

Principles of Landscaping

Course Number: FLA-111



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Landscaping

- Landscaping is an aesthetic branch of Horticulture, which deals with planting of ornamental plants in such a way that it creates a picturesque effect.
- Landscape gardening can also be defined as the beautification of a tract of land having a house or other object of interest on it.
- It is done with a view to create a natural scene by the planting of lawns, trees, shrubs flowering annuals, climbers, creepers, etc.

Balance

- The balance in landscape design is visual equilibrium of different garden elements.
- Balance can be created in a garden either formal or informal by grouping the components, structures and plants equally on both sides of the imaginary central axis. It is a striking feature in a formal garden.
- The balance should be colour wise, texture wise and shape wise. Trees as an avenue on one side will not make a balance.
- Care should be bestowed to create balance in colour and texture. In an informal garden, the overall mass or dense of structure should be distributed on both sides of the axis which may be curved or informal.

Proportion

- Proportion refers to the share of the different parts or components to the whole. It is the relation of the component with other in magnitude.
- In a landscape garden space and area provided for a lawn, paths, borders, trees, buildings etc. should be in right proportion and not equal in proportion.
- Proportion helps in space organization. The disproportionate occupation of any one component may distract the eye and attention.
- Proportion, suggested by plants in a garden indirectly pacifies the psyche as one's mind is conditioned to enjoy one component of a garden in proportion to the other without a discordant note. Such a conditioned mind will not succumb to streak thoughts which are disproportionate.

Unity

- Though diverse structures, plants and features are used to create a landscape, there should be a unity among each component and all the components with main building.
- Instead of the individual beauty of a component, the overall beauty should be focused to achieve unity in diversity.
- Further, a designer should work towards integrating the aesthetic principles of balance, rhythm, proportion and harmony to give unity to the composition.
- If one's mind is conditioned to freely unite or mingle with other persons, he will be accustomed to interact without reaction. Such interaction without reaction is the quality imposed by the 'unity' concept of a garden.

Perspective

- Any object situated at a distance will look small compared to the one of the same size kept close to the vision. E.g. Rail road converges at distance.
- This visual phenomenon of shrinkage in size and converging of lines is termed perspective.
- The garden objects can be positioned either at the foreground or background to create pleasing visual illusions.
- Artist's perspective is two dimensional, sculpture's perspective is three dimensional while the landscape architects perspective is of four dimensional, the fourth dimension being the time because, as the time passes, the size of plants differ, colour differ and ultimate visual quality will differ.

Vista

- It is the three dimensional confined view of a terminal object along eye line at focal point. E.g. Taj tomb as viewed from its opposite.

Prospect

- Prospect is the view of a scenery, natural or man made, through an opening such as window or a gap in the foliage of trees.
- It is the ‘camera view’ of any scenery. Such prospects can be created in landscape gardening by adopting suitable proportion and unity.

Restraint

- Overuse of any component including grouping of plants in a particular location masks the scenic beauty.
- If all the features whether natural or artificial are kept within bounds or used with restraint, best results can be achieved.

Rhythm

- Rhythm is measured as cyclic repetition of an object, effect and event. In a garden, rhythm can be infused through cleverly repeated colours and shape, topiaries and hedges etc.
- In Mughal gardens, the fountains and cascades have been repetitively provided to create rhythm. Sometimes rhythm is created through action of lights under water.

Harmony

- Harmony is the pleasing effect obtained due to appropriate arrangement and collation of the various garden features.
- It is the overall effect of various features styles, colours and structures in the total landscape.
- Every part of the landscape should synchronize into the other and all the components into the whole. No individual component should project itself beyond its expected limit.
- The beauty of the landscape depends upon the degree of harmony of various elements.
- It is the evident relationship of all parts of a thing observed visually, audibly and psychically.
- The synchronization of one within the other is the key factor to achieve harmony

Movement or Mobility

- The concept of mobility is vital to garden as breath to human. Mobility can be introduced in the garden by the magnificent sway of tall trees, birds in the sky, butterflies circling over flowers, dispersal of clouds in the sky, surging water in fountains, the gentle curvature of roads, trunks, branches of trees, etc.
- If all the components are stiff, stony and static, it will harden the attitude of person and the aggressive tendency is triggered from within. Mobility in a garden will loosen the hardened attitude of humans and relax them from the tentacles of anger and revenge.

Surprise

- All components of a garden should not be exposed to the vision at one stroke from one point.
- If exposed, there won't be any curiosity in a person to walk along and move within to explore further.
- One component should be gracefully hidden from the other either by gentle turn of road, paths or screening through shrubbery, hedges or pergolas.
- The secret of life lies in the mystery over the future.
- The unexpected turn of events forces mankind to lead life with curiosity which adds spice.
- Surprise element kindle the person's heart to probe further and lead life in real sense.

Skyline

- Garden meets the sky in its vertical dimension.
- Planning a garden should include planning for a skyline also.
- A peak of a mountain, gigantic trees, an old monumental building, temple towers etc.
- If available, naturally can be woven into the background design to add beauty to the skyline of trees.

Scale

- Scale is a relative dimension. The height and spread of trees and shrubs and the spread of the water garden are determined by adopting a scale.
- To make it clear, it may be noted that a small reflecting pool underneath a large tree will be dominated by the tree and render the pool ineffective, owing to the difference in their dimensions.
- To get the right picture of a tree beside a pool we should adopt a ratio between the size of the tree and pool as is obtained in nature.
- Appropriate adoption of scales and proportionate measurements are the success of imitative naturalistic garden art.

Space

- The aim of every garden design should be such that the garden should appear large than its actual size.
- One way of achieving this is to keep vast open spaces, preferably under lawn and restrict the plantings in the periphery, normally avoiding any planting in the centre.
- But if any planting has to be done in the centre, the choice should be a tree which branches at a higher level on the trunk (or the lower branches are removed), and not a bushy shrub.
- Such planting will not obstruct the view or make the garden appear smaller than its size.

THANK YOU