# Hardscape Design

### Hardscaping

 The parts of the landscape that are set in 'stone'

 Paths, patios, decks, edging, built-in seating, fire pits, patio covers....



### Hardscaping

- Provides order to the space by providing lines that direct the eye
- Interesting surfaces for light and precipitation to play on



## Design Purpose

- Hard textures contrast with the softness of plants and colors that stand out against bare earth
- The repetition of hardscaping materials and patterns can also provide unity to a space



### Vetting the Client

- Client goals
- Establishing theme
- Establishing budget
- Determine scope of work and expectations

- Apply design theory principles to hardscape
  - Line
  - Form
  - Texture
  - Color







- Practicality: clean, solid surface to get from one point to another
- Allows for the ease of movement and direction in a space
- Creates a flow of traffic, guideline for use



Protects property
visitors or residents
from elements, such as
sun or rain





Enhances user experience



 Separates areas in a space such as annual beds from a walkway or other landscaping material

- An entertaining area
  - Patio
  - Outdoor kitchen and living
  - Play surface





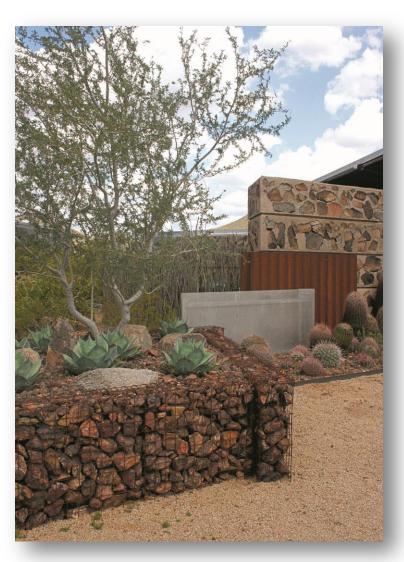
 Specialty features and amenities





Erosion control, water diversion and retention





- Separate and define spaces
- Provide architectural features in the space





What is the theme?

### Theme

What is the character of the space



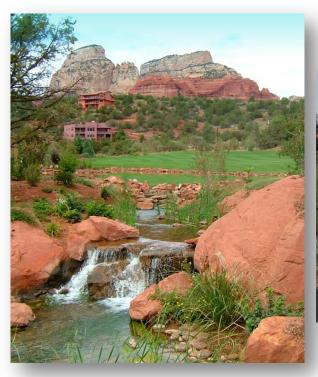
### Theme

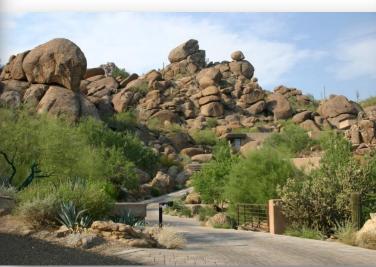
What existing materials are used on the site

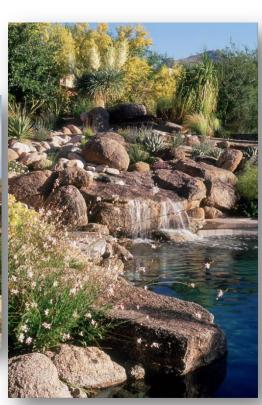


### Theme

- Are there architectural features from the space or building to incorporate within the design
- Are there natural features that can be enhanced
- How visible is the feature







### Budget





- Is the owner going to pay for the material
- Square footage
- What is the cost of the material

### **Design Considerations**

- Grading issues
  - Where will the water move?
  - Where will the water collect?
  - Erosion possible?
- Retention, groundwater storage
- Will you require a sump pump





# Landscape Elements

Structures and features in the Landscape

## **Outdoor Living**

- Patios
  - An extension of the house
  - No longer a backyard feature; front yards are a great option for neighborhood gatherings



#### Patio Goals

- Create memories for client
- Increase value of property

- Space for entertaining
- Space for quiet serenity
- Space for utility



#### **Patio Location**

- Close to an entry or as an island in the middle of the yard
- Private patio
  - Place for quite privacy
  - Entertainment
- Public patio
  - Front yard
  - Impromptu social gatherings in neighborhood
  - Waiting area before entry into structure

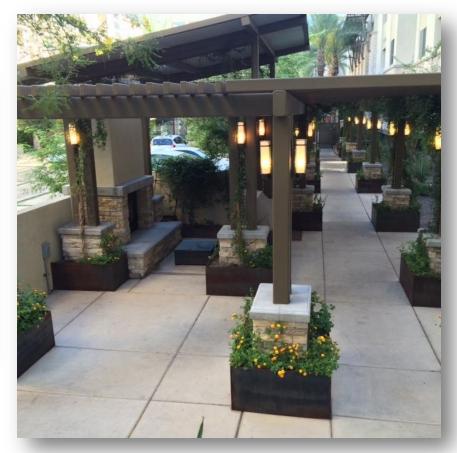




## Arbors, Trellis, Pergolas & Ramadas

 Adds vertical height, dimension and beauty to the landscape





### **Arbors**



- Arbors generally are smaller and used at garden entry points
- Vines or plants trained to grow on arbor, providing additional shade





### **Trellises**

- Architectural structures for climbing vines
- Focal points for statements in design

### Pergolas and Ramadas

- Provide shade and cover
- Sitting areas
- Support outdoor equipment
  - Speakers
  - TVs
  - Lights
  - Ceiling fans
  - Drapes





#### Decks

- Elevated patios
- Offer a different vantage point of the landscape
- Make use of challenging grades





#### Cedar

- Does not transfer heat
- Durable
- High maintenance in dry environments

#### Composite decking

- Manufactured wood particles and plastic
- Can be embossed with woodgrain pattern
- Color fades over time (sun)

#### Vinyl decking

- Hot underfoot
- More expensive that wood
- Less maintenance and resists stains







#### Fire Features

- Can create a mood, adjust temperature and offer light to a space
- Offers a center for social gathers





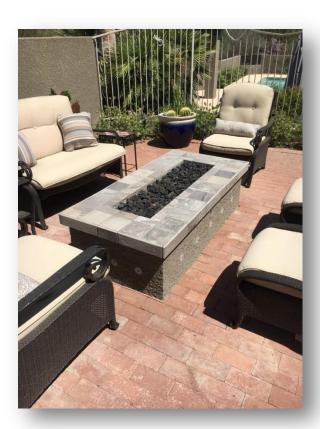
#### Fire Features

- Material options
  - Brick, stacked stone
  - River rock
  - Flagstone, limestone
  - Concrete
  - Manufactured pavers and blocks



#### • Fire pits

- More economical than fireplaces
- Can accommodate a larger crowd
- Casual entertaining or party environment











#### Fireplaces

- Ideal for smaller groups
- Can provide a bold statement
- Relaxing or romantic mood







#### Fuel sources

- Wood burning
  - No burn days
  - Flexible on location in space
- Propane
  - Flexible on location in space
- Gas line
  - More costly to install
  - Requires a gas source and plumbing
  - Limits placement in the landscape

#### Water Features

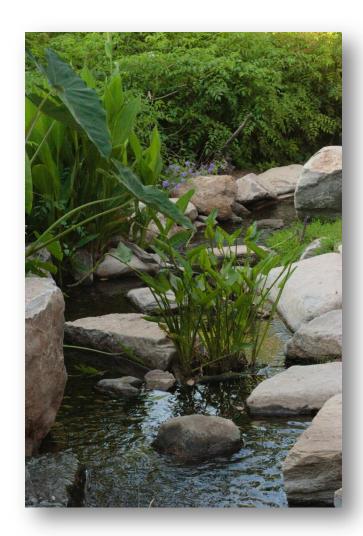
- Can have a calming effect
- Defuse noise of a road or traffic
- Focal point or statement in space





#### Water Feature Considerations

- Open water can be a safety concern for children
- May attract wildlife into the area
- Requires maintenance
  - Sanitized water features
  - Living ponds
- Splashing of treated water can impact surrounding plants and hardscape
- Pumps & equipment







# **Pathways**

• Gets you to where you need to go







### **Granite Trails**





### Stabilized

- Prevents erosion
- Binds aggregate together
- Creates organic walking surface
- Suitable for bike traffic

#### Loose

- May migrate and show footprints
- Equestrian trails
- Lower maintenance
- More economical

# **Architectural Walkways**

- Allows designer to showcase creativity
- Offers property unique features

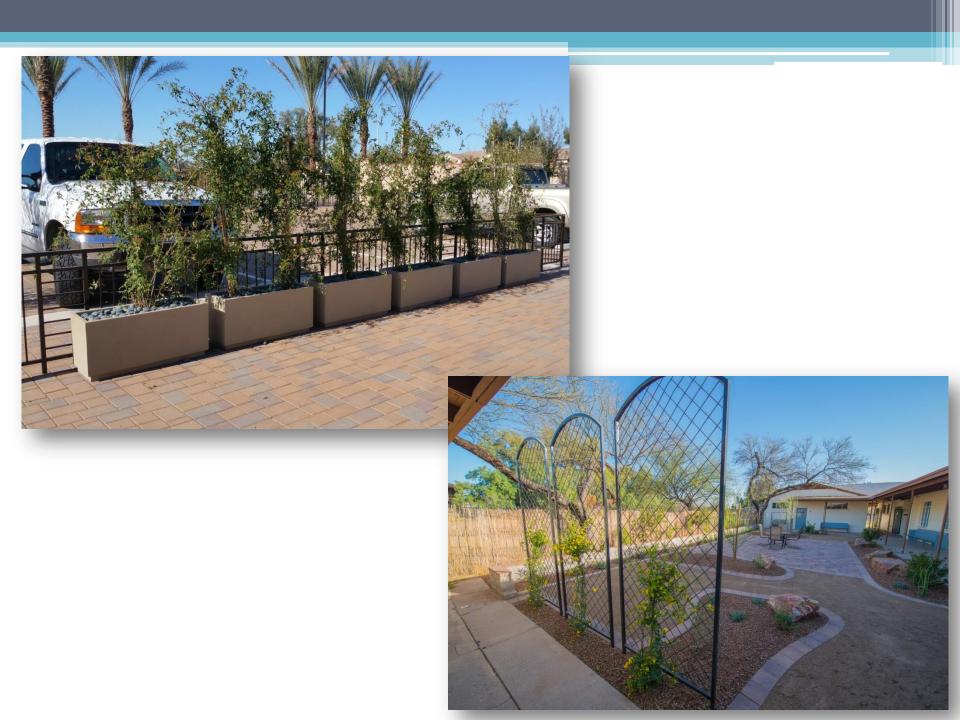




# Barriers, Perimeters and Buffers













## Natural Stone

- Uncut or cut flagstone
- Sand set or mortared to a concrete base
- Granite
- Marble
- Sandstone
- Limestone
- Blue stone
- Etc.



Softer, more porous limestones and sandstones work will in dry warmer areas.







### • Pros:

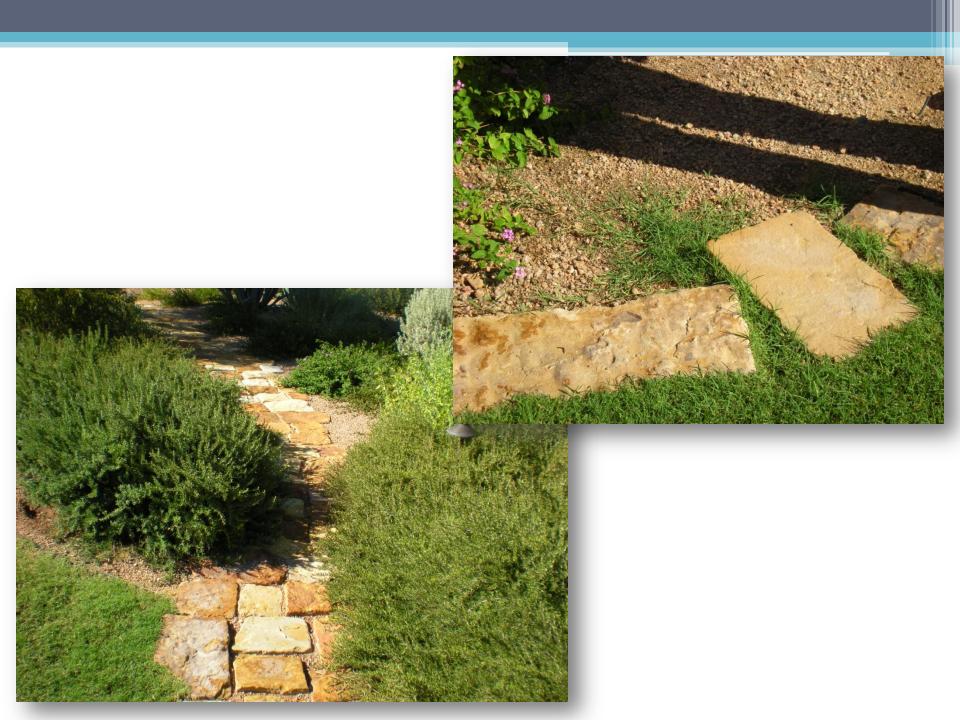
- Highly durable
- Will outlast many other materials

### • Cons:

- Most expensive of patio materials
- If installed with mortar, joins typically fail prior to stone degradation







# Clay Pavers

- Timeless material
- Warm, inviting and earthy environment
- Can be installed dry-lay or motor:
  - Dry-lay is placed on thick layer of sand and gravel, without any bonding agents. Joints filled with sand and compacted.
  - Mortared are placed upon a concrete slab and secured with mortar or grout both beneath and between bricks, creating a solid structure.

#### • Pros:

- Withstand fading, lasting centuries of wear
- Highly durable
- Fading isn't an issue

#### Cons:

- Only can be found in select colors and shapes
- May be more susceptible to moss growth









### Manufactured Pavers

- Interlocking concrete pavers
- Dimensional slabs
- Brick-used or new
- Porous pavers



### Interlocking concrete pavers



#### Cons:

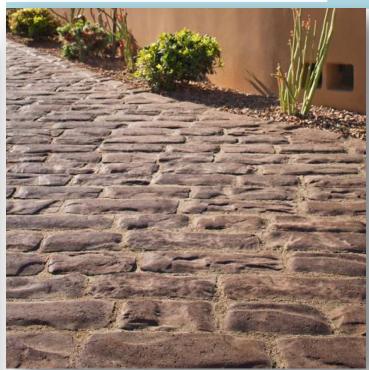
- Color may fade over time
- Older installation may have high tendency for weed growth and ant colonies

#### Pros

- Variety of sizes & styles
- Resembles natural stone, cobble, marble, granite or wood
- Very durable
- Limited-lifetime warranties
- If settling occurs, pavers can be raised and leveled at minimal cost
- Very long lifespan
- Some materials are permeable











## Factors to Consider during Installation

- ICPI standards (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute)
- Guidelines for installers
- Permitting
- Sleeves
- Certification for installers available
- Soil type and use to determine base course depth

### Concrete

- Poured in place
  - Tinted
  - Stamped
  - Exposed aggregate
  - Recycled
  - Porous
  - Overlay existing concrete or pool decking





### Concrete

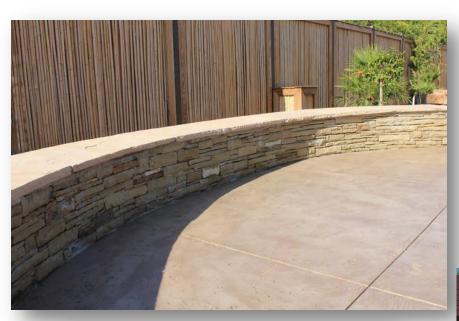


- Cons:
  - Cracking
  - Stamped concrete fades over time

#### • Pros:

- Budget- friendly
- Highly durable
- Low maintenance
- Works in varying climates
- Can be poured into any shape or colored in any style











## **Blocks**



- Paver blocks
- CMU blocks
- Structural vs. architectural
- Engineered vs. not engineered



# Hardscape Finishes

- Stucco
- Stone Veneer
- Tile
- Natural Stones
- Paint





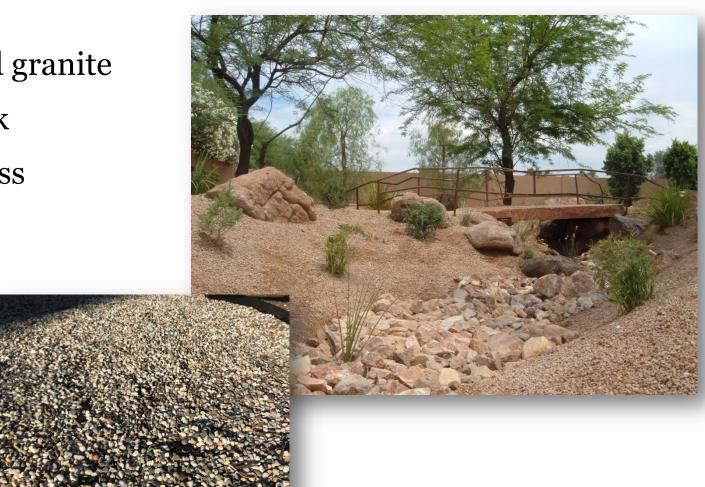
### Maintenance

- What regular maintenance will be required?
- Will it look great look and function?
- What is the lifespan of the material?



### **Loose Materials**

- Decomposed granite
- Crushed rock
- Tumbled glass
- Pea gravel
- River rock



### **Loose Materials**

#### **Pros**

- Durable
- Weed control
- Reduces evaporation
- Budget- friendly
- Easy to maintain
- Fits with many styles of landscape
- Permeable
- Easy to install

#### Cons

- Needs topdressing every few years
- Smaller stones can migrate
- Weeds can easily grow through stone
- Shows foot/ vehicle traffic

## **Decorative Surfaces**

- Pebbles
- Tile







# Combining Materials

- Making transitions
- Adding interest
- Saving money
- Saving time
- Artistic freedom
- Defining spaces for specific use





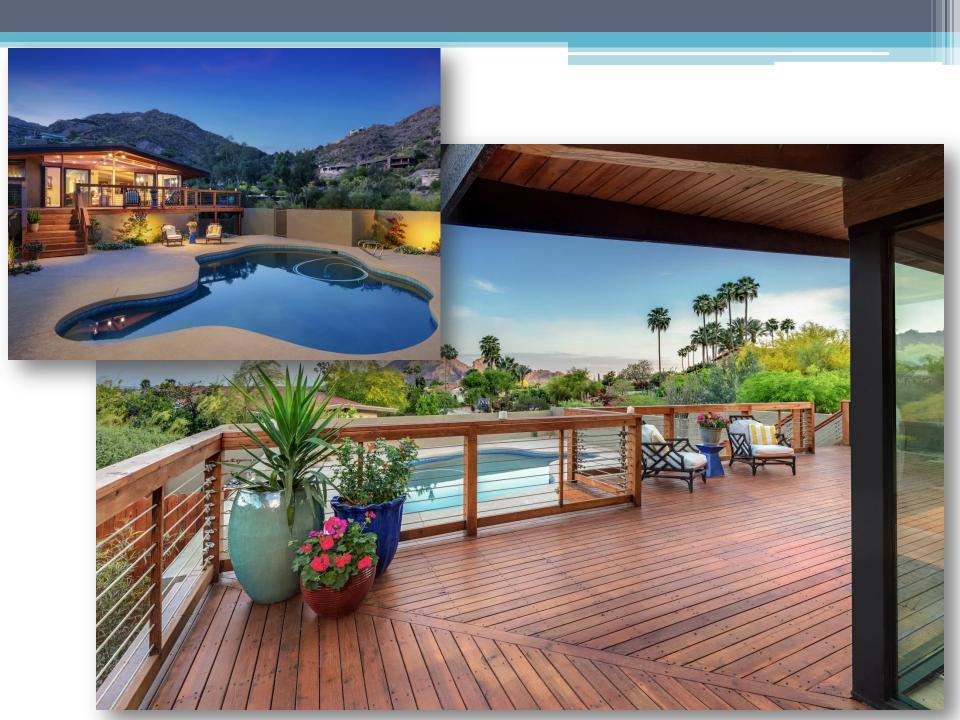
## Wood

Flooring

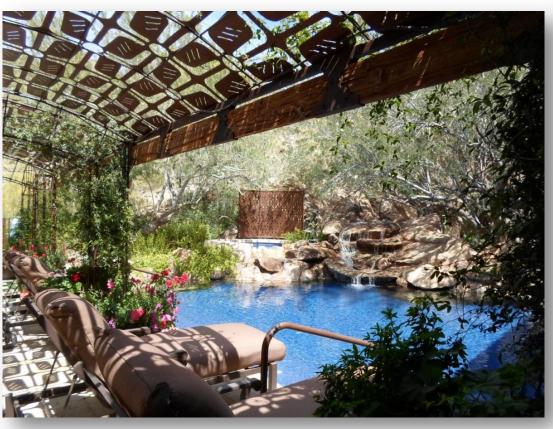
Structures



What are some issues to consider when using wood in our region?



## Metal



Any considerations with metal in our climate?



## Temperatures of Surfaces

- High Reflectance Hardscape Materials
  - Materials with high solar reflectance (albedo)
  - SRI (solar reflectance index) ranges from 0-100
  - How much heat is being emitted by a surface
  - Materials with highest SRI are the coolest
    - Asphalt may have a 0, where white cement concrete can have 86-100

## Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

- Be creative
- Consider safety
- Incorporate design elements
- Make clients happy

