

FORMS, TRANSITIONS, AND DESIGN APPROACHES IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: A “FEMALE” PERSPECTIVE

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1 ABSTRACT

Do female landscape architects design differently than their male counterparts? For many decades, this seemingly simple question has been often contemplated, but little answered. This issue remains an uneasy topic of conversation to people in our discipline. Although previous scholars have made contributions toward examining the questions of gender, culture and landscape, there has yet to be a definitive work that outlines and explores the potential gender issues that today's landscape architecture professionals may encounter. Among those issues, an inquiry into women as creators of designed landscapes provides a general framework for the study: what are the forms, transitions and approaches that female designers use when building landscapes? Through the process of literature review, primary data collection and survey analysis, an understanding of how female designers consider their gender identity influence the design process emerges. Although findings suggest that gender may influence design process but not outcome, and designed landscapes without specific forms come from both male and female creators, it gives a novel perspective to landscape designers of any gender, and encourages them to consider how their innate female personality might potentially influence design thinking. This study may provide a good opportunity for researchers and students to challenge the gender stereotypes in our discipline.

1.1 Keywords

gender, female, landscape form, design approach, transition