



From space to place: Changing conceptual priorities in landscape architecture

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ABSTRACT: This study examines the changing conceptual priorities between the concepts of space and place in landscape architecture literature through a systematic literature review. Although the concepts of space and place have long been discussed in architecture and spatial disciplines, their changing prominence within landscape architecture literature has not been systematically evaluated through quantitative methods. In this context, the study aims to reveal the historical development process of the literature and to identify the conceptual transformation from space-oriented approaches toward place-oriented approaches. The analysis is based on three separate datasets obtained from the Web of Science database. These datasets consist of 8,088 studies containing the concept of “space” but not the concept of “place” in all years (1978–2026), 1,948 studies containing both the concepts of “space” and “place” in all years (1981–2026), and 4,137 studies containing the concept of “place” but not the concept of “space” in all years (1980–2026). Indicators such as annual scientific production, citation trends, keyword co-occurrences, conceptual network structures, and thematic developments were analyzed. The findings reveal that the concept of space has a broader quantitative prevalence in the literature, particularly in the context of urban environment, design, and spatial organization. In contrast, place-oriented studies, although more limited in number, demonstrate higher citation impact and stronger theoretical depth. The increasing number of studies addressing both concepts together indicates that physical and experiential dimensions are becoming increasingly integrated within landscape architecture. Overall, the results demonstrate that research in landscape architecture has expanded from physical spatial analyses toward more holistic and place-based approaches involving user experience, place identity, and meaning production.

Keywords: Space, place, bibliometric analysis, landscape architecture

Mekândan yere doğru: Peyzaj mimarlığında değişen kavramsal öncelikler

ÖZET: Bu çalışma, peyzaj mimarlığı literatüründe mekân (space) ve yer (place) kavramları arasındaki değişen kavramsal öncelikleri sistematik literatür taraması ile incelemektedir. Mekân ve yer kavramları uzun yıllardır mimarlık ve mekânsal disiplinlerde tartışılmasına rağmen, peyzaj mimarlığı literatüründeki değişen ağırlıkları nicel yöntemlerle sistematik biçimde değerlendirilmemiştir. Bu bağlamda çalışma, literatürün tarihsel gelişim sürecini ortaya koymayı ve mekân odaklı yaklaşımlardan yer odaklı yaklaşımlara doğru gerçekleşen kavramsal dönüşümü belirlemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Analiz, Web of Science veri tabanından elde edilen üç ayrı veri setine dayanmaktadır. Bu veri setleri: tüm zamanlarda (1978-2026) “space” kavramını içeren ancak “place” kavramını içermeyen 8088 çalışma, tüm zamanlarda (1981-2026) hem “space” hem “place” kavramlarını içeren 1948 çalışma ve tüm zamanlarda (1980-2026) “place” kavramını içeren ancak “space” kavramını içermeyen 4137 çalışmadan oluşmaktadır. Yıllık bilimsel üretim, atıf eğilimleri, anahtar kelime eş-oluşumları, kavramsal ağ yapıları ve tematik gelişimler gibi göstergeler analiz edilmiştir. Elde edilen bulgular, mekân kavramının literatürde özellikle kentsel çevre, tasarım ve mekânsal organizasyon bağlamında daha geniş bir nicel yaygınlığa sahip olduğunu göstermektedir. Buna karşılık, yer odaklı çalışmalar sayıca daha sınırlı olmasına rağmen daha yüksek atıf etkisi ve daha güçlü kuramsal derinlik sunmakta olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Her iki kavramı birlikte ele alan çalışmaların artışı, peyzaj mimarlığında fiziksel ve deneyimsel boyutların giderek bütünleştiğini göstermektedir. Genel olarak sonuçlar, peyzaj mimarlığında araştırmaların fiziksel mekân analizlerinden, kullanıcı deneyimi, yer kimliği ve anlam üretimini içeren daha bütüncül ve yer temelli yaklaşımlara doğru genişlediğini ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Mekân, yer, bibliyometrik analiz, peyzaj mimarlığı

INTRODUCTION

The concepts of void, space, and place, along with their individual formations and the transitional processes between them, have long constituted a subject of inquiry within architectural disciplines. These studies originated with Cartesian thought grounded in geometry and mathematics, and, with the incorporation of phenomenology, have evolved toward the formation of homogeneous and layered spaces and places (Uzunali, 2023).

As a profession concerned with the design of human-centered natural and cultural environments, landscape architecture represents a fundamental field in which the concepts of void, space, and place intersect within open spaces. Murphy (2005) emphasized that landscape architecture is essentially about the creation of place in open spaces. In addition, its ecologically grounded perspective transforms place into a phenomenon that must serve not only humans but the entire living system.

The concept of void is discussed as one rooted in early Greek thought, associated with notions such as “non-fullness,” “openness,” and “non-existence.” In this context, it is defined as the space that renders the infinity of the universe possible. Due to the absence of any object, obstacle, boundary, color, or orientation, it is a concept exempt from all forms of perception. It is formless, directionless, volumeless, and static. The emergence of form, direction, volume, boundaries, and physical components upon the void gives rise to Cartesian space (İzgi, 1999;

Kuloğlu, 2013; Kaymaz Koca & Hale, 2017; Mulla, 2021; Türkel, 2021; Uzunali, 2023; (Gulpınar Sekban, 2026).

Space, which emerges through the incorporation of physical components into the void, becomes a phenomenon that can be functionally shaped by disciplines such as urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, architecture, and interior architecture. In doing so, it fulfills the physiological and safety needs identified within Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Maslow & Lewis, 1987; İzgi, 1999; Kuloğlu, 2013; Gulpınar Sekban, 2025). However, perceiving space solely as a measurable and functional construct has proven insufficient across these disciplines. Social relations among individuals and interactions between humans and their environment enable space to acquire meaning and transform into a distinct category: place (Relph, 1976; Norberg-Schulz, 1980; Lefebvre, 2014; Kjerrgren, 2015; Özkan, 2017).

This theoretical framework demonstrates that the concepts of void, space, and place have long been debated within architectural disciplines in relation to the human condition and have undergone significant transformations over time. However, it is evident that studies evaluating how these concepts have been addressed across different periods and with varying emphases in the literature particularly through quantitative analyses remain limited. Within the discipline of landscape architecture, which is responsible for the design and management of human-centered open spaces, it has not yet been systematically established whether there is a shift toward holistic approaches that prioritize the spirit of place, meaning, and sense of belonging.

In recent years, the increasing integration of digital technologies, smart city applications, and data-driven analytical approaches into spatial disciplines has further expanded discussions surrounding the concepts of space and place. Developments in machine learning, environmental sensing, geographic information systems, and AI-supported perception analyses have enabled researchers to evaluate emotional responses, user experience, environmental perception, and spatial preferences through measurable and large-scale datasets. Particularly within landscape architecture, these technologies have contributed to the reinterpretation of place not only as a physical setting but also as a dynamic and experience-based phenomenon shaped through human environment interaction. This transformation demonstrates that contemporary discussions on space and place are increasingly associated with interdisciplinary and technology-supported approaches (Uzunali & Yiğit Uzunali, 2025).

In this context, the primary objective of this study is to evaluate the transformation from void to space and from space to place within the landscape architecture literature through objective methods. Accordingly, the aim of the study is to reveal the historical trajectory of the academic literature, the changes in conceptual components, and the evolving orientation of space-place perception in landscape architecture throughout this transformation process.

Although the concepts of space and place have been extensively discussed within architecture, human geography, and spatial disciplines, studies quantitatively examining their changing conceptual priorities within the landscape architecture literature remain limited. Existing studies predominantly focus on theoretical interpretations of space and place, while the historical transformation, comparative visibility, and evolving relationships of these concepts within scientific production have not been systematically evaluated through bibliometric approaches. In this context, the originality of the present study lies in its comparative analysis of three distinct datasets (space, space-place, and place) and its attempt to quantitatively reveal

the conceptual transition from physically oriented spatial approaches toward more experience- and meaning-based place-oriented approaches in landscape architecture literature.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The concepts of space and place have been subjects of discussion across various fields for a long period throughout history. Since the emergence of humankind, the need for shelter positioned at the lowest level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs has evolved from the requirement for void, to the formation of space defined by boundaries and functions, and ultimately to place through interaction. Figure 1 illustrates the historical development of this process.

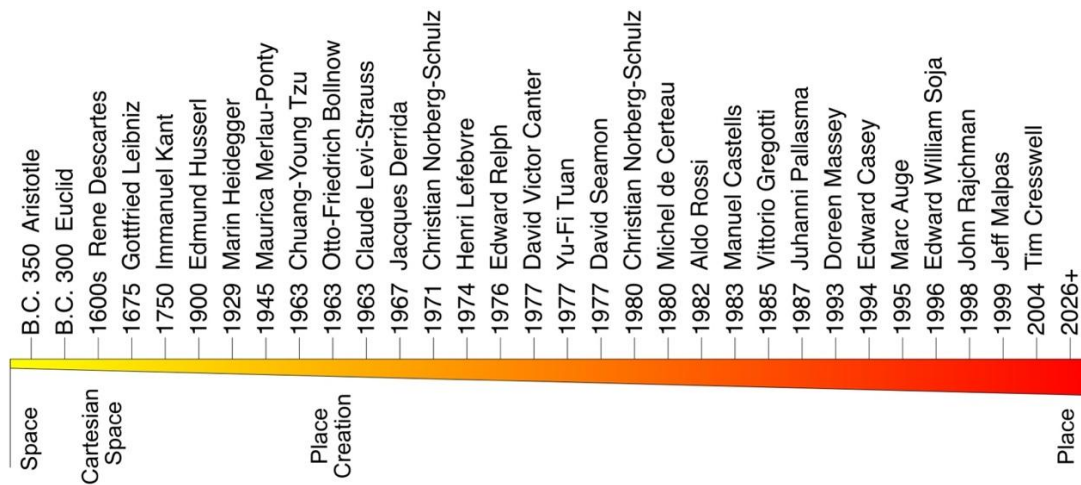


Figure 1. The transformation of the concept of space into place in the historical process

The Period in Which Space was Predominant

The predominance of the concept of space in earlier periods is largely rooted in modes of thought emphasizing rationality, measurability, and order. Euclid's conception of space based on geometry, measurable, and clearly bounded possesses a Cartesian structure that excludes the human subject and dominated a long historical period (Kjerrgren, 2015; Kaymaz Koca & Hale, 2017).

During this period, when architectural disciplines had not yet fully diverged, space within the scope of landscape architecture was initially designed to serve the upper classes, guided by an almost idealized notion of perfection. Subsequently, a design approach focused solely on function and order became dominant. Open spaces were regarded as voids complementing built environments, while urban open spaces were defined as arrangements accessible to all, located between structural elements (Krier, 1991; Gehl, 2011).

The Rise of the Concept of Place

From the second half of the 20th century onward, the increasing influence of phenomenological thought within architectural disciplines began to reveal that the measurable boundaries of space

are only conceivable in the absence of human interaction. However, the design of space for human use and the observation of human–human and human–environment interactions led to the emergence of a homogeneous/layered perception of space (Cresswell, 2004; Massey, 2005; Kaymaz Koca & Hale, 2017). This approach resulted in the understanding of space as a dynamic, variable, and accumulative phenomenon.

The accumulation of identity, experience, belonging, and memory within space formed through human and environmental interactions constitutes the foundation of the concept of place (Relph, 1976; Cresswell, 2004).

Within the discipline of landscape architecture, the shift from space to place has been addressed through a use based and accumulation-oriented perspective, leading to a transformation in design approaches. Norberg-Schulz (1980) emphasized that spaces produced without considering the essence of place remain semantically incomplete. Similarly, Murphy (2005) defined the primary aim of landscape architecture as strengthening the relationship between humans and their environment. These perspectives clearly indicate that the discipline of landscape architecture should inherently tend toward the production of place.

METHODOLOGY

Bibliometric Analysis Design

This study is based on a bibliometric analysis method to reveal the temporal and contextual transformation of the concepts of space and place within the landscape architecture literature. Bibliometric analysis is a method that systematically examines research trends, conceptual concentrations, and thematic relationships within a specific field through the quantitative characteristics of publications indexed in international academic databases such as Scopus and Web of Science (Alsharif, Salleh & Baharun, 2020; Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015). The fact that the origins of this method date back to the 1950s demonstrates that bibliometrics is a well-established and reliable approach for analyzing the structure and evolution of scientific production (Wallin, 2005).

In recent years, with the growing interest in bibliometric analyses across various disciplines, a number of software tools have been developed to enable these analyses to be conducted in a more systematic, comparative, and visual manner. VOSviewer and Bibliometrix/Biblioshiny are among the widely used tools that allow the visualization of publication networks, keyword relationships, and temporal trends. Within the scope of this study, bibliometric analyses and the visualization of findings were carried out using the Bibliometrix package in the RStudio environment, along with its graphical user interface, Biblioshiny (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017).

Data Collection Process

The bibliometric data collection process was conducted within a systematic framework consisting of specific stages. In this study, the Web of Science database was selected as the primary data source. The interdisciplinary coverage of WoS, its strong citation-based indexing structure, and its widespread use in bibliometric research were decisive factors in selecting this database as a reliable source.

The literature search was structured to include academic publications addressing the concepts of space and place within the context of landscape architecture. Accordingly, three separate analyses were conducted based on keyword combinations: (i) landscape architecture with space (excluding place), (ii) landscape architecture with space and place, and (iii) landscape architecture with place (excluding space) (Figure 2). Through the analysis of these three distinct bibliometric datasets, the visibility, frequency of use, and contextual relationships of the concepts of space and place within the literature can be comparatively examined. This approach enables the evaluation of the shift in conceptual priorities from space to place in landscape architecture through quantitative indicators.

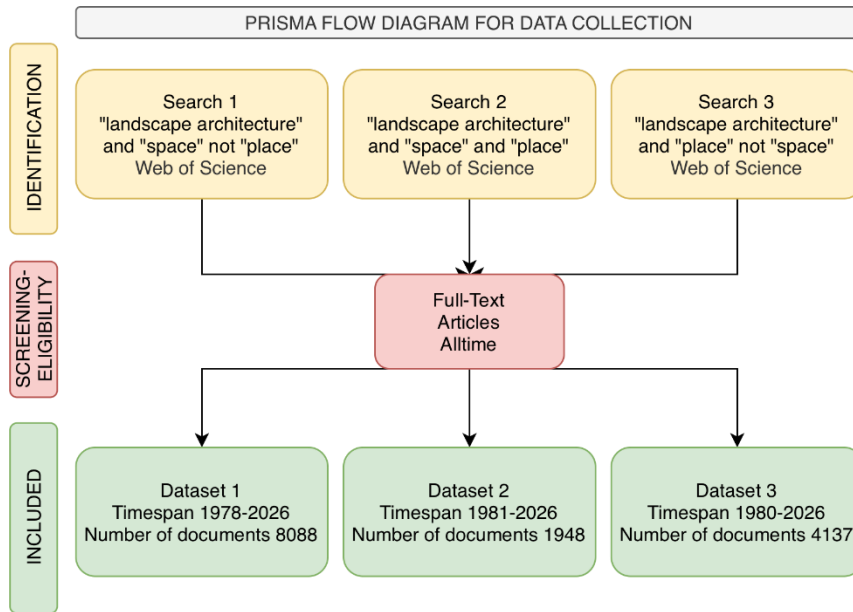


Figure 2. Prisma flow diagram of the bibliometric data collection and selection process

The scope of the study was limited to publications classified as “articles.” This limitation was preferred because such publication types have a higher representational value in scientific knowledge production and provide more consistent and comparable results for bibliometric analysis.

The obtained bibliometric data were analyzed using the Bibliometrix package. Key bibliometric indicators, such as the temporal distribution of publications, keyword co-occurrence networks, and conceptual concentrations, were calculated.

RESULTS

In this study, three separate bibliometric analyses were conducted and compared in order to reveal the transition from space to place and the changes in research trends related to these concepts within the landscape architecture literature. Accordingly, studies involving the concepts of space, space–place, and place were examined as distinct datasets, and the structural, temporal, and conceptual characteristics of the literature were evaluated comparatively. Within the scope of the analysis, the general bibliometric characteristics of the literature, annual scientific production and citation trends, the temporal evolution of keyword usage, prominent research topics, conceptual network structures, and future research tendencies were examined.

Through these analyses, the study aims to demonstrate how the concepts of space and place are positioned within the landscape architecture literature and how they have undergone a conceptual transformation over time.

The results of the systematic literature review, presenting a quantitative evaluation of the concepts of space, space and place, and place within the landscape architecture literature, are illustrated in Figure 3. Accordingly, it is evident that the concept of space holds a significant numerical dominance, with 8,088 research articles. Furthermore, considering the annual growth rate of 11.12%, the concept of space continues to function as a fundamental framework in interdisciplinary research. On the other hand, although the concept of place appears less frequently in terms of quantity, its higher citation rate indicates that it exerts a greater theoretical impact.

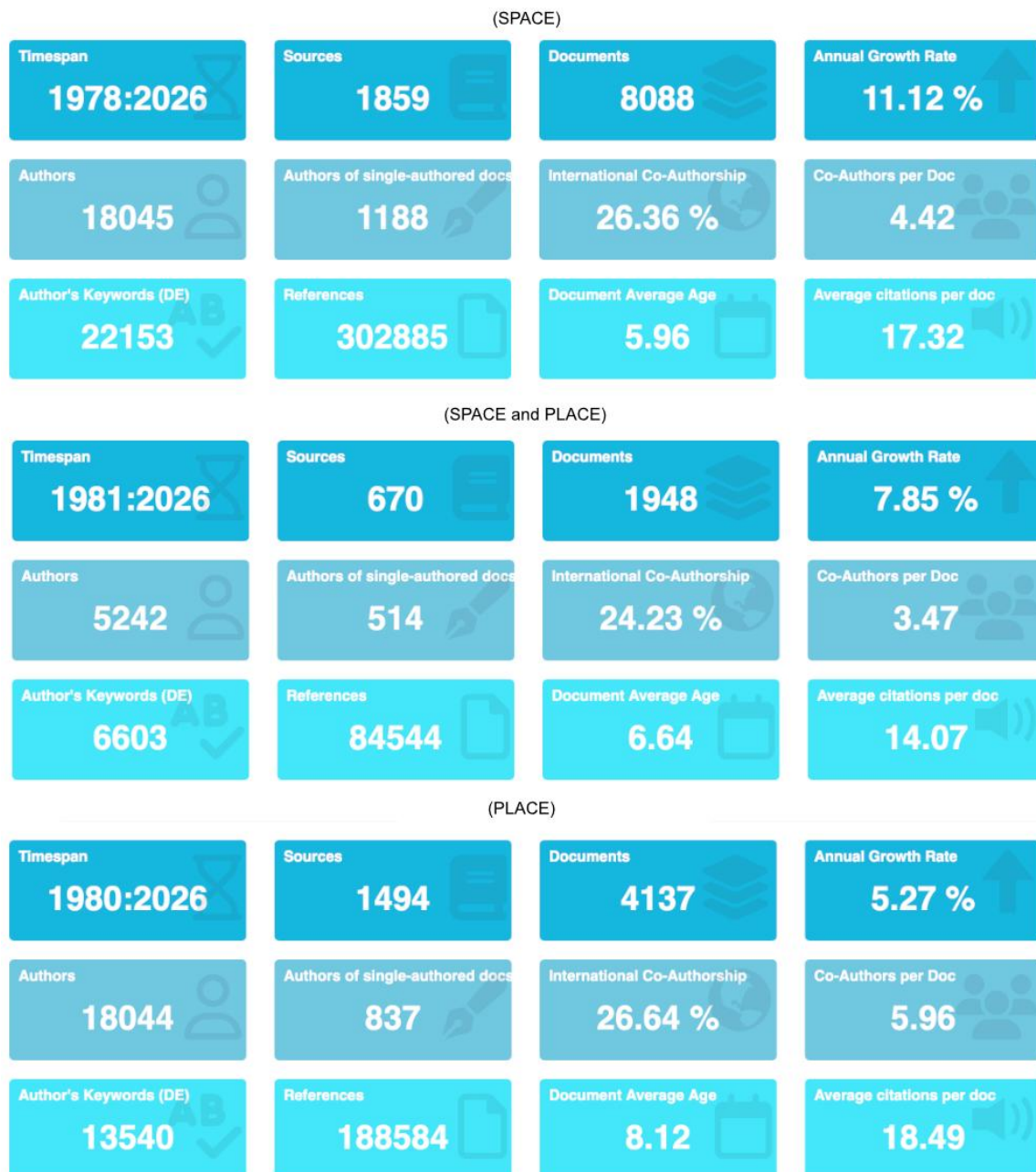


Figure 3. Key bibliometric indicators of the literature focused on space, space–place, and place

The graphs illustrating annual scientific production and the distribution of average annual citations are presented in Figure 4, 5 and 6. These graphs indicate that all three variables identified within the landscape architecture literature have grown in parallel and exhibit noticeable increases in average citation rates. However, the relatively delayed citation surges associated with the concept of place, compared to the other concepts, point to a shifting research orientation. This suggests that analyses of physical space have increasingly been evaluated together with their semantic dimensions over time.

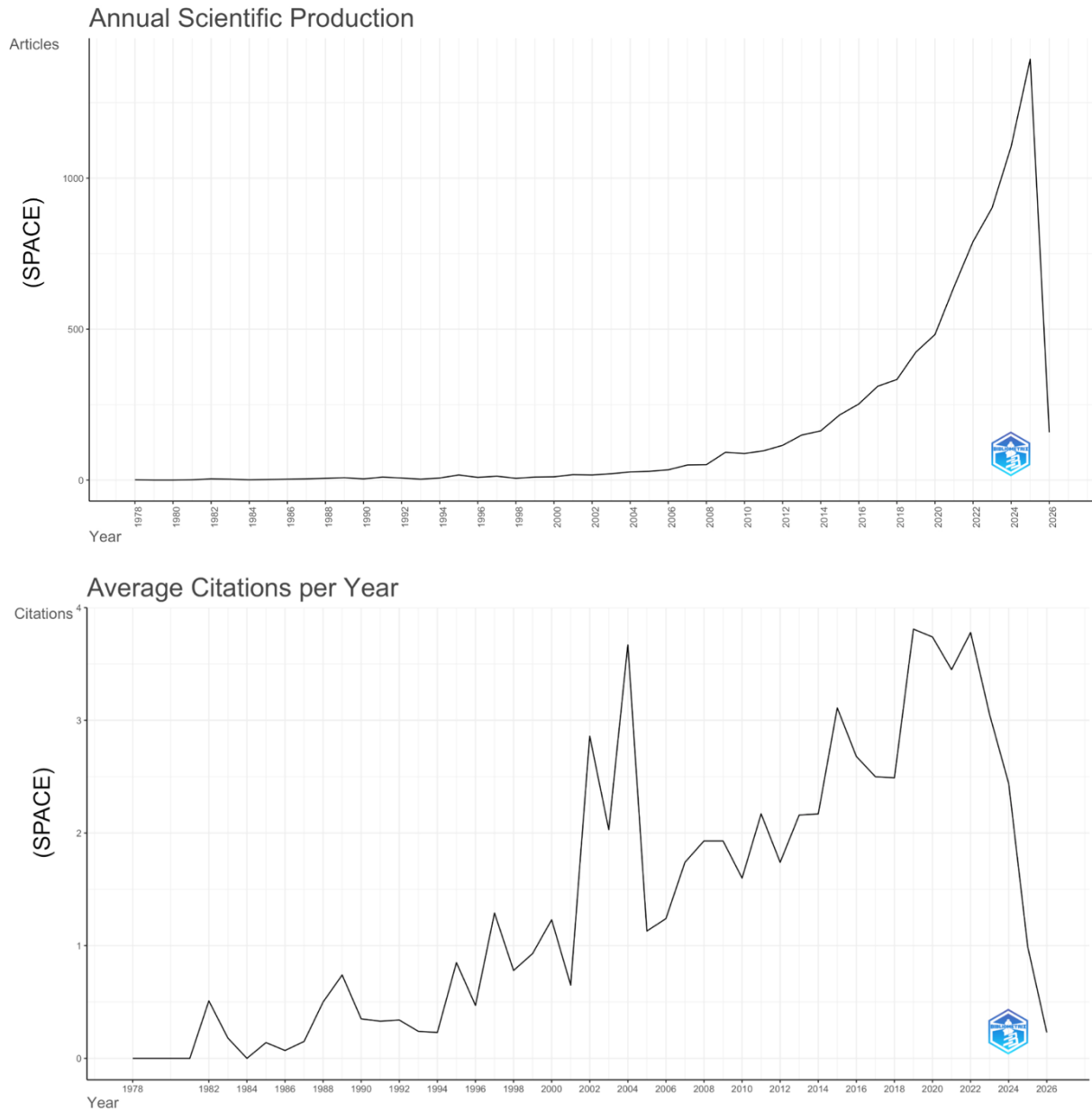


Figure 4. Publication and citation distributions by year for studies focused on space

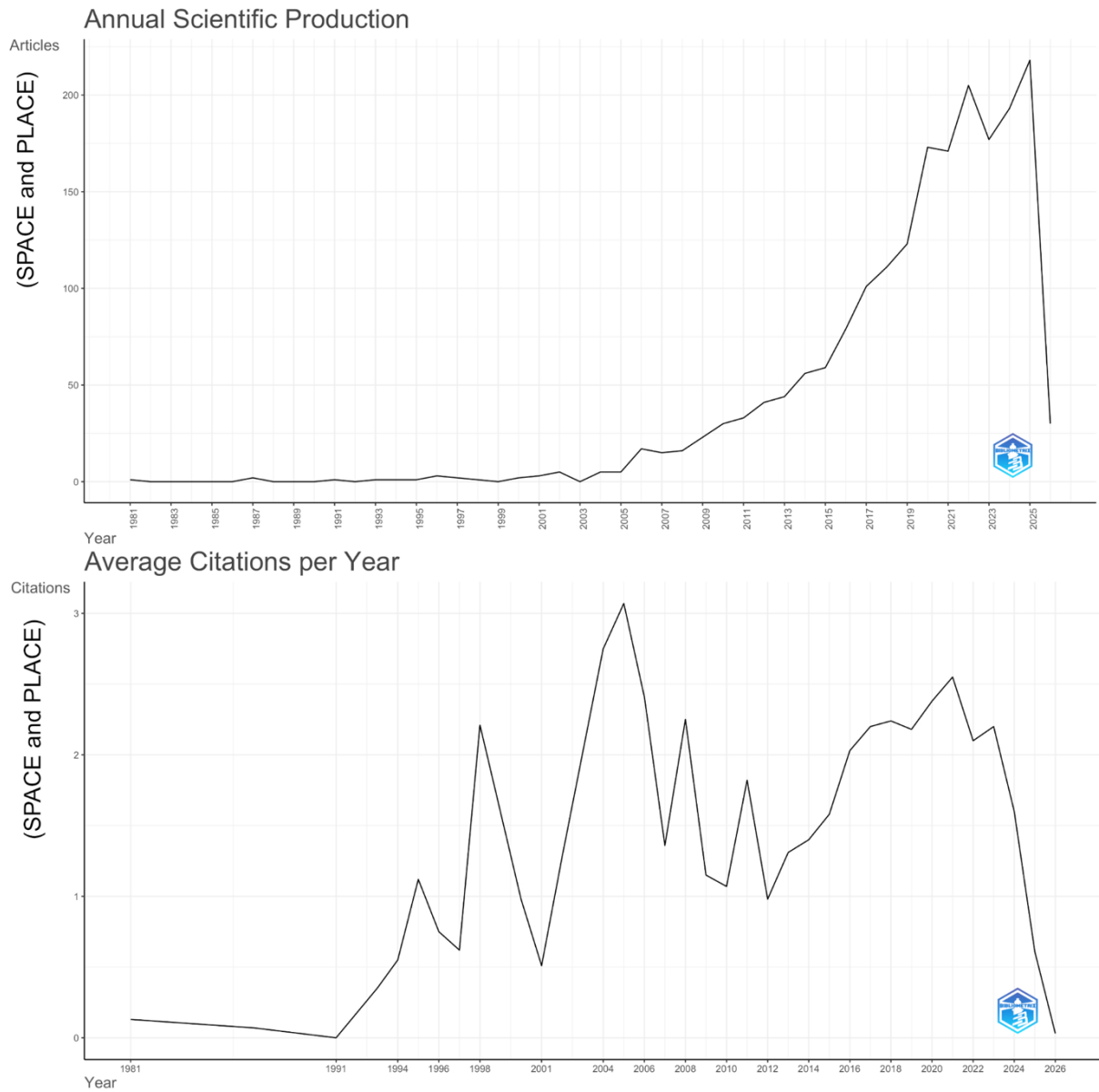


Figure 5. Publication and citation distributions by year for studies focused on space-place

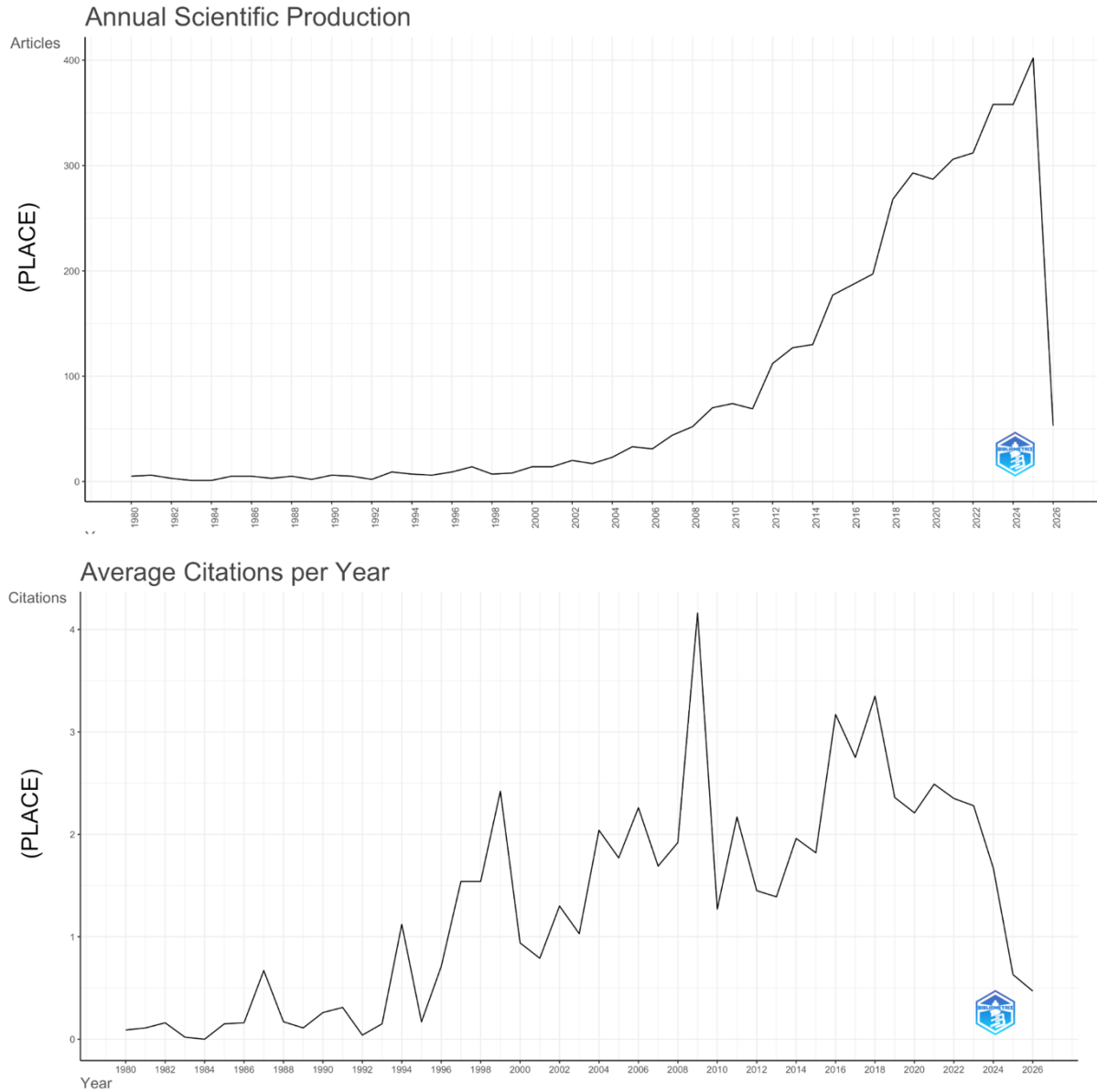


Figure 6. Publication and citation distributions by year for studies focused on place

Author and keyword network analyses derived from the literature are presented in Figure 7, 8 and 9. An examination of the author network indicates that the concept of space is particularly concentrated around the works of Kaplan (1995) and Jennifer Wolch (2014), and is associated with themes such as environmental perception, human–nature relationships, and urban ecology. Studies addressing both space and place occupy a central position within more classical works, including those of Lynch (1960), Relph (1976), Jacobs (1992), and Kaplan (1995). These works primarily seek to establish theoretical frameworks concerning spatial experience, urban identity, and human–space relationships.

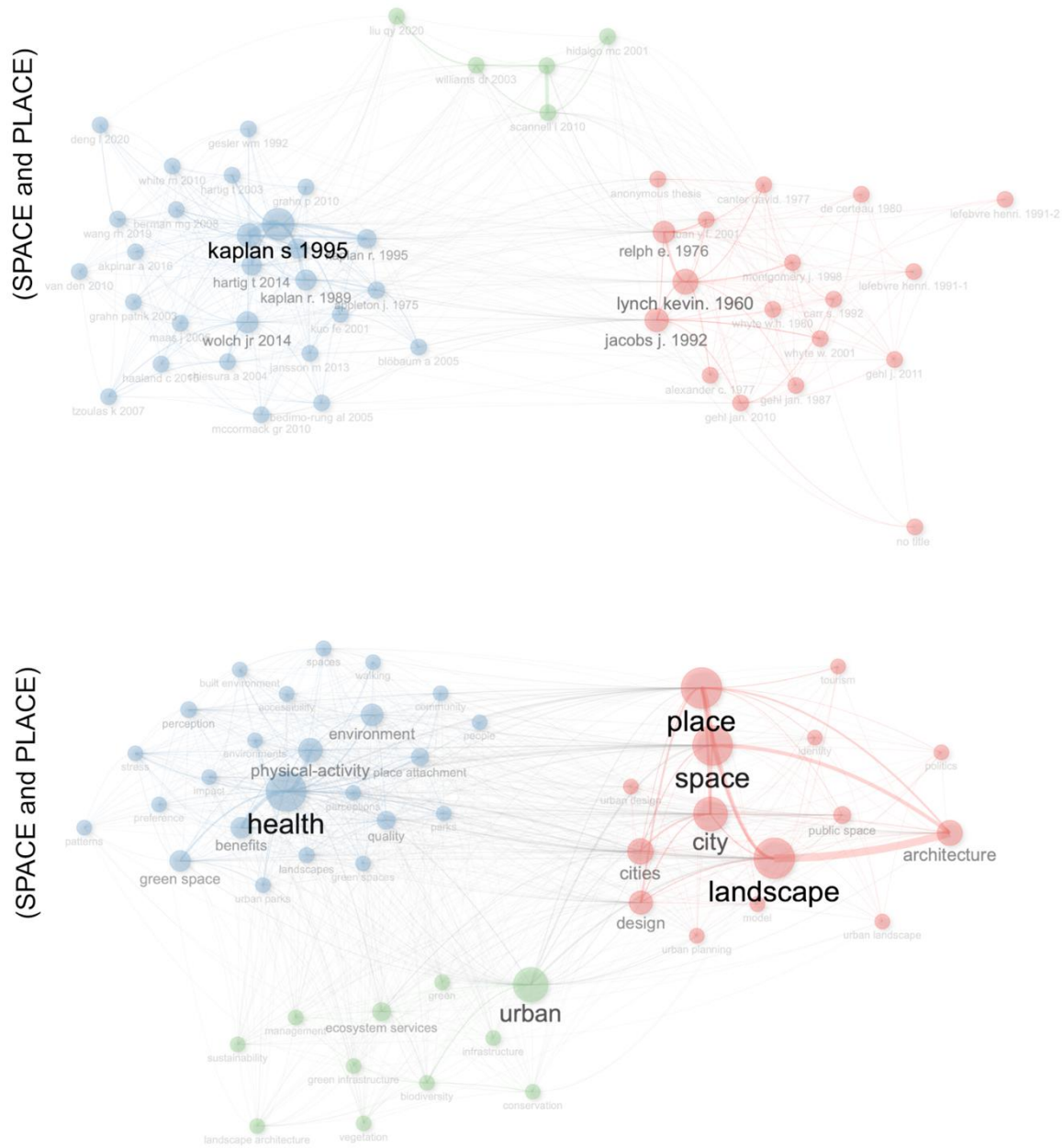


Figure 8. Author and keyword network distributions of studies focused on space-place

An examination of the keyword network reveals that the concept of space is concentrated around terms such as “landscape,” “urban,” “city,” “space,” and “health,” while studies addressing both space and place similarly focus on “landscape,” “place,” “space,” “health,” and “city.” However, within the context of the concept of place, the term “landscape” emerges as the most dominant keyword. This finding highlights not only the breadth of application of the concepts of space and space–place but also underscores the significance of place-oriented studies within the landscape architecture literature.

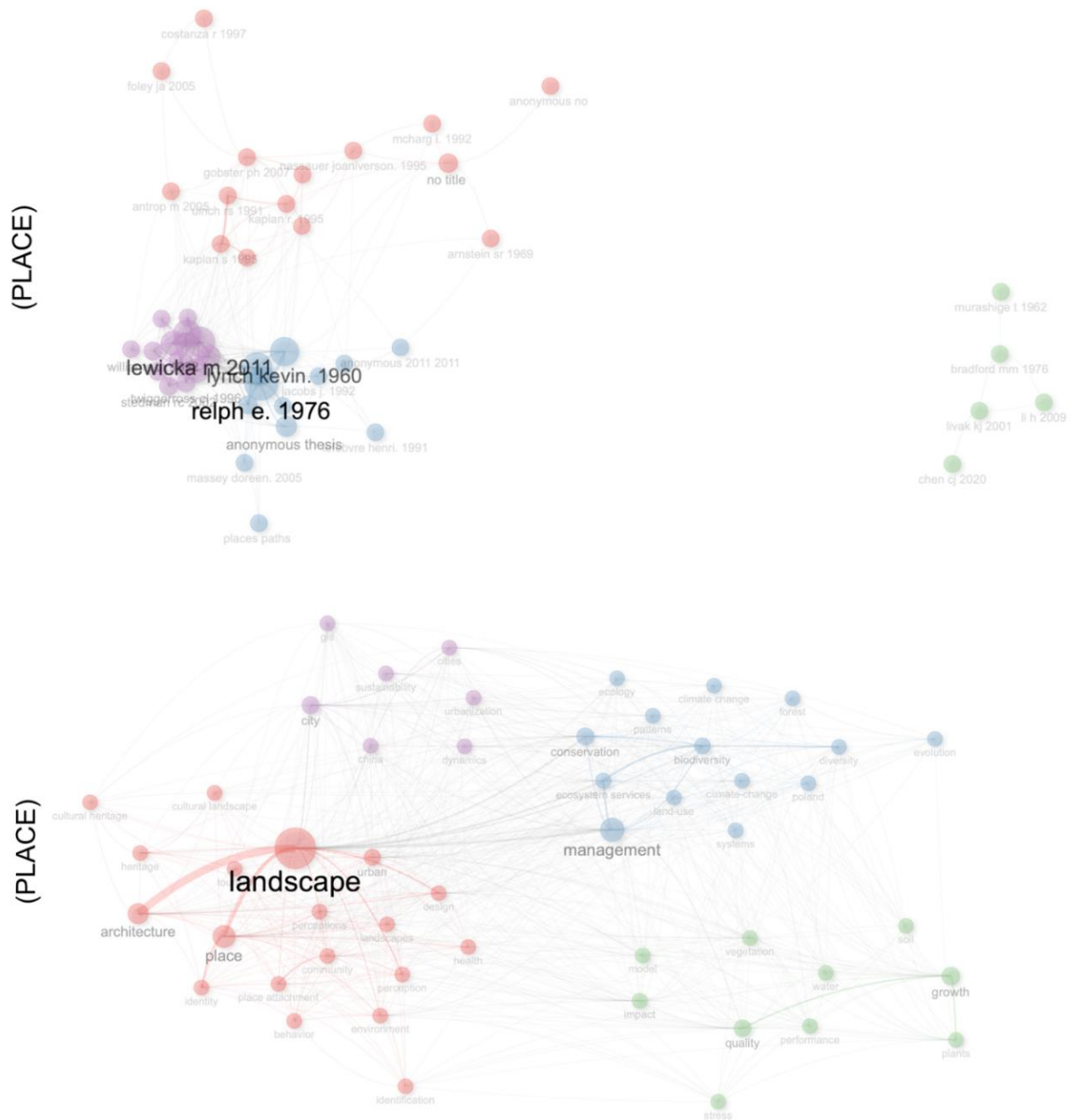


Figure 9. Author and keyword network distributions of studies focused on place

When the frequency and temporal evolution of keyword usage are examined, it is evident from Figure 10, 11 and 12 that the concepts within the literature have shown a significant increase, particularly after the 2000s. The graphical distribution indicates that studies on space predominantly focus on topics such as urban environments, landscape design, urban green spaces, ecosystem services, and spatial planning. This suggests that space-oriented studies are addressed more extensively within multidisciplinary contexts.

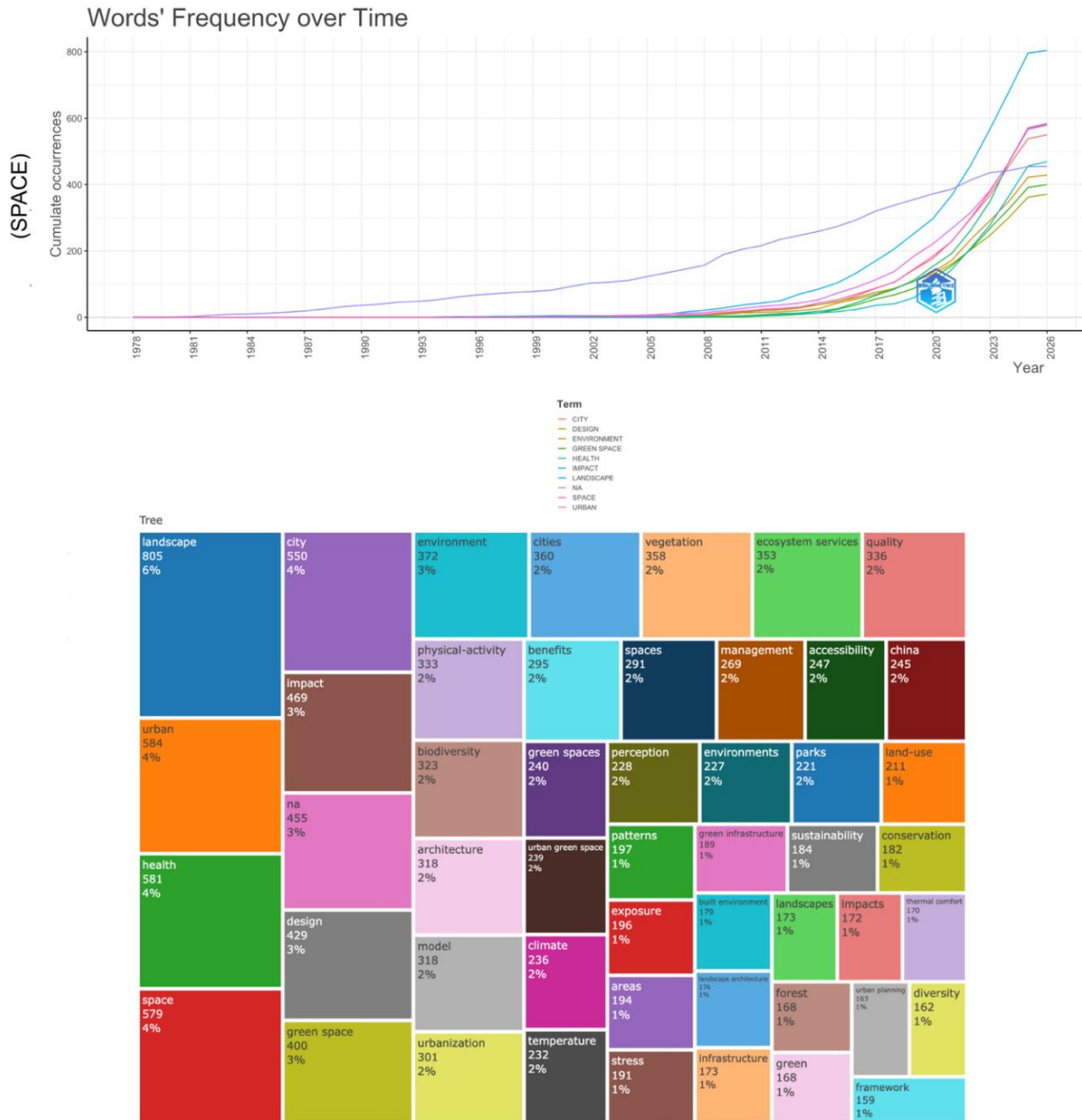


Figure 10. Keywords used in studies focused on space and their percentage distributions

When the concepts of space and place are considered together, they are seen to be associated with themes such as public space, environmental perception, and health. In contrast, the place-oriented literature is linked to concepts such as identity, landscape management, environmental quality, and conservation, and is addressed within a more holistic framework.

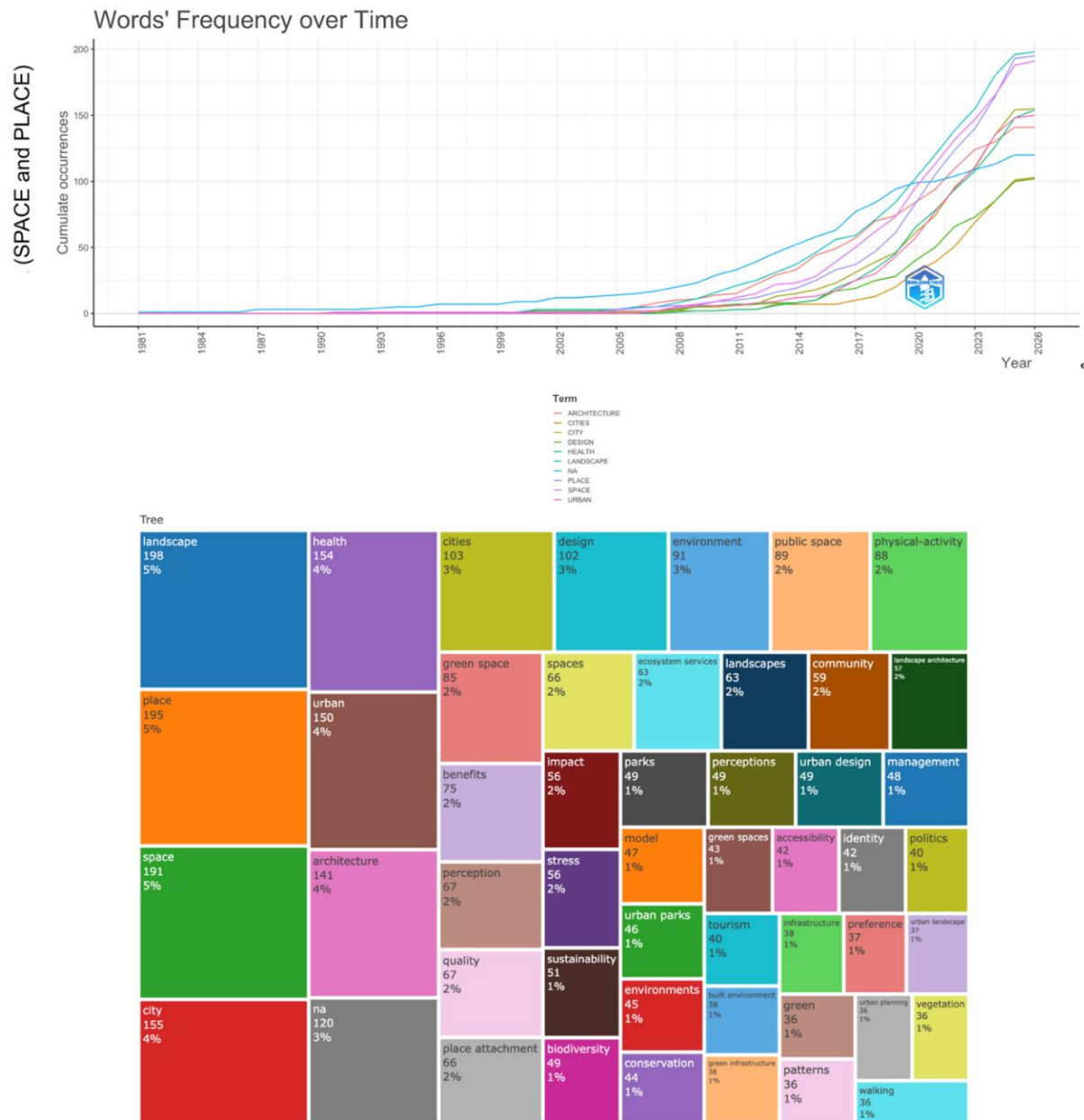


Figure 11. Keywords used in studies focused onspace-place and their percentage distributions

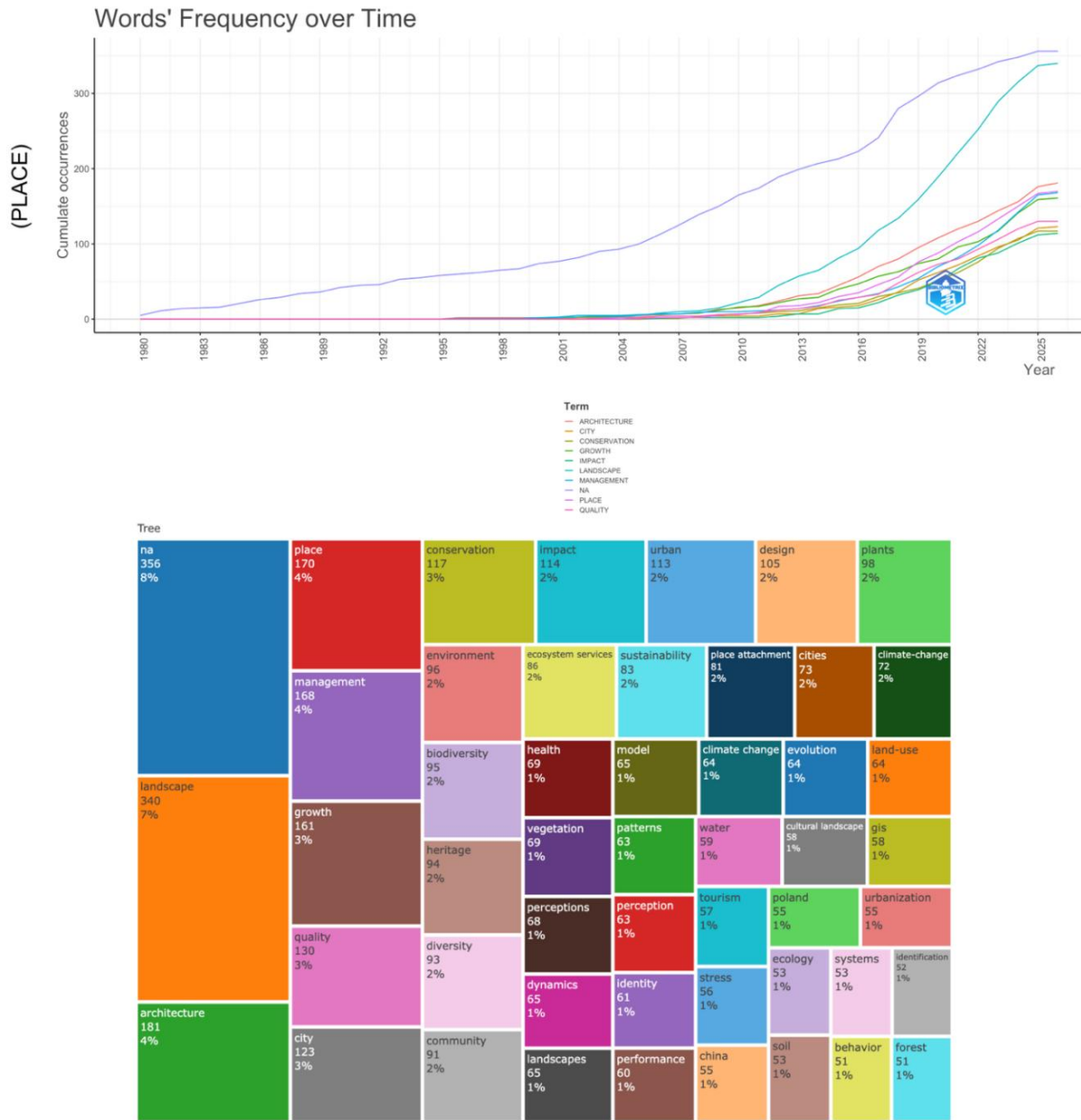


Figure 12. Keywords used in studies focused on place and their percentage distributions

When keywords and research trends are examined, Figure 13, 14 and 15 demonstrates that new research topics have particularly emerged after the 2000s. Within the space-oriented literature, the dominance of themes such as city, health, design, and green spaces appears to continue through trends related to sustainability, ecosystem services, and green infrastructure.

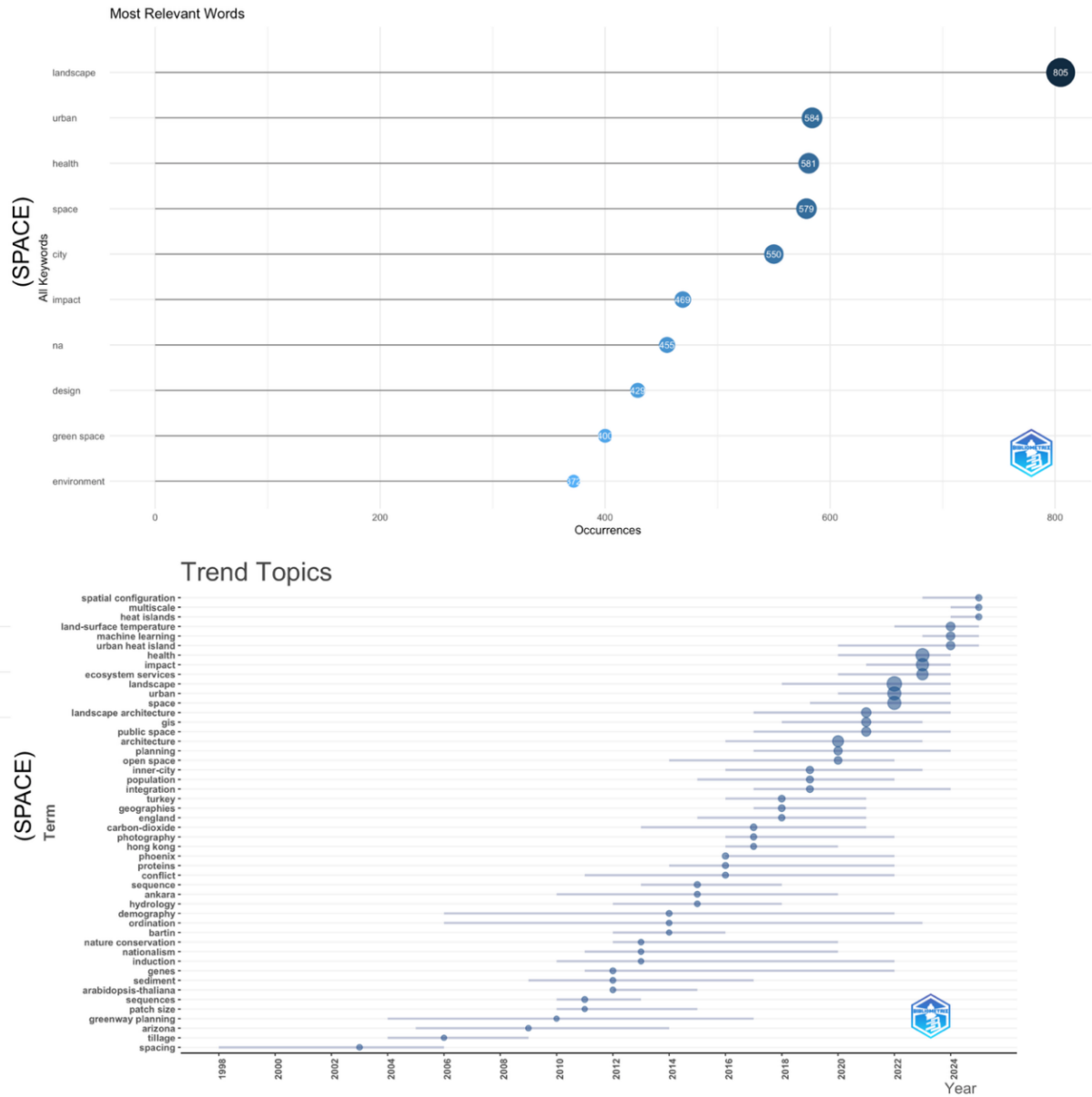


Figure 13. Keywords and trends in studies focused on space

In studies addressing both space and place, the prominence of themes such as city, landscape, space, and place continues through trends associated with public space, user experience, and environmental perception.

In the place-oriented literature, dominant themes such as landscape, architecture, management, and quality similarly extend into trends including place identity, landscape management, and environmental quality.

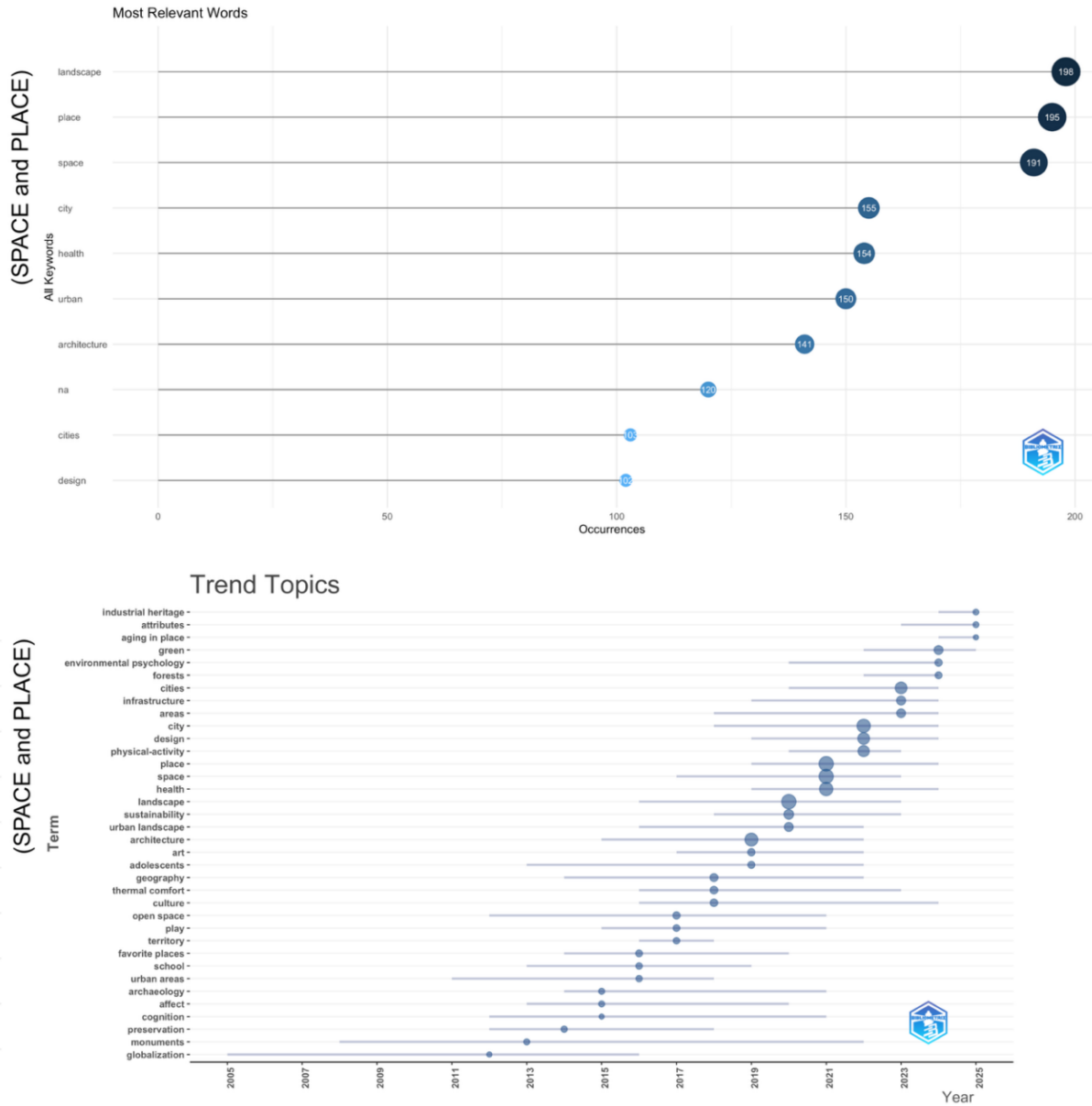


Figure 14. Keywords and trends in studies focused on space–place

When considered holistically, it can be inferred that the overall trend reflects a shift toward sustainability one of the most significant topics of the last quarter century and toward user-oriented approaches that form the foundation of human-centered design.

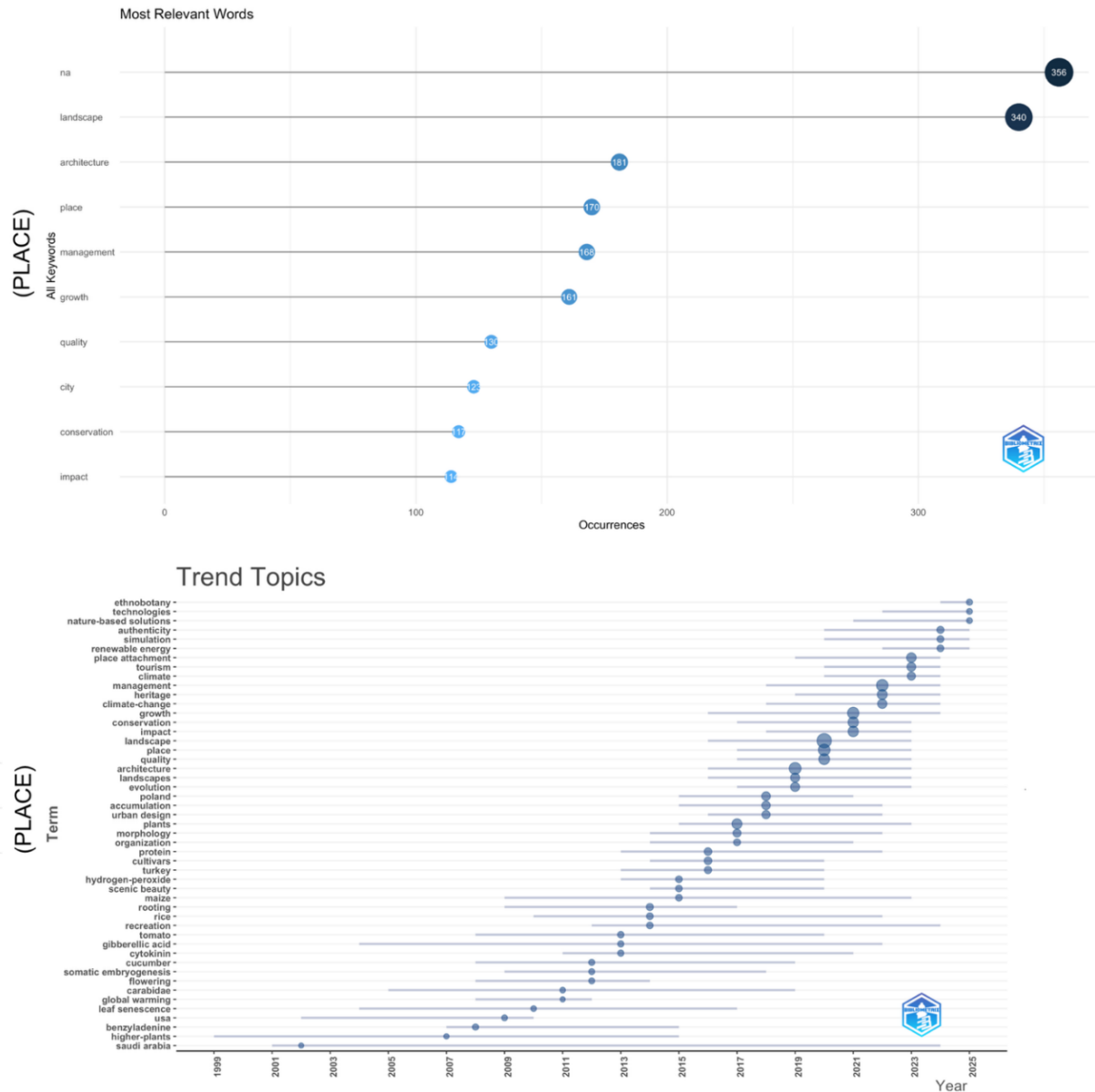


Figure 15. Keywords and trends in studies focused on place

The status and forecast results derived from the literature review are presented in Figure 16, 17 and 18. According to the current state, the concept of space has reached a saturation level of 91.1%, followed by space-place at 86.3%, and place at 81.3%, respectively. The projected growth durations are estimated to continue for 10.1 years, 13.2 years, and 17.2 years, respectively. The higher saturation level of the space-oriented literature suggests that studies focusing on physical space have reached a relatively mature and established position within landscape architecture research. In contrast, the comparatively lower saturation level and longer projected growth duration associated with place-oriented studies indicate that this research domain remains theoretically dynamic and continues to expand conceptually. Similarly, the intermediate saturation and growth values observed in studies addressing both space and place suggest the emergence of an integrative research domain that combines physical spatial analysis with experiential and meaning-oriented perspectives. These findings indicate that while space-oriented studies continue to constitute the dominant and more mature research framework, place-oriented approaches demonstrate comparatively stronger future growth potential. Rather than replacing the concept of space, this tendency reflects the

enrichment of spatial analysis through experiential, perceptual, and identity-based dimensions. Overall, the findings suggest that research production within landscape architecture is expected to progressively expand from predominantly physical spatial analyses toward more holistic and place-based approaches incorporating user experience, identity, belonging, and the production of meaning.

(SPACE)

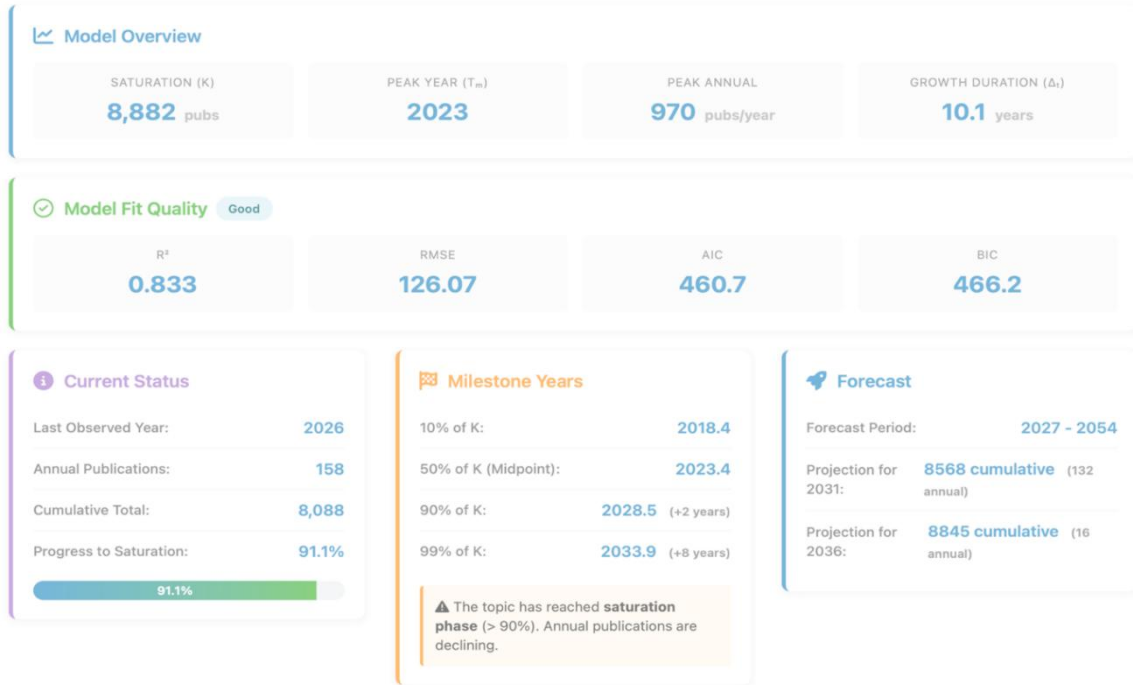


Figure 16. Status and future projections of studies on space

(SPACE and PLACE)

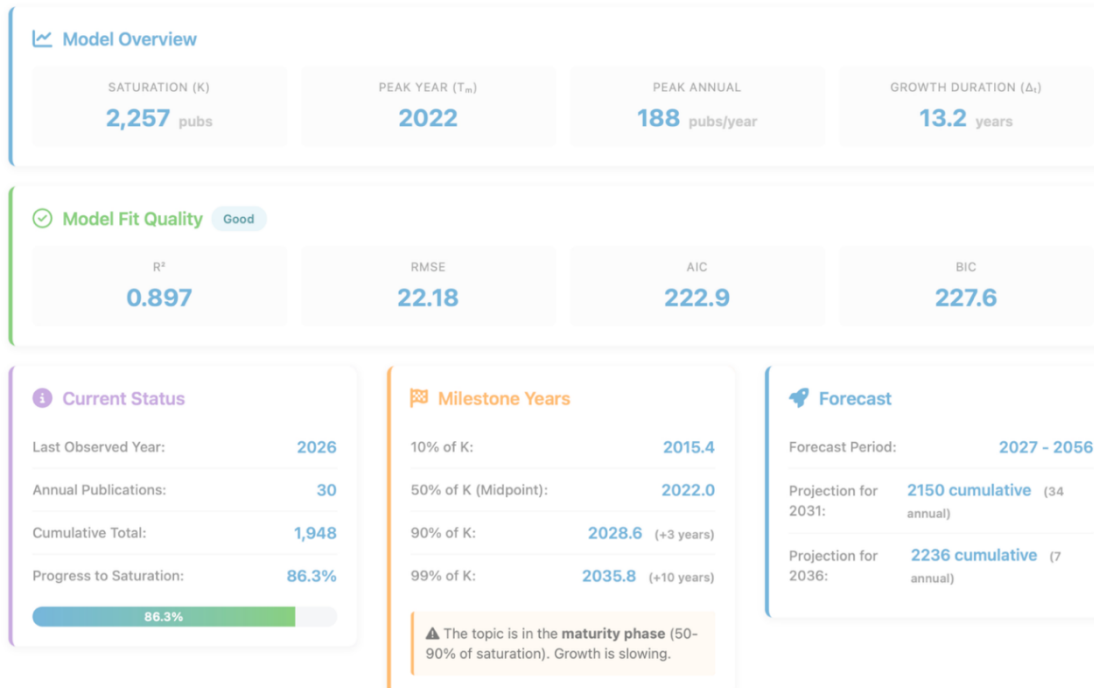


Figure 17. Status and future projections of studies on space-place

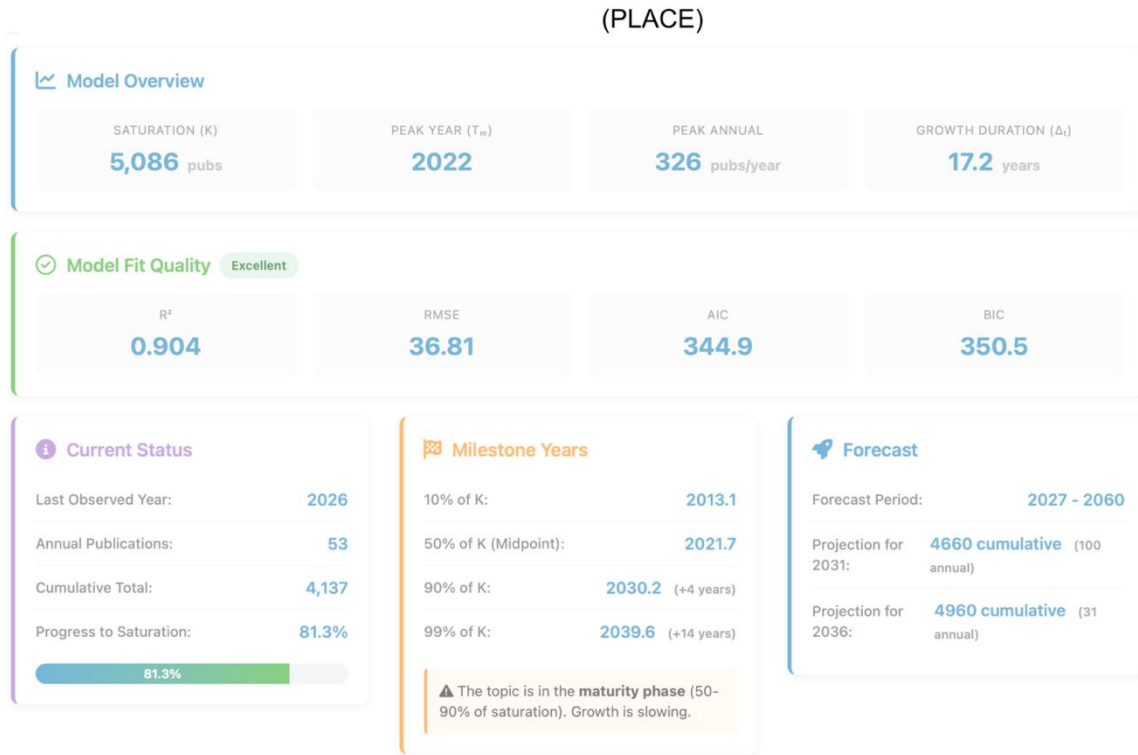


Figure 18. Status and future projections of studies on place

When the findings are evaluated holistically, it can be stated that within the discipline of landscape architecture, the research focus has undergone a conceptual expansion from approaches based on the analysis of physical space toward place-based approaches that incorporate user experience, identity, and the production of meaning.

DISCUSSION

The bibliometric analyses conducted in this study reveal that the concepts of space and place exhibit distinct research dynamics within the landscape architecture literature and have undergone a notable conceptual transformation over time. The findings indicate that studies focusing on the concept of space constitute a quantitatively broader research domain within the literature. The high number of publications and rapid growth rate of space-related studies can be associated with the use of space as a fundamental concept in the analysis of topics such as urban form, spatial organization, and environmental design.

In contrast, although studies focusing on the concept of place are fewer in number, their higher average citation values suggest that this body of literature encompasses stronger theoretical discussions. The concept of place does not merely denote a physical location but offers a more comprehensive conceptual framework that includes dimensions such as experience, identity, belonging, and meaning. Within the human geography literature, this multilayered structure of place has been extensively addressed through phenomenological approaches, emphasizing that space is transformed into place through human experience and that every place possesses a “spirit” (Tuan, 1977; Norberg-Schulz, 1980).

This transformation has increasingly been discussed in relation to place-making approaches that emphasize user participation, environmental perception, social interaction, and the production of meaning in open spaces. Within landscape architecture, place is no longer evaluated solely through physical or visual characteristics, but also through experiential, ecological, and symbolic dimensions that strengthen the relationship between humans and environment (Beatley & Manning, 1997; Lewicka, 2011; Knez et al., 2018; Masterson et al., 2017). In this context, concepts such as sense of place, ecological identity, environmental experience, biodiversity, and place attachment have become increasingly visible within the literature (Raymond et al., 2017; Fekete & Abuhayya, 2023).

The recent increase in studies addressing both space and place indicates a convergence between these two concepts in the literature. This suggests a shift from a longstanding focus solely on the analysis of spatial organization toward more holistic approaches that also consider human-centered dimensions such as user experience, perception, and place identity.

The results also indicate that the concept of place in landscape architecture is increasingly associated with ecological sustainability and environmental quality. Contemporary landscape approaches emphasize that place is not only socially constructed through human experience but is also shaped by ecological processes, biodiversity, and the continuity of natural systems. In this context, Norberg-Schulz's (1980) concept of *genius loci* highlights that the identity and spirit of place emerge through the interaction between human experience and the environmental character of a setting. Accordingly, natural elements, ecological continuity, and environmental context become integral components in the formation of place identity and meaning. This demonstrates that the transformation from space to place involves both experiential and ecological layers simultaneously.

In parallel with these theoretical developments, recent studies have increasingly attempted to evaluate space and place through data-driven and technology-supported approaches. Particularly within the context of smart cities and digital urbanism, machine learning-based analyses, environmental sensors, user-generated data, and AI-supported perception studies have enabled the experiential dimensions of landscape to be evaluated through measurable indicators. Such approaches contribute to the examination of emotional responses, environmental perception, spatial preference, and user experience not only qualitatively but also through numerical and predictive models (Uzunali & Yiğit Uzunali, 2025).

This development points to the emergence of an interdisciplinary research domain in landscape architecture that integrates spatial analysis with ecological data, user perception, cognitive processes, and meaning production.

Keyword analyses further support this transformation. The prominence of themes such as city, urban environment, design, and green spaces in the space-related literature indicates that studies are largely focused on urban environments and design. In contrast, the increased visibility of concepts such as identity, experience, and meaning in the place-related literature demonstrates a shift toward more qualitative and theoretical approaches that explain the human-space relationship.

The transformation observed in the landscape architecture literature should not be interpreted as the complete replacement of the concept of space by place. Rather, it should be understood as an expansion of space-based approaches through the incorporation of place-based layers of

meaning. The research focus in landscape architecture is evolving from the analysis of physical environmental characteristics toward more holistic approaches that encompass user experience, place identity, and the production of meaning. This transformation will not diminish the importance of space as an analytical concept; instead, it will enable it to assume a stronger theoretical and conceptual role in conjunction with the concept of place.

Overall, the findings suggest that future landscape architecture research will increasingly integrate ecological sustainability, user experience, digital technologies, and place-based design approaches. In this context, the relationship between space and place is evolving from a purely theoretical discussion toward a multidimensional framework that combines physical, experiential, ecological, and data-driven perspectives.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Although this study examines the transformation of the concepts of space and place within the landscape architecture literature through bibliometric analysis, it has several limitations. First, the reliance solely on publications indexed in the Web of Science database and restricted to the “article” document type may limit the representativeness of the overall literature. Nevertheless, the study deliberately focuses on research articles. Additionally, the exclusion of studies indexed in other databases such as Scopus, Google Scholar, and DergiPark may have narrowed the scope of interdisciplinary literature.

The keywords “space” and “place” used in the study are broad and polysemous concepts, which may include context-independent usages. Although the scope was limited through the keyword “landscape architecture,” the use of these concepts across different disciplines and meanings may have introduced a certain level of noise into the dataset.

Although the introduction discusses the development of space and place within landscape architecture, the bibliometric analysis method, by its nature, primarily reveals quantitative patterns and relationships within the literature. It does not directly evaluate the depth of content or the quality of conceptual discussions within individual studies. Therefore, while the findings reflect trends and tendencies in the literature, they may not fully capture the theoretical debates underlying these trends.

The keyword-based dataset construction approach employed in this study relies on the representation of concepts through specific terms. This may have resulted in the exclusion of synonymous concepts or alternative terminologies (e.g., “sense of place,” “placemaking,” “spatial experience”) from the analysis. The datasets constructed in this study are as follows:

- Dataset 1: “Landscape Architecture” and “Space” not “Place”
- Dataset 2: “Landscape Architecture” and “Space” and “Place”
- Dataset 3: “Landscape Architecture” and “Place” not “Space”

Finally, the interchangeable use of the concepts of space and place in some studies—particularly where the theoretical framework is not clearly defined or where conceptual distinctions are not explicitly articulated may have led to a degree of conceptual ambiguity and noise within the dataset.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to examine the relationship and transformation between the concepts of space and place within the landscape architecture literature through bibliometric analysis. The findings indicate that the concept of space constitutes a quantitatively broader research domain, particularly concentrated around themes such as urban environments, design, green spaces, and environmental quality. In contrast, although studies focusing on the concept of place are fewer in number, their higher citation impact suggests that this body of literature encompasses more robust theoretical and conceptual discussions.

Keyword analyses and conceptual network structures demonstrate that the space-oriented literature is primarily associated with the organization of the physical environment and spatial configuration. Conversely, the place-oriented literature emphasizes human-centered dimensions such as identity, experience, belonging, and meaning. The increasing number of studies addressing both space and place in recent years indicates a growing integration of these concepts and the development of more holistic approaches within landscape architecture.

When temporal trends and thematic developments are considered together, it is evident that the research focus in landscape architecture has expanded from approaches based solely on the analysis and organization of physical space toward place-based approaches that incorporate user experience, place identity, and the production of environmental meaning. However, this transformation does not imply a loss of importance for the concept of space; rather, it reflects the integration of experiential and conceptual dimensions of place onto the analytical and design-based foundation of space.

This study contributes to the literature by revealing the shift in conceptual priorities within the discipline of landscape architecture through quantitative data. The findings suggest that future research and design approaches in landscape architecture will be shaped by more holistic perspectives that integrate the physical environment with user experience, belonging, and meaning-making processes. Although studies in this direction have increased in recent years, the continued presence of research that defines space solely through its physical attributes remains noteworthy. This highlights the need to deepen such studies particularly those focusing on the physical components of space, such as the quantification of aesthetics by integrating them with human experience and perceptual dimensions. In this context, the integration of innovative approaches such as machine learning into landscape architecture will facilitate the analysis of data based on emotion, perception, and cognitive processes, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive consideration of both space and place.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Alper Uzunali: Conceptualization of the study, manuscript writing, interpretation of the data, and development and discussion of the findings. **Şeyma Yiğit Uzunali:** Conceptualization of the study, literature review, data collection, and analysis process.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL

This study does not require an ethics committee approval

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