ABSTRACT

This research attempts to find the appropriate landscape design solution to create (re-investigate) ambience helpful as an aid to medical treatment in hospitals.

Every man experiences his comfort and discomfort ambience with respect to his five senses: Seeing (Eye), Hearing (Ear), Smelling (Nose), Tasting (Tongue) and touching (Skin).

Hospital is the place where, people who are sick with any of the above senses will visit [Ulrich et. al, 1992]. The other users of the hospitals are the doctors, relatives and other non – patients. Creating the ambience within the range of comfort zone, aiding that ambience for the benefit of patients and finding out the optimum landscape solution are the objectives of this research.

This research attempts to create two sets of experiments. The first one concentrating on the external landscaping of hospitals and the second one on the internal landscaping of hospitals. The first experiment is carried out through a survey with the users of the hospitals. This experiment aims to find out the ratio (x:y) for the external landscaping of a typical hospital premises, where ‘x’ is the minimum area of vegetation required for ‘n’ number of occupants (patients, non-patients, hospital-staff, etc.) and ‘y’ is the minimum open space required for the medicinal landscape to be executed for a healthy hospital.

The second experiment is carried out in laboratory with 25 selected species of vegetation. It is focused on finding out the optimum amount of species required in the indoor spaces with respect to the human’s five senses. This second experiment narrows down in finding out the ratio X:Y where X is the amount of vegetation required for ‘Y’ volume of the room.

This research attempts to find out the possible ratio between the area of the vegetation and the area of the entire open spaces of the hospital premises. This ratio will aid the architects in designing the external landscaping of hospital premises.

In addition, this research attempts to find out the possible ratio between the volume of the vegetation and the volume of the internal spaces of the hospital buildings. This ratio will aid the architects in designing the Internal Landscaping of hospital premises.