

A Comparative Study on the Color Planning of Landscape planning in South Korea

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ABSTRACT

According to Landscape Act revised in 2013, cities and counties with 100,000 or more population are required by law to establish a landscape plan. The purpose is to ensure systematic landscape planning that reflects local characteristics, and, therefore, local governments need to make more systematic and effective plans.

Among various items included in landscape planning, color is directly linked to the local image and, therefore, of critical importance. The purpose of this study is to investigate color landscape design guidelines used by different local governments to create a local image that is suitable for their function and characteristics and find relevant implications. To do so, this study quantitatively assessed items related to color landscape design guideline for landscape planning of different local governments.

KEYWORDS: Color of landscape, Landscape plans, Local governments

INTRODUCTION

Since the end of the 20th century that focused on quantitative growth through relentless development, the change in society has resulted in increasing attention to the value of beautiful landscape. Also, landscape management became more important because of heightened awareness of positive effects of beautiful landscape and interesting city landscape on the local community and visitors. Such importance is now recognized legally as well, as manifested by enactment of Landscape Act in 2007 and revision of the law in 2013 that demands local governments of 100,000 or more population make a landscape plan. With the quantitative increase of landscape planning, which is an important index for landscape management, the contents of such plans are also receiving more attention. As a result, the need for systematic reviewing of landscape plans is growing as well.

Colors, in particular, have direct impact on the landscape and local image, compared to other components of landscape. Therefore, Environment colors became a very important element that can reveal the regionality and local identity based on the cultural, social, and economic background.

The purpose of this study is to investigate color landscape design guidelines used by different local governments to create a local image that is suitable for their function and characteristics and find relevant implications. To do so, this study quantitatively assessed items related to color landscape design guideline for landscape planning of different local governments. The findings in this study can help establish more efficient and systematic color landscape design guidelines in the future.

THEORY

In essence, landscape has polysemous. Recently, the meaning of landscape is perceived as a comprehensive concept that encompasses local culture, atmosphere, image, and identity.

According to Landscape Act Article 7, landscape planning refers to a plan made to preserve, manage, and form landscape in the relevant jurisdiction. According to Article 7.1 of 2013 Landscape Act Amendment, landscape planning is required in cities and counties with 100,000 or more population. The purpose is to ensure systematic landscape management and landscape planning that reflects the local characteristics, as recent landscape planning takes into account both aesthetic look of the city and identity making. Considering the local

self-government system of South Korea that enables autonomous development of local governments, landscape planning can be used as a tool for improving quality of life for local residents and, also, improving local characteristics that have been neglected so far. Therefore, to evaluate city's image and devise relevant plans and measures as part of landscape planning is significant for systematic and orderly organization of urban spaces in the country.

In landscape planning, color plans are intended to ensure harmony among the shape, material, and color of the building, consistency of the street, and unity of the landscape. Colors of buildings, in principle, need to be harmonized with the surroundings so as to create consistency between street landscape and the surroundings and nearby buildings, while accentuating local image and identity. It is because landscape color plan has substantial impact on improving landscape of the area and provides function and visual and aesthetic value to street landscape.

EXPERIMENTAL

According to Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS), as of the end of 2016, of 128 local governments in South Korea, 85 cities and 43 counties established basic plans and the remaining 34 are yet to make a plan. Landscape planning is largely divided into province landscape and city/country landscape plans. While the 'landscape plan by section' in province landscape plans proposes a management plan that can be commonly applied to the basic local governments that belong to the province according to the type or element of landscape, the 'landscape guideline' of city/county landscape plans proposes a design direction or principles for different landscape elements in each section in order to carry out the basic landscape plan for relevant landscape areas, regions, and central landscape management areas. Therefore, this study selected landscape plans of 13 local governments - 3 special/metropolitan cities, 5 cities, and 5 counties – considering the population, city size, etc., for evaluation and investigated specific items related to division of landscape regions and color plans. Because the subjects were selected based on the contents of their landscape plans, local governments that applied a separate color guideline instead of including colors in the landscape design guideline, such as Seoul and Daejeon, were excluded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Types of color plan in composition of landscape plan

Division	Local Governments	population	Establish (year)	A*	B*
Metropolitan City	① Incheon	2,925,815	2010	●	
	② Gwangju	1,472,199	2011	●	
	③ Ulsan	1,173,534	2010	●	
City	④ Guri	186,721	2011		●
	⑤ Donghae	93,895	2010		●
	⑥ Cheongju	831,912	2015		●
	⑦ Jeonju	652,282	2009		●
	⑧ Pohang	519,584	2012		●
County	⑨ Yangpyeong	108,316	2015		●
	⑩ Pyeongchang	43,500	2014		●
	⑪ Taean	63,484	2015		●
	⑫ Haenam	76,194	2010		●
	⑬ Cheongsong	26,384	2012		●
Total	13			3	4

*A : Include in Landscape Type Planning, *B : Include in guideline

The methods of presenting a color planning among the contents of the landscape plan were identified by two types of A(Include in Landscape Type Planning) and B(Include in guideline). The Metropolitan City has all types of "A", which seems to be focused on presenting color plans for the landscape of landscape management and formation of important landscape elements in order to present the direction of the color planning. On the other hand, the city and the county seem to have chosen the type of guideline of Type "B" to provide more detailed representations of color scheme for regional characteristics. (table 1.)

Table 2. Comparison of color plan contents of landscape plan

Local Governments	Color application criteria			Presentation method		Application Method	
	classified by region	Landscape type	element	Numerical range	Color palette	Scope	Parts
① Incheon	●	●			●		
② Gwangju		●	●	●		●	
③ Ulsan		●		●		●	
④ Guri			●	●	●	●	
⑤ Donghae		●	●	●	●	●	●
⑥ Cheongju	●		●	●	●	●	
⑦ Jeonju		●		●	●		
⑧ Pohang	●		●		●	●	
⑨ Yangpyeong			●	●	●	●	●
⑩ Pyeongchang	●		●	●	●	●	●
⑪ Taean	●		●	●	●	●	
⑫ Haenam		●		●	●		
⑬ Cheongsong	●		●	●	●	●	●
	6	6	9	11	11	10	4

As the process of establishing a color plan differs according to the way in which landscape is interpreted, first, this study compared the basic directions and standards for applying the promotional strategy. The types were classified by region, landscape type, and element (purpose/facility). Classification by element was most widely used, in 9 subjects – 8 of which set the basic direction for each region or landscape based on the landscape classification in the basic plan and set specific standards for each element. The classification of the landscape and the presence of the area in which the situation is well understood has led to the realization of the color planning that reflects the color planning of the region.

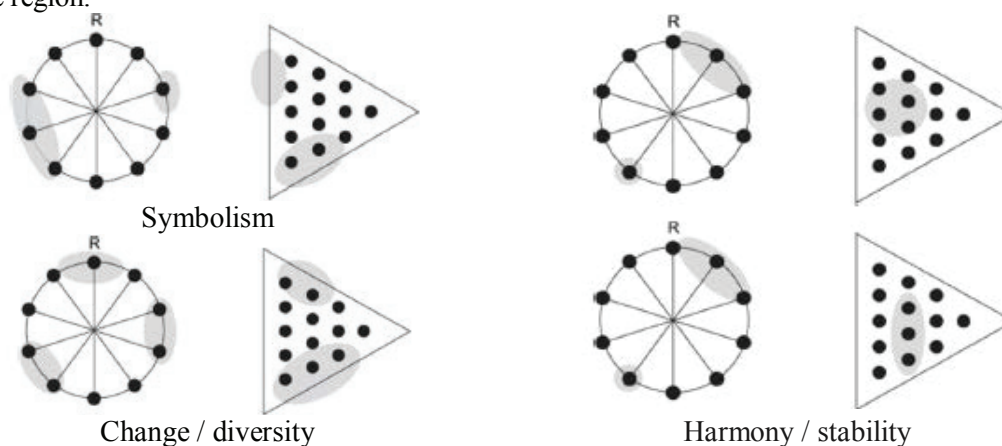


Figure 1: ex. Areas of color & tone recommendation for each region

(The Landscape master plan of Metropolitan Incheon).

Next, this study compared details of the color design guidelines. As for the color system that was applied as the standard of color notation, 8 subjects used Munsell and 5 NCS. The local governments that applied NCS tended to emphasize the tone in the color application standards, as was the case in Incheon and Donghae. (Figure 1)

Regarding the color proposal method, 10 subjects designated applicable colors as a numerical range on the color system, and 9 of them proposed recommended colors in the form of a color palette. However, Incheon, Pohang, and Haenam only suggested recommended color palettes without the numerical range. Incheon used the NCS color system but designated only the tones and hues for color suggestions, without a specific numerical range, and Ulsan marked only the allowed range for brightness (0-9) and saturation (1-14) and not for the hue.

As for suggestions for specific application method, 10 subjects proposed the numerical color range consisting of dominant, assort, and accent colors and recommended palette. Among them, four subjects – Donghae, Yangpyeong, Pyeongchang, Cheongsong – also proposed application areas such as building wall, roof, etc. These local governments proposed both color range and color palette and were characterized by specific and diverse color application methods in terms of color scheme type and application example, among others. (table 2.)

CONCLUSION

Based on the comparison of the plans, regarding the direction for color plan in landscape planning, this study found: first, currently, there is no criteria for categorizing types in color landscape plans, and, as a result, different local governments have different landscape plan by type. For color plan that reflects the local characteristics, it will be necessary to take into account the characteristics of region and landscape types categorized in the landscape plan in color plan. Second, for a color plan to suggest a specific direction for the design, it must propose various methods and examples of color application instead of simply designating numerical ranges. Lastly, the plans can become more effective if there is a guideline for the standard and procedure related to the color plan management and color advice.

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