

Abstract

Landscape is in constant change. The process of designing transformational landscapes requires the acquisition and linking of knowledge. This procedure is inextricably linked to the creative process of developing ideas, since designing and developing always ties in with existing things. As a result, it reacts to spatial conditions and to the people present, ties in with cultural peculiarities and conforms to technical requirements. The development of new ideas is thus based on an intensive examination of the various components of the space. It becomes clear that the phases of analysis and design are inseparable and interactively linked.

The term „Inventive Analysis“, coined by Bernard Lassus in 1989, embodies the intensive examination of this very inventory. Inventive analysis allows landscape transformations to be explored inventively in order to generate new ideas through knowledge transfer. During this type of analysis, intense spatial perception, participation in the space, and direct reflection coincide. This also reflects the consensus of Inventive Analysis in that it is an intertwined part of the design process with the idea. Consequently, the basic prerequisite for the effective use of Inventive Analysis is the correct and well-thought-out formulation of the right set of questions.

Inventive analysis also provides opportunities for experts from different disciplines and laypersons to communicate about their perceptions and ideas about landscape transformations. Inventive analysis has already been used as a subject of art, as a means of exploratory spatial inquiry, and occasionally as a planning practice. Some disciplines in universities, landscape architecture firms, artists, and walk scholars use some form of Inventive Analysis for spatial perception, spatial narrative, as inspiration for image making, and as a means of knowledge generation and experimental intervention. This paper demonstrates that Inventive Analysis is suitable as a research as well as analysis and thus design method for transformational landscapes.

Characteristics of landscape transformations are elaborated and the analysis is discussed as an independent act of designing. Subsequently, the experiences with inventive analysis in university and planning practice, in the field of art as well as other explorative spatial explorations will be highlighted. It also discusses the cognitive processes involved in Inventive Analyses and demonstrates that Inventive Analyses can become a productive part of landscape architectural design processes. Bernard Lassus' studies of Landscape Analysis and Inventive Analysis are the basis for cornerstones of this dissertation. The method will be illustrated with examples of application by Bernard Lassus, as well as several examples by students. Finally, it will be shown how Inventive Analysis can decisively advance design practice and research as a complete transformational process of perceiving, changing, and reflecting.