

LKYCIC Seminar Series

Beyond Beauty: The Role of Landscape Performance in Sustainable Urban Development

DATE AND TIME

31 July 2025,
1 - 2 pm

ASSOC PROF YIWEI HUANG

Associate Professor,
Purdue University

VENUE

Think Tank 22
Building 2, Level 3 (2.311)

SYNOPSIS - As cities confront climate change, urbanisation, and environmental degradation, sustainable development is increasingly urgent. Landscape performance, which evaluates how outdoor spaces function socially, environmentally, and economically, offers a valuable framework for building resilient, equitable, and livable cities. Grounded in ecosystem services science, it enables planners, designers, and policymakers to make informed decisions based on measurable outcomes rather than aesthetics or tradition. This presentation examines three case studies from the Landscape Architecture Foundation's Case Study Investigation Program, where researchers, practitioners, users, and stakeholders assess long-term design impacts. Findings show how performance metrics inform planning—enhancing biodiversity, reducing runoff, and improving health and walkability—while also guiding integration into education and practice to promote environmental and community well-being.



**ASSOC PROF
YIWEI HUANG**
Associate Professor,
University of
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ASSOC PROF YIWEI HUANG'S research explores the intersection of sustainable urban design, landscape performance evaluation, and human-centered design methods. She investigates how public spaces can be assessed using measurable indicators, such as ecological benefits, social value, and health outcomes, to inform evidence-based design and support long-term sustainability goals. Her work draws on a range of research methods, including traditional social science methods, but also participatory mapping, social media analysis, and language modeling, to examine how people experience and interact with outdoor environments. Her recent book, *Outdoor Environments for People: Considering Human Factors in Landscape Design*, won the 2025 EDRA Great Place Book Award.



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