LANDSCAPING IN HDB
Cultivating a Sense of Place

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Abstract

The thesis attempts to look into the possibility of vertical landscaping in the Housing
and Development Board (HDB) estate, and through it explores the possibility of
invoking a stronger sense of place in the HDB estates.

The contents have been structured into 3 main chapters according to the different
parts of a HDB’s high-rise building, the ground level, the intermediate level, and the
rooftop.

In the 1st chapter, the basic focus will be on the relationship of ground landscaping in
HDB and the formation of identity in HDB estates. It investigates the idea of whether
the garden concept that has been incorporated in all HDB estate has managed to
reinforce a sense of identity. The chapter also looks into landscape ideas that may be
able to strengthen the HDB's identity.

The 2nd chapter will concentrate on how the nurturing of a garden can make the
residents feel more for the place they stay in and create social bonding among
neighbours. As the residential area in HDB basically occurs in the intermediate levels
of a high-rise building, the chapter will also look into systems that allows gardening to
occur on the roof.

In the 3rd chapter, the roof garden is regarded as a refuge for contemplation in the
urban context. The emphasis here will be on the effect of garden on our senses and
imagination. And through evoking the senses, in turn producing human art that will
constitute to a deeper meaning in a place.

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