Landscaping can potentially be one of the biggest draws, or biggest deterrents, to someone coming into your project area. Landscape architecture combines art and science in exacting the appeal to a facility and respecting the environment existing around it.

Landscaping can offer aesthetic enjoyment, escapism, tranquility, and a sense of belonging to an area with a distinct natural and cultural identity. It can also support our health and wellbeing by encouraging physical outdoor activity and an antidote to stress. You’ve heard the phrase “I need to get some fresh air!”? There’s a chemical response in our bodies when we take in sunlight, Vitamin D, and oxygen that naturally reduces stress.

Landscape architecture is the design of outdoor public areas, landmarks, and structures to achieve environmental, social, and aesthetic outcomes. The main principles of landscape design are:
Unity – a cohesive design articulating a common purpose

Colors – see right

Line – connects and defines the space, creating outdoor rooms

Form – see right

Texture – fine/coarse, heavy/light, thin/dense, and light/shade

Scale – see right

Balance – Formal balance repeats the same left to right giving stability, stateliness, and dignity. Informal balance differs from left to right giving curiosity, movement, and feels alive.

Simplicity and Variety – there’s a degree of repetition rather than constant change; diversity and contrast in form, texture, and color preventing monotony

---

What do colors say?

- **Red** - Passion, Courage, Power, Wealth
- **Yellow** - Joy, Happiness, Communications, Inspiration, Sunshine
- **Blue** - Imagination, Calm, Serenity, Compassion
- **Green** - Harmony, Beginnings, Nature, Growth, Healing
- **Orange** - Enthusiasm, Joy, Fun, Captivation
- **Purple** - Devotion, Respect, Peace, Spirituality
- **White** - Purity, Innocence, Faith
- **Pink** - Love, Sweetness, Happines, Tenderness

---

Form

- **Horizontal and spreading** forms emphasis the lateral extent and breath of space.
- **Rounded** forms allow for easy eye movement and create a pleasant undulation.
- **Vase-shaped** trees define a comfortable “people space” beneath the canopy.
- **Weeping forms** lead the eye back to the ground.
- **Pyramidal** forms direct the eyes upward, so use sparingly.