

INTRODUCTION

Landscape architecture is not embracing sustainable development in spite of the fact that it is consistent with our professions stated values. The purpose of this thesis is to examine the role of sustainable development in Landscape Architecture. This thesis culminates in the development and application of a Sustainable Development Framework for Landscape Architects. The Framework is a procedure for landscape architects to become informed about sustainable development and how it applies to landscape architecture.

Sustainable development is an important topic that is being researched globally by many disciplines. This is an area where the profession of landscape architecture should be a valuable contributor to the body of knowledge. Landscape architects make decisions that affect the land and its inhabitants; and thus, should be responsible stewards of the land. Sustainable development offers landscape architects the potential to become better stewards of the landscape. In spite of the advantages of sustainable development and its resonance with the tenets of the profession, there is remarkably little sustainable development actually taking place in landscape architecture.

The overall method of the thesis is derived from assessing a problem of sustainable development and landscape architecture and developing a solution to this problem. Figure 1-0 illustrates the process is below. The first component of this thesis is the literature review. This consists of information gathered and synthesized that pertained to sustainable development. From reviewing the literature, a position is developed.

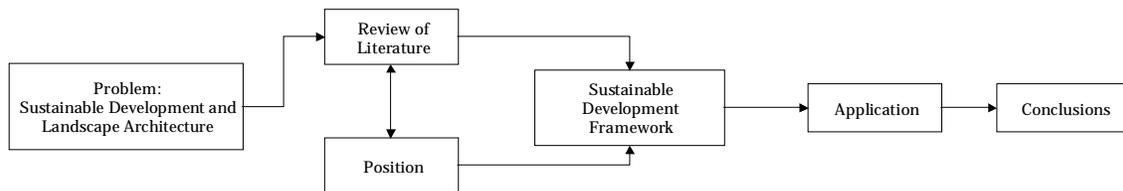


Figure 1 Overall method and process diagram.

The position is that Sustainable Development is an important issue for landscape architects and that there were reasons landscape architects have had limited success in sustainable development. The solution is a procedure, not a tool, that landscape architects can use to learn about Sustainable Development and how it applies to landscape architecture.

The solution is the sustainable development framework. The framework's methodology responds to information and tools needed by landscape architects if they are to produce sustainable designs. The framework is divided into four parts: Research, Analysis, Design, and Evaluation; these are explained in greater detail below.

The Framework was applied in a re-design for the Top of the World community located in Blount County, TN. Applying the framework through design allowed for evaluating its shortcomings and successes. This also allowed a time for reflection of the framework and sparked ideas of what is next to come.