



## ARTICLE

# The Content of Modern Landscape Architecture Discipline and Its Forming Process

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### ABSTRACT

Modern landscape architecture discipline is not an emerging discipline. It has a very long history. After a long period of multidisciplinary integration, it has formed a modern landscape architecture. In recent years, with the development of society, the problems of environmental problems and economic structural imbalances have become more and more prominent and serious. Therefore, modern landscape architecture is also facing tremendous changes and is at the crossroads of discipline development. This paper analyzes and discusses the content and formation of modern landscape architecture, and points out the characteristics and importance of landscape architecture.

## 1. Introduction

The formation of landscape architecture is a very long historical process. Existing research shows that modern landscape architecture has evolved from the early days of gardening and craftsmanship. The content of the research mainly includes the following four characteristics: the popularization of the service object, the ecologicalization of the value interest, the networking of the spatial layout, and the scientization of research methods. Under the new era background, the development of garden science has become more and more oriented to-

wards interdisciplinary and diversified, and has gradually become a very important first-level discipline.

## 2. Disciplinary Concept and Its Evolution

Landscape architecture is a combination of agricultural technology and architecture, which contains the spiritual connotation of the cosmology, is the crystallization of aesthetic consciousness and agricultural science. For China's modern landscape architecture, its earliest origins can be traced back to the ancient princes and nobles in the sacrifice of the gods are the layout and finishing of the

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venue. Although the ritual venue is dedicated to offering sacrifices and hunting for the nobles of the princes, it has also changed the environment through the cultivation and modification of the greening of the site, greatly improving the living environment of the local residents. For example, in the ruins of the ancient Greek temple of BC, there were cases of planting holy forests; in ancient Chinese royal ceremonies and hunting places, large-scale gardens were planned nearby, and plants such as fruits and vegetables were planted. These early gardens gradually developed into plants with ornamental value, and later some buildings appeared, echoing each other, forming the prototype of the early gardens.

The modern landscape architecture really evolved from a simple gardening to a landscape architecture. It was a western European country that began in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This huge transformation is called the “Great Revolutionary Century” of landscape architecture. In this century of change, star-studded, energetic, creative and imaginative, an industrial revolution that has changed the course of human development has taken place, which has enabled the rapid transition of human society from an agricultural society to an industrial society. In this century, with the series of development and reforms such as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution, the agricultural gardening technology has been greatly developed, and the landscape garden thought has made a substantial leap.

Through the above discussion, we can find that the origin and foundation of modern garden science is traditional agricultural technology. Therefore, the research Contents of modern landscape architecture include the cultivation of various woody and herbaceous plants in traditional agriculture, irrigation and other technologies, as well as modern forestry planting, optimization, and asexual grafting techniques to plant and improve the garden plants, which makes the early aspect of landscape architecture a secondary discipline of the agricultural discipline. With the development of the times and society, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, modern landscape architecture gradually developed into a first-level discipline. Today, the content and research direction of modern landscape architecture should be greatly developed. The main subject content and the main direction of scientific research are shown in Table1<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **3. Characteristics and Contents of Modern Landscape Architecture Discipline**

Modern landscape architecture should develop into a complete discipline. The characteristics of its discipline

can be summarized into the following four characteristics: the popularization of service objects, the ecologicalization of value interest, the networking of spatial layout, and the scientization of research methods. It is precisely because of these characteristics of landscape architecture that the main service of the early gardening is the upper class of the society. This situation changed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, making gardening gradually move toward the public to serve the people. It is this change that makes landscape science truly a discipline, and the discipline has since taken the path of benefiting mankind, natural systems, society, cities and villages, and is known as the pride of the entire landscape architecture.

The main value orientation of modern landscape architecture is “lifestyle”, whose feature is mainly caused by the pursuit of exquisite life by the elites of the society, and is constantly committed to creating a beautiful garden conception. The main content is to study the aesthetic elements of garden objects such as style, composition, proportion, sequence, color, texture, rhythm and axis. Modern landscape architecture has long surpassed the limitations of life, and gradually began to promote and pursue the ecological characteristics of the garden. While pursuing aesthetics, more attention is paid to the coordination and integrity of the garden and the surrounding ecological environment, and the sustainable development of the garden.

Modern landscape architecture breaks the traditional gardening center with a point, a single point distribution and an island-like spatial distribution of gardens. Modern scales on the earth’s scale are scattered, fragmented, and discontinuous. Different from the garden studies that used to be independent of architecture and gardens, the research and practice objects of modern gardening are more diverse and diverse, and actively construct a network of landscapes with points, lines and surfaces, which makes buildings and plants more harmonious and constitute a continuous whole. From the perspective of the practical methods of modern landscape architecture, the main practice of modern landscape architecture is to adopt the “art” approach. This “art” method is a multi-angle, multi-dimensional approach to common practice, and is the result of the combination of “science” and “art”. This is also doomed to the modern landscape garden semester is no longer simply a discipline of art, but it also has a very important scientific foundation, making modern landscape architecture also have enough intellectual power<sup>[8]</sup>. In summary, the main content of modern landscape architecture includes the basic content of natural sciences such as ecology, hydrology and geosciences, and humanities such as sociology and economics. It is also these content and disciplines that give the scientific mission and nutrient

**Table 1.** Table of contents of modern landscape architecture and related discipline theories

Professional Branch	Discipline Contents	Related Disciplines and Theories
① The aspects of Planning, design, and construction	Gardening, Chinese gardening history, world gardening history, garden civil architecture, surveying, garden aesthetics, environmental psychology, “Laozi” and “Zhuangzi” analysis, “Yuanye” and poems, words, articles, reading, landscape painting appreciation and painting theory, and natural landscape appreciation	Chinese general history, world history, Chinese architecture history, world architecture history, aesthetics, psychology, history of Chinese philosophy, history of western philosophy, geology and geological history
Common parts of ① & ②	Ornamental tree science, flower gardening, plant cultivation, garden soil science, fertilizer science, garden plant protection	Botany, plant physiology, plant ecology, plant taxonomy, plant geography, meteorology, entomology, phytopathology, forestry
② The aspects of plant cultivation, reproducing, introduction, and breeding	Garden nursery, genetics, garden breeding	Farmland water conservancy, bioengineering

sources of modern landscape architecture<sup>[7,8]</sup>.

#### 4. The Value and Status of Landscape Architecture and Its Disciplines

The modern landscape architecture discipline has played a very important role and status since its establishment. The so-called disciplinary thinking, professional skills, industry applications, modern landscape architecture is a discipline that is a trinity from theory to practice. The discipline of modern landscape architecture is mainly to provide people with a comfortable outdoor garden environment through theoretical research combined with artistic practice. The content of the discipline mainly includes professional research on landscape garden protection, planning, design, construction and maintenance.

As everyone knows, landscape architecture is a relatively weak subject in the early development process, and has never been valued by the outside world, nor has it recognized the value and significance of its own existence. The root cause of this situation is because the previous landscape architecture ignored the development of theory and lacked its own theoretical science. Since China set modern landscape architecture as a first-level discipline, modern gardening has developed qualitatively. At present, China is the only country in the world that has set landscape architecture as a first-level discipline. Compared with the construction of other disciplines, modern landscape architecture is still in the initial exploration stage, and is actively exploring and establishing scientific and professional scientific guidance standards. Under the background of the new era, it is of great practical significance and imminent to vigorously construct and develop scientific theories, enhance the scientific connotation of modern garden science, and get rid of the status and drawbacks of the “discipline deficiency” of modern garden science.

To develop modern landscape architecture, the first step is to analyze the source of the subject and find out the role and value of the discipline. First of all, we must devel-

op, understand and discriminate to determine the source, function and value of landscape architecture. Through the above analysis, it is pointed out that the modern landscape architecture originated from the ancient garden art, and its development goal is derived from the transformation of the human settlement environment. Therefore, the development foundation and platform of the modern landscape architecture discipline is the subject of human settlements<sup>[1-5]</sup>. After a long period of 3,000 years of historical evolution, China’s modern landscape gradually formed the disciplinary spirit and intrinsic value with Chinese characteristics. For example, China’s landscape architecture studies more closely with the harmonious coexistence between man and nature, forming the artistic conception of the philosophy of “the harmony between man and nature”. Modern landscape architecture has gradually developed into an indispensable part of people’s lives. The current development of landscape architecture needs to use people’s daily life as a carrier to meet people’s spiritual and material pursuit through appropriate design. Existing research shows that the development of modern landscape architecture needs to follow the following three aspects of the core value of the discipline<sup>[10]</sup>.

##### 4.1 The Spokesperson, Guardian, Creator of Nature

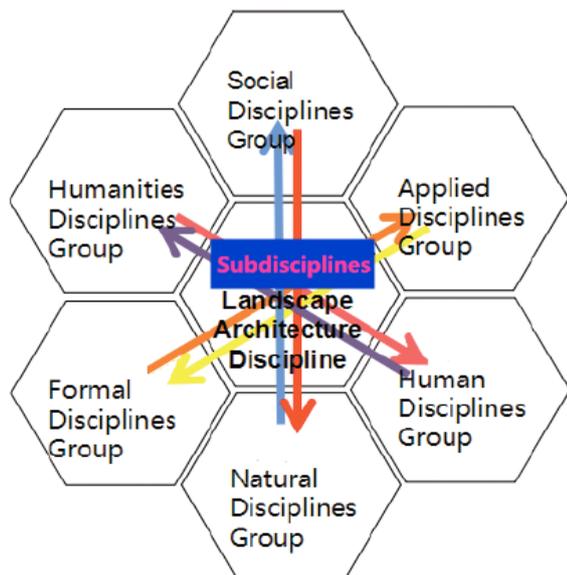
Since the formation of human society, all human production and management activities, such as basic agriculture, water conservancy, cities, construction, industry, transportation, sanitation, tourism, etc., are based on the destruction and consumption of natural resources and the natural environment. Landscape architecture is one of the few disciplines that live in harmony with nature. For modern landscape architecture, its greatest disciplinary value is to pursue the maximal “humanized nature” value. The most natural spokesperson, guardian and creator are the bottom line and core value of the development of modern landscape architecture.

## 4.2 The Weaver, General Director, Dreamer of Ecological Concept

In the long history of the development of modern landscape architecture, it always represents the pursuit of human nature and humanistic conception. Has a very long time to practice the long-term and wide-ranging space. It is the compiler, general director and dreamer of the concept of human ecological civilization, and also the discipline of landscape architecture.

## 4.3 The Coordinator, Leader, Pioneer of Ideal Human Settlements Development

Modern landscape architecture discipline is the forerunner of the development of human ecological civilization and the coordinator and leader of multidisciplinary development. Among the many disciplines, modern landscape architecture is in the foil. It is a multi-disciplinary coordinator of social sciences, applied disciplines, and humanities, giving full play to the basic “character” of the “green leaf” of “red flowers” and taking the lead in modern landscape architecture. The interaction between modern landscape architecture and multidisciplinary is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Multidisciplinary intersection forms the core field of landscape architecture

## 5. Conclusion

After a long history of development and evolution, modern landscape architecture discipline has formed a comprehensive first-level discipline of multi-study and mutual communication, which has important social and historical work and status. This paper has carried out preliminary research and analysis on the formation history and content of modern landscape architecture, and put forward some personal views on the future development direction of the discipline and the inner bottom line and core value of the discipline.

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