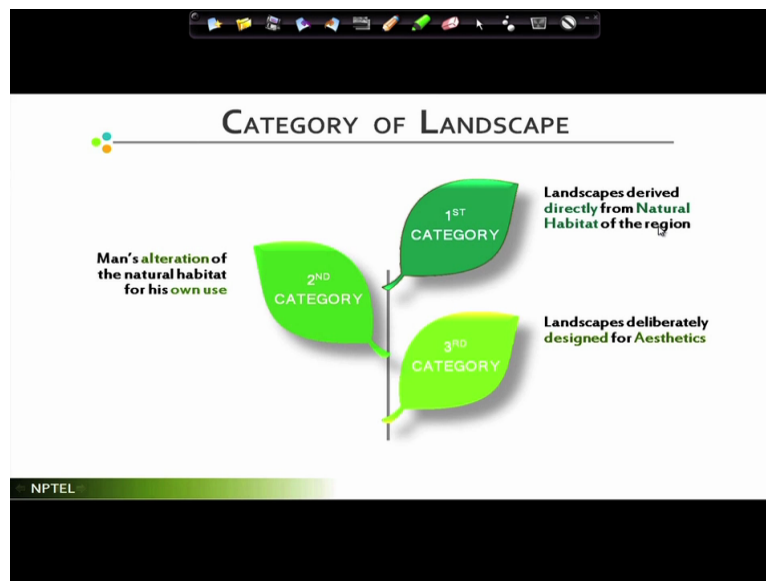


Course on Landscape Architecture and Site Planning-Basic Fundamentals
Professor Uttam Banerjee
Department of Architecture and Regional Planning
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Lecture 03
Module 1
Categories and Materials in Landscape

Good morning.

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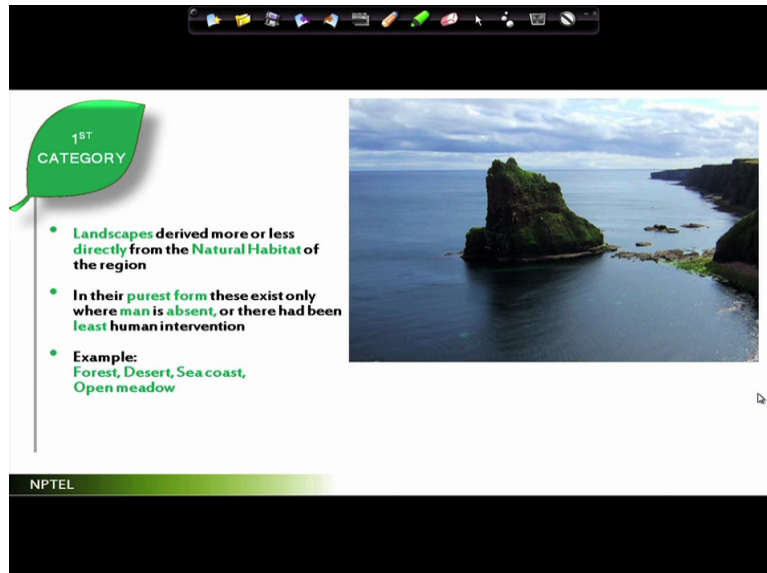


Let us have a quick recap on the category that we were discussing in the last lecture category 1, category 2 and category 3. In the first category it is a pure nature, pure landscape, natural habitat undisturbed. In the category 2 human intervention is there to certain degree but without any intension of creating a landscape rather I would say oblivious to the result that he is creating to the landscape but that is also a category of landscape second category it is not always bad quite often we go to the country side to the regional areas where we would like to see a hut, we would like to see a settlement, we would like to see a water body that has been created, we would like to see agriculture fields, we would like to see flower plantations like tulips.

So second category is not a negative category mind it, please do not keep this in your mind the second category is not the right category but I would say quite often we go out of our home to see the second category because the first category if suppose we have to experience then naturally what happens is in the first category there has to be some bit of (())(1:45), there


has to be some bit of adventures you have to trade through areas which nobody has traded, you might have trouble, you may not have energy to go but however that is the first category. In the second category when you are seeing it is a human intervention is there but we also like it.

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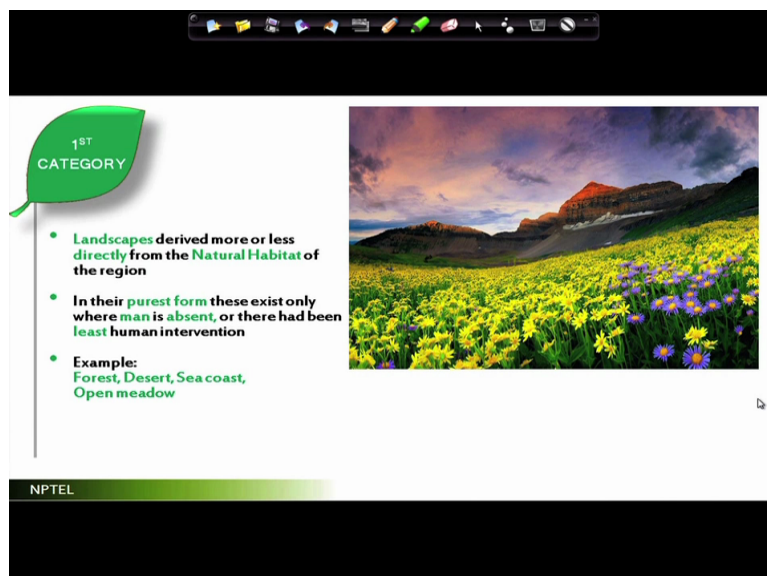


1ST
CATEGORY

- Landscapes derived more or less directly from the Natural Habitat of the region
- In their purest form these exist only where man is absent, or there had been least human intervention
- Example: Forest, Desert, Sea coast, Open meadow




NPTEL




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NPTEL




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NPTEL



Human Intervention

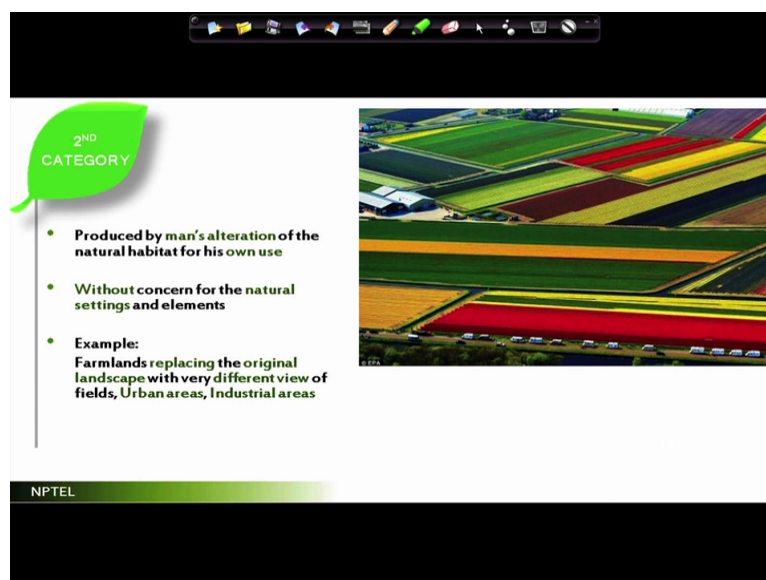


NPTEL

So if suppose we quickly recap it the last class we had last lecture. The first category raw nature, raw nature, raw nature with a little bit of intervention yes you can see a boat over there people are boating in this but still if you look at the picture it is majorities landscapes and raw nature and raw nature then an intervention started recall the last lecture intervention started with a house built over here.

So there is a human intervention as long as let me clarify this when a first category will be treated as first and when a second category still be considered as a first category when the human intervention is very very negligible. So do not try to be very critical about oh I see a house over there so it is no longer a first category do be such critical because that criticality makes no sense as long as in the entire picture frame I have 99.9 percent as raw it is first category.

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Then I would like to discuss more about the second category, in the second category what happens is there is a raw nature one family landed up there within the raw nature they made their own house and they made their own yards and in that they are trying to build their own house.

You may see a wind mill at the back, you may see some type of plantations which they have done, you may see an agriculture field which they have plowed but that is a second category yes it is a second category why because the raw nature has been now intervened, I will not use the term called disturb, I would say intervened and that intervention may be positive, yes

that area has been developed and now it has become an wonderful landscape to view and people go there you know they rush from one place to another to see such kind of areas.

But people who have created it the user he is absolutely oblivious about what he is creating, he is only thinking about his area and his domain, his function, his activity and creating it. As a result came out to others as a wonderful view wonderful landscape.

So if you look at these pictures now, here you can see such kind of brush of colors are made in the paintings in water color paintings but can you think about it in the nature this has been done and it has been done by peoples intervention and it has created such a landscape that people rush there to see as if it is a it is a kind of experience or view of the lifetime.

So second category does not mean it is a poor category or weaker category of landscape no. In fact I would very much stress upon this idea all three categories are interesting, attractive, meaningful. It has nothing to do with which category it belongs to, only you as a user see that enjoy, you have a pleasure in your mind.

Look at this particular picture the one that I am showing you know in this what happened is what is the purpose of this landscape, purpose is to make flower gardens. The person who has made it or the group who has made it they are not bothered about what is going to be the look of this particular area they only delineated this percents of land, they are growing flower plantations over there, there will be a time coming when they will plug this flowers and ultimately sell it of in the market and it will look different.

When it will look different then what you are seeing now you might find that nobody is coming there to see that because the landscape does no longer attracts them. So the attraction comes with what is on offer.

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2ND
CATEGORY

- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
- Without concern for the natural settings and elements
- Example:
Farmlands replacing the original landscape with very different view of fields, Urban areas, Industrial areas

NPTEL

Look at this I showed you this picture in the last class, the green meadow it look so wonderful, so green light, dark and different hues of green which makes a wonderful you know it is a it is a kind of you know people in the photographers (6:39) for going there and taking a picture of this, they will travel miles after miles to go and see this landscape and record it and we are the persons if you see this picture we enjoy but we never had a chance to go there. The point is the landscape has to attract people generate the pleasure in the mind.

(Refer Slide Time: 6:58)

2ND
CATEGORY

- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
- Without concern for the natural settings and elements
- Example:
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NPTEL

Look at this picture, the question is I have asked this to my students is it a first category or second category, quite often majority of the students have responded this is the first category

why because they are saying there is nothing which is artificial everything is natural but this is a second category let me clarify how.

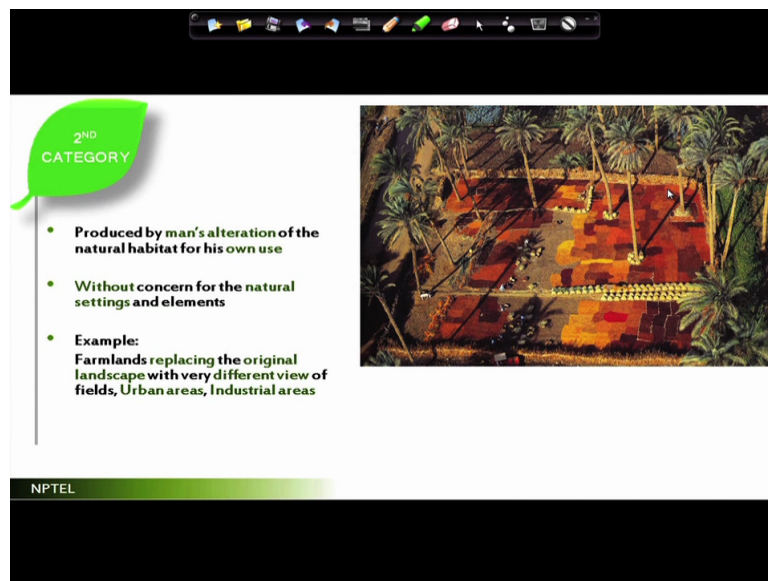
In this particular picture you watch nature can never create such kind of profiles, it cannot create such kind of profiles and another thing is nature has created flat grounds beyond only a particular percent of land where we have plantations and we have the large trees and also we have plantations. These spaces have been reserved over here because this is a crop land some kind of plantation crop lands for avenue generation and people have done it for proper accessibility of this.

So this has been though if I really talk of every cell of it and measure whether it is natural or artificial, natural or artificial I will find 100 percent of this particular picture frame if I break this into small small modules they are all natural but they are second category because that particular percent the picture that I am showing you is second category.

Another thing this has to be kept in mind whenever you are watching a landscape you remember I said that where are you viewing from, what are you looking at and what is your experience. In this case the picture has been taken with the focus on that particular percent of land with a picture was taken slightly beyond than probably we would have missed it it would have been a different landscape. So it is always with a frame of references.

So whenever you are creating a landscape frame of reference will become very important criteria I will discuss this when I will discuss about the behavioral issues and that will lead to your design approaches, ok.

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2ND CATEGORY

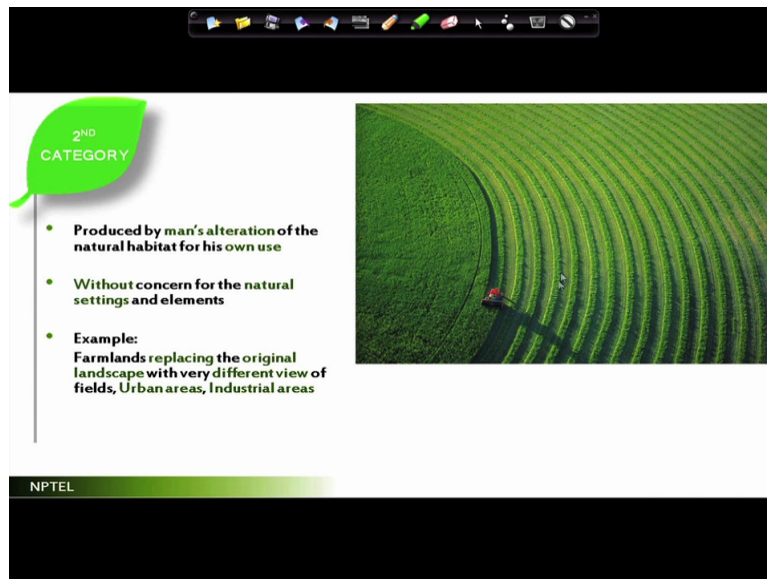
- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
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NPTEL

How about this picture, this also I have asked my students thus over the years I have placed these pictures to my students and always try to know their mindset. I will tell you there are some people who spontaneously answer this is a first category spontaneous answer I say do not be so spontaneous take time watch, analyze with the theory that I am saying and then you tell me whether it is a first or the category.

Then they focus on it, they try to identify what are those orange, yellow and such things. They tried to identify what are these these items, they try identify then they realize oh my God it is an area where they are drawing the pulses and the spices and these are the containers where they will be keeping it here. Then they realize oh even if it is fully natural apparently actually it is not fully natural. This is a second category but do not you think it is one of the finest landscapes you could have ever seen and you are missing it, this is how the whole landscape is to be viewed.

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2ND
CATEGORY

- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
- Without concern for the natural settings and elements
- Example:
Farmlands replacing the original landscape with very different view of fields, Urban areas, Industrial areas

NPTEL

Then comes the third category in the third category look at this look at this picture if you leave this tractor out of this picture rest of the portion is green natural if I go by the definition of landscape I said predominantly outdoor it is landscape, if I say it is natural material it is landscape, if I say it is having a purpose yes it is having a purpose it is being cropped, ok but the pattern that it is making it is wonderful and people again take trouble to go there and see these kinds of landscapes.

So what happens is here it is being created so in this still a second category because this whoever is riding this particular tractor and trying to crop this, harvest this particular area is not bothered whether he is making a wonderful geometric profile or he is making a dark light shadow shade and shadow, highlights he is not bothered he is only bothered about his one outcome that he should get derive the revenue out of this, so this is a second category.

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2ND CATEGORY

- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
- Without concern for the natural settings and elements
- Example:
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NPTEL

Another one second category in this this is a picture from Munnar, you see the tree plantation all over and people take trouble tourist bureaus they take us there stop the car and request us to take the photographs because it is wonderful site to view, is it a first category look at it every cell is full of greens nature but still it is not the first category because nature will never make such linear alignments of trees, nature will make it natural, organic.

So the moment you see something that it is very much aligned, very much geometric, very much contrived to the organic creation immediately you must have your first reaction this must be second category and if you find no everything is so organic nothing is so geometric and nothing appears to be that somebody has made it even if somebody has made it, there are I will discuss this later that there are situations when you can create such kind of landscape which will appear to be absolutely raw possible because creation has no limits, creativity also has no limit and your skill has no limit so it is different issue I am discussing that here what I am saying is that if you find there is apparently no intervention, even if there is intervention then you may treat this as a first category, because the categorization does not mean that it has not been different.

Here the idea is first category is raw in pure form, second category is with the human intervention then what is the third category, ok.

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2ND CATEGORY

- Produced by man's alteration of the natural habitat for his own use
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NPTEL

This is also the second category picture in which the tea plantation area with the buildings and factories and all but people appreciate this view, they say it is a wonderful backdrop against which this particular white buildings are there I see it, now it is green hillocks and hills around and clear sky. So basically what happens is people go and enjoy the nature.

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2ND CATEGORY RESULTING INTO MESMERISING VARIABLE LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCES

Season: Spring

Season: Summer

Season: Winter

Season: Autumn

Example: Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany

NPTEL

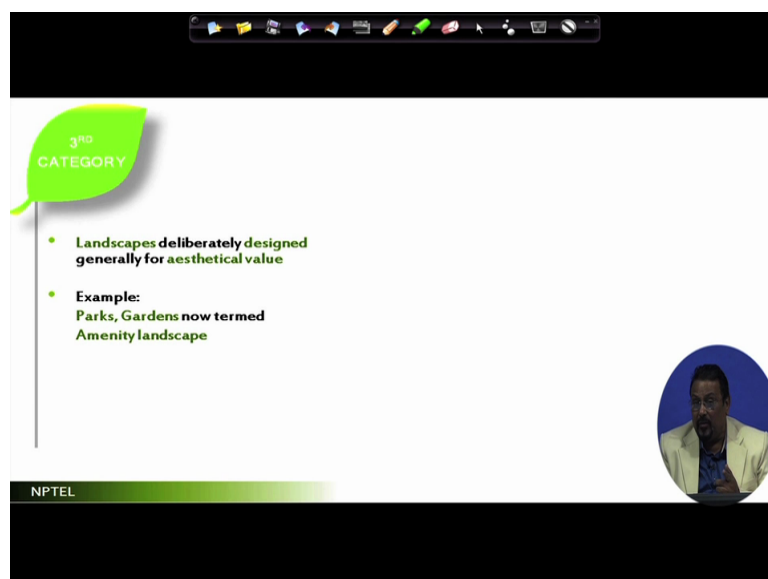
How about this one, these are wonderful example you may not know this place but I have personally visited this area this is Neuschwanstein Castle, in Germany in Fussen, I visited only in one season but I wish I would have visited this in 12 seasons because this landscape has been created by the ruler without really thinking that what he is really creating but can you see this 4 picture and compare in Spring it looks like this, in Summer it looks like this, in

Autumn it looks like this and in Winter it looks like this, there are many other intimated seasons in which they look different.

When this ruler made this castle he wanted to make the castle to show his power, show his wealth and also wanted to be away from the common people and he made it a castle like this. Now what has happened is this castle became one of the element in the overall landscape and that is interesting part of the landscape. In the second category he never bothered to see how does it look like from different angle because that castle has been made and now if you want to see this if you would have a helicopter rotated view you would have seen different views of the same castle with the different backdrops.

Here the interesting thing is he did not bothered about that only thing he thought about which height he is going to place the castle, how to get access to it and how to structurally stabilize that particular castle. Now it has become a world renowned tourist spot where people are coveting to go there as soon as they can as soon as they can afford. So this is the idea in this is also a second category, so here second category can also sometime surpass the affect or the reaction of the first category. It is not necessary that every time we get so elate with the first category and the second category is the next level and the third category is the next level, no sometime this kind of things people would like to go there over and over again instead of going to some other raw areas so this is what it is.

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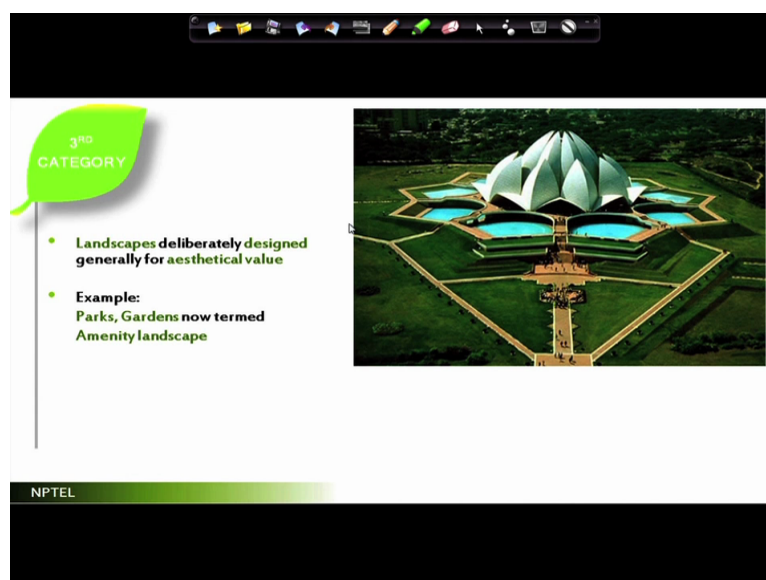
Next is the third category, what is the third category third category is a deliberate attempt of creating a landscape this is where our scope starts. First category Almighty has created

endured to us endured to us by nature we cannot do anything other than destroying it, we cannot recreate it that is a first category we cannot recreate it, you cannot recreate hill, you cannot recreate sea, you cannot recreate forest, so it is endured to us that is a first category. So what is our role in this let me tell you because I may not get the opportunity to say that again.

In case if you find the first category is the worthy one than do not even touch, ofcourse many people say that if I do not touch then what do I do, I would say do nothing do nothing is the approach that you follow for the first category and allow people to see it, enjoy it that is a first category.

Second category you do not bother because somebody else has created if you think it is worthy of enjoying enjoy but the third category is the one in which we have our scope in which basically what you are doing is you are creating a deliberately a landscape space for its aesthetic value, ok. Now example parks, gardens even now a days we are terming this as amenity landscape also all these are now society is asking us to create for them so that they get the benefit of it and what kind of benefits the environmental quality if you remember the definition that we have talked about, the environmental quality with a pre-determined purpose of having a clean air, nice view, wonderful plantations so these are the things, ok.

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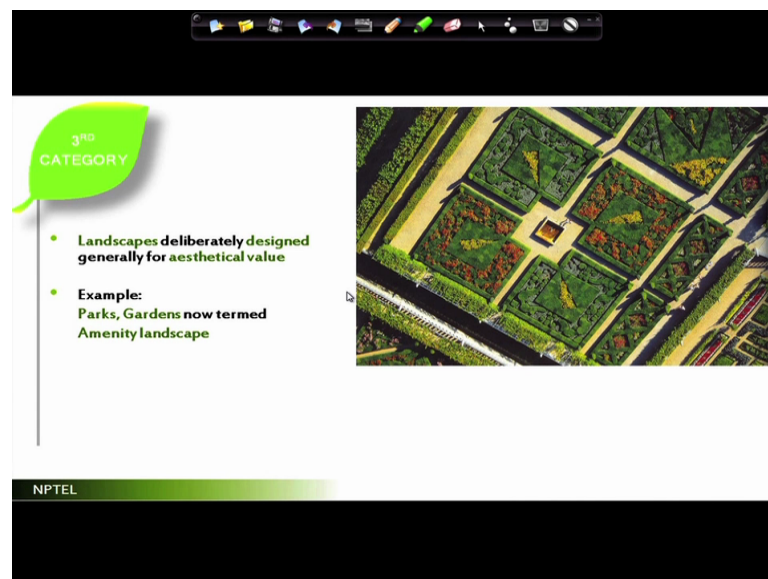
Let us see some examples of the third category I hope you can identify this as a Bahai Temple in Delhi in India if you the landscape the entire landscape has been deliberately created, I am not talking about the building building is ofcourse building is also deliberately created

because it is absolutely fresh but how about the landscape which is around these has been deliberately created.

Now if you see the purpose of this landscape going back to our definition of the landscape this was a raw area in fact I was lucky to see this piece of land before the Bahai Temple was constructed many years back and I never expected that such a wonderful thing and a piece of architecture world renowned piece of architecture along with the world renowned landscape will be created over there I never had any any clue about it later on I was amazed to see that this is what it is, ok.

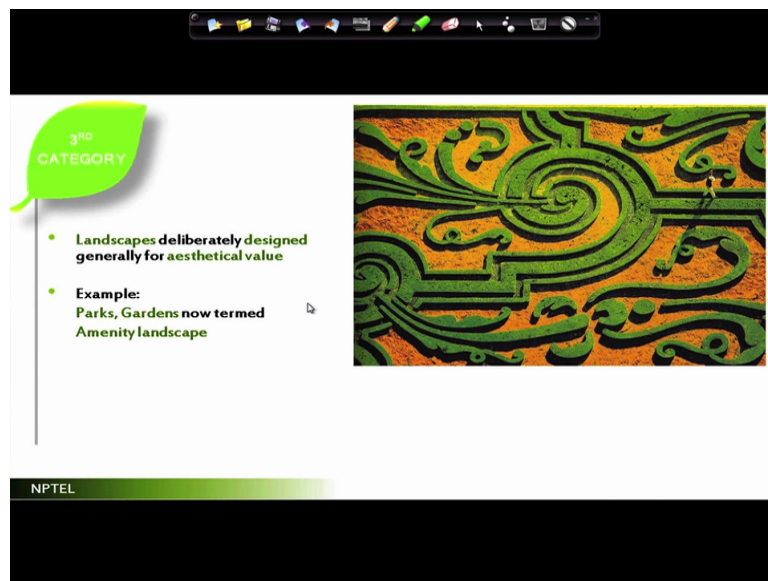
In this what happened is ok the building has been made the rest of the area has now been created deliberately with purpose, what is the purpose accessibility, what is the purpose enjoying the beauty of it and what is the purpose giving green base to the entire structure thus increasing the humidity level of that particular area reducing the air temperature in that hot arid zones of Delhi that is the purpose.

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How about this one does not it look like a Persian carpet but this is a landscape this is a landscape which has been created with the concept of the Mughals Char Bagh, ok. In this what we have is everything is walked out very precariously, very dimensioned no change in the dimension every idea, every plant, every grass, every green or the pathway has been walked out first on a piece of paper with dimensions and then it was reproduced physically on sites this is a third category, good or bad let us not contest it, let us first learn what are the categories whether you like it or do not like it that let us not contest it know.

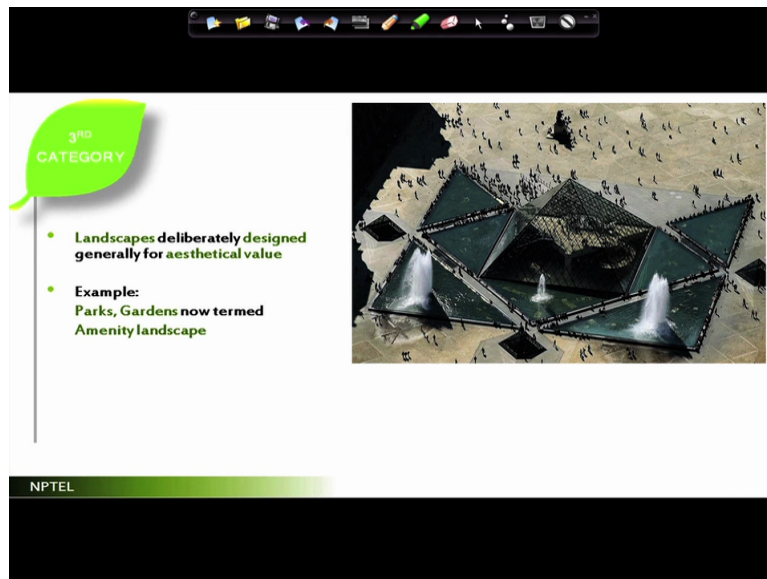
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How about this one, does it really look like a garden, does not it look like a sort of relief and (())(19:40) work on the wall but if you really look at and focus at this particular person then you will know this is a garden so craftily worked out, such a nice craft of work, such a nice work of hedge pruning, cutting, maintenance of other areas this has become a wonderful example of a landscape, this is the third category.

So basically what happens is now if I try to summarize it if it is raw nature if you created with the raw nature it is basically first category, if you identify a landscape which somebody else has created for their own purposes and you enjoy this as a landscape second category and if you are now (())(20:22) a piece of land which is raw originally convert it to something else with landscape intensions third category, I hope that makes clear about what these categories about.

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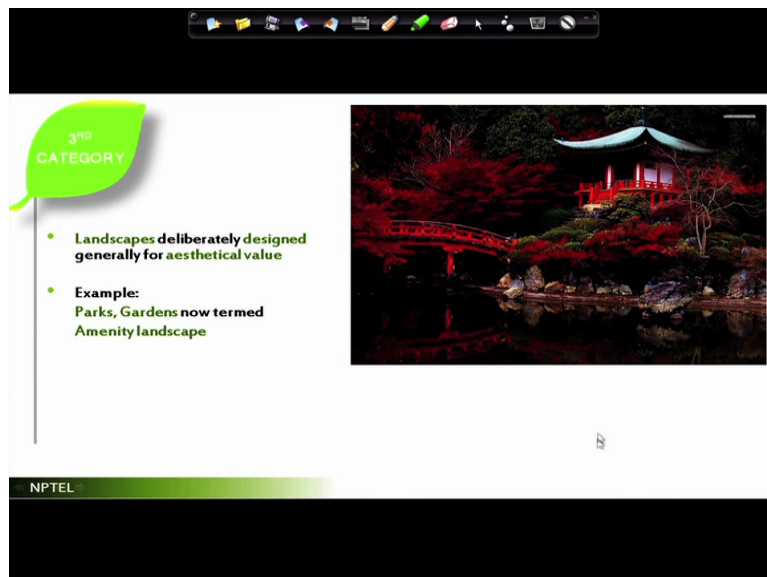
3RD
CATEGORY

- Landscapes deliberately designed generally for aesthetic value
- Example:
Parks, Gardens now termed Amenity landscape

NPTEL

But how about this one again this probably you can identify it is a library building top at Louvre Museum this is also a landscape, here you may not find any plants but the thing is so much of water bodies are there that if you really go there you have a cool affects in this particular area which is environmentally very suiting, very conducive this is a third category, the structure could have been left there bare as it is, the pyramid could have been left over there but the thing is the architect designed the surrounding areas with all purposes serve that means it has to be very very functional this is the third category.

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3RD
CATEGORY

- Landscapes deliberately designed generally for aesthetic value
- Example:
Parks, Gardens now termed Amenity landscape

NPTEL

How about this one a Japanese garden, how come this in the third category does it really give you an idea no this is not third category because this is so much of natural things but I can

assure you the classical Japanese gardens every square foot of it is designed. If it is left as natural it is also by designed and this is what we have learned from the history, the classical historical examples that how you can create such kind of landscapes which are third category.

That means here I would not treat this as a second category because it is not the idea of the architect or the designer or the landscapist of this particular project to design this as you know putting a (())(21:59) in the myths of a garden it was the idea of design in the entire garden with Pagoda is one of the element. So that is why it is the third category, so Pagoda became one of the elements just like any other plant may be, any other rock may be, the bridge has become another element just like any other items. So here this becomes a truly third category.

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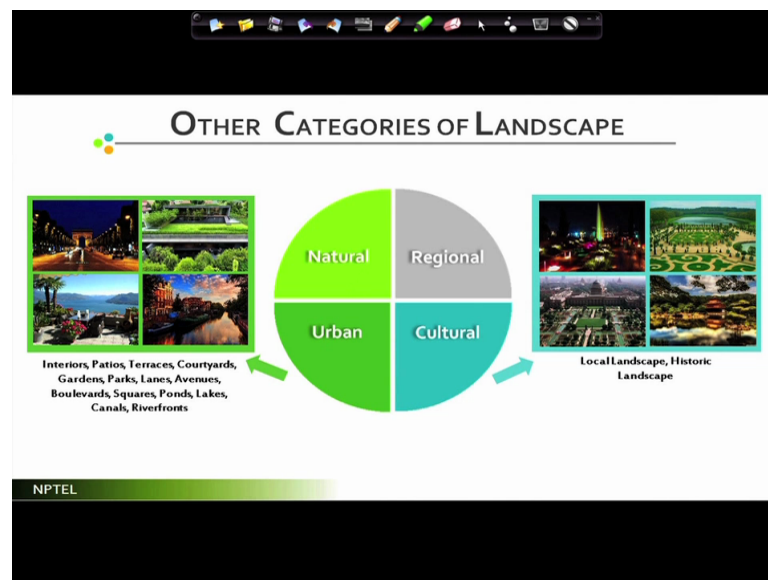
But there are also other categorization of the landscape, let me share with you that. See other than the first, second and third category which you are likely to design in your professional life you would find that people are also talking about categorization in this four nature four way, one is natural, another is regional, another is urban, another is cultural, ok.

Let us see what is this natural, basically naturals are Meadows, Dunes, Forests, Hills, Sea, it means anything that is natural will be termed as natural category of landscape. It may be within your domain also, it may be just beyond your city limit also. But the thing is the moment it comes beyond your city limit we generally try to say that and mark it as regional because we have the urban limits beyond that we think beyond urban limits is the regional or rural. So we think that anything in that particular area is a regional kind of landscape. So

when you are categorizing it may sometime happen that something which is natural may also be regional, something which is regional may also be natural.

Let us see what is regional similar Forests, Hills, Sea, Rivers, Lakes, Dunes, Deserts because they are not within your urban area they are beyond your urban area so they are regional, ok.

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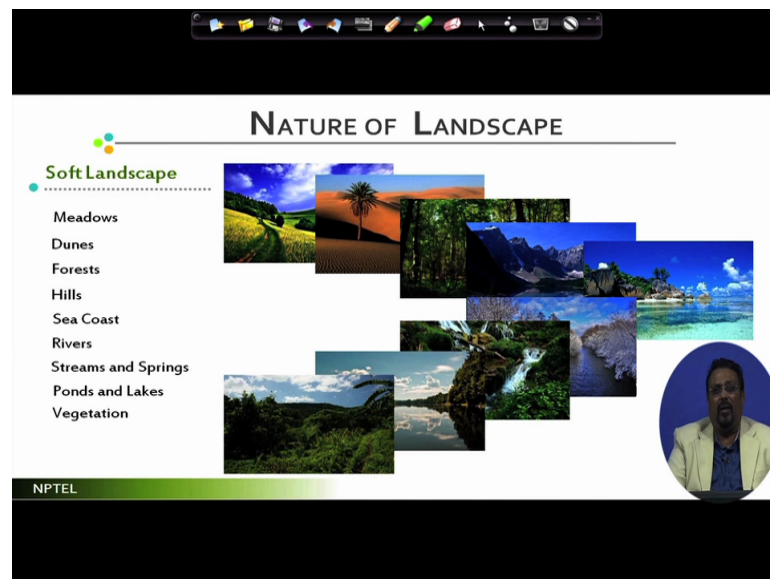


Then comes urban, in this urban basically wherever urbanization has taken place you will find that you know there are many items which are associated with the buildings, structures at the city level, at the urban level, at the house level, ok. So there could be interiors, Patios, Terraces, Courtyards, Gardens, Parks, Lanes, Avenues, Boulevards, Squares, Ponds, Lakes, Canals, Riverfronts all these are to be considered this as urban but mind it if it is coastal then what will we call that probably we will treat this as natural or regional but if it is coastal where we had just beyond the coastline all multi story hotels are placed then probably we will be losing that sense of pure natural or regional sense of this. This is where you know when we are trying to categorize it we have to be slightly more specific, slightly more categorical.

How about the cultural cultural is cultural landscape will be mostly referring to the history of that particular area. How the landscape was created it may be natural even you know the English gardens they are trying to emulate the nature. In Japanese garden they are not really emulating the nature they are recreating the nature in a miniaturized form but the English gardens they try to emulate the nature, what is there in the region try to create in my urban areas as well, ok.

So the idea is that if you are seeing this that whatever is connected with the history of that particular area or the past of that particular area or the taboos or the cultures then there will be all cultural landscapes. You know this particular cultural landscape is slightly blurred in their definition and so people have different views so when I discuss with different people I learn more you know in different ways.

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Then if you think about the nature, the nature of landscapes very commonly we say it is a soft landscape or hard landscape whenever we talk about the landscape we say it is a soft landscape or hard landscape. The question is what are soft and what are hard, whether the hill is hard or hill is soft this question cannot be really answered because when you are seeing in the landscape hill is far away, if you touch the hill it is hard but when you look at the background of water body it is soft, ok.

So alright let me just show you some of the samples of the soft landscape the Meadows, Dunes, Forests, Hills, Sea Coast, Rivers, Streams and Springs, Ponds and Lakes, Vegetation they will be most commonly treated as soft landscape in our landscape.

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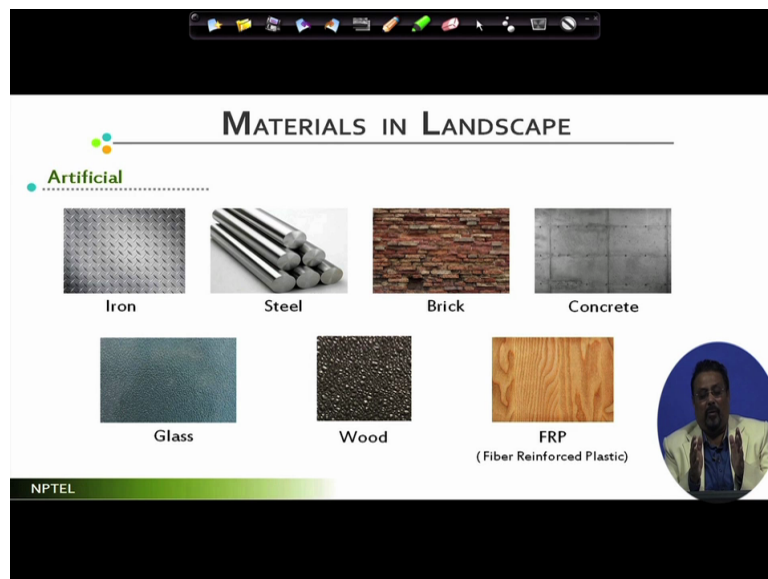
And how about in hard landscape Pavements, Roads, Steps Steps Ramps and other things, Seats and Benches, Lamp Posts it is a very important element in our landscape, Fences, Arbors where you find the creepers and you find the pathway through, Gazebos for shelter for sitting for retreat, Signages, Buildings. So what happens is basically the Bridges ofcourse, basically what happens is when you are looking at the whole landscape scenario the best way to evaluate is this anything that appears to be hard artificial anything that appears to be hard artificial they are all hard landscapes, anything that appears to be soft natural they are natural landscapes, ok.

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Let us look at some of the materials in terms of natural Rocks, Cobbles, Sand, Water, Tree, Logs, Shrubs, Creepers, Grasses these are all natural materials. Now you cut this particular rock and make a block and shape it absolutely smoothly it becomes artificial material. You take this particular log and cut it and make it the different components of a bench it becomes artificial materials but log is in own form you try to consider this as a natural material.

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Then how about the artificial materials Iron, Steel, Brick, Concrete, FRP this is base shapes you know with FRP you can bring any kind of textures on to it that is a very interesting part you know with FRP you can make even rocks out of the FRP which is false but still we will discuss this in later, Wood, Glass so these are all artificial materials.

So is it clear now that here the landscape has natural landscape and artificial landscape we have hard materials and soft materials, thank you thank you for listening we will discuss further.