

Design *Lite*

Basic Fundamentals of Landscape
Design for the
Landscape Professional

Principles of Design

Landscape design is a process of developing practical and pleasing outdoor living space





All of the *principles* are related, and applying one *principle* helps achieve the others.

Design principles guide designers in organizing elements for a visually pleasing landscape.



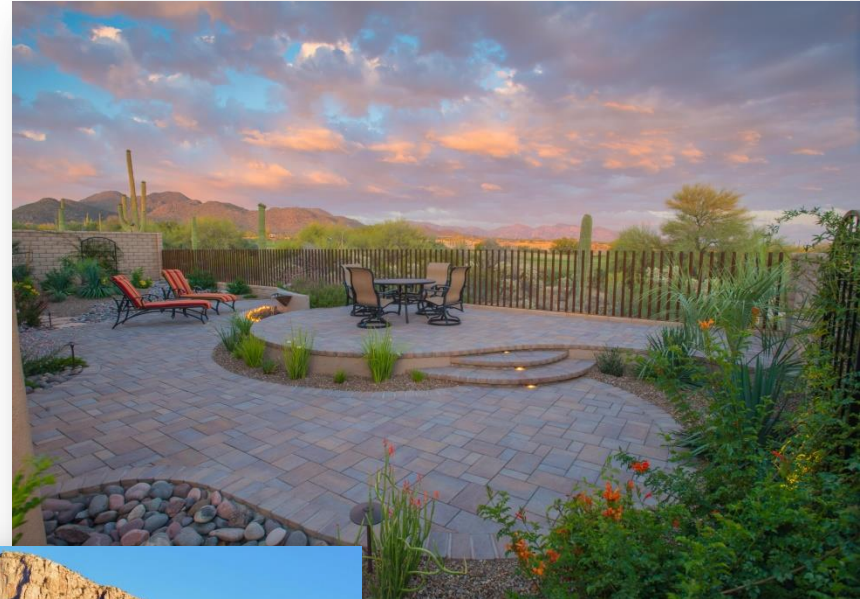
Design Principles

- **Line**
 - An imaginary line that helps connect and organize the design
- **Form**
 - Creates a visual theme, converting the appropriate area outlines of the functional diagram to specific forms
- **Texture**
 - Surface quality or size and shape of plants and surrounding surfaces, perceived as coarse, medium or fine
- **Color**
 - Using varying spectrums of color: Primary, secondary, tertiary and neutrals in the landscape

Design Principles: Line



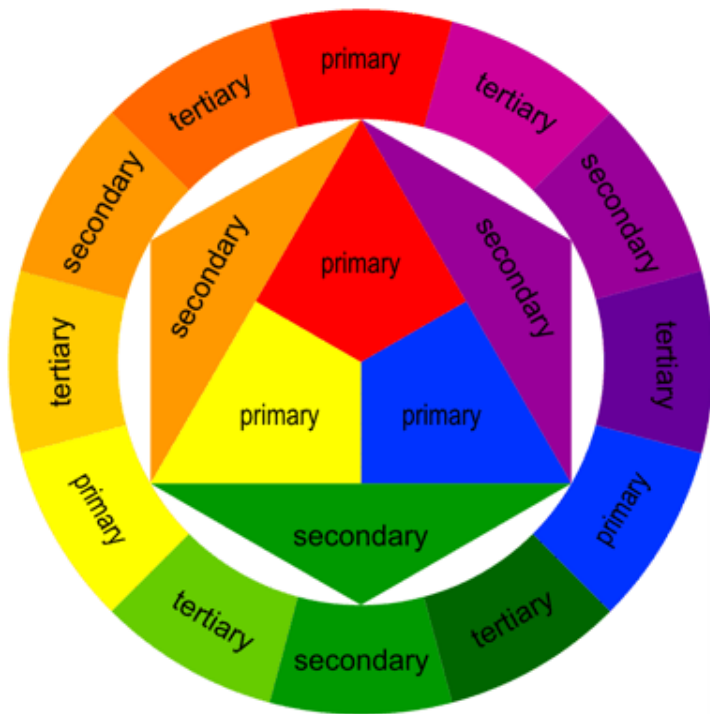
Design Principles: Form



Design Principles: Texture



Design Principles: Color



Design Principles

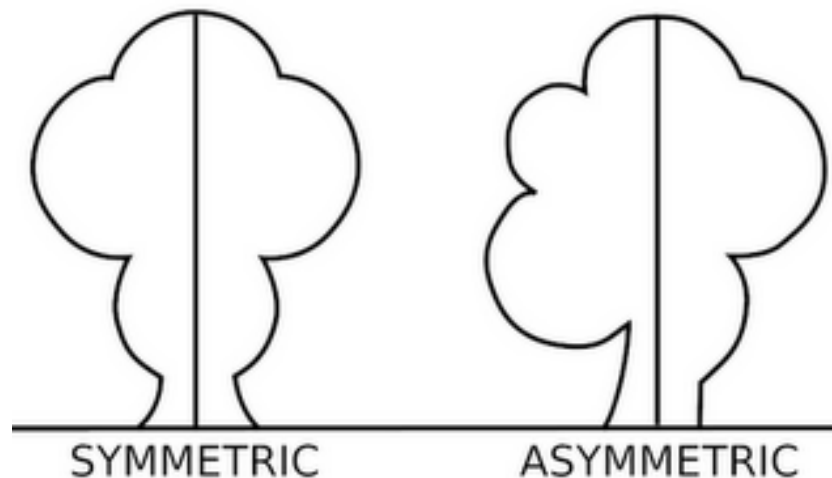
The principles of landscape design are related to each other and include the following elements as they apply to line, form, texture, and color:

1. Balance
2. Simplicity
3. Rhythm and line
4. Proportion
5. Unity



Balance

Balance is a state of being as well as seeing. We are most comfortable in landscapes that have a sense of balance.



- Symmetrical

- Asymmetrical

Symmetrical Balance

- Used in formal landscapes
- One side of the landscape is a mirror image of the opposite side



Symmetrical Balance



- Often use geometric patterns in the walkways, planting beds and even how the plants are pruned into shapes
- Appears to be rather stiff in appearance and requires high maintenance

Asymmetrical Balance

- Known as informal balance
- Differs from one side to the other
- Appears to be relaxing and free flowing



Asymmetrical Balance



Balance

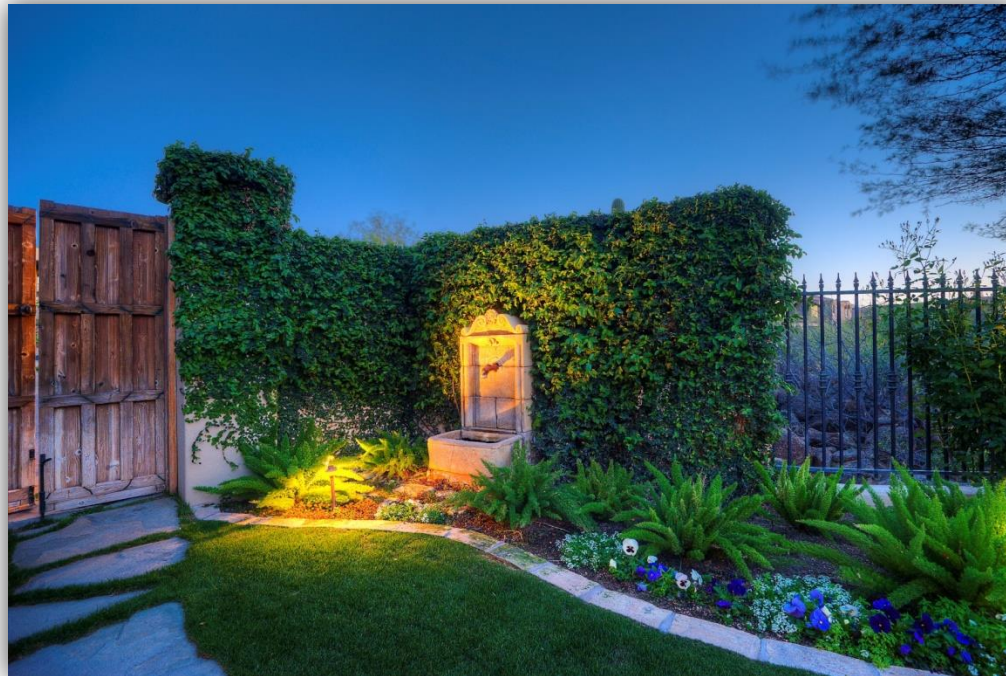
Why are these principles used?



Landscape designers create landscapes that are pleasing to look at and inviting

Balance

- Not created by artists centuries ago, but more of an inherent visual sense that most people possess
- Guidelines that help designers and homeowners create a landscape that “make sense” visually



Simplicity

Keep it simple, not cluttered or fussy



Simplicity

*Not the opposite
of complexity*



- Keeping landscapes simple, not cluttered or fussy
- Many landscapes have very complex features, including the architectural design, water features and extensive lighting features

Simplicity



- Landscapes that make people happy and comfortable
- Avoid using too many colors, shapes, curves and textures

In no way does this mean simplistic, boring or lack of imagination

Rhythm and Lines

In landscape design, the interval is usually space



Rhythm and Lines

- When something is repeated with a standard interval, a rhythm is established
- In landscape design, the interval is usually space
- Plants, groups of plants, lamp posts, benches or other structures can be repeated within the design to create this rhythm



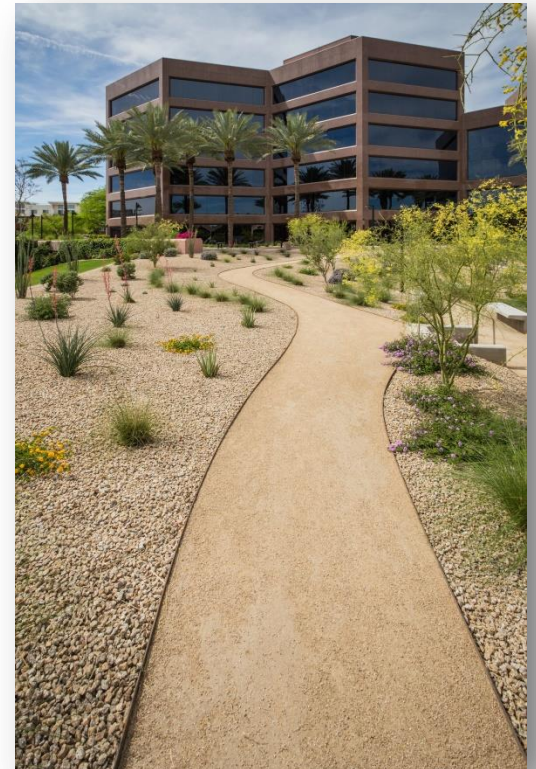
Rhythm and Lines

- Lines within a landscape are created by the shape and form of the planting beds, sidewalks, where the turf meets pavement and other hardscaping features



Rhythm and Lines

- The rhythm and line design principle gives a landscape a sense of movement
- Is what may draw you 'into' the landscape



Proportion



Proportion refers to the size relationship of all the features in the landscape

Proportion

Proportion in landscape design extends to building size, lot size, plant size, areas of plantings to areas of open space as well as the use of the landscape



Proportion



- Vertical, horizontal and special relationships
- Short people, tall people and children all perceive space differently

Unity

All the separate parts of the landscape working together



Unity is easily measured if the other five landscape principles have been properly executed

Unity

- All the separate parts of the landscape work together to create a great total design
- Colors, shapes, sizes, textures and other features work together to create a unified space
- Patterns and colors are often repeated



Unity

Lighting, special features, and hardscapes such as walkways all need to work together to create a pleasing look and a unified landscape





By following these principles of design, you will be able to create a visually pleasing landscape in any space, large or small

Establishing Goals

Good design has a final plan based on functionality, aesthetics and client budget

Goals

- Did you meet the clients needs and wishes
- Client likes the finished product
- Did you stay within the budget
 - Did the hedge successfully block the neighbor's view inside the backyard?
 - Did the water feature soften the freeway noise?
 - Did the fire pit provide the evening environment your client desired?

Low-maintenance Design

Designing with low maintenance plants can greatly reduce time and expense



Low-maintenance Design



- The use of regionally native plant material requires no soil amendment and little to no fertilization in comparison with non-native plant material
- Native plants also tend to have more protection against insects and predators

User-friendly Design

Determine how a client intends to use the space



Establishing clear objectives will prove invaluable as you select landscape elements

User-friendly Design

- Will clients be entertaining in their garden
- Main focus on creating a quiet, peaceful area to escape the stresses of daily life



User-friendly Design

- Creating a landscape that produces fresh vegetables and includes a flat green space for playing sports with the family



Eco-friendly Design

- Choose plant species that will attract pollinators and local wildlife such as humming birds and butterflies
- Shade may be added with shade which cools the area more effectively than a metal or masonry shade structure



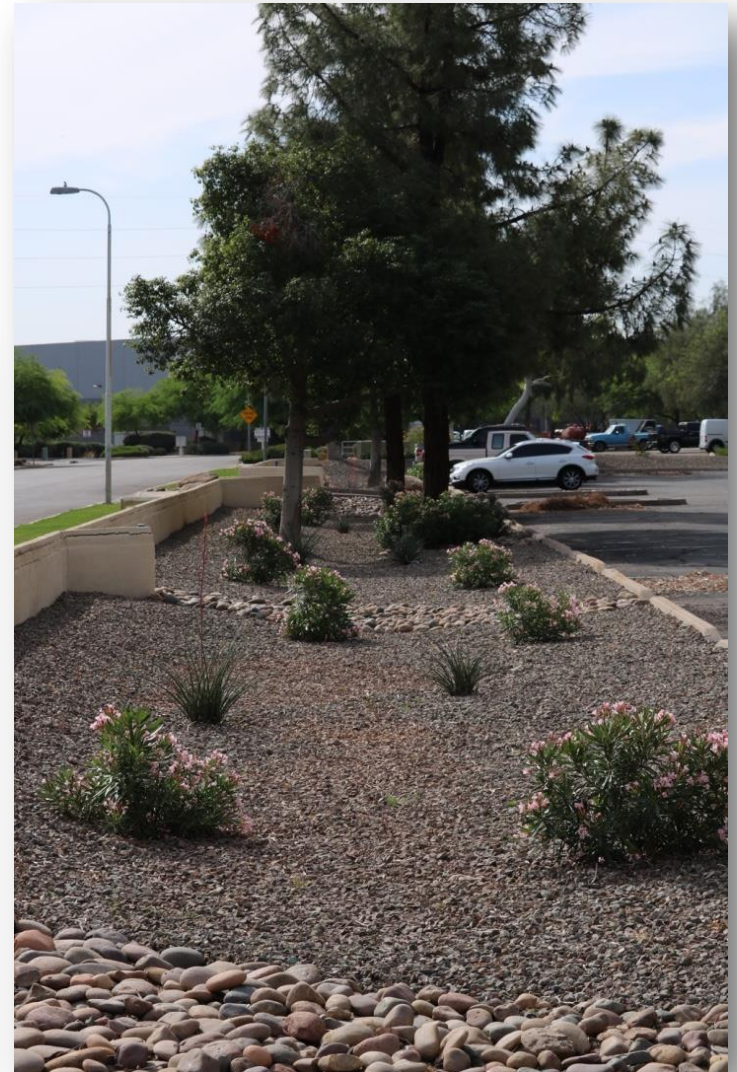
Eco-friendly Design



- Grow edible food
- Choose plant that will attract pollinators and local wildlife such as humming birds and butterflies

Eco-friendly Design

- Replace turf with drought-tolerant ground covers



Eco-friendly Design

You can help the planet while designing



- Consider your ecological impact during planning
- Build areas that can collect and use rainwater

Curb Appeal

Increase curb appeal through landscape design

- This may be the most utilitarian task ever given to a landscape design service
- Boosting curb appeal can increase the overall value of a property

