

## STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF SARS-COV-2 (PANDEMIC) ON THE LANDSCAPE SECTION

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**Abstract:** Landscape architecture constitutes an expansive domain of design and inquiry primarily focused on outdoor environments. This discipline encompasses a broad spectrum of applications and contributions to external spaces, facilitating enhanced perceptions of the greening of our surroundings. It plays a pivotal role in reintegrating nature and green areas within urban settings and residential environments, thereby fostering a reconnection with the self. Like many other sectors, landscape architecture has been profoundly impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which has altered and diminished societal perceptions of nature while exacerbating existing social divides. Consequently, this study seeks to evaluate the extent of degradation within this field post-pandemic and to analyze contemporary public perceptions regarding landscape architecture.

**Keywords:** spatial planning, statistics, landscape, management, savings

### INTRODUCTION

The pandemic period, followed by a swift transition out of it, has engendered significant disorientation among individuals, surfacing numerous psychological challenges [8,13]. Individuals have discovered that [1,4,6], in the post-pandemic context, they struggle to navigate daily life independently and have sought to reorient their lives, particularly with regard to their relationship with green spaces [3,6,9]. There is a growing recognition among people that the green spaces they previously dismissed as mere grassy areas hold substantial value for both their physical and mental well-being [1,2,3,5,7,9].

In the post-pandemic era, the general populace has transitioned from regarding green spaces and social gatherings within them as commonplace—activities that were often considered inferior to shopping in commercial establishments—to appreciating their importance. Increasingly, individuals acknowledge feelings of anxiety associated with enclosed spaces (such as commercial venues) during the pandemic, prompting a preference for engaging with nature instead [3,5,8,10,12,15]. Consequently, there is a heightened awareness of the benefits that green spaces provide, leading many to seek their integration into local environments [13]. This shift is largely motivated by a desire for safe, relaxing outdoor spaces [2,5,6,8,11].

It is well-established that green spaces contribute positively to mental health; during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the need for such environments became acutely apparent. Individuals were particularly in need of safe areas where they could engage in physical activities, resulting in a significant increase in demand for landscape [5] architects to design and maintain private green spaces during and immediately following the pandemic [2,3,4,7].

Moreover, the pandemic prompted individuals to view gardening within their personal spaces as a more accessible pursuit [6], thereby minimizing interactions in public settings while simultaneously opting for activities that stimulate mental engagement. Consequently, whether living in apartment complexes or private residences, individuals embraced gardening on balconies or in yards as a feasible option [6,8,9].

This period also inspired a renewed enthusiasm for outdoor activities, leading individuals to develop a passion for natural environments [11,12,14,16]. More people are now opting for nature walks and hiking in mountainous regions, where they can encounter extensive displays of wild flora [12]. This experience fosters a desire to cultivate similar green spaces within their own homes, which has consequently spurred the growth of agritourism and the promotion of natural landscapes [6,7,14].

Furthermore, there has been a marked openness among individuals to engage in community-oriented green projects [14], with many expressing interest in establishing community gardens that facilitate social interactions within green environments [17].

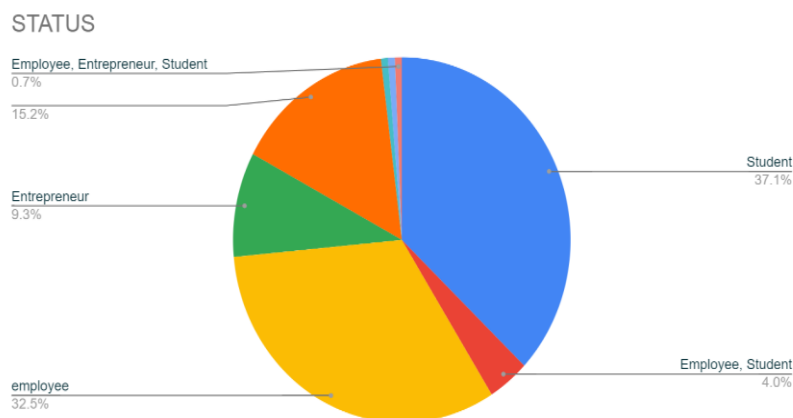
### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Landscaping represents a relatively nascent sector within the market, one that has yet to be fully tapped at its highest potential. Although this practice has been part of our national landscape for several years, it has recently emerged as a formally recognized profession [1,4,6,7]. Urban landscaping encompasses the development of green spaces located outside residential buildings, typically executed by landscapers seeking to introduce verdant areas amidst the concrete structures of urban environments. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, green outdoor spaces were frequently undervalued; however, in the wake of the pandemic, there has been a notable surge in interest within this market and field.

This study seeks to examine the impact of landscaping on individuals and to evaluate how this field evolved between 2019 and 2022, particularly during and following the pandemic. To achieve this, we devised a survey aimed at assessing public awareness and perceptions of the landscaping profession, both before and after the pandemic. The survey comprised a series of straightforward questions grounded in robust foundational concepts relevant to the field of landscaping.

### RESEARCH RESULTS

In this study, we administered a questionnaire to a diverse group of 150 individuals, each representing various social statuses, in order to gather their opinions. The subsequent sections will present the results obtained from this survey.

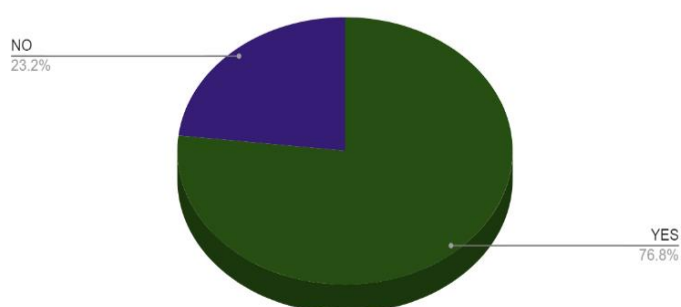


**Figure 1. Demographic distribution**

The diagram presented in Figure 1 illustrates the demographic distribution of respondents to the survey. It is evident that students exhibited the highest level of interest in the subject matter, comprising approximately 37% of the total respondents. Following closely are employees, who account for nearly 33% of the total and demonstrated significant

engagement with the topic, indicating its thoughtful and effective nature. Additionally, entrepreneurs and homemakers emerged as notable groups, as the subject matter is new to them and has had a positively impactful effect. The remaining 4% includes individuals who identify as both employees and students, alongside an additional 0.7% who are students managing their own businesses while also holding employment. This trend has been accentuated by the circumstances arising from the pandemic.

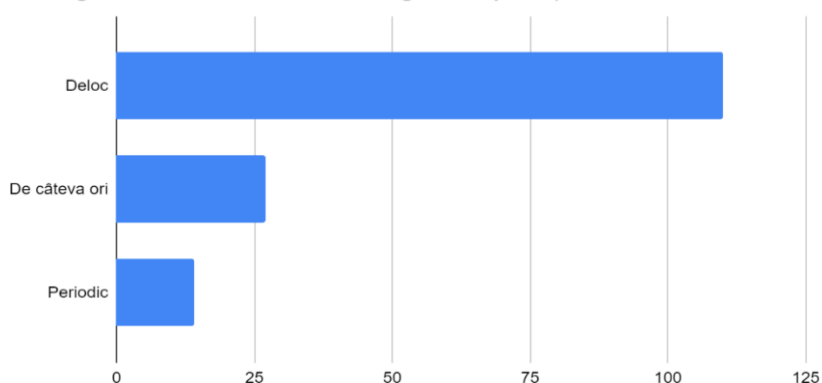
Are you familiar with the concept of landscaping and do you know what it refers to?



**Figure 2. Knowledge about the concept of landscaping**

In Figure 2, the responses pertaining to the concept of landscaping are illustrated. It is evident that 76% of the participants in our survey are knowledgeable about this domain; however, they lack awareness of its practical applications. Conversely, 24% of respondents remain unfamiliar with the concept, resulting in a limited understanding of the advantages associated with professionals specializing in this area.

How often did you use a landscaping company (arrangement, arrangement and decoration of green space) before SARS-C...



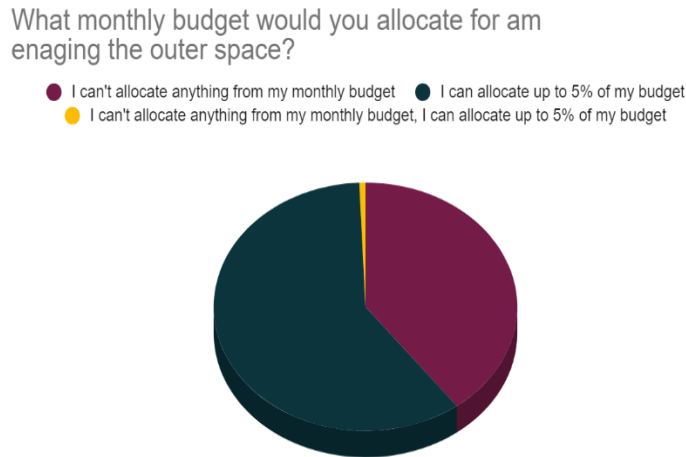
**Figure 3. The frequency of the landscaping companies services**

Figure 3 illustrates the frequency with which individuals sought the services of landscaping companies for the design, arrangement, and maintenance of green spaces prior to the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

The data indicates that approximately 73% of respondents did not engage the services of a landscape design firm prior to the pandemic. However, during the extended periods of isolation in their homes, there was a noticeable shift in sentiment, with many individuals recognizing the importance of having a green space for relaxation. Additionally, 18% of the

population had already acknowledged the significance of green spaces and had utilized such services even before the pandemic.

The remaining 9% of the respondents exhibited a heightened awareness of this need, making periodic decisions to create and maintain an evergreen and well-maintained environment to prolong their enjoyment of these spaces.



**Figure 4. Personal budgets for the establishment of outdoor green spaces**

Figure 4 illustrates the proportion of individuals who are able or unable to allocate funds from their personal budgets for the establishment of outdoor green spaces. The data indicates that the largest segment comprises individuals who can designate up to 5% of their monthly budget, acknowledging that even modest contributions are significant for the upkeep of such spaces, whether they are privately owned or communal.

Conversely, approximately 39% of respondents reported an inability to allocate any financial resources for this purpose. Additionally, a small portion, constituting 0.7%, represents those without a fixed budget who encounter difficulties in allocating at least 5% of their monthly income due to various constraints.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of the survey responses collected from individuals who completed the form, one can ascertain the degree to which people comprehend and perceive the concept of landscaping, as well as their receptiveness to its implications and significance. The findings suggest that, as a result of the survey and subsequent discussions, the public exhibits an increased openness to this domain. Nonetheless, it is important to note that there remain social, economic, and cultural constraints that impede widespread adoption. However, it is anticipated that these barriers will be effectively addressed over time.

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