

# Professional Qualification for and Core Means of Landscape Architects in China

Dihua LI\*

College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University, Beijing 100080, China

\*CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Address: No. 3, North Street, Yandongyuan, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, China

Email: dihuali@pku.edu.cn

## ABSTRACT

Contemporary Landscape Architecture has not become an applied discipline with mature market and well-defined social responsibility since its establishment in China. To address the issues that have long hindered the development, education, and public perception of Landscape Architecture, this article points out the required professional core means of landscape architects, and proposes five suggestions for their professional qualifications, including having knowledge about relevant laws, being familiar with relevant standards and norms, having empathy for users and professional common sense, having professional competency, and complying with professional ethics and accepting industry self-regulation. For the future of this profession, the promulgation of *The Barrier-Free Environment Creation Law of the People's Republic of China* offers an opportunity for landscape architects to establish their irreplaceable role for the society.

## KEYWORDS

Landscape Architecture;  
Professional Qualification;  
Professional Core Means;  
Barrier-Free Living Environment  
Creation;  
Professional Ethics

EDITED BY Yuting GAO, Ying WANG

TRANSLATED BY Yuting GAO, Tina TIAN

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban and Regional Planning are three major professions leading urban and rural development and ecological conservation in the United States<sup>[1]</sup>. Although having clear boundaries, they are complementary each other to fulfill professional responsibilities in related fields. Although contemporary Landscape Architecture has been introduced for more than seventy years in China, it has not become an applied profession with mature market and well-defined social responsibility as expected. Instead, landscape architects have often been criticized for being “easily qualified” and “low technic requirements,” resulting in unsatisfactory social recognition. Such issues have long-time hindered the development of Landscape Architecture profession and education in China, as well as its public perception<sup>[2]~[5]</sup>.

How to be qualified for practicing Landscape Architecture? And what are the core means of this profession? Combining with nearly twenty years' continuous exploration, the author attempts to answer these questions by proposing the suggestions for landscape architects' professional qualification as the followings<sup>[1]~[4][6]</sup>:

First, landscape architects should have knowledge about relevant

laws. Since 2015, Landscape Architecture has become a profession with lifelong responsibility, for which both *The Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China* (effective on January 1, 2015) and *The Barrier-Free Environment Creation Law of the People's Republic of China* (effective on September 1, 2023) have raised explicit requirements. These two laws together with *The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China* and other laws set the legal requirements for landscape architects.

Second, landscape architects should be familiar with relevant design and engineering norms, including *General Codes for Accessibility of Buildings and Municipal Engineering Projects* (GB 55019-2021, effective on April 1, 2022) and relevant standards in specific fields in dealing with actual projects.

Third, landscape architects should have empathy and professional common sense, create the built-environment by “thinking ahead of users' needs,” taking the mission to devote themselves to persons, to the vulnerable, to the details, and to the future.

Fourth, landscape architects should have professional competency. Laws and the society demand landscape architects in

various aspects—ensuring public interests, caring for user safety and health, improving well-beings of human and other creatures, maintaining ecosystem health and sustainability, provisioning of ecosystem services, and exploring adaptive solutions for global climate change—which all call for proactivity.

Fifth, landscape architects should hold rigid professional ethics and accept industry self-regulation, which guarantee the growth of the profession.

The professional core means, covering skills, techniques, and methods of landscape architects, include the following aspects. First, the competence to coordinate project implementation. Any project should be established within a “whole-process architecture,” ranging from proposal, assessment, planning, design, detail plans, construction design, construction, supervision, acceptance inspection, to post-occupation evaluation, and maintenance. Landscape architects are the best actor to manage the whole process! Second, landscape architects have the design knowledge, techniques, and value system to conduct evidence-based design, and the ability for cross- and inter-disciplinary research. Qualified landscape architects can construct a logical framework for design at least covering interdisciplinary knowledge, site, users, aesthetics, social responsibility, and design language. Third, landscape architects have the ability to transform citizens’ perceptions and lifestyles through design interventions, and should be leaders in advocating innovative practices towards the unknown and the future. Fourth, the professionals should have an open mind for communication, be good at expression, and embrace collaboration and cooperation, which require landscape architects have a humble attitude, explicit language, and flexible and diverse means of communication and expression. Fifth, landscape architects need to prepare for lifelong learning, be able to update their knowledge and apply advanced techniques with times, and can practice by immediate learning. Landscape Architecture is a profession of changes. Few of them would do the same type of projects or practice only at a same city or region all the time, which makes it crucial to keep learning new knowledge and maintain good working habits to master infinite new technologies and meeting the demands of ever-changing conditions and scenarios.<sup>[5]~[8]</sup>

If landscape architects can truly promote the construction of harmonious cities where people live in safe, joyful environment and trust each other, we will gain an irreplaceable social recognition. Now the enactment of *The Barrier-Free Environment Creation Law* has offered such an opportunity<sup>[6]~[10]</sup>. First, we need to be the landscape project coordinator to pursue a satisfactory result by doing better step by step in the whole process; second, care for people and create breathtaking beauty through meticulous and detailed

design; third, change mind and attitudes about people, nature, and embrace self-reflection, to adapt to diverse environmental conditions and changing social needs; fourth, promote cross- and inter-disciplinary research and practice, including but not limited to Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, Law, Sociology, Economics, Gerontology, Information Technology, Neuroscience, Mental Health, Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, Product Design, Material Sciences, and Engineering Management; and fifth, make barrier-free environmental construction an approach to realizing the development of climate-adaptive cities.

In sum, design is the expression of thoughts on the mission of the times. As a discipline that supports the construction of Beautiful China and sustainable development, whether Landscape Architecture can lead the future urban development depends on how we will continuously improve the standards of professional qualification, skills, techniques, methods, education, and self-regulation.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Yu, K., & Li, D. (2005). *Landscape Architecture: The Profession and Education*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- [2] Yu, K. (1998). Challenges and opportunities for China’s Landscape Architecture in the light of the three development stages of the world Landscape Architecture. *Chinese Landscape Architecture*, 14(1), 17–21.
- [3] Yang, Y. (2021). A brief history of Chinese Landscape Architecture discipline. *Chinese Landscape Architecture*, 37(1), 6–11.
- [4] Zhang, J., & Yang, R. (2021). Development of world Landscape Architecture discipline. *Chinese Landscape Architecture*, 37(1), 12–15.
- [5] Li, D. (2020). Struggles and opportunities of the discipline and profession of Landscape Architecture in China’s territorial spatial planning reform. *Landscape Architecture Frontiers*, 8(1), 84–91.
- [6] Yu, K. (2005). *The Art of Survival*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- [7] Lv, S. (2022). Advance the construction of inclusive cities for all via statutory powers. *Landscape Architecture Frontiers*, 10(3), 4–7.
- [8] Li, D., Zhuge, X., & Chen, S. (2023). The development history of the U.S. Barrier-Free Environment Legal System and its inspiration. *Environmental and Resources Law Review*, (14), 183–213.
- [9] Li, D., & Lu, Q. (2023). Reconstructing the qualification and education system of China’s planning and design profession. *The City of People, Empowered by Planning: Proceedings of the Annual National Planning Conference 2023*. China Architecture & Building Press.
- [10] Editorial Board of *Beijing Future Accessibility Environment*. (2023). *Beijing Future Accessibility Environment*. China Architecture & Building Press.

# 中国景观设计职业准入门槛与核心专业技能

李迪华\*

北京大学建筑与景观设计学院，北京 100080

\*通讯作者

地址：北京市海淀区燕东园北小街3号

邮编：100080

邮箱：dihuali@pku.edu.cn

## 摘要

当代景观学在中国自诞生至今仍未成为拥有市场开拓能力和清晰社会责任的应用型学科。针对长期困扰中国风景园林学科、景观行业，以及相关教育发展与公众认知等问题，本文指明景观学的核心技能，并提出五项职业准入门槛：熟悉相关法律、掌握各项标准规范、拥有同理心和职业常识、具备专业胜任力，以及严守职业伦理和接受行业自律。就未来景观行业发展而言，《中华人民共和国无障碍环境建设法》的实施为确立设计师不可替代的社会地位创造了机遇。

## 关键词

景观设计学；职业准入门槛；核心专业技能；无障碍环境建设；职业伦理

编辑 高雨婷，王颖

翻译 高雨婷，田乐

建筑学、景观设计学，以及城市与区域规划在美国被誉为城乡建设和生态保护领域的“三架马车”<sup>[1]</sup>。这三个专业的边界清晰，却相辅相成，一起履行相关领域的专业职责。当代中国景观学（包括园林、风景园林、景观建筑学、景观设计学、环境艺术设计等不同方向和名称的探索）诞生已经有七十余年，却并未像人们期待的那样成为一个拥有市场开拓能力和社会责任清晰的应用型学科，反而一直被诟病“准入门槛低”“技术含量不高”等，社会认可不尽人意。这些问题长期困扰着中国景观设计的行业、教育发展及其公众认知<sup>[2]-[5]</sup>。

景观学有哪些专业准入门槛？景观学的核心专业技能是什么？结合近二十年的持续探索，笔者尝试给出一个答案。景观学的专业准入门槛体现在以下几个方面<sup>[1]-[4][6]</sup>：

第一，设计师应当熟悉相关法律。自2015年起，景观设计成为终身责任制的职业，《中华人民共和国环境保护法》（2015年1月1日起施行）、《中华人民共和国无障碍环境建设法》（2023年9月1日起施行）对此均作出了明确的要求。这两项法案和《中华人民共和国民法典》等法规共同构成了设计师应当熟悉的法律要求。

第二，设计师应当掌握工程标准规范并做到更好，包括《建筑与市政工程无障碍通用规范》（GB 55019—2021，2022年4月1日起施行）及

实际项目中遇到的细分领域的各项标准规范。

第三，设计师要拥有同理心和职业常识，追求“只有使用者想不到的，没有设计师想不到的”的建成环境，愿意终身为具体的人付出，为弱者付出，为细节付出，为未来付出。

第四，设计师是具备专业胜任力的职业人士。法律和社会需求赋予设计师的各项职能——维护公共利益、呵护人的健康与生命安全、改善人和其他生命的生存福祉、维护地球生态系统健康和生态系统服务可持续供给，以及探索适应全球气候变化的解决方案——都需要我们主动担当。

第五，用最高的职业道德要求自己，职业伦理、行业自律是专业素养提升的基本保障。

景观学的核心专业技能在于：其一，拥有统筹项目落地的专业能力。任何项目都是包括项目建议、评估策划、规划、设计、方案深化、施工图设计、施工、监理、验收、建成使用后评价、使用和维护等复杂环节的结构体系，景观设计师是当仁不让的统领项目全过程的最佳角色！其二，具备完成循证设计所需的设计知识、方法与价值观念，以及做好交叉学科和跨学科实践研究的能力。合格的景观设计师能够从跨学科与跨领域知识、场地、使用者、审美、社会责任和设计语言等方面构建设计的逻辑框架。其三，拥有通过设计助推城市居民观念和生活方式

转型的能力，景观设计师应当是通往未知和未来的创新实践的引领者与倡导者。其四，具备倾听、沟通、表达、协作和合作的能力，包括谦和的态度、清晰的语言和灵活多样的交流与表达手段。其五，拥有与时俱进及终身学习、应用前沿技术和现学现用能力。设计是关乎“改变”的职业，鲜有设计师会一直做相似的项目或只在一地做项目，学习新知识和保持良好的工作习惯对于掌握层出不穷的新技术和满足不断变化的条件与场景需求至关重要。<sup>[5]-[8]</sup>

景观设计师如果能够推动建设“走路无需看路的城市”和“遇到石头都能说三句话”的人和人之间彼此信任的和谐家园，那么景观学的社会地位就一定不可替代。《无障碍环境建设法》的实施为设计师创造了这样的机会<sup>[6]-[10]</sup>，这要求我们做到：第一，统筹景观工程落地的全过程，做到从方案建议到设计、施工和使用维护“一路向好”来取得满意成果；第二，通过精心设计的细节带来对人的无微不至的关怀和令人惊叹的美；第三，转变观念，包括对人、对自然的态度，以及对自我的反思与重构，能够适应多样的环境和多变的社会需求；第四，推进跨学科、跨领域的研究与实践，包括但远不局限于建筑学、城市规划、景观设计学，以及法学、社会学、经济学、老年学、信息技术、神经科学、精神健康、心理与行为科学、产品设计、材料科学、工程管理等学科间的合作；第五，将无障碍环境建设作为气候适应性城市建设的途径。

总而言之，设计关乎时代使命的思想表达。景观学作为美丽中国事业和可持续发展落地的支撑性学科，能否引领未来，取决于我们是否愿意从专业准入门槛、专业技术水平、专业教育和行业自律等方面不断提高对自身要求。