SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
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It is a fact that plants have been with human being since the beginning of time for food, clothing, shelter and so on. Therefore, ornamental plants are not for garden alone, but also to improve aesthetically and functionally the environment. These two aspects of plants can be realised only when a plantation is designed scientifically. Unscientific planting not only spoils the beauty, but adversely affects the environment and imbalance in the ecosystem resulting in turmoil in natural phenomena. Therefore, the study has undertaken on certain ornamental plants with special reference to landscape character. The work was carried out in selected places of Assam covering various type of topographic character, and to assess the relative merits and demerits so that a model landscape could be developed based on site structure relationships.

From a bird's eye view, the Cole park of Tezpur is beautiful. The park behaves as green open room in the heart of town. The group of Mangifera indica and Artocarpus integrifolia serving as an enclosure around the total feature of the garden stone house is fine and establishes an integration among the plant materials and structural elements. But in the course of critical observation, the existence of a small ground area around big holla is unscientific. Most of the areas of the garden have degenerated into an artificial
forest rather than serving the purpose of a garden. Since the main entrance of the park directly links with the stone house viz. focal feature, the movement of visitors is restricted as no other alternative path is present. Hence, the scope for loitering or spending time for comfort in the garden is very limited. The suggestion therefore, is to supplement thinning woodland area with a view to developing meandering path for free movement. Plants like Mussaenda, Ixora, Hibiscus, Bougainvillea on both sides of the path with seasonal flowers are suggested for improving the colour scheme of the park.

Ornamental plants of Plaza, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat create a satisfactory environment in comparison to other study areas. It is almost a formal type of garden where ornamental trees and shrubs are planted methodically. Box type hedge of Clerodendron inerme around the plaza establish a relationship of the garden with surrounding horizontal columns of the buildings. Ixoras and Casuarina from its uniformly clipped plant architecture, enhance not only the beauty but also develop interest in interplay of spaces between verticals and horizontals. The peculiar confined character of the plaza is minimised to some extent by planting Polyalthia longifolia and Oreodoxa regia. The lacuna of the garden is its poor colour scheme. Pink and cream colours from the building dominate the other colours resulting from Casurina, Ixora, Polyalthia and the lawn.
Jubilant colour may be expected from seasonal flowers like salvia, marigold, calendula, phlox, dianthus etc. Bougainvillea on arch and edging of brick red Acalypha. The plaza area seems to be flat shaped. The vertical thrust from the level of Casuarina, Oreodoxa, Polyalthia is not sufficient considering the dimensions of the plot. Tall columnar form of Cypress plant is suggested to develop appropriate degree of verticals for establishing a relationship between verticals and flat horizontals.

Ornamental plants at road avenue of Dispur served the purpose of beauty and utility. But so far as selection of plant species is concerned, it is not according to the need of people and in most cases it renders an adverse effect on environment. Grevillea robusta, the dominant species here fails to cast shadows on the pedestrian walk. It is unsuitable to add colour sequences to attract the visitors towards the garden. Rather, it hides the brilliant colour of Delonix regia and Cassia fistula. Similarly the rows of Eucalyptus citriodora, Ficus religiosa, Acacia auriculiformis, Samanea saman, Pongamia glabra wage a struggle with the overhead power line as the branches of the trees are taken off because of their spreading habit, the natural beauty is lost. Further, it indicates poor planning and lack of integration between utilities and landscape. The ornamental plants like Cassia fistula, Peltophorum pterocarpum Delonix regia etc. fail to maintain privacy. The residential complex is brightened by the night glare from head lights.
of vehicles. As such this aspect of plant architecture comes to and end without any practical utility. The problem can be reduced to some extent by introducing *Mesua ferrea*, and *Polyalthia longifolia*. These can provide suitable shade on side walks, serve as screen and to get rid of friction of overhead line with trees. Introduction of tall hedge of *Clerodendron inerme* or *Casuarina equisetifolia* can maintain privacy of residential complex and also reduce the glare of headlights and noise problem from the road.

Ornamental plants on the bank of the river Brahmaputra is a home of beautiful natural landscape emanated from the river Brahmaputra and the Nilachal hills. But the beautiful natural river view is completely hidden by ornamental plants which has resulted in a loss of the integration between natural and man-made landscape. Therefore, thining of existing ornamental trees is suggested to elicit views and to establish the vista of 'Sarighat' bridge and top of 'Nilachal' hill in order to bring the site harmony between man-made and natural landscape. For this purpose also, plantation of sponge grass is suggested to establish unity among the river waves with the artificial landscape on the bank. Further, the site expression of bank of river is fluid i.e. unstable. Site expression and man's approach in the landscape therefore clash with each other. The hedge line of *Clerodendron inerme* and the straight trunk of *Ficus religiosa* causes stable character.
Thus, this friction is overcome by establishing unstable character on hedge and *Ficus religiosa* tree for total integration and harmony.

The ornamental plants of Mahabhairavi temple makes a majestic environment. The big old trees *Mangifera indica*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Mimusops elengi*, *Eugenia jambolana* and *Artocarpus integrifolia* accentuate the natural form of hill to mountainous character. Besides this, the trees create a dark and gloomy environment at the court yard of temple throughout the day by casting heavy shade. Further, the temple site separates from neighbouring areas which helps devotees in their concentration of mind. The dark green background resulting from *Mimusops elengi*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Eugenia jambolana*, *Artocarpus integrifolia* etc. focus the temple very brilliantly. The *Aegle marmelos*, *Polyalthia longifolia* located near the main door of temple block the western sun rays coming inside the temple very effectively. However, the avenue trees and shrubs of temple path fail to create a strong sense of sublime towards devotion. Therefore, it is suggested that to integrate the temple architecture for development of a progressive sequence an introduction of conical shaped *Thuja compacta* or trained *Casuarina equisetifolia* plants have to be made.

Ornamental plants of Tengabari village are not benefiting the environment. Shrubs are planted in wrong
positions. Selection of plant species, pruning and space organization are not scientific. As a result, the whole environment looks monotonous. The fruit trees viz. *Litchi chinensis*, *Mangifera indica* and *Artocarpus integrifolia* planted on south side of the property imbalance the landscape in a visual sense. Untrimmed overgrown flowering shrubs at the entrance bring tension in mind rather than offering a pleasing effect. There is no unity among the plants due to haphazard introduction. Due emphasis, therefore, has to be given to overcome this difficulty as far as possible by organising space as service area, outdoor flower garden area, private area, vegetable garden area, fruit garden area and area for domestic animals.

Hence, from the above findings and discussion, the conclusion may be drawn that landscape design of ornamental plants in Assam is not scientific. Natural beauty of plant architecture in most cases is lost during grouping. Plant grouping techniques like, selection of plant species according to colour scheme, plant height relationship, textural values of leaves, barks, branching character etc. have not been considered at all. Similarly, the degree of volume of plants often creates problem in particular environment. The functional values of ornamental plants in a locality is seldom realised in the planting design. In many cases ornamental plants affects the environment adversely. The cutting of trees in name of electrification is a common feature of road side trees of
Assam. This indicates poor planning and loss of beauty of plant architectures and lack of integration among utilities. Further, proper planting can serve the purpose of maintenance of privacy in residential complex by screen planting, obstruction of undesirable views in a particular space, casting of shadow on pedestrian walk, glare control from head light or street lamp, minimization of noise problem by selecting dense foliage plants, air filtration at road side specially in dusty areas etc. These aspects have not been considered. The ornamental plants by the side of hills and river sites have to preserve the natural beauty as an integral part of the man-made landscape. Similarly the existence of the belt of trees by the side of highway, railway station or other public places not only creates beauty but it facilitates the visitor to take idea of socio-economic life of indigenous people.

Thus, it is found that the landscape in Assam is not scientifically made. Unscientific landscape architecture fails to reflect the socio-culture ethos of the people of Assam. Therefore, landscape characters has to be changed as per modern approaches. However, to elucidate in detail regarding landscape of Assam, it needs further investigation.