



Influence of Landscape Maintenance, Social Value and Design Principles on Users' Perceptions of Tourist Centres in Nigeria

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Abstract: *The aesthetic appeal of tourist centres is tied to the effectiveness of social value, design principles landscape maintenance practices which are lacking in our tourist centres. Well-maintained landscapes with addition of good social value, design principles contribute to the visual charm of the destination, creating picturesque settings that enhance the overall experience for visitors. The study assesses the influence of landscape maintenance, social value and design principles on users' perceptions of tourist centre in Nigeria with a view to inform policy toward designing tourist centre. The study used both primary and secondary source of data. Quantitative data were collected through open-ended structured questionnaires. Six tourist hotels were selected, one from each state in Southwest Nigeria. The questionnaire was distributed to hotel tourist centers. Relevant information were obtained from staff of the tourist center and visitors Case studies of existing tourist centers was carried out, together with physical observation of the scientific parameter for the design of tourist centre were obtained. The study used percentages, frequency count and relative importance indices as tools for data analysis. A unanimous response from all respondents (100%), unequivocally affirming the importance of cleanliness and maintenance of LEs influences the preference for visiting a tourist centre. The results indicated that several design principles significantly influenced users' perceptions of landscape elements. Among these principles were: balance, symmetry, rhythm and repetition, focal points, and variety and diversity emerged as particularly influential. The results shows that three variable had Design Principles Index (DPI) that is above the average of 4.29 DPI these include: symmetry in the design of landscape features, proportion of landscape elements relative to each other and to the hotel, variety and diversity of landscape elements having DPI of 4.58, 4.58 and 4.30 respectively.*

The results on users' perception of social value of landscape elements show that landscape elements promote safety and security within the landscape areas, integration of local art and cultural elements into the landscape, promotion of environmental sustainability, enhancement of visitor educational experiences, facilitation of social interaction among visitors, support for local cultural activities and events, encouragement of visitor engagement and promotion of community and cultural integration with 5.00, 4.62, 4.58, 4.51, 4.48, 4.38, 4.31 and 4.26 (SVLSI) respectively. This study recommends that investing in the development and maintenance of attractive and well-planned landscapes could be a highly effective strategy to enhance a tourist destination's reputation and attract future visitors.

Keywords: Design Principles, Landscape Maintenance, Social Value, Tourist Centres, Users' Perceptions.

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1.0 Introduction

Sadiq et al. (2020) emphasizes the growing significance of tourism for economies, prompting increased discussions about sustainable tourism. While the earliest motivations for travel were rooted in basic needs like food, water, safety, and resource acquisition (trade), the concept of travel for leisure and exploration emerged over time. Technological advancements have played a pivotal role in shaping travel, from walking and domesticated animals to the inventions of the wheel and sail, each expanding the possibilities for individual travel. The term denoting tourism that prioritizes the preservation and appreciation of nature is often referred to as green tourism. Sadiq et al. (2020) defines green tourism as the inclination of tourists to establish a connection between the natural environment and the human habitat. Authors such as Synder, (2009) specifically delve into the human environment, particularly cultural heritage, as an integral component of tourism infrastructure.

According to Çelik & Çevirgen (2021) a well-landscaped accommodation (hotel) plays a major role in enhancing the overall tourism experience, contributing to the attractiveness and sustainability of tourist destinations. Their role extends beyond providing accommodation, including various aspects that positively influence visitors' perceptions and enjoyment. Landscape maintenance in tourism encompasses ecological, cultural, social, and economic dimensions. According to Bernatek-Jakiel & Jakiel (2013), Perspectives on landscape maintenance in tourism provide valuable insights into the relationship between natural environments, human activities, and the visitor experience.

The perception held by users on evaluating the consequence of influence of landscape maintenance, social value and design principles in tourist centre help to bring an understanding that provides strategies to create nice and inviting environments, potentially attracting more tourists and bring about repeat visitations (Makinde, 2016). The research will therefore contribute to sustainable development by exploring the relationship between landscape management practices and sustainable tourism growth. This understanding will bring about coexistence between tourism and environmental stewardship. Moreover, the study intends to inform the design of hotel, and provide insights for designing hotels that seamlessly integrate with the landscape, offering a nice and comfortable experience. The insights derived from this research will influence policymakers, urban planners, and tourism managers, facilitating informed policy and planning decisions that prioritize landscape maintenance and sustainable tourism development.

The study's is crucial for various stakeholders in the tourist industries. Stakeholders which include Local government authorities, urban planners and designers, NGOs tourism authorities, individuals or organizations that own land in or around the tourist centre and businesses that can benefit significantly by understanding how landscape maintenance influences user perceptions. This insight will improve visitor experiences, attract more tourists, and increase economic growth. Additionally, the research addresses the balance between tourism development and environmental stewardship, providing valuable information for environmental organizations and community residents invested in preserving the area's natural beauty. In the realm of academia, the study will serve as a bridge by contributing insights into users'

perceptions, an underexplored area. It also lays the groundwork for future research in similar contexts, increasing interest in the research subject. Furthermore, the study will fills a gap by examining the specific correlation between landscape maintenance, social value and design principles and user perceptions in a tourist centre. This will enhances the theoretical foundations of tourism studies and environmental psychology and provides practical implications for hotel design. The study in real-world applications offers insights for courses in tourism management, environmental science, and architecture. The focus is on analysing existing landscape maintenance practices at selected tourist centres, evaluating their social value, environmental and aesthetic impacts, and understanding how these influence the design of hotels for tourism development. Design recommendations for a well-landscaped hotel will be proposed, with a temporal focus on recent trends and developments.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Tourism

Defined by Wegner and Mikesell (2002), tourism encompasses a range of activities, services, and industries providing travel experiences, including transportation, accommodations, dining, and retail, entertainment, and hospitality services for individuals or groups journeying away from their usual places of residence. Recognized as the world's largest industry by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), tourism generates substantial annual revenues. Macintosh (2006) offer a comprehensive definition, stating that tourism involves the phenomena and relationships resulting from the interaction among tourists, business suppliers, host governments, and host communities throughout the processes of attracting, hosting, and serving these tourists and other visitors. The effect of tourism can be categorised into negative effect; these include the damage to the landscape, litter, erosion, fires, disturbance to livestock, vandalism, Traffic congestion and pollution, Local goods can be expensive because tourist will pay more and demand for development of more shops and hotels. Secondly, the positive effect; these include the provision of jobs for local people, income for local economy, increased demand for local food and craft (Sadiq, et al. 2020).

2.2 The Role of Well-Landscaped Hotels in Tourism

The roles of well-landscaped hotels in tourism comprise the following:

Aesthetic Appeal: Well-landscaped hotels contribute to the visual aesthetics of a destination, creating a visually pleasing and harmonious environment for guests. The exterior landscaping of hotels enhances their curb appeal, attracting visitors and making a positive first impression (Masa'deh et al. 2017).

Atmosphere and Ambiance: Thoughtfully designed landscapes contribute to the overall atmosphere of the hotel, creating appealing atmosphere and inviting large numbers of guests. Landscaped outdoor areas provide spaces for relaxation, socializing, and recreation, enhancing the overall guest experience (Makinde, 2020c)

Sustainable Environmental Practices: Well-landscaped hotels often incorporate sustainable landscaping practices, such as water conservation, use of native plants, and eco-friendly design, aligning with the principles of sustainability. Hotels with lush

green surroundings contribute to ecological balance, promoting green initiatives and eco-tourism.

Recreation and Leisure: Landscaped areas may include recreational features like gardens, walking paths, or outdoor seating, offering guests opportunities for leisure and relaxation. Therefore Hotels with well-maintained landscapes often emphasize wellness, providing spaces for activities like yoga, meditation, or outdoor fitness.

Brand Image and Differentiation: The landscaping of hotels can create a unique identity and differentiation in a competitive market, contributing to a positive brand image. Beautifully landscaped surroundings create memorable experiences for guests, encouraging positive reviews and word-of-mouth recommendations (Masa'deh et al. 2017).

2.3 Maintenance of Landscape Elements

Maintaining the quality of landscape elements (LEs) is essential for ensuring the long-term success of a tourist destination. Without proper upkeep, both natural and man-made landscapes can deteriorate, negatively affecting the visitor experience and leading to a decline in tourism (Oguz Etal 2010).

Preservation of Natural Landscapes: Natural landscapes such as beaches, forests, and mountains require careful management to prevent environmental degradation. Issues such as soil erosion, deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity can diminish the beauty and ecological value of these landscapes. Conservation efforts, including habitat protection, reforestation projects, and sustainable land use practices, are crucial for preserving the appeal of natural attractions. For instance, significant conservation efforts are being made to address coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef to maintain its status as a world-renowned tourist destination (Adamson and Aberg 2003).

Maintenance of Man-Made Features: Man-made elements in landscapes, such as pathways, seating, lighting, and gardens, also require regular maintenance to ensure their functionality and visual appeal. Neglecting these features can result in wear and tear, making the space less attractive and safe for visitors. Conversely, well-maintained landscapes convey a sense of care and professionalism, enhancing the overall visitor experience. Tourists are more likely to return to destinations that are clean, well-kept, and aesthetically pleasing (Makinde, 2020d)

While effective landscape design can greatly enhance tourist centres, maintaining these landscapes over time presents several challenges. Some of these challenges include:

Environmental Degradation: Tourist destinations, particularly those with fragile ecosystems, are susceptible to environmental degradation. Overuse, pollution, and climate change can negatively impact natural landscapes. For example, coastal destinations may face erosion, while mountainous areas might suffer from deforestation. Balancing the needs of tourists with environmental conservation requires careful planning and sustainable practices (Holden, 2008).

Over-Tourism: Over-tourism, where a destination becomes overcrowded with visitors, can lead to the deterioration of both natural and man-made LEs. High foot traffic can damage vegetation, erode soil, and cause littering. Managing visitor numbers through ticketing systems, restricted access to sensitive

areas, and promoting off-peak tourism can help mitigate these effects (Holden, 2008).

Funding and Maintenance Costs: Maintaining high-quality landscapes demands ongoing investment in infrastructure, staffing, and materials. Many tourist destinations struggle to secure the necessary funding for upkeep, particularly when tourism revenue fluctuates due to seasonal variations or economic downturns. Government support, private investment, and community involvement are often crucial for ensuring the maintenance of these spaces.

Balancing Development and Preservation: As tourist destinations grow, there is often pressure to develop new facilities and infrastructure to accommodate more visitors. However, this can conflict with the need to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the site. Finding a balance between development and conservation is one of the most significant challenges in landscape management for tourist centres (Smith, et al, 2023).

2.4 Perspectives on Landscape Maintenance in Tourism

The following are the various perspectives on landscape maintenance in tourism, these include;

Ecological Perspective: From an ecological standpoint, landscape maintenance is viewed as a means of preserving and enhancing the natural environment. Well-maintained landscapes contribute to biodiversity conservation, soil health, and the overall ecological balance. This perspective emphasizes sustainable practices that minimize the ecological footprint of tourism activities. It recognizes that responsible landscape maintenance can mitigate the impact of human footfall on fragile ecosystems, ensuring their longevity for future generations (Adamson and Aberg, 2003).

- i. **Cultural and Aesthetic Perspective:** Cultural and aesthetic perspectives highlight the role of landscapes in reflecting cultural identity and providing aesthetic pleasure to visitors. Maintaining landscapes with cultural significance, such as heritage sites or iconic natural landmarks, becomes a way of preserving shared history and identity. Aesthetic considerations underscore the importance of visually appealing surroundings, as attractive landscapes contribute to a positive and memorable visitor experience (Makinde, 2020b).
- ii. **User Experience Perspective:** From the standpoint of user experience, landscape maintenance is crucial for shaping the perceptions and satisfaction of tourists. Well-kept, aesthetically pleasing environments enhance the overall visitor experience, influencing feelings of tranquillity, enjoyment, and connection with nature. This perspective emphasizes the need to understand user preferences, behaviours, and expectations to tailor maintenance practices for optimal user satisfaction.
- iii. **Environmental Stewardship Perspective:** The environmental stewardship perspective emphasizes the responsibility of tourism stakeholders in maintaining landscapes in a manner that aligns with principles of sustainability. Sustainable landscape maintenance practices consider resource conservation, waste reduction, and a holistic approach to minimizing negative environmental impacts. This perspective seeks a balance between tourism development and the preservation of natural resources, promoting a harmonious

coexistence between the tourism industry and the environment.

- iv. **Economic and Tourism Development Perspective:** From an economic standpoint, landscape maintenance is seen as an investment in the tourism industry. Well-maintained landscapes attract more visitors, leading to increased tourism revenue and economic growth for local communities. This perspective underscores the economic benefits of effective landscape management, making it a crucial component of broader tourism development strategies.

Social Equity and Community Engagement Perspective: The social equity perspective recognizes the importance of inclusive landscape maintenance practices that consider the well-being of local communities. Involving communities in decision-making processes, providing employment opportunities, and fostering a sense of ownership contribute to social sustainability. This perspective advocates for landscape maintenance that benefits both tourists and local residents, promoting social harmony and equitable distribution of benefits (Bernatek-Jakiel and Jakiel 2013).

2.5 The Critical Role of Landscape Maintenance in the Landscape Sector

According to Yazici, and Gülgün, (2023), the landscape architecture profession involves planning, design, restoration, and the preservation of nature and culture through ecological, economic, aesthetic, and functional considerations. This profession, marked by different working scales, which branches into integrated disciplines, with landscape maintenance being an integral part of this holistic approach. In the absence of comprehensive applications, including maintenance and repair works, interruptions can occur in planned projects, leading to short-term satisfaction but jeopardizing long-term positive outcomes. Each component introduced to a landscaped area, such as plant material, structural elements, and technical equipment, demands meticulous maintenance for the sustained functionality and aesthetic appeal of the area. Neglecting maintenance turns once-vibrant spaces into unproductive, lifeless zones, a withering tree, poorly aerated soil, an under-watered lawn, or pest-infested plants are all consequences of neglected maintenance (Amir, 2019, Makinde, 2020a).

Examining these maintenance processes reveals the indispensability of on-going care for a designed and implemented landscape. For the establishment of a healthy landscape, collaboration with professional companies is not only advisable but crucial. A company involved in the project's implementation, assuming responsibility for maintenance, gains substantial insights into the practicalities and financial aspects, surpassing a contracting company without hands-on experience. The challenges faced by contracting companies can be reduced through thorough analysis and the formulation of a periodic landscape maintenance program. This program should involve critical elements such as garden management, organizational structure, maintenance responsibilities, worker requirements and standards, budget allocation, garden maintenance plans, and recommendations for on-going care. Landscape maintenance is a specialized field that necessitates the collaboration of expert professional groups working meticulously. For successful maintenance, it is imperative to extend the green field application works for a minimum of 6 months, covering the entire plant development period. This

involves addressing any errors, implementing repairs, and covering associated expenses (Yakut, 2020). Environmental factors, unconscious employee actions, vandalism, insufficient control, and flaws in the tender system can negatively impact maintenance and repair works. Achieving success and sustainability in maintenance requires a shift from daily, temporary solutions to the proposal of comprehensive and permanent resolutions (Hurbert 2009).

Despite its importance, landscape maintenance faces various challenges, including limited funding, competing land uses, and environmental degradation. Balancing the needs of different stakeholders, such as tourists, local communities, and conservationists, requires careful planning and management strategies. Additionally, climate change and natural disasters pose additional threats to landscapes, necessitating adaptive management approaches and resilient design practices (Gérald, 2011; Makinde, 2020b).

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Assessing the Quality of Landscape Elements (LEs) in the Study Areas.

Table 1 presents a detailed analysis of the findings aimed at assessing users' preferences regarding the current quality of LEs in selected tourist centers across Southwest Nigeria. The study focused on various essential LEs that significantly contribute to the overall visitor experience. These elements include vegetation, water features, pathways and walkways, seating areas, lighting features, signage, and information boards, among others. Each of these landscape components was carefully evaluated to understand the users' satisfaction and perception of their quality. To achieve this, frequency count and percentages was employed, This method provided a comprehensive understanding of how tourists perceive the quality and effectiveness of the LEs in these tourist centers. By analyzing the data gathered through this assessment, insights into areas requiring improvement and the elements that already meet or exceed visitor expectations were identified, thereby guiding future enhancements in the landscape design of these centers.

For vegetation, including trees, shrubs, and lawns, the majority of respondents (63.7%) consider these elements to be good landscape features in the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Additionally, 20.8% of respondents rate these LEs as excellent, while 12.6% remain neutral. Overall, most respondents view vegetation as a positive LE in the tourist centers of Southwest Nigeria. For water features, including ponds, fountains, and streams, 58.7% of respondents consider these elements to be good landscape features. Additionally, 30.9% of respondents remain neutral, 5.7% rate them as excellent, while 4.7% identify them as poor LEs. Overall, the majority view water features as positive LEs in the selected tourist centers. For pathways and walkways, 63.7% of respondents identify these features as good LEs in the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Meanwhile, 20.8% of respondents' rate them as excellent, 12.6% remain neutral, and 2.8% consider them to be poor. Overall, the majority view pathways and walkways as positive LEs in these tourist centers. For seating areas, 59.9% of respondents consider them to be good LEs in the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Meanwhile, 14.8% of respondents remain neutral, 10.1% rate the seating areas as excellent, and another 10.1% rate them as poor, with 5.0% identifying them as very poor. Overall, the majority of

respondents view seating areas as good LEs. Signage and information boards are viewed positively by a significant portion of respondents, with 74.8% identifying them as good LEs. Smaller percentages, 15.8%, consider these elements to be neutral in their effectiveness. Additionally, 4.4% of respondents' rate signage and information boards as excellent, while 5.0% view them as poor. Overall, the majority of respondents recognize signage and information boards as effective components of the landscape in the selected tourist centers.

When evaluating building color as a LE, 45.4% of respondents rated it as excellent, while 44.8% considered it to be good. Additionally, 9.8% of respondents viewed building color as neutral. This distribution highlights that the majority of respondents perceive building color as a strong positive feature within the landscape. In terms of building fences and gates, 63.7% of respondents consider these features to be good LEs. Additionally, 20.8% of respondents view them as excellent, 12.6% remain neutral, and 2.8% perceive them as poor. This feedback highlights that the majority of respondents recognize fences and gates as valuable components of the landscape in the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Among the respondents, 63.7% recognize retailing walls as good LEs. A further 20.8% view them as excellent, while 12.6% are neutral in their assessment. Additionally, 2.8% consider retailing walls to be poor. Overall, the majority of respondents regard retailing walls as favorable LEs. When it comes to building form as a LE, 58.7% of respondents perceive it as a good feature within the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Smaller percentages, 5.7%, regard it as excellent, highlighting its positive impact on the landscape. In contrast, 30.9% of respondents view building form as neutral, indicating neither a strong positive nor negative impression. Additionally, 4.7% of respondents consider it to be poor, suggesting room for improvement. Overall, building form is predominantly seen as a good LE by the majority of respondents.

Building texture is perceived as a significant LE by the majority of respondents, with 59.9% rating it as good. Additionally, 10.1% of respondents consider building texture to be excellent, while an equal percentage view it as poor. A further 14.8% of respondents are neutral about its impact, and 5.0% rate it as very poor. Overall, building texture is generally seen as a positive feature, though opinions vary on its quality. Leisure gardening is perceived as a significant LE by the respondents, with 45.4% rating it as excellent. Another 44.8% consider it to be good, while 9.8% remain neutral on the subject. This distribution indicates a strong positive sentiment toward leisure gardening as a landscape feature. Regarding recreational spaces, 63.7% of respondents view them as good LEs in the selected tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. A further 20.8% rate these spaces as

excellent, indicating high approval. Meanwhile, 12.6% of respondents are neutral about the quality of recreational spaces. However, 2.8% of respondents consider these spaces to be poor. Overall, recreational spaces are generally seen as favorable LEs, though there is a small percentage of less positive feedback.

Regarding outdoor furniture, 52.1% of respondents consider it to be a good LE. Meanwhile, 17.0% of respondents rate it as excellent. A further 19.6% view it as neutral, 4.7% perceive it as poor, and 6.6% find it to be very poor. Overall, outdoor furniture is predominantly seen as a positive landscape feature by more than half of the respondents, with varying opinions among the rest. For compost bins, the majority of respondents, 59.3%, perceive them as poor LEs. Significant portions, 29.5%, view them as neutral, indicating a lack of strong opinion either way. Only 12.0% of respondents consider compost bins to be good LEs, and a small 2.8% rate them as excellent. This distribution highlights that while compost bins have some positive recognition, they are largely seen as inadequate or neutral in their role as LEs. Driveways are seen as good LEs by 35.6% of respondents, with 34.4% rating them as excellent. Additionally, 17.7% of respondents consider driveways to be neutral in their landscape value. A smaller percentage, 10.4%, views them as poor, and only 1.9% found them to be very poor. This suggests a generally favorable perception of driveways as landscape features, with most respondents rating them as either good or excellent. Paving stones are seen as good LEs by 45.1% of respondents. Only 0.9% of respondents rate them as excellent, while 44.8% consider them neutral. Furthermore, 8.2% find paving stones to be poor, and another 0.9% views them as very poor. This reflects a varied but predominantly moderate perception of paving stones as LEs.

Table 1 provides an analysis of visitors' preferences regarding the quality of LEs in tourist centers across Southwest Nigeria. Key features like vegetation, pathways, and signage were rated positively, with a majority of respondents viewing them as either "good" or "excellent." Vegetation, for instance, was seen as a good landscape feature by 63.7% of respondents, and signage and information boards were rated as good by 74.8%. Other elements like water features, building form, and outdoor furniture received more moderate feedback, with most respondents considering them "good" but with some neutral or less favorable ratings. However, certain landscape components, such as compost bins, had negative responses, with 59.3% of respondents rating them as "poor." Similarly, paving stones and seating areas showed mixed feedback, indicating room for improvement. Overall, the analysis reveals that while the majority of landscape features is positively perceived, several elements could benefit from enhancements to better meet visitors' expectations and improve the overall experience at these tourist centers.

Table 1: Visitors Response to the Assessment of the Landscape Elements in the Study Areas.

Study Area	Landscape elements	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tourist Centres in Southwest	Vegetation (trees, shrubs, lawns)	Very Poor	-
		Poor	9
		Neutral	40
		Good	202
		Excellent	66
	Water features (ponds, fountains, streams)	Very Poor	-
		Poor	15
		Neutral	98
		Good	186
		Excellent	18
	Pathways and walkways	Very Poor	-
		Poor	9
		Neutral	40
		Good	202
		Excellent	66
	Seating areas	Very Poor	16
		Poor	32
		Neutral	47
		Good	190
		Excellent	32
	Lighting features	Very Poor	-
		Poor	9
		Neutral	40
		Good	202
Excellent		66	
Signage and information boards	Very Poor	-	
	Poor	16	
	Neutral	50	
	Good	237	
	Excellent	14	
Building colour	Very Poor	-	
	Poor	-	
	Neutral	31	
	Good	142	
	Excellent	144	
Building fence and gate	Very Poor	-	
	Poor	9	
	Neutral	40	

		Good	202	63.7%	
		Excellent	66	20.8%	
		Very Poor	-	-	
		Poor	9	2.8%	
Tourist Centres in Southwest	Retailing wall	Neutral	40	12.6%	
		Good	202	63.7%	
		Excellent	66	20.8%	
		Very Poor	-	-	
			Poor	15	4.7%
			Neutral	98	30.9%
		Building form	Good	186	58.7%
			Excellent	18	5.7%
			Very Poor	16	5.0%
			Poor	32	10.1%
		Building texture	Neutral	47	14.8%
			Good	190	59.9%
		Excellent	32	10.1%	
		Very Poor	-	-	
		Poor	-	-	
	Leisure gardening	Neutral	31	9.8%	
		Good	142	44.8%	
		Excellent	144	45.4%	
	Recreational Spaces	Very Poor	-	-	
		Poor	9	2.8%	
		Neutral	40	12.6%	
		Good	202	63.7%	
		Excellent	66	20.8%	
		Very Poor	21	6.6%	
		Poor	15	4.7%	
	Outdoor furniture	Neutral	62	19.6%	
		Good	165	52.1%	
		Excellent	54	17.0%	
		Very Poor	-	-	
		Poor	188	59.3%	
	Compost bin	Neutral	82	29.5%	
		Good	38	12.0%	
		Excellent	9	2.8%	
		Very Poor	6	1.9%	
		Poor	33	10.4%	
	Driveways	Neutral	56	17.7%	

Tourist Centres in Southwest	Paving stones	Good	113	35.6%
		Excellent	109	34.4%
		Very Poor	3	0.9%
		Poor	26	8.2%
		Neutral	142	44.8%
	Gardens	Good	143	45.1%
		Excellent	3	0.9%
		Very Poor	-	-
		Poor	-	-
		Neutral	122	38.5%
Statues and sculptures	Good	162	51.1%	
	Excellent	33	10.4%	
	Very Poor	3	0.9%	
	Poor	-	-	
	Neutral	158	49.8%	
Accessibility features	Good	114	36.0%	
	Excellent	42	13.2%	
	Very Poor	6	1.9%	
	Poor	99	31.2%	
	Neutral	57	18.0%	
Tourist Centres in Southwest	Good	137	43.2%	
	Excellent	18	5.7%	
	Very Poor	-	-	
	Poor	128	40.4%	
	Neutral	138	43.5%	
Wildlife habitats	Good	51	16.1%	
	Excellent	-	-	

4.2 Users' Perceptions of the Quality of Landscape Elements in the Study Areas

Overall Findings from Table 2 reveals that environmental sustainability practices significantly influence visitor perceptions of tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Majorities (63.3%) of respondents agree or strongly agree, indicating a growing preference for eco-friendly tourism, while 29.3% disagree. The overall trend is clear: sustainability is a key factor in attracting visitors. These findings emphasize the need for tourism destinations to prioritize sustainability initiatives. By investing in eco-friendly practices, they can enhance their appeal, contribute to long-term viability, and support local communities.

The data presented in Table 2 offers compelling evidence of the significant influence of aesthetics on visitor preferences for tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. A unanimous response from all respondents, strongly agreeing that aesthetics is a key factor, underscores the importance of prioritizing visual appeal in tourism

development. This finding highlights the need for tourism destinations to invest in aesthetically pleasing environments to attract and retain visitors. By creating visually appealing spaces, these destinations can enhance their overall appeal and create a positive impression on visitors. Furthermore, aesthetic considerations can contribute to a more enjoyable and memorable experience, encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore the area.

The cleanliness and maintenance of LEs significantly influence visitor preferences for tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. A unanimous response from all respondents (100%) strongly agrees, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing landscape upkeep. This finding highlights the need for tourism destinations to invest in maintaining clean and well-maintained landscapes. By creating a visually appealing and hygienic environment, these destinations can enhance their overall appeal and create a positive impression on visitors. Furthermore, a well-maintained landscape can contribute to a more enjoyable and

memorable experience, encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore the area.

Table 2 provides compelling evidence supporting the pivotal role of landscape design in shaping visitor satisfaction within Southwest Nigerian tourist centers. A unanimous response from all respondents (100%), unequivocally affirming the importance of landscape design, underscores its critical role in tourism development. These findings highlight the necessity for tourism destinations in the region to prioritize strategic landscape planning and implementation. By creating visually appealing and functional spaces, these destinations can significantly enhance their overall appeal, fostering a positive visitor experience. Moreover, well-designed landscapes can contribute to a more enjoyable and memorable visit, encouraging longer stays and further exploration.

Beyond aesthetics, a thoughtfully designed landscape can also enhance the functionality of a tourist center. For instance, well-planned pathways can facilitate easy navigation and reduce congestion, while strategically placed seating areas can provide comfortable and inviting spaces for visitors to relax. Additionally, incorporating native vegetation can create a sense of place and contribute to the overall ambiance of the destination. By investing in landscape design, tourism destinations can not only attract more visitors but also differentiate themselves from competitors. A unique and visually appealing landscape can create a lasting impression on visitors, encouraging them to share their experiences with others and become brand ambassadors for the destination. Based on the data presented in Table 2 it is evident that LEs play a significant role in influencing tourist decisions in Southwest Nigeria. A substantial majority of respondents (85.1%) indicated that they either agree or strongly agree that the quality of LEs impacts their choice of tourist destination. Notably, 44.5% strongly agreed, highlighting the substantial influence of landscape aesthetics. These findings suggest that investing in the development and maintenance of attractive and well-planned landscapes can be a strategic approach to enhancing the appeal and competitiveness of tourist centers in the region. By creating inviting and visually pleasing environments, destination marketers can foster a positive visitor experience, encourage repeat visits, and generate positive word-of-mouth recommendations. Furthermore, well-maintained landscapes can contribute to the overall functionality and enjoyment of tourist sites. By providing comfortable and aesthetically pleasing spaces, destinations can enhance visitor satisfaction and create a memorable experience.

Attractive water features played a pivotal role in influencing tourist decisions in Southwest Nigeria. A significant majority of respondents indicated that these features made a substantial difference in their choice of tourist destination. Notably, 59.6% strongly agreed, emphasizing the substantial impact of water elements while 40.4% of the total respondents agreed that attractive water features makes a significant difference in visiting the tourist centre in Southwest Nigeria. These findings suggest that incorporating water features into the design and development of tourist centers could be a highly effective strategy to enhance their appeal and attract visitors. By creating visually pleasing and interactive water environments, destination marketers can foster a positive visitor experience, encourage repeat business, and generate favorable word-of-mouth.

Comfortable and well-placed seating areas are deemed highly important by visitors to tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. A significant majority, 80.8% of respondents, strongly agree with the necessity of these seating areas, while an additional 19.2% agree. The absence of any respondents who disagreed, strongly disagreed, or remained neutral underscores the unanimous consensus on this issue. This finding highlights the critical role that well-designed and strategically placed seating plays in enhancing the overall experience for tourists. It suggests that prioritizing comfortable seating arrangements should be a key focus for the development and improvement of tourist sites in the region, as it directly contributes to visitor satisfaction and comfort.

There are diverse perspectives on whether proper lighting in landscape areas significantly impacts the enjoyment of tourist spaces in Southwest Nigeria. A substantial 46.4% of respondents strongly disagree that proper lighting affects their experience, suggesting that nearly half of the tourists do not consider lighting a crucial element in their overall enjoyment of the landscape. On the other hand, 40.4% of respondents remain neutral, indicating a level of ambivalence or uncertainty about the influence of lighting on their experience. However, there is also a significant portion of respondents who believe that lighting does play an important role, with 40.4% agreeing and 8.5% strongly agreeing that proper lighting enhances their enjoyment of the space.

The absence of any respondents who simply disagreed highlights the polarized nature of opinions, with a clear divide between those who strongly disagree and those who either agree or are neutral. This suggests that while proper lighting is valued by some tourists, it is not universally seen as a key factor in enhancing the overall experience of landscape areas in tourist centers. The findings point to the complexity of visitor preferences, where lighting may be a critical component for certain groups of tourists but less important for others. For the development and improvement of tourist sites, this indicates that while proper lighting should not be overlooked, it may need to be balanced with other elements that contribute to the overall visitor experience, depending on the specific preferences and needs of different tourist demographics.

The data in Table 2 presented a unanimous agreement among respondents regarding the importance of clear and informative signage in enhancing the experience at tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. Remarkably, 100% of the 317 respondents strongly agree that such signage improves their experience, with no respondents disagreeing, strongly disagreeing, or even remaining neutral on the issue. This complete consensus underscores the critical role that clear and informative signage plays in ensuring a positive and engaging experience for visitors. The findings suggest that effective signage is not just beneficial but essential for the smooth navigation and enjoyment of tourist sites. It highlights that tourists rely heavily on clear directions and information to make the most of their visit, and any lack of proper signage could significantly detract from their experience. Given this overwhelming support, it is evident that prioritizing the implementation and maintenance of high-quality signage should be a key focus in the development and management of tourist centers. This will not only enhance the visitor experience but also ensure that tourists feel well-informed and confident as they explore different attractions.

It is evident that the integration of natural elements, such as trees and water features, plays a pivotal role in enhancing the visitor experience at tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria. A substantial majority of respondents (83.9%) expressed positive sentiments, with 16.1% agreeing and 39.1% strongly agreeing. This emphatic endorsement underscores the significance of natural features in shaping the overall appeal and attractiveness of tourist destinations. The positive impact of natural elements can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, natural features contribute to a more aesthetically pleasing and relaxing environment. Trees provide shade, greenery, and a sense of tranquility, while water features create visual interest, soothing sounds, and opportunities for relaxation. Secondly, natural elements can enhance the ecological value of a tourist destination, fostering biodiversity and promoting environmental conservation. This can appeal to environmentally conscious travelers and contribute to the sustainability of the tourism industry. Thirdly, natural features can provide opportunities for recreation and engagement, encouraging visitors to explore and interact with the natural surroundings. For example, visitors may enjoy walking through a wooded area, picnicking by a lake, or simply taking in the scenic beauty of the landscape.

It is evident that leisure gardening areas play a significant role in influencing tourist decisions in Southwest Nigeria. A substantial majority of respondents (85.1%) indicated

that these areas are appealing, with 20.2% agreeing and 38.3% strongly agreeing. This suggests that incorporating well-maintained and attractive gardening spaces into tourist centers can be a highly effective strategy to enhance their appeal and attract visitors. While a smaller percentage (10.4%) strongly disagreed, indicating that not all respondents found gardening areas appealing, the overall positive sentiment is clear. This suggests that the appeal of leisure gardening areas may vary among different visitor segments, and that it is important to consider the preferences of the target audience when designing and implementing such features.

The results as shown in Table 2 reveal that the quality of LEs played a significant role in influencing tourists' decisions to recommend the tourist centers they visited to others. A substantial majority of respondents (82%) indicated that they would be likely to recommend the centers, with 39.4% agreeing and 42.6% strongly agreeing. This suggests that investing in the development and maintenance of attractive and well-planned landscapes could be a highly effective strategy to enhance a tourist destination's reputation and attract future visitors. While a smaller percentage (6.6%) strongly disagreed, indicating that not all respondents were completely satisfied with the LEs, the overall positive sentiment is clear. This suggests that the quality of LEs could be a significant factor in determining whether tourists were willing to recommend a destination to others.

Table 2: Users' Perceptions of the Quality of Landscape Elements in the Study Areas

Environmental sustainability practices within the landscape affects perception of the tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
33	60	55	130	39	317
10.4%	18.9%	17.4%	41.0%	12.3%	100.0%
The quality of aesthetics influences preference for visiting a tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	-	317	317
-	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
The cleanliness and maintenance of LEs influences the preference for visiting a tourist centre					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	-	317	317
-	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
The overall design of the landscape affects their level of satisfaction with the tourist centre					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	-	317	317
-	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
The quality of LEs influences decision to visit a tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	33	30	113	141	317
-	10.4%	9.5%	35.6%	44.5%	100.0%
If Attractive water features (ponds, fountains, streams) make a significant difference in visiting the tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	128	189	317
-	-	-	40.4%	59.6%	100.0%

If comfortable and well-placed seating areas are important to in the tourists centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	61	256	317
-	-	-	19.2%	80.8%	100.0%
If Proper lighting in the landscape areas affects enjoyment of the space.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
147	-	15	128	27	317
46.4%	4.7%	40.4%	40.4%	8.5%	100.0%
If clear and informative signage improves experience at the tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	-	-	-	317	317
-	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%
If the integration of natural elements (for example, trees, water features), enhances enjoyment in the tourist centre.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
142	-	-	51	124	317
44.8%	-	-	16.1%	39.1%	100.0%
If Leisure gardening areas within the tourist centre are appealing.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
33	57	40	64	123	317
10.4%	18.0%	12.6%	20.2%	38.3%	100.0%
Visitors' response if there would be recommendation of the tourist centre(s) visited to others based on the quality of LEs.					
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
-	21	36	125	135	317
-	6.6%	11.4%	39.4%	42.6%	100.0%

4.2 Assessment of the Importance Design Principles

Table 3 revealed the uses assessment of design principles. The results indicated that several design principles significantly influenced users' perceptions of landscape elements. Among these principles, balance, symmetry, rhythm and repetition, focal points, and variety and diversity emerged as particularly influential. The results shows that three variable had Design Principles Index (DPI) that is above the average of 4.29 DPI these include: Symmetry in the design of landscape features, Proportion of landscape elements relative to each other and to the hotel, Variety and diversity of landscape elements having DPI of 4.58, 4.58 and 4.30 respectively. Four variable the is less than average of 4.29 DPI comprises of balance in the arrangement of landscape element, rhythm and repetition in landscape elements, harmony

and unity in the overall landscape design having DPI of 4.25, 4.24, 4.04 and 4.02 respectively. Emphasis on focal points in landscape design, balance in the arrangement of landscape elements among others were considered as important or very important, highlighting the desire for well-balanced and visually pleasing designs. Similarly, symmetry, rhythm and repetition, focal points, and variety and diversity received strong support, deeming them as significant factors. This shows that landscapes incorporating these design principles are more likely to be perceived as aesthetically pleasing and engaging. Other influential factors included harmony and unity, proportion, and scale. These principles contribute to the overall coherence and visual appeal of the landscape, demonstrating the importance of considering design principles in landscape planning and development.

Table 3 Assessment of the Relative Importance Design Principles Index (IDPI)

S/N	Design Principles	Not important (1)	Slightly important (2)	Neutral (3)	Important (4)	Very Important (5)	Total (Frequency) (n)	TWV	TWV/n
1	Symmetry in the design of landscape features	-	-	-	132	185	317	1453	4.58
2	Proportion of landscape elements relative to each other and to the hotel	-	-	-	134	183	317	1451	4.58
3	Variety and diversity of landscape elements	-	-	50	121	146	317	1364	4.30
4	Balance in the arrangement of landscape element	-	5	45	132	135	317	1348	4.25
5	Rhythm and repetition in landscape elements	-	2	55	125	135	317	1344	4.24
6	Harmony and unity in the overall landscape design	-	-	90	125	102	317	1280	4.04
7	Emphasis on focal points in landscape design	-	12	89	98	118	317	1273	4.02
Average								30.01/7	4.29

4.3 Users' Perceptions of Design Principle

Table 4 presented the users' perceptions of design principle. The results show that several design principles significantly influenced users' perceptions of landscape elements. Among these principles, scale and proportion, balance, space, hierarchy, and visual focus emerged as particularly influential factors. Fourteen variables out of twenty seven variables had DPI that is greater than 3.43. The results indicated consideration for appropriate scale and proportion as very important in the design of landscape in hotel, highlighting the desire for landscapes that are

harmonious and visually pleasing is also important. Similarly, balance, space, hierarchy, and visual focus received strong support, as significant factors. This result reveals that landscapes design incorporating these design principles are more likely to be perceived as aesthetically pleasing and engaging. Other influential factors included unity and coherence, variety and diversity, and functionality. These principles contribute to the overall coherence, visual interest, and usability of the landscape, demonstrating the importance of considering design principles in landscape planning and development.

Table 4: Design Principle Index (DPI)

S/N	Design Principle	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total (Frequency) (n)	TWV	TWV/n
1	The design emphasizes key elements to create focal points and visual hierarchy	-	-	-	-	317	317	1585	5.00
2	The design ensures accessibility and safety for visitors (e.g., well-lit pathways, clear signage).	-	-	-	-	317	317	1585	5.00
3	The design emphasizes environmental sustainability (e.g., use of native plants, water conservation).	-	-	-	-	317	317	1585	5.00
4	The design enhances the visual identity and branding (Image/Billie).	-	-	23	-	294	317	1539	4.85
5	The design considers territorial aspects, such as zoning and separation of areas.	-	3	32	12	270	317	1500	4.73
6	The design prioritizes aesthetic appeal and ease of maintenance.	-	-	-	120	197	317	1465	4.62
7	The design draws inspiration from nature and living organisms (organic concept).	-	-	-	132	185	317	1453	4.58
8	The design captures the essence and fundamental nature of the space.	-	-	12	132	173	317	1429	4.51
9	The design promotes social interaction and community building.	-	12	-	123	182	317	1426	4.50
10	The design focuses on functionality and practicality (pragmatic concept).	2	1	6	143	165	317	1419	4.48
11	The design includes geometric and organic forms to create visual interest.	-	5	10	132	170	317	1418	4.47
12	The design effectively creates a sense of enclosure and defined spaces.	1	8	45	65	198	317	1402	4.42
13	The design achieves unity and cohesion throughout the space.	1	8	45	65	198	317	1402	4.42
14	The design integrates natural elements (vegetation, water features) effectively.	6	2	45	76	188	317	1389	4.38
15	The design uses metaphoric concepts to convey abstract ideas.	-	-	54	112	151	317	1365	4.31
16	The design incorporates variety to enhance the range and diversity of elements.	5	3	76	54	179	317	1350	4.26

17	The design encourages visitor engagement through interactive elements (e.g., seating areas, pathways).	2	24	34	89	168	317	1348	4.25
18	The design addresses climate responsiveness and adaptability.	2	24	34	89	168	317	1348	4.25
19	The design utilizes repeating patterns to create rhythm and movement.	1	-	90	65	161	317	1336	4.21
20	The design incorporates appropriate scale and proportion.	2	1	56	132	126	317	1330	4.20
21	The design incorporates appropriate textures and surface qualities.	-	35	55	80	147	317	1290	4.07
22	The design maintains balance and symmetry.	-	-	98	114	105	317	1275	4.02
23	The design reflects and integrates local community and cultural context.	-	22	87	90	118	317	1255	3.96
24	The design includes clear and informative signage and information boards.	-	45	65	90	117	317	1230	3.88
25	The design incorporates advanced technology for enhanced visitor experience.	5	67	34	70	141	317	1226	3.87
26	The design uses a cohesive and harmonious colour scheme.	-	120	45	35	117	317	1100	3.47
27	The design incorporates innovative and creative solutions.	-	89	68	90	70	317	1092	3.44
Average								117.17/27	4.34

4.5 Users' Perception of Social Value of Landscape Elements that Contribute to a Positive Experience in Tourist Centre

Table 5 revealed the result of users' perception to social value of landscape elements Indices (SVLSI) that contribute to a positive experience in tourist centre show that landscape elements promote safety and security within the landscape areas, Integration of local art and cultural elements into the landscape, promotion of environmental sustainability, enhancement of visitor educational experiences, facilitation of social interaction among visitors, support for local cultural activities and events, encouragement of

visitor engagement and promotion of community and cultural integration with 5.00, 4.62, 4.58, 4.51, 4.48, 4.38, 4.31 and 4.26 (SVLSI) respectively. The result shows that tourist centers with well-designed spaces for interaction, educational signage, and sustainable practices are more likely to attract and satisfy visitors. Other influential factors included social interaction, educational experiences, and local cultural support. These elements collectively contribute to a positive and enriching visitor experience, demonstrating the importance of considering social quality aspects in landscape design for tourist centers.

Table 5: Social Value of Landscape Elements that Contribute to a Positive Experience in Tourist Centre

S/N	Social Quality of Landscape Elements	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total (Frequency) (n)	TWV	TWV/n
1	Promotion of safety and security within the landscape areas	-	-	-	-	317	317	1585	5.00
2	Integration of local art and cultural elements into the landscape	-	-	-	120	197	317	1465	4.62
3	Promotion of environmental sustainability (e.g., use of native plants, water conservation)	-	-	-	132	185	317	1453	4.58
4	Enhancement of visitor educational experiences (e.g., informational signage, educational programs)	-	-	12	132	173	317	1429	4.51
5	Facilitation of social interaction among visitors (e.g., communal seating areas)	2	1	6	143	165	317	1419	4.48
6	Support for local cultural activities and events	6	2	45	76	188	317	1389	4.38
7	Encouragement of visitor engagement (e.g., seating areas, pathways)	-	-	54	112	151	317	1365	4.31
8	Community and cultural integration	5	3	76	54	179	317	1350	4.26
Total									36.14/8
									4.52

4.0 Finding from Selected Case Studies (Existing Similar Projects)

Case Study One

Name: Ikogozi warm spring hotel limited

Location: Ikogosi ekiti

Developer: Private investors- Rev. John’s. McGee (1952-1977)
Nigerian government (1978)
Ekiti government (2011-2014)

Owner: Ekiti state government

No of rooms: 100

Brief Description

Overview: Ikogosi Warm Springs Hotel is a serene and nature-focused hotel located in Ikogosi, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The hotel is set in a picturesque landscape, surrounded by lush vegetation and the famous Ikogosi Warm and Cold Springs. It offers various accommodation options, including chalets, cottages, and lodges, all designed to blend with the natural surroundings. Each room is well-equipped with modern amenities for a comfortable stay.

Landscape Elements:

- Natural Light:** Expansive windows and skylights allow abundant natural light into the hotel, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere and enhancing guests' well-being.
- Views of Nature:** Every area of the hotel provides stunning views of the natural surroundings, including lush landscapes, waterfalls, and rivers, fostering a deep appreciation for nature.
- Use of Natural Materials:** The hotel incorporates natural materials like timber and stone, adding warmth and authenticity to the design, and connecting guests to the region's geological and cultural heritage.
- Indoor Plants and Greenery:** Lush indoor plants and living walls bring the outdoors inside, purifying the air and creating a tranquil environment.
- Water Features:** Natural springs and streams meander through the landscape, providing soothing water sounds and opportunities for relaxation and immersion in therapeutic waters.
- Landscape Patterns and Textures:** Interior design features organic shapes and textures inspired by nature, including leaf motifs and hand-carved furnishings, enhancing sensory delight and comfort.

7. **Outdoor Spaces:** Expansive terraces, gardens, and courtyards offer various outdoor experiences, such as lounging under palm trees or dining by a brook, promoting relaxation and connection with nature.

Facilities Provided:

1. **Warm and Cold Springs:** The hotel's main attraction is the unique natural phenomenon where warm and cold springs flow side by side.
2. **Natural Setting:** The hotel is set in a picturesque natural environment with lush greenery and rolling hills, offering a peaceful retreat.
3. **Cultural Significance:** The warm and cold springs have cultural and historical importance to the local community.
4. **Healing Properties:** The mineral-rich warm springs are believed to have therapeutic benefits.
5. **Recreational Activities:** Guests can enjoy activities such as guided nature walks, waterfall hikes, spa treatments, and outdoor yoga sessions.
6. **Cultural Performances:** The hotel occasionally hosts local cultural performances and events, providing guests with insights into regional music, dance, and art.

Merits:

1. **Unique Natural Phenomenon:** The rare convergence of warm and cold springs offers a captivating natural experience.
2. **Scenic Surroundings:** The picturesque landscape provides a serene backdrop for relaxation and outdoor activities.
3. **Relaxation and Wellness:** The therapeutic springs and tranquil ambiance create an ideal environment for relaxation and rejuvenation.
4. **Outdoor Activities:** The hotel offers a wide range of outdoor activities, from hiking to birdwatching, catering to various interests.
5. **Cultural Immersion:** Guests can engage with local culture through guided tours and traditional events.
6. **Comfortable Accommodations:** The hotel provides cozy and well-appointed lodgings that blend modern amenities with rustic charm.
7. **Eco-friendly Practices:** The hotel implements sustainable practices, such as renewable energy and waste reduction initiatives, contributing to environmental conservation.

Demerits:

1. **Limited Accommodation Options:** There may be limited availability, especially during peak seasons, requiring early bookings.
2. **Remote Location:** The hotel's secluded setting may require additional travel time and may not be ideal for those seeking easy access to urban amenities.
3. **Seasonal Fluctuations:** Weather conditions and visitor numbers can vary seasonally, affecting outdoor activities and amenities.



Plate 1: Aerial view of swimming pool, outdoor facilities, and other recreational facilities



Plate 2: Walkway that leads to the presidential lodge



Plate 3: Pool area of ikogosi warm spring



Plate 4: showing the hotel floor plan



Plate 5: showing the hotel layout plan

Case Study Two

Name: Zenababs Half Moon Resort

Location: Prince Oladele Olashore way, Aiyegunle 233285, Ilesha Osun state

Developer: Fajemisin Group

Facilities Provided

i. **Boating Lake:** Nestled within the expansive grounds of Zenababs, guests can enjoy leisurely outings on the picturesque boating lake. Whether paddling in kayaks, rowing in traditional boats, or simply admiring the tranquil scenery from the shore, the boating lake offers a serene escape amidst natural beauty.

ii. **Wildlife Park with Exotic Birds:** Immerse yourself in the wonders of nature at the wildlife park, home to a diverse array of exotic birds and other fascinating wildlife. Stroll along winding pathways as you encounter vibrant parrots, majestic peacocks, and graceful flamingos.

iii. **Large Swimming Pool:** Beat the heat and take a refreshing dip in the expansive swimming pool. Surrounded by lush greenery and comfortable loungers, the pool provides the perfect oasis for guests to unwind and cool off after a day of exploration or adventure.

iv. **Terrace Bar:** Sip on cocktails and soak in stunning views at Zenababs' terrace bar, where guests can unwind in style amidst the beauty of the natural surroundings. Whether enjoying a sunset drink with friends or indulging in a nightcap under the stars, the terrace bar offers a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for socializing and relaxation.

v. **Games Lounge:** For those seeking indoor entertainment, the games lounge offers a variety of options to keep guests entertained. Challenge friends to a friendly game of table tennis, test your strategy skills with classic board games, or simply kick back and relax with a book from the lounge's curated selection.

vi. **Sports Courts:** Stay active and enjoy friendly competition on the sports courts, which feature facilities for tennis, basketball, and

volleyball. Whether honing your serve on the tennis courts, shooting hoops on the basketball court, or spiking the ball on the volleyball court, guests can engage in a variety of recreational activities.

Brief Description

Zenababs Hotel is an enchanting oasis nestled in the historic city of Ilesha, Southwest Nigeria. The allure of ambiance, serenity, and breathtaking natural views awaits your arrival. As you step into this captivating retreat, a profound sense of peace envelops you, creating an unparalleled escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Since its inception in 2004, the hotel has stood as a testament to meticulous maintenance and timeless allure. With 15 years of dedicated care, it remains one of Nigeria's most treasured hotel destinations, boasting an ageless charm that gracefully weaves modernity with nature's grace. From the entrance of the hotel, meticulously trimmed flowers and perfectly mowed lawns paint a picturesque canvas of nature's splendor. It presents a curated selection of accommodations, each offering a unique experience tailored to your desires. Whether you seek the cozy embrace of single rooms, the sophistication of executive rooms, or the indulgence of spacious chalets, it caters to every preference. Delight in the true essence of serenity as you explore the standard field and embrace the tranquility of boating on the serene lake. The hotel invites you to cherish every moment as an opportunity to connect with nature, relishing the harmonious ambiance that graces every aspect of this exquisite retreat.

Landscape Quality Provided

i. **Natural Views:** The hotel boasts breath taking natural views with adequately trimmed flowers, perfectly mowed lawns, and a picturesque canvas of nature's splendour. The warm and welcoming atmosphere invites guests to embrace the serenity and beauty that surrounds them.

ii. **Outdoor Seating:** The beautifully designed restaurant offers outdoor seating, allowing guests to savour delectable cuisine while being immersed in nature's embrace. This feature enhances the dining experience by fostering a connection with the natural environment.

iii. **Wildlife Park:** The wildlife park features a diverse array of exotic birds, allowing guests to appreciate nature's wonders up close. This LE promotes a sense of awe and appreciation for biodiversity.

iv. **Lake for Boating:** The serene lake at Zenababs Hotel provides opportunities for boating, offering moments of tranquility and a connection with nature. This feature promotes relaxation and well-being.

v. **Landscape:** The resort's expansive grounds with well-tended flowers and lawns create a tranquil escape, promoting a sense of connection with nature. The standard field further enhances the experience, providing additional space for outdoor activities.

vi. **Large Swimming Pool:** The large swimming pool offers a refreshing escape in a natural-like setting. The presence of water in this landscape feature promotes a calming and rejuvenating experience for guests.



Plate 5: Landscape with Greenery and flowers beside charlet side view of zenababs



Plate 6: Landscape with Trees, Greenery and Forest view of Zenababs hotel



Plate 7: Zoo Exhibit featuring Ostriches in zenababs hotel



Plate 8: Approach view of Zenababs hotel



Plate 9: Side view of Zenababs hotel

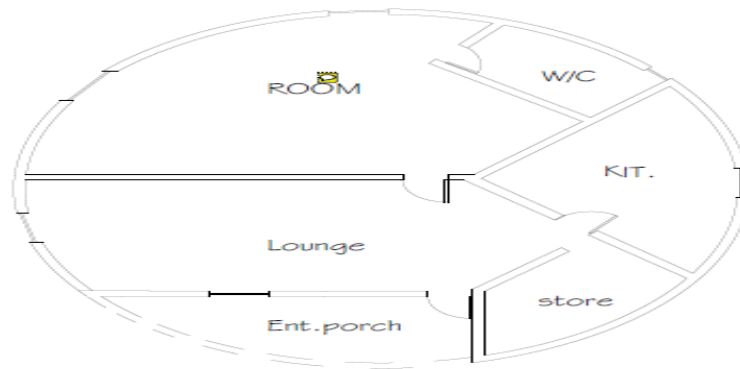


Plate 10: showing the hotel floor plan

Merits

i. **Nature-Inspired Design:** The hotel incorporates landscape quality principles, using natural materials, colors, and forms that evoke the natural environment. This creates a harmonious and relaxing atmosphere for guests.

ii. **Open and Airy Spaces:** The hotel features spacious areas with high ceilings and large windows, promoting natural light and ventilation. This enhances guest comfort and well-being by creating a sense of openness and connection to the outdoors.

iii. **Integration with Landscape:** The hotel is thoughtfully integrated into its natural surroundings, blending seamlessly with the existing landscape. This includes preserving existing vegetation and minimizing disruption to the natural environment, enhancing the overall aesthetic and ecological value.

vi. **Iconic Landmarks:** The hotel features distinctive landmarks and architectural elements that make it a recognizable and memorable destination. These landmarks serve as focal points and enhance the visual appeal of the property.

Demerits

i. **Structural Aging:** Some parts of the hotel are showing signs of wear and aging, affecting both the LEs aesthetic and functionality. Issues such as deteriorating materials and out-dated infrastructure may require renovation or repair.

ii. **Limited Accessibility:** Certain areas of the hotel are not easily accessible to all guests, particularly those with mobility impairments. This includes insufficient ramps, elevators, or accessible pathways, which can limit the experience for some visitors.

iii. **Weather Vulnerability:** The hotel's location and design make it susceptible to adverse weather conditions, such as heavy rain or strong winds. This can lead to challenges in maintaining outdoor spaces and ensuring guest safety during inclement weather.

iv. **Environmental Impact:** Despite its integration with the landscape, the hotel's operations and construction have some negative environmental impacts. These include issues such as resource consumption, waste generation, and potential harm to local ecosystems.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, several recommendations can be made to improve the design and management of tourist centers in Southwest Nigeria:

1. **Enhance Key LEs:** Since vegetation, pathways, and seating areas are highly valued by visitors, efforts should be made to improve and maintain these features. Regular maintenance of plants and pathways, along with the provision of comfortable and well-distributed seating, can enhance the overall visitor experience.
2. **Improve Water Features:** Mixed feedback regarding water features suggests the need for improvements. Tourist centers should focus on the aesthetics and functionality of water features to make them more visually appealing and engaging for visitors. Incorporating interactive or dynamic elements, such as fountains or reflective ponds, could increase their appeal.
3. **Prioritize Signage and Information Boards:** The unanimous approval for clear and informative signage indicates its critical role in visitor satisfaction. Tourist centers should ensure that signs are strategically placed, easy to understand, and regularly updated. Interactive or digital signage could also be introduced to enhance the visitor experience further.
4. **Incorporate Natural Elements Thoughtfully:** Given the positive feedback on natural elements, tourist centers should integrate trees, gardens, and water features into the landscape. These elements not only provide aesthetic value but also promote environmental sustainability and biodiversity. Tree planting and conservation initiatives should be prioritized.
5. **Lighting Design:** Although the opinions on lighting were mixed, it remains an important element for a segment of visitors. Tourist centers should ensure that pathways, seating areas, and focal points within the landscape are well-lit, especially for evening or night visits. However, lighting should be balanced to avoid disturbing the natural ambiance of the environment.
6. The study highlights the increasing importance of environmental sustainability in shaping visitors' perceptions of

tourist centers. By integrating sustainable practices into tourism management, this research provides a framework for developing eco-friendly tourism destinations that appeal to environmentally conscious visitors. The research emphasizes the need for a balanced approach in landscape design and holistic approach to landscape design: where aesthetics, functionality, and environmental sustainability are all considered. This holistic perspective contributes to the broader discourse on landscape design and tourism management by promoting visitor-centered and eco-conscious design principles.

5.0 Conclusion

This finding highlights the need for tourism destinations to invest in maintaining clean and well-maintained landscapes. By creating a visually appealing and hygienic environment, these destinations can enhance their overall appeal and create a positive impression on visitors. Unequivocally the study affirming the importance of landscape design, underscores its critical role in tourism development. These findings highlight the necessity for tourism destinations in the region to prioritize strategic landscape planning and implementation. The results show that several design principles significantly influenced users' perceptions of landscape elements. Among these principles, scale and proportion, balance, space, hierarchy, and visual focus emerged as particularly influential factors. The study reveals that landscapes design incorporating these design principles are more likely to be perceived as aesthetically pleasing and engaging. Other influential factors included unity and coherence, variety and diversity, and functionality. These principles contribute to the overall coherence, visual interest, and usability of the landscape, demonstrating the importance of considering design principles in landscape planning and development. The result of users' perception to social value of landscape elements that show that landscape elements promote safety and security within the landscape areas, Integration of local art and cultural elements into the landscape, promotion of environmental sustainability, enhancement of visitor educational experiences, facilitation of social interaction among visitors, support for local cultural activities and events, encouragement of visitor engagement and promotion of community and cultural integration. The result shows that tourist centers with well-designed spaces for interaction, educational signage, and sustainable practices are more likely to attract and satisfy visitors. Other influential factors included social interaction, educational experiences, and local cultural support. These elements collectively contribute to a positive and enriching visitor experience, demonstrating the importance of considering social quality aspects in landscape design for tourist centers.

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