

difference between these two branches (landscape architecture and urban design), we have to study the current available literature consisting of expert's definitions, the background of these two branches, the role and duty of urban designers and landscape architects in professional areas. This paper is designed in order to explain and analyze these two subject areas in four parts. At the end, the results and conclusion are intended to give a clear point of view on the differences and similarities between these two fields of study.

Materials and Methods

Definition of two Disciplines

The review of definitions and current literature in landscape architecture and urban design is from an expert and professional point of view. In addition, its purpose is content analysis, extraction of clear structures, and applicable deductions dealing with identifying the main points under focus in each of these two branches. Studying these points is greatly important in that it helps to identify and determine the similar and dissimilar aspects of the two subjects. It should be mentioned that the evaluation and analysis of all the terms and definitions are beyond the scope of this research. Therefore, we only include those terms and subjects which are related to the topic of this research.

Definitions of urban design

The analysis of the content of urban design literature specified to definitions of this field leads to comprehending four major areas in which we can establish urban design definitions. In fact, these four areas are ways of discriminating the emphases of different definitions. The study and analysis of these definitions is a path through which a series of characteristics and features are explained, and some special aspects which are included within the frame of components of environmental quality. Most of the important definitions related to this topic are included in this paper and classified under the categories of

“functional definitions”, “visual definitions”, “functional-visual definitions”, and “definitions related to other disciplines”; the definitions given here are mostly expressed by professionals and experts of this field of study. We should bear in mind that some of the definitions presented are taken from the first developmental stages of this profession and, by mentioning them, we aim to reconsider experts’ ideas and expressed concepts to meet the goals of the research.

Definitions with visual emphasis

Most of the definitions described emphasizing the visual aspects of urban design pay attention to artistic, visual, and perceptual features of this profession. Some philosophers such as Moughtin, Cullen, and Stein have accentuated the artistic nature of this profession and have called it "the art of creating connection between physical volumes in outdoor spaces" (Lang, 1994; Moughtin, 2005; Cullen, 2002). On the other hand, others such as Barnett and Lynch have mentioned that improving visual qualities and creating a powerful image of the city are the most important goals of urban design (Madanipour, 1996; Moughtin, 2005). Regarding this area, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has presented a definition of urban design which as follows: "Urban design is a part of city planning which deals with aesthetics and constitutes the discipline, order, and form of the city" (Gutheim, 1963).

In addition, another definition by the first International Committee presented in 1963 has noted that:

In urban design, more attention is paid to perceptual factors of city environment. Therefore, urban design is specified to visual perception of those elements of the city which are usually three-dimensional and fixed. However, there is a possibility of including mobile elements as well.

Definitions with a functional emphasis

These sets of definitions embrace issues and subjects

like “socio-economic”, “urban form”, “space”, “human”, “activity”, “organizing”, “planning” and “discipline and arrangement”. For instance, it is mentioned that, “Urban design is the distribution of a general organization of spatial activities and elements in a large area” (Lynch, 1990). Oxman believes that “urban design is a collection of activities which are oriented to organize form and function of the man-made environment” (Oxman, 1987).

Definitions with functional-visual emphasis

The definitions in this category attempt to consider functional-visual issues and subjects simultaneously. Some of these definitions are as follows - Organizing six urban elements (streets, buildings, communication and logistic system, work places, recreation, amusement, meeting places) both functionally and aesthetically is the job of urban design (Spreiregen, 1965). Urban design tries to make city areas, both functionally and aesthetically, more useful and pragmatic (Wolfe, 1975). The goal of urban design is to make a formal and functional systematization in the structure of the human environment. (Cowan, 2005).

Definitions emphasizing on interdisciplinary nature

One of the most prevalent methods in explaining the concept of urban design is in sketching the relationship which exists between urban design and other fields of study in universities. Some of these expressions will be explained.

Urban design is a link between town planning and architecture as a profession (Beckley, 1979). Shirvani (1985) in his book *Urban Design Process* noted that: “urban design is a complex interdisciplinary field that encompasses architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, civil and transportation engineering, psychology, real estate developments, law and other specialties.”

The profession of urban design is closely related to architecture and town planning. In this way, urban

design, in terms of physical design and management decisions, plays a key role in developing and designing urban areas. Melbourne University's *Architecture and Urban Design* (2005) suggests that "urban design emphasizes upon the commonality and professional collaboration between architects, landscape architects, geographers, and planners". In sum, all the above points express the idea that urban design is an interdisciplinary profession or it is part of a specific field like town planning or architecture. A clear and unambiguous idea in this regard will be presented in later parts of this paper through a comprehensive study of different backgrounds and approaches related to the topic.

Definitions of landscape architecture

Content analysis of landscape architecture literature, specified to expressing definitions of this science, has led to reconsidering four major dimensions through which landscape architecture definitions are formed. In fact, these four dimensions are able to discriminate between different definitions and their related emphases. The review and the analysis of these definitions express a range of characteristics and features and try to accentuate specific aspects which are categorized in frameworks such as: 1) Definitions emphasizing land as an element, 2) Definitions emphasizing outdoor spaces, 3) Definitions related to other disciplines and 4) Definitions emphasizing humans, the environment and nature.

Definitions emphasizing on interdisciplinary nature

Landscape architecture is in a relationship with civil engineering, architecture, and urban design. In order to create an aesthetic and practical relationship with land, each of their elements is combined with each other to establish the desired result. Landscape architecture is an interdisciplinary profession which becomes significant and meaningful through having a relationship with other sciences and professions.

Civil engineering and environment, visual arts, botany, sociology, psychology, and many other fields are utilized in a purposeful process to realize landscape architecture theories (Mansouri, 2005). In the range of landscape architecture, there are different arts and sciences from among which we can mention the fields of environmental sciences, social and human sciences, technological and engineering sciences.

Definitions emphasizing land

As implied from the etymology of the word, in landscape architecture the land element is highly important; therefore many of the definitions given by the scholars emphasize this element.

According to the American Society of Landscape Architects, "landscape architecture is the art and science of analyzing, planning, designing, managing, conservation, and rehabilitation of the land" (cited in Razzaghi Asl, 2009). Paul Spreiregen has developed a definition for landscape architecture according to which: "Landscape architecture is land analysis considering natural processes and recurring production of these processes through designing. In addition, it regards social and human needs" (cited in Shirvani, 1984). Edmond Beacon introduces landscape architecture as "Land Design" (*Ibid*). Some other experts of this field consider landscape architecture as "the art or the science of arranging lands together for settling the objects and the spaces upon them for safe, efficient, healthful, pleasant, and humane use" (Newton, 1971).

Definitions emphasizing outdoor spaces

Most of these definitions, in the scope of landscape architecture, have considered outdoor spaces as the most important factor in this field. Landscape architecture is a science which deals with outdoor space from different viewpoints: from the viewpoint of nature and environment, its relationship with human life, and from the viewpoint of art and aesthetics. Elements of this science have shaped a three-dimensional space to which a fourth dimension (time)

could be added. Tom Turner (1996) considers landscape architecture as “the creation of good spaces”. A definition of landscape architecture in the *Dictionary of Urbanism* by Cowan is presented. Based on this definition, landscape architecture is considered as “the art and science of planning and designing the external space for human use and enjoyment”. (Cowan, 2005). Landscape architecture is an interdisciplinary art and science in which the organization and designing of external spaces are the topic of discussion. (Mansouri, 2005)

Definitions Emphasizing Humans and Nature

Interest in the relationship between humans and nature has a long history. The naturalist and anti-nature approaches have always been known as paradigms of this kind of relationship. What is suggested as the definition and purpose of this field of study is an emphasis on the mutual relationship between the human, nature, and naturalistic points of view. One of the purposes of landscape architecture is to establish a sense of dependency between humans and nature. Therefore, it leads to creating those spaces in which human beings can be the witness of dynamic natural processes.

Background of the two Disciplines

An investigation was undertaken to become acquainted with the history of the emergence of these two professions. The main purpose of this study is to make clear the historical process and evolution that occurred and it is a pathway to make the final decision about the life and background of these two fields of study.

Background of Urban Design

Evidently, the birth and emergence of urban design goes back to the second half of the twentieth century. From an investigation of the urban design literature, architecture history, and ancient urban design, we can see that some scholars like Plato and Vitruvius have

talked about this science. In some parts, Plato believes in 4050 as an optimal number for the population of a city and the size and extent of a city, additionally. He, also, in other parts, has talked about the quality of urban space which is called ‘outdoor space’. Furthermore, Vitruvius is the first theoretician in architecture who has put forward some theories about designing and forming the cities (Bacon, 1967). In last years of the twentieth century, there were some intricate and demanding problems and issues rooted in the industrial revolution in European cities lead to new attempts in promoting urban environmental quality. From the important movements in this period, we can refer to the “City Beautiful Movement” and “city building according to its artistic fundamentals” (Sitte, 2002).

Urban design, as an independent technical profession, irrespective of its rapid growth in recent time, should be considered a young and immature major from whose age has passed about four decades on the international level. With setting up an educational course “Civic Design” in Pennsylvania University in 1975 and “Urban Design” in 1960, urban design was considered as a university major. During more than one decade, urban design was known by some architects as “grand architecture”¹, by urban planners as “part of urban planning”, and by some landscape architectures as “design of the spaces between buildings”.

Generally, the reasons that led to the growth and continuation of this field of study can be categorized into two classes; reasons that led to creating (devising) and reasons that led to continuing (progressing) this discipline. The first category, generally, talks about lack of an interdisciplinary major for architecture and urban planning. Besides, it deals with different nations and their concern for promoting the urban quality and the public realm which led to creating such a field of study. The second category, in nature, deals with economic, political, and cultural reasons which are of key importance in urban design to reach to the above mentioned goals and improving the economic situation of cities. Therefore, the structure and form of the city

is a tool for attracting money and a special class of the people and it is the duty of urban design as a profession to create a proper and suitable mental image.

Urban design, in Iran, was categorized as a major in the area of urban construction (urbanism) and was first established in Tehran University and Shahid Beheshti University in the early 1970s about three decades ago. The first steps and traces of urban design in developing city projects were known as “designing the details of urban design” in comprehensive and master plans of the 1970s. In these years, some steps were taken such as the restoration old buildings and the fabric of the city and harmonizing the ‘escape’ of some important public passages and the townscape of Mashhad, Esfahan and other cities and, in particular, designing the area of Abbas Abad in Tehran. These represented important urban design projects undertaken with the assistance of foreign consulting engineers before the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Background to Landscape Architecture

Landscape architecture, in its modern form, is an interdisciplinary art, science, and profession which should be considered the result of the experience and performance of artists and architects over about 500 years of history. This science developed on the basis of special theories emerging from the definition of "escape" and the outcome of joint works with other professions and has a background in each approach of art, science, and profession. It means that landscape architecture as an art, science, and profession has its own specific history and background. A brief history of each of these approaches is given below.

Landscape Architecture as an art: The emergence and advent of “landscape architecture” as an art is no older than the other two approaches mentioned. The American Society of landscape architects has proposed that the first examples of architecture and landscape design originate from Iran and Egypt (Razzaghi Asl,

2009). Focusing on the nature and the importance of the application of reconciliation with this phenomenon (nature), we can see that the existence of landscapes designed and formed carefully like big temples of Egypt, Greece, England and Mexico before the birth of Christ up to 13 AD and later on are all a good reason for what was mentioned. For the first time, in last years of fifteenth century, in the Dutch language, the word “landscape”² was used - not to refer to the natural environment, but for a picture. Therefore, during the Renaissance, this concept was presented for the first time. Landscape, with its modern definition from (19 century) and the approach of European societies has been based on nature (Mansouri, 2005). Landscaping by the painters of the 18th century was almost the first sign of human attention towards the perception and depiction of environmental landscape and thinking about it.

Landscape Architecture as a Science: From the appearance of landscape architecture as a science, we mean the emergence of the first period of educational courses pertinent to this field in academic and scientific centers around the world. Harvard University established the first university course of professional training in landscape architecture in 1900 by Frederick Law Olmsted. Following this, in 1928, Hubert Honz opened the department of landscape architecture in Georgia University; later its title was changed to “environmental design” (Eliot, 1999).

Considering these facts, we can say that one century has passed in the life of this major in scientific centers of the world. Nowadays, a department of landscape architecture has been established in most academic centers worldwide. Landscape architecture in Iran is still passing its childhood which means that, from its emergence, it has not passed more than five years. The first landscape architecture curriculum in Iran was founded in Tehran University in 2002. Later, this field of study was established in Shahid Beheshti University at MSc. Degree level.

Landscape Architecture as a Profession: The background of landscape architecture as a profession refers to the advent and emergence of the first people and landscape architects who worked in this area. In 1858, Fredric Law Olmsted was the winner of the Central Park competition of New York. He introduced himself as a landscape architect. In fact, it was for the first time that landscape architecture was introduced to the international community as a profession. Later on, this concept found and established its position until 1899 (about forty years later). Finally the American Society of Landscape architects (ASLA), as the first professional association was opened and established.

Approaches of the Disciplines

Dichotomous approaches, on the one hand, consist of investigating the duty and responsibility of landscape architects and urban designers to reach the stated goals and, on the other hand, to determine the practical domains and levels of activities which are possible for them. This task, in the end, tries to make clear the realm of activity (practice) and their practical duty and performance. What was said in this section aims to distinguish the similarity and dissimilarity and, finally, mention the practical domain of this dichotomy.

Urban Designer Tasks

Urban designers, as practitioners are in charge of designing cities and, as a profession, are obsessed with improving the quality of the environment. They both as a professional and a practitioner have some responsibilities which, by fulfilling them and reaching those goals and purposes, can be guaranteed. In fact, the duties of urban designers are presented in the form of following questions:

- 1) What should they do?
- 2) To which aspects should they pay attention?
- 3) What kind of characteristics they should have?

Some scholars have some answers to these questions. Some of the most important ideas and views are presented in the following part:

- The most important duty of an urban designer is simple and straight designing of the main structure of the city (Golkar, 2000).
- From the view point of Edmund Bacon, the urban designer's duty is: "to edit, implant and cultivate an assumption in society's common sense and keep it growing so that the final product of urban design would resemble the primitive assumption which was imagined by the designer." (cited in *Ibid*)
- Some experts such as Worth and Motloch have emphasized the managerial role of the urban designer in "providing environmental quality", "creating and amplifying the sense of place"³, and "urban development".
- Some others such as Madanipour assert that the urban designer's duty is: "to create urban space in a social-spatial environment." (Madanipour, 1996).
- Nowadays, "formal designing of public realm, as an organic environment, colorful, people-friendly and fascinating are supposed to be the main duty of urban designers" (Tibbalds, 2001).
- The urban designer's duty is: "to prepare the formal structure for architects and urban designers to direct and conduct their decisions" (Moughtin, 2005).
- A creative and responsible urban designer's duty is to perceive the elements that personify each place and consequently, to create forms that are consistent with the unique features of that place. In fact by doing this, urban designer practically becomes responsible for "managing the sense of place". (Golkar, 2000).
- Krieger introduces urban design as "the infrastructure of the city", and emphasizes its role in "designing the structure of city". In other part of this article, he calls urban design "the architecture of the city" and considers "a form-based category of public policy" as the first duty of urban designer. (Krieger, 2006).

Landscape Architects' Tasks

The duties of a landscape architect which have been

mentioned by different scholars are as follows:

- A landscape architect is the link between science and art and connects analysis to creativity. Therefore, designing and constructing landscapes that one could have as a joyful experience of beauty is one of the most important objectives of this major (Bell, 1999).
- The most important duty of landscape architects is to learn the language of landscape properly and to apply patterns of natural landscape (Spirn, 1998).
- Kathryn Gustafson defines the landscape architect's duty as "designing everything below the sky" (Cowan, 2005).
- The American Society of Landscape Architects declares the duties of landscape architects as:
 - 1) Landscape design: designing the details of open spaces for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and living spaces
 - 2) Site planning: physical design and arraying both natural and man-made elements of each piece of land.
 - 3) Urban planning: designing and planning for towns and cities
 - 4) Regional planning: designing parks and other recreational centers, creating or redesigning parks and entertainment centers in cities, suburbs, and countries (rural areas)
 - 5) Planning land development: both in large scale for barren lands and in smaller scale for urban, rural and historical regions.
 - 6) Ethnographic designing and planning: studying the interaction between people and environment
 - 7) Historic preservation: including parks, gardens, lands, fountains, and pools
 - 8) Social and behavioral aspects of landscape architecture: is concerned with human being dimension and his needs in terms of designing.
- The landscape architect's duty is to cover a set of human needs at a particular time and make a balance between physical capacity of a landscape and its perceptive capacity. This should be done in a sustainable manner so that landscape quality

remains relatively intact for the coming generations and does not limit their options (Bell, 1999). This definition emphasizes on the necessity of considering the "sustainable development" assumed to play a key role on the part of landscape architects in environment sustainability.

- For many years, the most important duty of landscape architects has been to design urban parks and forests, to affect neighboring landscapes (Thompson, 2002).

Urban Design Practice

The term 'functional domain' for both subject areas means the manner in which plans, application and professional scales are introduced and defined by scholars and professionals of urban design and landscape architecture.

- The realm of urban design activities, whether conducted by public or private institute is urban public spaces, while architecture is usually limited to private spaces. In terms of scale, urban design could be produced on five urban scales including city, a region of city, and a part of city, big projects, and small projects. However, the mechanisms, instruments, timing and execution manner is different in each of these scales (Bahraini, 2004).
- According to a brochure of the MSc. program for urban design in Berkley University in California, urban designers should be employed at all levels of the urban space. "designers are needed that be able to work efficiently as multimajor teams in different scales... these professionals might shape the form and space of particular locations or design the organization of the whole city area.". Urban design is concerned with designing cities on all scales (Madanipour, 1996).
- According to Barnett, the functional domain of urban design is designing cities without designing buildings (Shirvani, 1985).
- Urban design is concerned with urban areas as big as about half a square mile. Based on this definition urban design is limited to quarters (Banham, 1976).

- In Shirvani's idea, urban design activities could be seen in following categories:

- a) Revitalizing barren lands in a city and its central parts, designing passages and other areas in use, land planning, designing new communities, preparing guidelines and aware of investigative projects of regional landscape design.
- b) Urban design activities include designing objects and furniture, outdoor space, landscape architecture, physical planning, regional infrastructures planning.

Landscape Architecture Practice

- Designing urban and natural parks, city and quarter developments, designing places for daily activities are a part of landscape architects' functional domain (Bell, 1999).
- Landscape architecture projects are categorized in two sets: organizing townscape and designing urban spaces, some of which are open realms such as squares, streets and most importantly public places that are intended to host large groups of people usually for entertainment purposes. (Mansouri, 2005).
- Landscape architects' orientation is usually towards producing and designing urban areas in small-scale (Krieger, 2006).
- Thompson (2002) considers landscape architects' functional domain in two parts. He says: "some landscape architects are inclined towards urban design and some others are more interested in suburbs in which they try to decrease the affects of recent changes on landscapes".

Closing the Gap

Some scholars have mentioned the differences and similarities between the two disciplines already; here we first cite some of their statements and then we try to discuss the issue by analyzing what we have stated in previous parts.

According to Krieger (2006), landscape architecture should be considered as a part of urban design; in fact the collaboration between this major

and civil engineering and [technology??] leads to creation of urban design. Therefore landscape architecture is introduced as an inseparable component of urban design. What he has tried to convey is that different aerial, natural, social majors are involved in the process of urban design; so landscape architecture could be considered as an aerial major which is incorporated into urban design framework. Madanipour (1986) has also emphasized on this matter, as he has stated in his book, *Design of Urban Space*:

It is obvious that urban design is an interdisciplinary activity, and if professionals from different majors such as artificial, natural, and social space cooperate with each other as united working teams, an urban design process would be created" (Madanipour, 1996). In another part of the same source, he cites from the declaration of "group 7"

and

Urban design is introduced as an interdisciplinary activity that plays a leading role among the known aerial disciplines.

Thompson, a Professor at Newcastle University, states that the relationship between the two majors could be either cooperative or non-cooperative. He says that both majors are considered as interdisciplinary and cooperate with each other while used in urban projects by professional working groups. The cooperation between these two majors becomes more important when they are supposed to work in one single group with each other.

Bahreini (2004) cites Mera and emphasizes on the differences between the two majors in their scale and activation-level, he says: an urban design activity is usually different from an ordinary activity or an aerial architecture activity in that it is more complicated, since the scale of projects in urban design is considerably bigger than that of the other fields. Shirvani (1984) mentions the existing historical difference between the two majors and states:

in recent years, urban design has manifested more inclination towards landscape architecture. In a large scale, this is because both majors are rooted in landscape

architecture in terms of planning and urban design; this inclination has been getting stronger and it is more serious nowadays.

According to Shirvani's view, landscape architects have declared two cases as the common functional domain between art and urban design theory:

1- Designing public open space which plays a traditional role in integrating natural and artificial areas.

2- Planning environmental societies, people's role, and making a social relationship with the public which is developing in both in governmental and non-governmental enterprises.

Results

Having reviewed the existing literature about the definitions, history and approaches of landscape architecture and urban design, their differences and similarities have been summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. The most important similarities and differences between two fields.

Themes	Differences		Similarities
	Urban design	Landscape architecture	
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● special attention to functional and landscape factors ● putting emphasis on the effect of buildings on each other and their natural location ● equally distributed emphasis on the organization of public realms: street, square, building, links, facilities, working places, and recreation centers ● putting emphasis on three elements of space: ground (floor), wall, ceiling ● main objective: defining the space in concordance with behavioral patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● special attention to landscape and environmental factors ● putting emphasis on the objects and elements on the land and their relationship ● putting emphasis on the organization of public realms: street, square, working places, and recreation centers ● putting emphasis on land element and its characteristics in designing and planning ● main objective: providing entertainment and recreation centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● interdisciplinary professions (common areas and co operations): Architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, civil engineering, transportation, psychology, economy, sociology, law and politic sciences, environment, geography, and agriculture ● both are concerned with "public realms' physical form ● organizing and designing "external spaces" is a subject for both majors ● both are looking after "environmental quality" ● both are directly related to architecture ● both are known as "the architecture of the city" ● both are concerned with "sustainable development" in city ● attention to human being's needs and activity patterns in space
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● urban design has a longer unofficial history ● theoretical progress of urban design in the recent 50 years has been faster than that of landscape architecture, and the latter suffers from lack of proper and enough theoretical bases ● It has longer official history in Iran (more than 3 decades) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● landscape architecture profession has a longer official history ● It has a shorter history in Iran (more than 5 years) 	
Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● designing city's structure ● managing urban development in three dimensions ● finding solutions for structural problems in city such as access, land uses, environments ● activity domain: the whole city area to the a part of urban node ● presenting guidance, brief, and patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● designing the components of city's skeleton ● managing development of urban lands ● it is not related to design of urban infrastructures ● activity domain: some parts of city from quarters to buildings' entrance ● designing the executive components of landscape 	

Table 1 contains a checklist of the most important emphases in these two fields, in terms of definitions, history or approaches. Identifying these points could be a great step in clarifying the domain of study in both fields. Based on the performed studies and what has been cited from Iranian experts in this paper, case studies need to be carried out in this regard. According to the table, urban design could be applied both on large and small scales while landscape architecture is limited to a part of city. Therefore landscape architects design, manage and make plans for the land as a base on which buildings and other objects are going to be located and urban designers design and make plans for the three dimensions of space and declare patterns of behavior and activity within. Urban design has a shorter official history compared to that of landscape architecture, while the situation is *vice versa* for their informal history. It is more than three decades that urban design has been practised in Iran, while landscape architecture is still going through its primitive stages and, apart from a few projects which have been conducted occasionally, there has not been any activity in this field.

Discussion

In recent years, a new field called “landscape architecture in urban design” has been established in Harvard University. As Richard Summer, Director of

the urban design section at Harvard University, emphasizing the dependence of these two professions and the separate role of each one, states: “during the courses in this new field, necessary theoretical backgrounds from urban design are taught to architects who are interested in working in urban design; in this way landscape architects as urban architects will acquire the ability to design and handle large-scale projects in urban areas”. This paper suggests that this new field should be incorporated into Iran universities’ curriculum.

The branch of landscape architecture and urbanism called “landscape urbanism” becoming shaped in non-academic international associations suffers from a lack of sufficient theoretical foundations. Defining and clarifying the terms of this new field which is related to both urban design and landscape architecture, therefore appears rather useful. The main reason for establishing this new major is to merge the two fields (landscape architecture and urban design) so that urban characteristics could be reconsidered in terms of the land as the base on which space and material world are located (Faizi and Razzaghi Asl, 2009).

The applicational scale for both landscape architecture and urban design and other professions that are responsible for providing urban quality are shown in Figure 1.

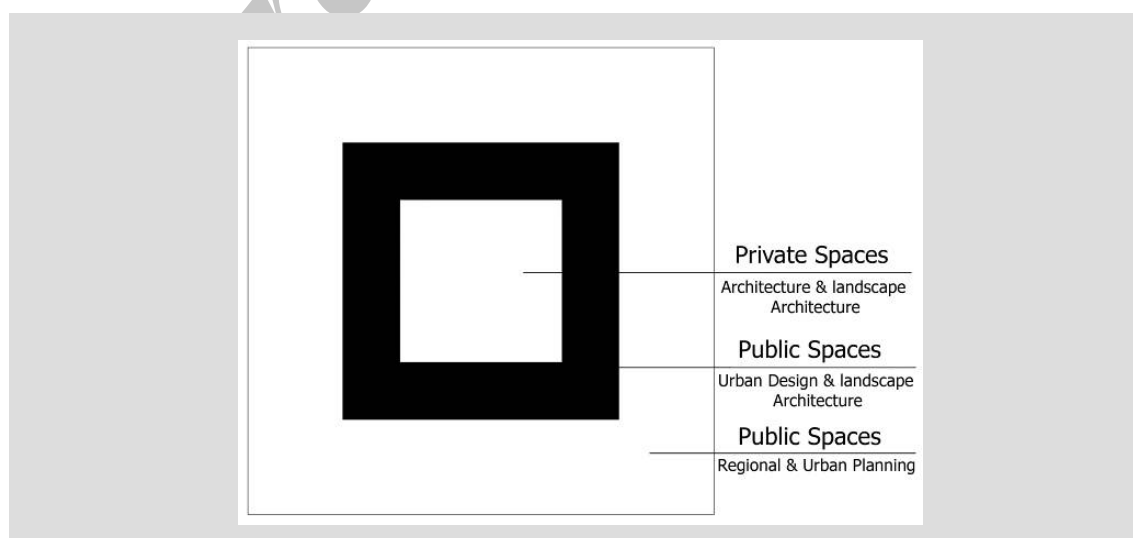


Figure 1. Functional scale of related fields on landscape architecture and urban design.

Conclusion

This research follows up the exciting gap between landscape architecture and urban design as two main fields of outdoor environmental design. According to the content analysis of texts and discourses, identifying and analyzing the correct definitions, approaches and tasks of the two disciplines, will help to improve and close the gap between them. The findings of this paper show that many overlaps exist between landscape architecture and urban design. To address the ambiguous roles and duties of the two disciplines, we can draw a diagram of the relationship

between the three fields, architecture, landscape architecture and urban design as follows:

- Urban design: mass, volume and space; buildings' external realms.
- Landscape architecture: buildings' external space, landscape details.
- Architecture: buildings' mass, volume and internal space.

Referring to some expert sources in which methods and techniques of design in different levels have been explained (such as DETR, 2000; Gindroz *et al.*, 2003) seems useful.

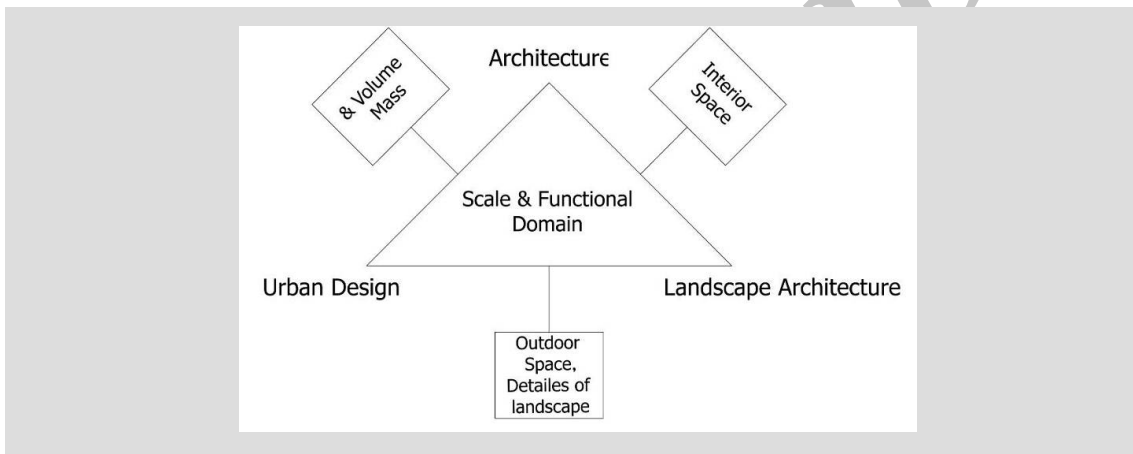


Figure 2. Relationships between three fields of environmental design.

Table 2. Functional domains for urban design and landscape architecture.

Domain	Urban design	Landscape architecture
Urban area	Preparing executive guidelines for regional plan including policies, urban design guidance, and strategies for future city development, and relationships between city and its area of influence	Designing parks, spaces and regions in suburbs and country sides, and linking livable communities to each other by creating unique landscapes
city	Preparing design strategies across the city and representing conceptual alternatives for city's structural scheme	Designing the network of green spaces, parks and recreation centers
A part of city	Designing fabric and structure of regions and quarters of city including: detecting mass volume and space, networks of pass ways, typology of land uses etc.	Designing open, green, and recreational spaces, designing landscape details and external areas of buildings
Large-scale projects	Including: designing mass and space for neighborhood units, and large urban blocks and large pieces of land	Designing and arraying constructed elements and natural objects including : university campuses, zoos, big residential complexes, parks etc.
Small-scale projects	Designing the form and space of urban places including: nodes, urban blocks, parts of a urban axis etc.	Designing focusing on ground factor including: nodes, some parts of urban axis, open area attached to buildings, and house entrances, passage entrances...

Notes

1. During its primitive stages of development, urban design was known as “Grand Architecture”, a term implying the fact that only great and famous architects are involved in this branch of architecture. Although this is not the case nowadays and peoples’ attitude have changed towards this branch, there was a meaningful point in that name; urban design is concerned with design of areas and places rather than single and isolated buildings.
2. *Landschap*.
3. According to Kevin Lynch, one of the important roles of architecture and urban design is objectifying the sense of place so that subjective spaces could be converted to tangible entities and find their concrete identity.

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