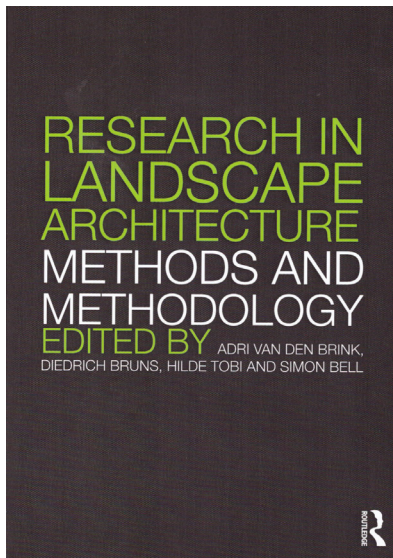


Research in Landscape Architecture Methods and Methodology

Editors: Adri van den Brink, Diedrich Bruns, Hilde Tobi, Simon Bell
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Landscape architecture in practice and research have always been regarded for their implicitness, with design based on practical experiences. Therefore, knowledge sharing beyond borders becomes challenging and publication on the subject is much needed. A book of 315 pages, edited by landscape planners and academicians Adri van den Brink, Diedrich Bruns, Hilde Tobi and Simon Bell illustrate pragmatically the magnitude of research ideas and opportunities, weighing upon the examples of numerous landscape architects' work from across the world. The editors intend to provide a knowledge platform for the development of an appropriate research framework in theory and practice. This, in turn, is to contribute to future research and scholarly standards.

The book has four sections, "Raising Awareness", "Setting the Stage", "Selected Approaches and Methods", and "Addressing some of the Grand challenges". In the first section, the foundation is laid on the awareness of the two crucial keywords, 'research' and 'design' and their relation. Section two sets a multifaceted understanding of the role of theory and design in research. Third, several approaches and methods such as case study, landscape biography approach, social media, visualisation, and walking the real landscape are elucidated. The fourth section throws light upon the importance of future research by describing some of the imposing challenges such as cultural landscapes, health through landscape, urban thermal comfort, and urban water shortages.

For the most part, the book engages the reader's attention with simple articulated academic writing integrating core landscape architecture terminology. It offers a series of research methods obtained from site-specific knowledge and complex landscape situations. 'Research through Design' is an especially interesting approach where research questions are answered through the process of designing. Conversely, some chapters are heavy with empirical data on research quality. Like any other research themed book, the layout which begins predominantly with text blocks later transitions into chapters with illustrative figures and images, justifying the different methods of landscape architecture research. The text in each chapter is well correlated and referenced with the rest of the chapters. In parallel to the chapters' orientation, the structure remains coherent and unambiguous, and scores of references after every chapter prove the reliability of the content.

"Research in Landscape Architecture" is an accessible primer for those interested in landscape architecture research. Not confined within a certain timeframe, the book addresses present and future research opportunities. Its content yields a language that strengthens the landscape research focus for a productive result. This book, overall, is a recommended read, where educators and practitioners share their knowledge beyond academia and spread awareness of the research potential in landscape architecture.