Identifying the Image of a Healing Landscape: a Descriptive Study

F.A. Miyake, Y. Takaesu and H. Kweon
Himeji Institute of Technology
Izumi Hospital
Chiba University
Japan

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to add clarity to the evidence of people's need for a healing landscape by focusing on the healing effect of the plants existing in the landscape and to examine how people perceive a healing effect from such places and plants. This study attempts to identify the image of a "healing" landscape (as one that brings relief or peace) through written descriptions provided by people in Japan: 312 people aged 10 to 29, 181 people aged 30 to 59, and 180 people aged over sixty. Each was asked to describe the scene(s) in which they feel relief and/or peace, and the descriptions were carefully categorized and analyzed. The predominate images were categorize as "Nature Abundant Landscape" which 94% of the respondents described to preferable while only 1% described "Artificial Landscape" with no natural elements. Characteristics within these descriptions and comparisons between the age groups will be given.