

Shaping the World through Landscape Architecture:

Insights from Prof. Gareth Doherty

Professor Gareth Doherty, a renowned figure in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, recently delivered a compelling public lecture at Mbeya University of Science and Technology. He expounded on critical perspectives on landscape through an intersection of social, cultural, and political dimensions. Through his lecture titled “Critical Landscapes: *How architecture can change the world, and how the world can change landscape architecture*”, he elucidated an innovative methodology for analyzing the past, present, and predicting the future in the areas of design and integration of people’s lives. This approach provided an encompassing and incisive understanding of the diverse roles that landscape plays in shaping our world. Fieldwork examples were cited from the Northern Ireland border, The Middle East, and South America.

During his address, Prof. Doherty emphasized the critical importance of landscape architecture as a versatile profession with a pivotal role to play in creating spaces that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Specifically, he highlighted the integral role that landscape Architects play in environmental conservation, a paramount need for the sustainability of both humans and biodiversity.

In conclusion, Prof. Gareth Doherty’s Public Lecture on landscape architecture was an enlightening experience that highlighted the crucial role of this field in shaping our world. The Lecture underscored the importance of landscape architecture in creating both functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces, while serving as a critical component of human and environmental conservation.

Furthermore, Prof. Doherty’s thought-provoking questions challenged the audience to consider the expansion and diversification of theoretical education and design possibilities in societies where formal landscape architecture disciplines are absent. Additionally, he urged landscape architects to work beyond their social contexts, demonstrating sensitivity, respect, and consideration for the values and ways of life of others. These ideas inspire critical thinking and innovation, promoting exploration and research for the betterment of our world.

In his vote of thanks, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Godliving Mtui, responsible for Academic, Research, and Consultancy, expressed sincere gratitude to Professor Gareth Doherty for his visit to Mbeya University of Science and Technology. Prof. Godliving Mtui gave his commentary from the lecture were his interest outlined how social and political dimensions can inform landscape architecture and how landscape architecture can influence the former. He left this open dialogue to landscape Professions, Architectural students and academician for more research and exploration for the betterment of our societies.