Nature Recalled
Rustication of the contemporary dwelling

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Abstract

There has been a gradual proliferation of dwellings being fashioned into distinctive cultural styles. Some of the landscapes are a direct imitation; others are an amalgamation of various styles. Basic elements of landscaping, like courtyards, water-features, tropical plants are prominently incorporated into the architecture. The recalling of nature implies that something once lost, devalued, forgotten, or misplaced has been found again, retrieved, and brought forward with new vitality. This research intends to question the cultural appropriateness and to determine why the proliferation of many ‘rusticated’ dwellings. It is very ignorant of consumers to attribute an architectural style that has any sense of tropicality, like lush landscaping, ponds, prevalent use of timber, pavilions, under the umbrella of Balinese style. Explorations into the Balinese style of living would be made to determine reasons behind this sudden affinity to the style.

The paper will attempt to construct a scenario that had lead to the recalling of nature. Within this reconstructed scenario explanations would be given as to why this phenomenon is only prevalent now. It will try to trace the first appreciation of the tropical landscape, its demise and its recalling in Singapore.

Furthermore, does all this rustication of the environment truly signify a true appreciation of nature or is it a highly selective form of nature that is only being appreciated? Is there a real conscious effort to embrace nature in all its innocence, or is it just a fashion trend in an increasingly consumerist society? With resorts like Amandari, Aman Nusa, Four Seasons in Bali which has evoked the rekindling of the elements of nature, people are made more aware of nature, a concocted tropical nature. These resorts are the “New-Age temples of the tropical world” (Made Wijaya, 1999). What is this nature that we understand it by? Why is there a need for the reinvention of nature and how has it manifested itself in the modern context?
The main objective of this research is to provide a better understanding of the current phenomenon described as 'nature recalled', it does not validate or invalidate the act of 'naturalising' buts serves to provide a better understanding of the current situation and provides an in-depth revelation for the parties interested. It is to make sense of this act of recalling nature, so that people are aware of the implications and consequence of their choices, not acting unconsciously, so that a cultural and contextual appropriation might be reached.

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