



Ecological Landscape and Structures

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A fully integrated landscape design considers many of the same elements that determine the architecture of building forms. At the simplest level, adding a building means subtracting its footprint from the ground plane. Building forms are critical to landscape design, as a site is fundamentally changed by the introduction of a structure.

Landscape design considers how a structure relates to its environment. Building-site interaction is affected by solar orientation, wind and weather, views, plus the forms and proximity of other buildings. Structures also relate to the formal front yard, street, driveway and private rear yard. A good landscape design considers porches, decks, patios, outdoor rooms, arbors and even the size and location of doors and windows, just as these elements are part of the building design.

Where site constraints negatively affect building forms, landscape may compensate. For example, the landscape architect may use deciduous trees to shade southern or western exposures in the summer but welcome winter sun. Run-off from a neighboring property can be a valuable advantage, as long as it's not too much. Low, wet areas can be transformed into amenities that provide real, functioning habitat.