Healthy, happy, hippy: sustainability as an emergent property of wellbeing

Conference or Workshop Item

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Healthy, Happy, Hippy
Sustainability as an emergent property of wellbeing

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The Restorative Environment

A place/situation that helps bring about recovery to baseline levels of functional resources & capabilities that have been diminished through stress, overuse or under-stimulation

Attention Restoration Theory
Kaplan & Kaplan

Psychoevolutionary Model
Ulrich

Being away
Fascination
Extent
Compatibility

Affective Response

Image viewed
Skin Conductance (physio arousal)
Responding to Fractal Geometry

- Extract silhouette outline of a scene
- Mathematical calculation of fractal dimension

\[ \text{FracDim} \]
\[ \text{Biodiversity} \ & \text{Preference} \]
\[ \text{Stress} \]

Fractal Dimension (self-similarity at different scales)

1.38

i.e., an evolved response (low arousal, +ve emotion) to healthy ecosystems
Sustainability?

Brundtland defined it as intergenerational equity:

“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

→ *Anthropocentric*

Perhaps better defined as “ecological wellbeing” e.g., an ecosystem (incl. humans) which is able to maintain its processes, functions, & biodiversity in the long-term

→ *Ecocentric*: bio embodiment + environment embedment

→ Understand human wellbeing as inseparable from ecological wellbeing i.e., sustainability *emerges* from it
Example: A Restorative Garden

- Compatibility
- Being away
- Extent

✘
✓
A Restorative Garden (cont.)

Fascination

The fractal connection...
Sustainability in a Restorative Garden

- Reduced air/noise pollution; Enhanced habitat; Biodiversity
- Balanced ecosystem; Improved soil; Reduced pesticides
- Insect/pollinators; Food/flower miles; Security; Agri-awareness
- Boundary features & soft edges
- Low maintenance
- Flowers & vegetables
- Biodiversity; Conservation; Local resource; wellbeing
- Healthy ecosystem; Natural materials
- Fractals
- Composting system & pond
- Carbon sink; Supports animals/insects