



Available online at: <https://journal.gioarchitect.co.id/index.php/localengineering/issue/current>

Local Engineering

Journal of Local Architecture and Civil Engineering

| Doi: 10.59810/localengineering | ISSN (Online) 2987-7555 |



Architecture – Research Article

Evaluation of Soft Landscape Elements Integration in Recreational Resorts in South West Nigeria

Aisha P. Abdullahi¹, Joseph A. Babalola², Kolawole O. Morakinyo³, Olatunde F. Adedayo⁴, Nneka O. Akande⁵

¹Department of Architectural Technology, Federal Polytechnic Bida, Niger State Nigeria,

^{2,4}Department of Architecture, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State Nigeria,

³Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Federal Polytechnic, Ayede, Oyo State Nigeria,

⁵Department of Tourism Management Technology, Federal Polytechnic Ayede, Oyo State, Nigeria

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: September 15, 2024

Revised: November 20, 2024

Available online: December 01, 2024

KEYWORDS

Integration, Nigeria, Recreational resorts, soft landscape elements, Tourism

CORRESPONDENCE

Kolawole O. Morakinyo

E-mail: kwwlemorakinyo@gmail.com

A B S T R A C T



Nigeria's environmental sector currently face a significant funding gap. Nigeria has great prospects when it comes to Resort Designs thanks to the diverse landscape, beautiful scenery and many destinations with historic significance. Unfortunately, this is not the case and hence this poses to highlight major problems in Nigeria and possible solutions. The goal of this study is to ascertain the best ways to include soft landscape aspects into resort designs to enhance visitor appeal. In this sense, resorts are independent businesses that aim to provide most of a visitor's needs on the property, including food, drink, housing, sports, entertainment, and shopping. To test the hypothesis that soft landscape elements integrated in resort designs leads to an improved psychological approach on vacationers on such structures, a primary and secondary survey would be carried out to factor out certain data to achieve my aim. Respondents would be randomly divided into two conditions (the vacationers and Staff of several resorts) and asked to respond to an interview guide material. Responses would be concluded and analyzed for my findings using percentages to develop a data to consider for my proposed design. The results gotten from my analysis would be the governing factor to give an insight on how best the integration of soft landscape elements in resort design can be designed. On this basis a good design should therefore be proposed to ensure a proper resort design after proper research and considerations.

INTRODUCTION

A resort is a location that is frequently used for vacations, relaxation, or as a midday escape from the daily grind of work. A resort might be a single building, like a hotel, or it can be an entire island or a collection of chalets. In general, resorts offer large, luxurious buildings with amenities and full-service lodging. This draws vacationing visitors, draws business meetings, and provides a comfortable setting for appropriate leisure (Mehaisi, 2018). According to research, the closer residents are to a park for leisure, the more frequently they are likely to engage in physical activity there (Norah Norazawati & Mohdal, 2014), this also reveals that the interest of tourists is decided by how close they are to the beautiful and natural environment (Lund and Karl

Benediktsson 2012). Additionally, the visual quality would influence how visitors behave and their emotional ties, which promotes better involvement and social interaction among tourists.

The outside natural world is seen to be ultimately lovely, useful, and adaptable for children to visit and explore (Noriah, 2014). If not handled properly, issues with landscape design can result in a lot of lost time and money. Expectations and reality often diverge, and when it comes to resorts, reality sometimes hits hard. Landscape slope issues, water drainage, aged trees, and erosion management are some of the most prevalent landscaping issues that show up as having the most negative effects on the institution (Nnoruo, 2021).



Resort designs are beautiful places to behold which must consciously put to notice how best the building can blend with its environment which further makes such design look alive and sustainable but the case is reversed as there are little or no reflection of soft landscape been integrated into resort designs. The distinguishing characteristics of a piece of land, including its landforms and the way they interact with other natural and artificial elements, are referred to as its landscape (Simensen, Rune Halvorsen, and Lars Erikstad 2018). A landscape is made up of the physical components of geophysically defined landforms, such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, and water bodies like rivers, lakes, ponds, and the sea. It also includes the living components of the land cover, such as native vegetation, the human components, such as various land uses, buildings, and structures, as well as the transient components, such as lighting and weather. Landscapes express a live synthesis of people and place that is essential to local and national identity by combining both their physical roots and the cultural overlay of human presence, frequently formed over millennia. The character of a landscape helps define the self-image of the people who inhabit it and a sense of place that differentiates one region from other regions. It is the dynamic backdrop to people's lives. Landscape can be as varied as farmland, a landscape park or wilderness (Wu 2006). The Earth has a vast range of landscapes, including the icy landscapes of polar regions, mountainous landscapes, vast arid desert landscapes, islands, and coastal landscapes, densely forested or wooded landscapes including past boreal forests and tropical rainforests, and agricultural landscapes of temperate and tropical regions. The activity of modifying the visible features of an area of land is referred to as landscaping (Schulte 2007).

LITERATURE REVIEW

CONCEPT OF RESORT

A resort, according to Huffadine (1999), can be simply defined as a lodging facility associated with leisure activities. This refers to areas where people can meet new people, attend social events, and improve their health and fitness. To attract customers, resorts improve the environment and provide services. According to Schwanke et al. (1997), key natural, aesthetic, recreational, and cultural attractions should be close to resorts. A resort is a location that people commonly visit for relaxation or pleasure, such as while on vacation, according to Baud-Bovy et al. (1998). A resort that draws travelers in sufficiently for them to remain for at least one day and one night qualifies as a destination resort. In a word, resort architecture refers to a building or a collection of buildings built in a particular place to facilitate leisure and recreational activities. For a successful resort, the building's surroundings are critical; it can be natural, man-made, or a blend of both in the overall layout. There are several types of resort which are recreational resort, sport resort, all-inclusive resort, destination resort, ecotourism resort, historic resort amongst others.

Landscape Elements applicable in Resort Design

A piece of land's distinguishing traits, such as its landforms and how they interact with other natural and man-made elements, are referred to as its landscape. The physical elements of landforms with particular geophysical characteristics, such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, and bodies of water like rivers, lakes, ponds, and the sea, make up a landscape. Along with live land cover, it also includes man-made components like various land uses, buildings, and structures as well as transient components like weather and illumination. Landscapes transmit a live synthesis of people and place that is essential to local and national identity by combining both their physical origins and the cultural overlay of human presence, generally created over millennia (Halvorsen 2018). Trees, bushes, grass, annuals, perennials, ground coverings, and vines make up the vegetation. They do many of the following tasks, including improving visual quality, reducing wind and erosion, reducing noise, altering the climate, saving energy, reducing glare reflection, purifying the air, and protecting animals. Examples of land form components include retaining walls, terracing, and earth berms. These components must either contrast with the architectural form or blend in with the site's natural topography. Ponds, lakes, fountains, and reflection pools are examples of water features. They may be found in urbanized areas or along pathways that run alongside green spaces.

In addition to providing aesthetic value, focal points, sound absorption, microclimate adjustment, natural habitat, recreational activities, retention ponds, and irrigation reservoirs, water features also offer the following. Pavement is also a type of landscape element as different pavement materials kinds are used for diverse reasons. They can offer spatial identity, positional accuracy, spatial character, and warnings. Materials are chosen depending on their use and upkeep needs. There are three types of surfaces: hard, changeable, and soft. Site amenities include gazebos, trash cans, benches, tables, drinking fountains, phone booths, bus stations, kiosks, fences, gates, monuments, flag poles, ash urns, and garbage cans. With proper planning and design, site amenities may be made to operate together harmoniously and enhance the installation's overall appearance. The types of outside lighting include architectural, pathway, and parking lot illumination. Lighting serves a number of purposes through a range of applications and is a fundamental component of landscape features. Information may be conveyed using a straightforward yet efficient sign system without degrading the installation's aesthetics. Identification, destination, regulating, inspirational, and informative signs are divided into these categories.

METHODOLOGY

The study was able to analyze several means to the justification of integrating soft landscape elements in resort designs as 8 resort designs were studied to carry out the findings of this study as each of them was done in south-west, Nigeria. The process of collecting, interpreting, and integrating data from both quantitative (from experiments and surveys) and qualitative

(from focus groups and interviews) sources which is known as mixed method research. The study gains a wider and deeper level of understanding and confirmation while minimizing the drawbacks that each technique has on its own when quantitative and qualitative research and data are combined. Finally, because of its in-depth understanding and research method for the knowledge of both the researcher and the readers, the mixed method of research will be employed for the research to be carried out on the integration of soft landscape in recreational resort.

DISCUSSION AND RESULT

Integrated Soft Landscapes Elements

The resort designs that were studied resulted in the elements that can be integrated into it which can be either green (grasses, shrubs & trees), water or terrain. Some other cases had the capacity to accommodate all three elements but the cases discussed in table 4.1 had one element incorporated into the design. Ife Grand Resort and Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort integrated soft landscape through the use of the existing terrain on site as both the building and landscape followed the pattern of the land and ensured that any feature on site was in accordance with the land's topography. In the case of Zenababs Half Moon Resort, Inagbe Grand Resort and Royal Park International Resort all incorporated the use of grasses in their resort buildings to further enhance the symbiotic relationship between the building and their environment. Water is the major element used as an integrated element in most of the cases studied as seen in the case of Atican Beach Resort, Whispering Palms Resort and La Campagne Tropicana Beach Resort.

Table 4.1 Cross tabulation of the Names of Resort against Elements that can be Integrated

		GREEN	WATER	TERRAIN	TOTAL
NAME OF RESORT	IFE GRAND RESORT	0	0	1	1
	THE ZENABABS HALF MOON RESORT	1	0	0	1
	ATICAN BEACH RESORT	0	1	0	1
	IKOGOSI WARM SPRINGS & RESORT	0	0	1	1
	WHISPERING PALMS RESORT	0	1	0	1
	LA CAMPAGNE TROPICANA BEACH RESORT	0	1	0	1
	INAGBE GRAND RESORTS & LEISURE	1	0	0	1
	ROYAL PARK INTERNATIONAL RESORT	1	0	0	1
Total		3	3	2	8



Plate I. Integrated soft landscape in La Campagne Resort

Types of Soft Landscape Elements available

Soft landscape elements are decorative additions to a space which are trees, grasses, shrubs and water. The study carried out on 8 cases gave an analysis on the different resort that had the types of soft scape element in use. 35% of resort had trees as the major soft landscape element available as they do not have any naturally flowing water existing around the site as seen in the case of Atican Beach Resort and Inagbe Grand Resorts & Leisure. 30% of the resort studied had water has major soft scape element existing in the resort which served as a recreational area in some cases while few others used them for just beautification and therapeutic approach that increases cool temperature on site. 35% of the resort studied also had shrubs as the major soft scape existing on the site, as it was used to separate vehicular path from the pedestrian path. The availability of soft landscape element helps to regulate the amount of temperature heating the site. In the case of Whispering Palms Resort that have a naturally flowing water around the site, the temperature on site would be regulated as due to the inflow of cool air.

Table 4.2 Cross tabulation of the name of resort against the soft landscape elements available

		TREES	SHRUBS	WATER	TOTAL
NAME OF RESORT	IFE GRAND RESORT	0	1	0	1
	THE ZENABABS HALF MOON RESORT	0	1	0	1
	ATICAN BEACH RESORT	0	0	1	1
	IKOGOSI WARM SPRINGS & RESORT	1	0	0	1
	WHISPERING PALMS RESORT	1	0	0	1
	LA CAMPAGNE TROPICANA BEACH RESORT	0	0	1	1
	INAGBE GRAND RESORTS & LEISURE	1	0	0	1
	ROYAL PARK INTERNATIONAL RESORT	0	1	0	1
Total		3	3	2	8

Presence of Therapeutic Gardens

60% of the cases studied have in existence the presence of therapeutic garden, just as the name implies a zone laid out for the comfortability of tourists while in the resort. Some the gardens can either be artificially created for use in the building

or naturally created to beautify the site and ease tourist of stress by relaxing on the grasses provided. 40% of the resorts that didn't have did not have therapeutic gardens have not space to incorporate it on their site layout like in Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort, Atican Beach Resort and Inagbe Grand Resort and Leisure as most of them are beach resort that deals majorly with water. Nature is a wonderful source of diversion as people are drawn to natural landscapes and diverted from their pain and anguish because they are genetically predisposed to find nature captivating. Stress and anxiety are lessened by nature. This might be explained by the fact that nature offers a break from the ongoing struggle to block out conflicting impulses in our hectic life. Humans naturally find nature captivating, therefore when faced with natural vistas, they don't have to try to concentrate. This improves mental freshness and minimizes mental tiredness. Plants provide solace on a mental level. "Plants take away some of the strain and tension of the immediate present by telling us that there are long, permanent patterns in life," says Lewis, one researcher in this field.

Table 4.3. Cross tabulation of the name of resort against the presence of therapeutic garden available

		YES	NO	
NAME OF RESORT	IFE GRAND RESORT	1	0	1
	THE ZENABABS HALF MOON RESORT	1	0	1
	ATICAN BEACH RESORT	0	1	1
	IKOGOSI WARM SPRINGS & RESORT	0	1	1
	WHISPERING PALMS RESORT	1	0	1
	LA CAMPAGNE TROPICANA BEACH RESORT	0	1	1
	INAGBE GRAND RESORTS & LEISURE	0	1	1
	ROYAL PARK INTERNATIONAL RESORT	1	0	1
Total		4	4	8



Plate II. Presence of therapeutic garden in Zenababs Resort



Plate III. Presence of therapeutic garden in Whispering Resort

Presence of Swimming Pool

Swimming pool is used as a recreational facility to enable swimming or other leisure activities. Many of these pools can be outdoor but can also be found inside the buildings. Resort buildings majorly put into consideration swimming pool because it poses to attract a lot of people in it. 100% of the cases studied all have in existence swimming pool as seen in table 4.4. Whispering Resort has an outdoor swimming pool that is properly planned and made convenient for its users. Atican Beach Resort is another example having its swimming pool on the outdoor section which is well planned to accommodate man as it helps man relief stress and improve social well-being.

Table 4.4. Cross tabulation of the name of resort against the presence of swimming pool available

		YES	TOTAL
NAME OF RESORT	IFE GRAND RESORT	1	1
	THE ZENABABS HALF MOON RESORT	1	1
	ATICAN BEACH RESORT	1	1
	IKOGOSI WARM SPRINGS & RESORT	1	1
	WHISPERING PALMS RESORT	1	1
	LA CAMPAGNE TROPICANA BEACH RESORT	1	1
	INAGBE GRAND RESORTS & LEISURE	1	1
	ROYAL PARK INTERNATIONAL RESORT	1	1
Total		8	8



Plate IV. Presence of swimming pool in Whispering resort



Plate V. Presence of swimming pool in Atican beach resort

CONCLUSION

The importance of landscape design display and presentation via natural endowment offer grounds for the area to be visited for leisure, relaxation, picnics, etc. It can be deduced that visitors' motivation is dependent on what they experience while visiting, and that the degree of motivation is correlated with the landscape characteristics of the location, such as stunning scenery, undulating topography, a variety of vegetation types, and clear water bodies, all of which contribute to the site's aesthetics and visitor performance. Additionally, proper planning in the resort environment is necessary to preserve natural forms like water bodies, mountains, and hills, as well as to take into account botanical gardens and thereby respect lives, form, and the surrounding environment. This will help visitors and tourists have a better and more memorable experience. The study was able to demonstrate how soft landscape components may be effectively included into any resort design to make it suitably durable.

REFERENCES

Adler, P. A., and Adler, P. (1994). *Handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

ADTA, (2007). *Classification Manual Hotels*. Abu Dhabi: Licensing and classification Department. Retrieved on September 5, 2012 from abudhabitourism.ae

Alexander, S. (2002). *Green Hotels: Opportunities and Resources for Success*. Zero Waste Alliance One World Trade Center 121 SW Salmon St., Suite 210 Portland.

Babaian, C. and Twigg, P. (2009). The power of plants: Introducing ethno botany and biophilia in your biology class. Retrieved on September, 29 from www.ucpressjournals.com/reprintinfo.asp.

Bawa, H. G. (2011). *Proposed health resort Gurara falls: Utilization of biophilic design attributes to create healing environments*. Unpublished M. Sc. Thesis, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

Bohdanowicz, P. (2006). *Responsible resources Management in Hotels Attitudes, Indicators, Tools and Strategies*. Published Ph. D Thesis, School of Industrial Engineering and Management, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.

Bundhun. R., (2012). *Hotel Star Ratings Standards Long Overdue*. The national. Retrieved June 4, 2012 from www.thenational.ae

Caddet (1997). *Saving energy with energy efficiency in hotels and motels*. Maxi brochure 07.

Collins, D. (2001). *New Hotel: Architecture and Design*. London: Conran Octopus Limited.

Heerwegen, J. (2008). *Biophilia, health and well-being*. Retrieved on September 18, 2012 from www.biophilia/health-nature.com.

Helmund, P. C. and Smith, D. S. (2006). *Designing Green ways: Sustainable landscape for nature and people*. Washington: Island Press.

Huelat, B. J. (2008). *The wisdom of biophilia – nature in healing environments*. *Journal of green building* volume 3 number 3.

Joye, Y. (2007). *A tentative argument for the inclusion of nature-based forms in architecture*.

Kahn, P. H. (1997). *Developmental psychology and the biophilia hypothesis: children's affiliation with nature*. *Developmental review* 17, article no. DR960430

Kellert, S. R. (2005). *Building for life; Designing and understanding human-nature connections*.

Katrin (2011). *Conversations with Landscape*, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315574172>

Lund, Katrin Anna, and Karl Benediktsson. 2012. *Conversations with Landscape*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.

Makhzoumi J. and Pungetti G. (1999), *Ecological Landscape Design and Planning*, Spon Routledge

Mehaisi, alaa Faisal Osman Mohammed *Recreational Tourism Resort/ alaa Faisal Osman Mohammed Mehaisi; njat Osman el Baroodi*. - Khartoum: Sudan University of Science and Technology, College of Architecture and Planning, 2018.- 109p: ill; 28cm.- bachelor.

Olwig K.R. (1996), *Recovering the Substantive Nature of Landscape*, *Annals of the A.A.G* 86, 4630-653

Olwig K.R. (2005), *Representation and Alienation in the Political Landscape*, *cultural geographies* 12, 19-40

Schulte, Lisa A. 2007. "J. A. Wiens, M. R. Moss, M. G. Turner, and D. J. Mladenoff (Eds.): *Foundation Papers in Landscape Ecology*." *Landscape Ecology* 22 (10): 1589–90. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-007-9146-y>.

Simensen, Trond, Rune Halvorsen, and Lars Erikstad. 2018. "Methods for Landscape Characterisation and Mapping: A Systematic Review." *Land Use Policy* 75 (June):557–69.

Troll, C. 2007: *The geographic landscape and its investigation*. In: Wiens, J.A., Moss, M.R., Turner, M.G. & Mladenoff, D.J. (eds): *Foundation papers in landscape ecology*. New York, Columbia University Press: 71–101 [First published as: Troll, C. 1950: *Die geographische Landschaft und ihre Erforschung*. *Studium Generale* 3(4/5):163–181].

Wu, Jianguo. 2006. "Landscape Ecology, Cross-Disciplinarity, and Sustainability Science." *Landscape Ecology* 21 (January):1–4.

This page is intentionally left blank