

G. Use areas in Landscape designs

Using the 'Indoor room concept' to describe the Outdoor

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- 1- Public area
- 2- General living room
- 3- Service area
- 4- Private living room

Walls- hedges, avenue trees,

Ceilings- shade trees, canopies, etc.

Floors- lawns, foundation plants, concrete floors and walk ways, roads with interlocking blocks or asphalt.

i.) Use areas

- 1. Public area** – usually the front part of the property accessibility to visitors
- 2. General living room** – an area of the home that joins the public area, service room and private room
- 3. Service area** – accessible to only the occupants
- 4. Private living room** – an area for rest and occupies the rear of the property and not accessible to outsiders

ii.) Components of the outdoor room:

- a. Walls** - defines the limit and shapes of the out door room, direct traffic through the landscape (hedges, avenue trees), provides full or partial privacy (), provide security (thorny plants e.g. boungavalia spp.), etc.
- b. Ceilings** – defines the upper limit of the outdoor room, provide full or partial shade, provide privacy from overhead viewers, etc.
- c. Floors** – defines the base line of the outdoor room, absorbs shock or impact of traffic, e.g. turfs / lawn, paving, ground covers,

H. Site Survey and Analysis

The objects of survey refer to measurable quantities and qualities on the site. They fall into 3 primary areas:

- 1.) Collection of data- from 3 sources
 - i) site
 - ii) recorded data

iii) information from client, e.g. composition of the family, hobbies and special interests, and frequency and style of outdoor entertainment

2.) Site analysis or survey (see below)

3.) Visual characteristics of the site

-After the survey, then present the bill of quantities

-Analysis: consists of breaking down of all the available matter into components

Data collection

1. Maps- large or small scale maps, land capability maps, climatological maps,
2. Photographic survey- area oblique,
3. Recorded data- from geographical maps, town planners,
4. Restrictions from local government authorities- certificate of occupancy (C of O), set backs on lands, etc.
5. Road types- Trunk A, B or C roads, desire lines, etc.

Site survey- Use

- Triangulation methods- measurements
- Visual survey- visual observations
- Ecological survey- involves all flora and fauna available in the site, use quadrants or a square for ecological studies and frequency of occurrence.
- Soil Survey- engineering qualities of the site, soil type, soil fertility, soil depth, etc.

Presentation of Information

Present your information using

1. Location plan-
2. Base plan- working plan for information gathering and records puposes.
3. Topography- hilly, sloppy, level lands, etc.
4. Geology and soil types
5. Services- utility lines, above or underground cables and pipes, etc.
6. Access and circulation- roads, water bodies, etc.
7. Micro-climate, vegetation, bare or covered.
8. Ecology- flora and fauna, dominant, co-dominant or recessive species
9. Visual characters, bad views, good views, etc.
10. Written reports

I. Elements of landscaping:

Visual art such as painting, sculpture, architecture etc are derived from line, form, texture and space. The elements when combined could be used in a variety of ways to influence the artist's vision. In landscape design, as with other forms of visual arts, these elements are the foundation of goo design.

1. Line: lines can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal or curved. It is how they are used individually or in combination that gives a landscape dimension. Lines can appear graceful or crude, bold or delicate.

2. Form: Form is associated with three dimensional objects, while shape refers to two dimensional objects. Both are made from lines, but the way these lines are arranged determines the shape or form.

3. Colour: Colour is perhaps the most complex art element, and it tends to be the most used element. Based on the Munsell system, colour has three dimensions; hue, value and chroma.

4. Texture: It is the surface characteristics that is seen or felt. Texture can be categorized into coarse, medium and fine. All landscape components have their own textures. Contrasting textures add interest to a design, but much textural contrast can result in a chaotic scene.

5. Space: In designing landscape space, it is important to differentiate between positive (occupied or filled space) and negative (unoccupied or empty space). Space can be two or three dimensional as a shape or a form respectively. It is important to effectively use elements of space to help organize a landscape and provide focus to specific areas.

J. Principles of landscape design

The goal in developing a landscape plan is to design a plan that will achieve unity and harmony. The principles of landscape design are the building blocks used by designers to create beautiful and functional landscapes. Similar to elements of art, these principles represent the primary concern that influences landscape design. Design principles are not rules that require precise adherence, but instead reflect a framework of universal concepts that prove effective in creating designs.

Therefore the following principles should be considered in designing the plan;

1. Simplicity: Regardless of the scale of a landscape, simplicity should be an overriding design consideration. Simplicity in a landscape can be created both physically and visually.

2. Order: Order can be achieved by using consistent design theme such as formal, informal or structured informality. Grouping plants and hard-scapes so that there are physical connections between the elements will enhance order and create a cohesive whole.

3. Repetition: There is need for reappearance of attractive materials in several locations in the landscape. It results in a sense of unity between the different plant species that make up the design.

4. Rhythm and line: It addresses the factors of time and movement within a landscape. Landscapes are seldom experienced in an instant, but rather through time as a person explores the space. Rhythm in a landscape may be visual or physical, and it can be observed in both vertical or horizontal planes of a design.

5. Unity: It is the principle that creates link between the plants, hardscapes and house. It creates a sense of interconnectedness within the design composition. Unity can be reinforced by using consistent bedlines, single ground cover, massing plants together and repeating these masses throughout the landscape.

6. Balance: The design should include a focal point or centre of interest around which the landscape plants, structures, and open spaces are grouped or balanced. The arrangement of plants and other objects should be in a sequence leading to or away from a focal point. The types of balance in landscapes are symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial.

7. Proportion and scale: refers to size relationship between the different components within the landscape. It could be relative or absolute. Relative scale is the relation of one part of the design to the others. The major relationship that involve plant materials are; plants to buildings, plants to other plants and plants to people. To attain correct proportion, the landscape design should be based on mature height and spread of the plant.

8. Emphasis: focal points draw the eye to specific landscape locations when a person is viewing the landscape as a whole. A focal point may be a specimen plant, garden accessory or water feature.

Basic Styles in landscaping

1. Corner planting- incurves, outcurves,
2. Line planting
3. Foundation planting

K. Selection criteria of material inputs

i.) Selection criteria for plants:

1. Ability to fill the role assigned it in the design
2. Ability to survive the growing conditions of the site
3. Availability and affordability by clients
4. Plant size at maturity
5. Flowering qualities
6. Foliage and tree back colour
7. Presence or absence of thorns
8. Plant rate of growth and length of life
9. Deciduous or evergreen
10. Susceptibility to pests and diseases
11. Frequency of pruning required
12. Soil preference etc

ii.) Selection criteria for paving:

1. Ability to fill the role assigned it in the design
2. Availability and affordability by clients
3. Durability
4. Maintenance requirements

L. Review of soft and hard landscaping.

Soft landscaping: refers to the plant component of landscaping. It entails the use of plants of all categories (palms, trees, shrubs, grasses, herbaceous plants etc) that are natural in a landscape. The plantings of especially indigenous plant species ensure integration of structures in to the natural environment thus appearing natural in nature, among other many uses of plants in our surroundings.

Hard landscaping: The use of any non-plant materials in the development of a landscape. Examples include walkways, driveways, patio, decks, walls, ponds, fences, pergolas, steps, landscape lightings, water fountains, furniture, containers for potted plants etc. These features, individually and in combination, make up the ground, vertical, and overhead planes within a landscape and define outdoor living spaces.