**Land Art Therapy – The Anderson Road Quarry Park**

In our scheme, the exploded rock face of the Anderson Road Quarry is not entirely treated as a devastated landscape; but potential for an art-piece. Although the land is torn by operations of resources extraction, we believe that the landscape should be recovered step-by-step through crafted interventions that celebrate history – the actual human lived experience, in which the utilization of natural resources is a lived reality. We use “Land Art Therapy” as a concept to cure the land. The idea of therapy importantly adds a layer of sensitivity to the classic works of land art, as conceived in the 1970s.

Human alters the landscape in different ways to maintain life. We have evolved with the land with the natural powers of ecology and geography that would restore destroyed landscape in its own way. To recover the wounded landscape, the first actions are not to immediately re-build, but to transform the ruined landscape into a setting that would enable environmental regeneration and social interaction through various urban design and community planning techniques. Once a therapeutic frame is set-up, it allows the reweaving of a complex network among human, the land and wildlife. The park thereby connects the neighbouring community with the larger urban networks and nature through processes of socialisation and rehabilitation. With the intelligence and creativity of human asserted, an organic evolvement of both the land form and the community is stimulated. Our Land Art Therapy scheme heals the land by adapting its extraordinary topography and reconnect people with the land; at the same time the land heals us by promoting physical connection to the land, strengthening our sprite and ultimately achieves psychological healing. Park users and programme participants are consequently inspired by nature, and reward the park with their creative innovation, intelligence and care.

Nature restores the ecological functions of vegetated systems, while human sculpts the landscape into an artwork. The Land Art Therapy scheme aims to provide a chance of retreat and recharge for residents of the neighbourhood, Hong Kong as a city as a whole, and international tourists. We propose to preserve unique features of the rock face, with artistic insertions and ecological restoration, to turn it into a regional landmark and spectacular scenic point. A quarry resort and climbing center will be established, in the way that city dwellers can join some short and long-term programmes of treatment to purify and recharge from their endless daily routine and the many urban illnesses. These therapeutic programmes may include workshops that conceive and actively construct the artistic and recreation facilities of the park, the crafting and facilitation of wildlife habitat in the forest nursery, and the creation of pieces of environmental art for all to enjoy. Through volunteering, participants achieve personal growth and contribute to the community such that the park, and the land, is refurbished. The design concept of the Land Art Therapeutic park is to create a diversity of uniquely designed landscape “rooms” that allow them to be individually managed by different non-profit but self-sustaining bodies to manage a series of diverse programmes and provide ideal places to hold the therapeutic programme.

The Quarry Museum and associated artists' workshops, located as a convenient location of the park, is conceived as a rock outcrop that serves as a culture and creativity incubator. It forms a cultural and creative zone on the north-east along the mount. Artworks and sculptures conceived / created will be placed or implemented in the park and along the trail to the Tai Sheung Tok, that reinforces a strong sense of local artistic identity. The nearby nursery zone creates vibrant and dynamic spaces for wildlife. The diversity of landscape provides different opportunities for both the active and passive open space usage. The featured lake and associated water bodies serves for a cozy and comfort ambiance for visitors to enjoy.

The Land Art Therapy scheme is a holistic, dynamic and interactive process of restoration. During the process, the land is shaped with creative community collaboration. We heal the land, as the land heals us. Inspired by nature, restoration through the concept of land art therapy would be a most eloquent way to recover the landscape fabric and human relationships with nature.
LAND ART THERAPY
THEA ANDERSON ROAD QUARRY PARK

The exploded rock face of the Anderson Road Quarry is not entirely treated as a devastated landscape; but potential for an art-piece. Although the land is torn by operations of resources extraction, we believe that the landscape should be recovered step-by-step through crafted interventions that celebrate history – the actual human lived experience, in which the utilization of natural resources is a lived reality. The concept of “Land Art Therapy”, thereby, is advocated to cure not only the land, but also human lives on the land.

THE LAND ART THERAPY

Land art is a form of artistic expression by changing physical landscape. The rock face formed by quarrying activities can be seen as a large piece of “artifact” with suitable restoration works. However, conventional landscape restoration approach is intrusive in some extent as it neglects the connection between the land form and the site’s history.

We borrow the concept of land art and adapt it to landscape restoration, emphasizing the respect and understanding to land and nature, instead of an anthropo-centric approach. We believe the most beautiful art comes from nature. With the creativity of human and the inherent recovering capability of nature, we can make the restoration of landscape also a form of art. Therefore, we value land art not simply as an artistic expression in natural, also a holistic and dynamic healing process.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Quarrying activities have begun at Anderson Road since 1950s. In the past, quarrying activities overlooked restoration measures, resulting in big scars on Tai Sheng Tok. We reimagine the site’s past by adapting this extraordinary topography in our design and its future by considering its functions at community, region and territory levels. Land Art Therapy is not just a restored quarry park, but also a perfect leisure, recreational and sight-seeing destination.

1. TRANSFORMATION
Facilities and key landscape features, act like platelets, are introduced to the site, in order to prevent further deterioration and provide spaces for Land Art Therapy to take place.

2. RECONNECTION
Pedestrian and vehicular access are built to reweaving connection between the site and neighboring community as well as the country park. Improving connectivity of the site is similar to collagen which ease the process of healing.

3. STIMULATION
Creativity and imagination enliven the landscape through stimulating creation of land art. They can be a piece of rock sculpture, living plants or even a pile of soil and rock presented in an artistic way.

An ideal place providing various sport activities, such as climbing centre, jogging trail, cycling track and indoor sport centre

Continuous community and visitors’ inputs to shape landscape and rebuild habitats in the park, strengthen connection between land and human

Land art, installation art and other artistic displays throughout the park, creating a artistic atmosphere, nurturing creative spirit

Continuous and pedestrian and vehicular access connecting to the park enhance accessibility form different place

Natural setting and recreational activities bring peoples back to nature and offer a quiet respite from city life

A Great Park Growing with Human and Nature

20ha.
Open space including the restored rock surface

70% Overall Green Coverage

21000m²
GFA for cultural, creative and arts workshops.

The Existing Quarry is shattered and destroyed.

Design Concept
FROM LAND ART TO THE QUARRY PARK

Landscape needs to be healed, so does the human. In light of this, five key featured proposals are drafted, including regional and local destination, incubator for creativity and identity, participatory restoration, ideal home for wildlife and refreshing landscape. Facilities and innovative programme are derived to make healing process to happen.

“
We heal the land as the land heal us
”

SITE LAYOUT DESIGN

Land Art Therapy adapts a progressive healing approach to draw up a master plan with five themed zones – active zone, community zone, cultural and creativity zone and tourism destination zone. Although each of these zones serves different function and target audience, they complete the healing process to both human, land and nature.

4. INSPIRATION

Land art is not only to shape the landscape, but also to vivify our neighborhood. Together with landscape, it offers respite from city life and nurture creative spirit. They extend the healing effect beyond the boundary of the wound of our soul and spirit.
INCUBATOR FOR CREATIVITY AND IDENTITY

Land Art Therapy values human creativity as the key component. The Quarry Museum and associated artists’ workshops are conceived as a rock outcrop that serves as a culture and creativity incubator. It forms a cultural and creative zone. Artworks and sculptures conceived / created will be placed or implemented in the park and along the trail to the Tai Sheung Tok, that reinforces a strong sense of local artistic identity. Artist workshops and black box theater offer a series of cultural and art programmes, that forms an artistic environment. Creations from the art programmes and workshops are displayed along the art-work trail, not only for reinforcing the artistic ambiance, but also offering a place of refreshment.

Meanwhile, the Quarry Museum shows the history and operation of quarrying industry as well as the geological characters. Its objectives are to promote the contribution of quarrying and to educate people the uniqueness of geology in Hong Kong. At the end, it builds up people’s understanding and concern over landscape destruction.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL DESTINATION

The rock face is the highlighting feature and icon of the site. We propose to preserve such unique features, with artistic insertions and ecological restoration, to turn it into a regional landmark and spectacular scenic point. A quarry resort and climbing center will be established, in the way that city dwellers can join some short and long-term programmes of treatment to purify and recharge from their endless daily routine and the many urban illnesses.

The Mount Top Viewing Deck on the top of Tai Sheung Tok is the final tourism destination. It has a perfect view of the Victoria Harbour, which becomes an “must-visit” spot in Hong Kong.

PARTICIPATORY RESTORATION

Getting people involved to shape the landscape is one of our primary objectives. People can shape the landscape in an artistics way in the community nursery and turn in the park. The community involvement is not only for fun but also promotes personal growth and give back to the community.
Ideal Home for Wildlife

Native plants and vegetation species are grown in the site for landscape restoration and rebuilding woodland, shrubland, and wetland habitats. Given that most species are native and commonly found, the restored habitats are similar to those in the neighborhood and are ideal homes for local wildlife, such as butterflies, frogs, dragonflies, and birds, etc.

Wetland
Mainly surrounding the ponds. An important habitat as well as feeding and breeding grounds

Woodland
Mainly located on the restored rockface in the north east of the site. An important breeding and nursery ground

Shrubland
Widely distributed in the site. Act as transitional area between natural habitats and urban area.

Community members placing bird boxes on tree to rebuild habitat for birds
Large piece of quarried rock to show the linkage to quarrying history
Outdoor installation art by local artist

Discharge to streamer
Wetland
Planted filter
Underground biological treatment tank
Discharge of greywater

Refreshing Landscape Destination

Ponds, lawn, and butterfly garden are constructed in the site to enhance landscape diversity and to serve as landscape destination. These landscape destinations create active and passive open space for various leisure and recreational activities, such as boating and picnicking, and for people to appreciate the beauty of topology and wildlife. Therefore, the diverse landscape features can heal peoples’ physical and psychological aspects.

Land Art Therapy

We heal the land; as the land heals us. Inspired by nature, restoration through the concept of land art therapy would be a most eloquent way to recover the landscape fabric and human relationships with nature.

The Land Art Therapy scheme is a holistic, dynamic, and interactive process of restoration. During the process, the land is shaped with creative community collaboration. We heal the land, as the land heals us.