



Landscape Symphonies

Landscapes Design Considerations

Define Universal Aesthetics of the Design

- **Balance** - Landscape elements have a visual and emotional aesthetic weight. Determine if the arrangement of your landscape elements generally makes the composition too heavy or sparse. Our sensory experience of balance can enjoy both symmetry and asymmetry.
- **Focalization of interest** - Determine if there are points of interest in your landscape that naturally draw your attention. It can be a sculpture, water feature, a signature tree or shrub, or it can even be done with color or change of texture. These points add definition and fullness to the design. While some landscapes can handle multiple points, remember that too many focal points go against the principle itself.
- **Simplicity** - If we have too many elements in our landscape composition it can create a sense of confusion. Keeping it simple helps the landscape have clarity, bringing a sense of peace. Using simple lines of design, fewer species of plants, or fewer colors add simplicity without detracting interest from the composition
- **Rhythm** - This principle refers to the repetition of landscape elements, giving the landscape a sense of unity, of belonging together. Try repeating lines and materials on hardscapes in different areas of the landscape, or repetition of trees and shrubs. Rhythm can also aid us in leading the attention to the focal points.
- **Proportion** - Sensitivity to the relationship between the size of landscape elements and the way they are arranged to create a space, determines in many ways how we experience the landscape. Proportions elicit thoughts and emotions, and therefore how we will use and feel the landscape. Widely spaced elements draws the eye out creating a sense of possibility; closely placed elements give a cozy, intimate feel. Keep in mind that children experience space differently than adults do. If children are a part of the audience, consider the spacing of elements from their perspective.
- **Unity** - This is probably the most important principle of all because it is the result of the proper application of the all the previous principles. Consider: do the elements and their placement do what you want the landscape to do?