

Reflection

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Studio:

Flowscapes

Mentor Team:

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Title:

Reviving the degraded

Planning the unplanned spaces in unproductive landscape.

I have always been interested in working on projects that have been degraded or exploited because of human activities example post mining sites, dumpfields and so on. India, the country I am from is a developing nation where the resources have been exploited rapidly in recent decades and due to this pollution levels and ecology is not considered.

The degrading landscape is one of the main issues that are of alarming concerns has the climate is also changing. It is not only to improve it ecologically, but further to integrate it into urban fabric and benefit the inhabitants.

Parkstad, post-industrial site was suitable for this research. Currently the economy and population are shrinking. The region needs a new metabolic system that can emerge improving the quality of life and making region adaptive and resilient.

After weeks of desk analysis and mapping I understood the background of the region, but I couldn't relate to the spatial structure. So, the field trip helped me a lot to formulate my research objective. When I was present in Parkstad there was disconnect between spaces. The whole region was not integrated. Has I was cycling around to explore the heritage sites, few were not easily accessible.

During the field trip, the main focus was on the spatial quality of different areas, to understand the scale and intensity of impact on the people of the region due to degraded areas.

Choosing the methodology helped in structuring the project and having a strong base setup for the project. The research was mainly based on literature study to understand challenges and opportunities of the degraded land, in order to make it resilient and

adaptive. The theories interconnect to analyse the waste nutrient flows and helps towards creating a resilient and adaptable region through design.

The analysis stage has been done mostly by research in which the design is framing the constraint. On the contrary, while designing research sets the boundaries or shapes the project. Hence both play an important role during the process of developing a project on producing food, water for generating economy and reusing and reducing waste.

I faced a couple of challenges through the process. Firstly integrating different systems such as duck farming, aquaponics system. I detailing and given more importance to technical aspects, not considering the spatial quality. Then when I worked through different scales and help from my mentors. I realized that blue - green is the main structure and spatial quality plays an important role to connect with neighbourhood and the unplanned spaces. So the spatial structure shaped the project and integrate various functions.

Working through the scales is a bit challenging as well as I had to go back forth to develop the design. In this project the main focus is water , so at a regional scale water system was overlapping the terrain. I characterized the region into three main catchment areas. the which I then developed it in detail smaller scales. The blue structure develops space and creates spatial atmosphere in certain areas. These interventions in different scales cohere with each other.

Parkstad region was large and there were time constraints to analyze, research, propose and detail. Time also needs to consider while designing and landscape is not static and always growth and this dynamic process will continue.

So, for my proposed a new network system that could be integrated into the urban and the landscape fabric. It strengthens the characteristics of the region and also the landscape qualities. To achieve this I had to understand in detail the terrain, the water management, existing abandoned land, unplanned and green areas. Reorganizing the unplanned spaces with the existing water system developed into a new blue-green network structure. So the open spaces that are mainly the unplanned spaces reconnect and have multifunction.

The sustainable way to develop the region, I focused on reusing the waste nutrients from the water and soil. Further purifying it as well having a multi-function to the areas. This resulted in reviving the degraded and reconnecting the fragmented patches.

The project also relooks at how the duckweed farming and fish ponds (aquaponics system) can spatially be connected to the neighborhood to generate economy and also revive the area. The proposed design strategy not only revives the area and improves the quality of the region environmentally. Moreover, the design with use of local materials and native plants could be easily adapted in the region by using landscape features and the existing characteristics.

Limitation of the project. Firstly, the details regarding the quality of water and exact quantities of the nutrients was difficult to analyse. I wanted to detail study of the site for pictures and better study but due to the lock down of corona virus I was not able to visit but managed and completed the project. I found it a bit hard to follow digital mentoring because discussion face to face would more helpful especially during the design stage. But after a few sessions online with mentors I was able to manage and got adjusted to it.