

# Strategies of Landscape Justice Theory in Urban Public Space

- Based on Setha Low's Landscape Justice Dimensions Theory -

Fangni Ke\*, Hyeyoung Choi\*\*

\*Doctoral Course, Interdisciplinary Programs: Landscape Architecture, Seoul National University

\*\*Associate Professor, School of Civil, Architectural Engineering and Landscape Architecture, Sungkyunkwan University

## 1. Introduction

With the emergence of global socio-environmental issues such as the migration crisis and the widening gap between rich and poor, urban public space has shown privilege and inequality in its distribution and use (Cohen et al., 2012). Landscape Justice seeks to explain the issue of unequal allocation of landscape resources, reduce disparities in public health between different groups, and promote a more equitable and sustainable relationship between people and landscapes.

Setha Low proposes three dimensions of Landscape Justice for urban green space use. These include Distributive Justice, Procedural Justice, and Interactional Justice. Distributive Justice is the equitable distribution of socio-technical and environmental risks, impacts, and benefits. In the context of Landscape Justice, Distributive Justice ensures that everyone can enter and use the park in accordance with the principle of equity. Procedural Justice in Landscape Justice refers to the equitable inclusion of all affected groups in the park's planning and decision-making process. The concept of Interactional Justice is concerned with the quality of interpersonal interaction in a specific situation or location. In terms of public space, Interactional Justice is reflected in whether people are being treated in a discriminatory way or are targets of harassment, insults, or other rude behavior.

## 2. Methods

Through literature review, this paper systematically composes and summarizes the concept and connotation of Landscape Justice, provides a deeper understanding of the original foundation of Setha Low's theory of Landscape Justice dimensions, and extends the content of the theoretical framework to summarize specific theoretical strategies.

## 3. Strategy

### 3.1 Strategies of Procedural Justice

Procedural Justice emphasizes that designers should not only focus on the result of planning and design but also care about and value the process and treatment of the public (Lin & Zhu, 2016). To reflect the Procedural Justice of public participation, different organizations and countries have developed corresponding laws and strategies in different aspects. For example, the Aarhus Convention (2021) provides for the right of the public to receive information on environmental protection and to participate in administrative decisions and judicial processes. Additionally, the public should be more aware of environmental protection, learn more about basic environmental knowledge and develop a scientific and rational attitude (Li, 2013). And designers should not neglect to communicate with the public when designing. Designers can understand the needs of the residents directly through questionnaires or indirectly through organizations such as neighborhood committees to better follow up on the design.

### 3.2 Strategies of Distributive Justice

The public nature of public spaces depends on the extent to which they exist and can be utilized and made public (Mitchell, 2017). Urban public space provides a variety of open lifestyles for various activities; also, public space needs to be managed to maintain order. Therefore, in order to provide opportunities for informal activities, it is necessary to loosely manage certain areas of the city.

Ed Wall (2020) argues that the most significant challenge facing landscape architecture in the next ten years is related to the climate crisis caused by global warming and climate change. The climate crisis is an important Landscape Justice issue intertwined with the twin concerns of

social justice and Environmental Justice. To mitigate the effects of climate change, all factors affecting natural balance and factors affecting biodiversity should be analyzed and evaluated based on a comprehensive collection of data on natural and landscape resources. The dynamic changes in nature and landscape are comprehensively predicted through meteorological models. And it is necessary to regularly and systematically monitor the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and other aspects to detect changes as early as possible and take timely measures.

It is very important that residents in each place can enjoy the right to enter and use green park space in space. Each country has its own urban green space planning indicators. The park's planning can meet the distributional justice of the green space in this area if these rules are followed. For example, China's Standard for Planning and Design of Urban Residential Areas (GB 50180-2018) stipulates the minimum size of residential parks.

### 3.3 Strategies of Interactional Justice

Universal design is seen as a way to ameliorate the social injustices caused by poor planning, design, and management and to ensure that disadvantaged groups can be included in society (Kadir, Jamaludin & Rahim, 2012). Designers need to add barrier-free facilities in the landscape design, naturally enhancing participation and sense of disadvantaged groups of belonging in the environment.

A healing landscape is a positive landscape that uses landscape elements to stimulate the user's mind and body as an adjunct to therapy, thereby promoting a balanced state of mind and body (Wei, 2019). The healing landscape provides users a beautiful and comfortable outdoor environment, respects people with different psychological states, and helps people from different backgrounds interact. Therefore, landscape architects can help disadvantaged people with mental illness utilize parks by creating spaces such as fragrant gardens.

## 4. Conclusion

There is still relatively inadequate research on the specific strategies of Setha Low's theory of Landscape Justice dimensions due to the late introduction and short development time of the concept of Landscape Justice. Therefore, this study summarizes the strategies based on Setha Low's Landscape Justice Theory. In terms of Procedural Justice, the active participation of citizens in the process of landscape construction is emphasized. In terms of Distributive Justice, urban public space needs to have the diversification of management and reasonable spatial distribution, while paying attention to the mitigation of climate change. In terms of Interactional Justice, the application of universal design and healing landscape can provide a medium for different people to integrate into the urban public space.

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