# Relate urban furniture and land graphic with city

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## Abstract

City furniture or city things and tools are a set of equipments and accessories which are installed at city environments and response the urban needs of citizens. City things and tools are both originated from the city and its environment and also related to the citizens and their needs. So their form must be in accordance with city environment the same as they must be suitable for people, since they are mainly the most important practical elements in the cities.When talking about environmental graphics or circumference, we imply those two dimensional graphic impressions which affect the city landscape and look. Practical graphics in city can be briefly called land graphics or circumference and it is not right to call all colors and art works as land graphics, the same as we cannot call a painting as poster and vice versa. This article tries to present a correct definition of these terms and clarify differences among elements like city furniture, land graphics, and city landscape.

Key words:city furniture ,land graphic,city landscape

## 1. Introduction

Urban design, Urban planning (municipal engineering), urban furniture, land graphic, veduta (urban landscape), urban surroundings, etc. are expressions entered into urban management, gradually, and each of them has brought the collections of professions as in, architecture, industrial design, graphic, painting, green space design, etc. in this

field. Each of these professions has a special application and lack of the urban managers' knowledge leads to the interference of non-professionals in this field. However, what are the new definitions of these concepts and who is responsible for each of these fields? What is the especial domain and limitation of each field? In addition, what is the importance of it? According to the title of the congress, this article strives to determine the definitions of "Urban Furniture", "Land Graphic" and to express their real roles in various aspects of the city.

*1.1. Urban Furniture*

Urban furniture or urban elements are the collections of instruments and equipment installed in urban land (surroundings). They are a response to the citizens' needs according to the citizens' use of the city. These needs are very different and various such as needs to sit, stand to look at something, walk, read, communicate, eat, drink, etc. www.urbanfurniture.blogfa.com

The main presence of urban furniture in human society refers to the ancient times. Therefore, there is no specific starting point for it. Survey, selection and setting of the urban furniture are special sciences that have their own specific standards. These standards and principles consist of beneath instances: 1- Argonomy and Anthropometry: The science of dimensions and measures of human is called "Anthropometry". When these dimensions and measures are applied to the surroundings design and utilized instruments by human, it is called "Argonomy". In fact, agronomy is the science of human measures' use in products design.

2- The customs and cultures of the usage can differ in each ethnic, nation or city. Different cultures affect on form, color and content of the urban elements and furniture.

3-And the last case is the utilized materials in various geographical regions (Ghollampoor 1379, pp.55-56).

The main responsibility of drawing, designing, and monitoring of urban elements and furniture is the job of industrial designers. In this main task, industrial designers get assistance from the architectures, veduta (urban landscape) designers, also mechanics,

and construction engineers. However, as it was mentioned before the main responsibility is the industrial designers' duty.

*1.2. Land Graphic*

Graphic comes from the Greek term "Graph", this means to write and to draw. The main root of the word refers to scratching and carving. "Graphic" is one of the branches of plastic arts. Graphists are experts who express different commercial, cultural, political or informative messages in the form of text and image combination in a way that has the most effect on the spectators. Professor Ghobad Shiva who is one of the most famous graphists and professors of this art in Iran declares, "We come to this conclusion that designers are not professional graphic artists because the association of thoughts in artistic works is not the association of the designers' ideas. They are given an idea and they design that. Therefore, we can call them communicators of thoughts and ideas of the graphic artist. For sure, this kind of activity is not called art. It is called a kind of skill. Designers draw and design according to their professions, knowledge, and scientific skills."

However, what is "Land Graphic" and to what extent do the graphic artists interfere and penetrate in the city? "Actually, I myself as a graphic artist do not agree with the expression of land graphic in association with veduta (urban landscape). What is seen in the city is the part of urban landscape and perspective. In recent months and days, we have heard a lot about land graphic and its combination with urban furniture. Some people, however, consider urban elements and furniture as a part of land graphic or even urban graphic, which is mainly a wrong definition and misunderstanding. This causes the misleading of the urban managers in taking correct decisions."

Graphic works consist of beneath instances:

- Installed designing on the city billboards
- Sign board designs at the top of the stores and trades unions
- Posters and other printed placards installed on the city walls

- Wall paintings and wall writings

- City hangings and cloths for special ceremonies


The concept of land graphic not only belongs to the graphists and product of the graphic artists, but also to the drawers/designers, calligraphers, painters and experimental artists. In addition, all of them are taken into account as effective artists in urban landscape.

These groups of artists bring the changeable and various colors to the city. These colors are very important because they are not stable and can be changed quickly. Billboards and signboards at the top of the stores and generally speaking, boards, placards and posters organize and form the main part of landscape elements of the cities. In addition, wall paintings and wall writings have an important presence on the city walls. Moreover, the chief point of visual agitation and disorder in the cities refers to this part. The main question is whether the artists are able to make a change in agitations or even in disciplines of the urban landscape or not.

For achieving this fact, what should they do? The correct answer is that all the artistic activities need settings to be produced and presented in. In fact, urban decisions of urban managers determine the arena and ground of those activities and the fact and role of artists' presence in the cities.


*1.3. Urban Landscape and Identity*

In fact, urban landscape declares the identity and attitude of the city. It is the first thing that a citizen communicates with it and constantly affects the citizens. Urban landscape agitation shows the disorder in urban planning and management. On the other hand, beautiful landscape of a city displays a suitable and appropriate relationship between that city and its citizens. Except the special cases, any event in the city should not happen by accident and each element in the city has a deep effect on the city and its feature. If that effect being a negative one, it will not be compensable anymore.

   Urban landscape disorder can be due to the beneath facts:

- Inappropriateness of the horizon line

- Utilizing of disordered lines and forms in buildings and landscapes

- Inappropriateness of the qualities used in crusts and walls of the city, as in:

buildings, landscapes, building elements, pedestrians and streets pavements, etc.

- Lack of proportion in materials and products

- Disordering and inappropriate form of the commercial and trades union boards

- Repetition and presence of the vertical objects and elements without a special reason

- Utilizing of repeated mottoes and phrases on the walls

- Presence of inappropriate urban elements and furniture

Etc.


## 2. Urban Furniture, Urban and Land Graphic

From the view point of experts and theorists, urban planning has different meanings all around the world. From the middle of 20th century, different meanings and concepts have come closer to each other. Cities are the settings of adjustment between citizens who live in them. Cities are not just defined as streets and crowded routes for passing. Cities are masterpieces which have creators to the numbers of their populations. The purpose of today's citizenship is not the massive living besides each other or like life style of many years ago. The pleasant purpose of todays cities is the establishment of a creative and pedagogical environment for people who live in that city. These days cities are not only a place for removing the physical needs of their residents, but also a place to respond to the psychical, mental and cultural needs of them. In this case, the city manifests the social behavior of its residents and it can easily be put in order and monitored. The reason of most social and behavioral disorders of people root in the cities. In fact, city construction builds the inner relationship of its people and gives discipline to the ralations of its citizens. It can even break the interior relations of the citizens and interupt them.

We should accept that a good city is not necessarily a big city, is not a city with massive passengers and travelers, or big projects, big constructions and heavy work and duties. A good city is not a city with a huge population, expensive, fashionable and modern cars or luxurious markets and bazaars. A good city sees well, hears well and never forgets anybody and we do not miss anyone in it. Just as a religious city is not necessarily a city with lots of mosques and lots of mottoes or visual agitations and disorders. A religious city is pure, clean and disciplined where it displays and manifests the unity and arrangement of the rows and lines of its prayers (who says God's prayers). A religious city is adorned, arranged, modest and decent. In addition,

it do not display unveilness and nakedness such as its belief and religion. Religious city has also religious behaviour and attitude.

A good city communicates with different trades and social status of the society and every one has a place in such a city. So, a good city leads to the human relationship in a way that the memoirs of one generation transfer to the other generation. Moreover, people never forget each other.

There are also some problems in relation to our senior citizens. Our city takes our fathers' lives beforehand, it is not possible for our grandmothers to go to places they want or they need to go in order to feel good and fresh, except some alleys surrounding their houses. Moreover, it is not possible for them to profit by public transportation. These senior citizens and mothers who are pregnant or physical handicapped citizens who use assistant equipments encounter many problems while using pedestrians. Blind people, on the other hand, do not have any guidance for passing through the street and for finding the lines and routes. Because car honks are used as an important means in people's communications on the streets, even deaf people face many problems while passing the routes.

Now the question is, what should our young generation do with such a city? A city in which the youth are not able to find their memories, are not able to find and see their values and honors, not even their previous generations. In this situation, the city loses its links and unions with itself. In addition, walking in this city is difficult for those who just want to profit by the city landscape.

*3. Conclusion*

The new concept recently used in literature of urban planning is *Land Graphic* or *Urban Graphic*, which different wrong definitions have presented for it. The main definition of *Land Graphic* is in fact *Urban Landscape* that is a more correct and a more basic term, and contains a very wider concept. Urban furniture, city colors, city lights and illumination, bulk, statue, etc. are elements in the urban landscape, which some of them are applicable and some others are just visual. During the correction process of urban landscape or urban agitation and disordering, many different groups are involved. The most important of them are urban managers who according to their viewpoint of the city determine the city principles, disciplines and limitation of interference of the other

groups. Moreover, they survey and establish the mechanism of those groups.

Anything that citizens of a city see in that town (urban landscape) and anything they apply and utilize in the city are in fact the link and connection between the city and citizens of it. As far as this union being deeper and subtler, more belonging feelings create between the city and its citizens. The more one city unite with its citizens, the more citizens feel they belong to that city. Just a few of our towns have such characteristics and identity. Esfahan town is one of them. Indulgently, while moving in Esfahan, every moment you remind and you feel this. From town to town in Esfahan province, people have lots of memories and unforgettable memoirs. Such a belonging feeling gives a special pride, identity and personality to the people of Esfahan. Esfahan town has reached from a well-done and good urban management from many years ago to such a status today, and the main part of this success indebted to the urban landscape.

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