

Minimalist design principle	Value Statement	Eco-character	Related examples and potential application in ecological minimalism	To do work	Is it suitable for small-scale urban parks?	Present in site design in this thesis?	Ecological Minimalism principle
Eliminate redundant content and excessive decorations	This principle requires a subtractive thinking process. The process subtracts or edits, until the design stops functioning. Subtraction and simplicity doesn't reduce value, it establishes order and defines priority.	The similarity between ecological design and minimalist design is they are both editing or subtracting instead of adding. Ecological design reduces human disturbance as much as possible to maintain natural integrity, while minimalist design eliminates all things that are not essential to its function. At site scale, eliminating redundant elements in ecological design can be described as reduction in (1) places that are isolated, abandoned, or/and harm ecosystem; (2) places that are less used, whose function can be replaced by other places; (3) places that have too many decorative elements such as decorative plant species which are dangerous and so forth. At detail scale, the redundant elements include certain infrastructure, such as part of the hard-pavements, excess number of lights that consume a great deal of electric power, etc.	Soften riverbank; let vegetation control flooding, let soil and surface grading collect runoff; In horticultural design, avoid using plant species that require high maintenance or/and invasive. Based on human demand, design multi-use places to minimize single-use areas or structural area.	Overall site analysis of unnecessary elements, how to properly eliminate them, and why; how to repurpose or utilize waste material on site; how to reveal ecological design processes.	Yes	Yes	(1) Editing-Subtractive thinking when doing design works; (2) Begin with intimate Site-scale Analysis.
Use proper material	Use of material in minimalist design doesn't try to symbolize subjective ideas, but helps audiences concentrate on the designed works only. Most of them use non-natural or industrialized materials. So the use of material only aims to interpret the function and process of manufacture of the object.	Material usage in minimalist design varies from one to another. In ecological design, less man-made material is used, the more eco-friendly is manufacturing, and the more space for natural species to survive. Therefore, this minimalist design principle should lean towards (1) using as little man-made material as possible; (2) using environmental-friendly material; (3) use recycled material, and reduce carbon-footprint.	Use waste materials to create filters to purify water, or create habitat. Use the recycled material to help create part of new landscapes, such as ponds, floating deck, etc.	Designer choose to use new material, or existing material. Where to reuse these materials and what is the potential result should be considered before application; revealing process of constructing site history is a "plus".	Yes	Yes	(3) Repurpose or recycle existing materials on site to generate new landscape dynamics.
Empty space is vital	Empty space results from reduction and editing process. The value of empty space lies in its flexibility, its imaginary space, its clarity and its purity.	Empty space in minimalist design, in a way, represents "breathing space"(Interior Design Tutor 2013). Empty or open spaces amplifies main subjects in the design, while at the same time increases possibilities and choices. To create breathing space in ecological design is to leave certain area on site without disturbance and without program. Let natural conditions develop, regenerate, and maintain automatically, self-adjust ability of site will direct ecosystem to develop towards a better result. Also providing multi-use space for human activity to enlarge green space helps to improve the ecosystem.	Avoid disturbing eco-important areas such as riverbank, existing tree, or wildlife habitat to limit human encroachment in small areas. Provide multi-use space to improve space utilization efficiency, while maximizes green space which is beneficial to the ecosystem.	An analysis of whether such "empty space" exists within the site. If it exists, the most ecologically complex, or fragile area should be preserved. Based on human demand, how big the multi-use area is, and what kind of activities can be held should be decided.	Yes.	Yes	(4) Maximize green spaces and minimize human intervention; (5) provide multi-use spaces.
Minor detail matters	In the minimalist design style, details should be relatively non-decorative. They are clean, expressive functional, open to review and appealing. The details serve to aid the main function and reveal its structural or manufacturing process.	A little change can make a big difference. In ecological design, these details can be one species in local food web or a small area that is ecologically important. Relating to this matter, a comprehensive analysis of the existing condition of the site becomes significant because it decides how the minor details divert and reveal large process.	Use details to reveal construction and ecological function. Such as the construction of riverbank, the removal of partial paved ground, and rearrangement of border, drainage pipes, etc.	In real practice, designers may choose to cooperate with experts from different areas to finish detail design that requires special knowledge such as biology, construction, civil engineering, drainage construction, ecological restoration and so forth.	Yes	Yes	(6) Use design detail to reveal ecological, social and historical processes on the site.