



Landscape Symphonies

Landscapes Design Considerations Intended Use and Audience



In the end, landscape design success is measured by whether the whole landscape and all of its elements provide the space with the aesthetic and functional benefits for which it was designed. As in most spaces, with landscapes form should always follow function, even when function is beauty. To reach that end, begin by considering your audience and use needs before anything else.

- **Shared Spaces** – These areas are for everyone’s use: they are available to anyone. Before you skip this point, thinking it doesn’t apply to you, consider your front yard, which is the connection between the outer world and the inner world of your home. One of the main purposes of this area is to connect the building with the outside world in an interesting and functional manner, giving curb appeal to the property. Other areas to consider as public would be outdoor entertainment areas. These areas need a direct connection to the building itself and have very definite purposes, which will determine the shape, size, location and materials used to design and build them.

- **Private Areas** - These areas are where more intimate activities occur, like a family playing area, an area of private seclusion, an area of contemplation, a family or couples breakfast nook. Even within a shared space, one can create areas intended for private use. How do these areas enter into your landscape? How do they connect to or separate from your home structure?

- **Functional Areas** – Even around our homes, very particular utilitarian activities take place. Thinking about where to place elements such as a garden shed, a vegetable garden, a greenhouse, clothes lines, or a garbage and recycling area determines much about how we structure and plan out the space. What are the functional areas either required or desired around your home?

Martin Carrion van Rijn (530) 632-3263
martin@landscapesymphonies.com