



Ecological Site Planning

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Landscape is more than dressing up buildings and controlling erosion. It is part of a site's architecture, region and culture. A thorough approach to site planning includes multiple design influences. An approach that is ecological and logical also includes practical, systems-based solutions in which expense and people's needs are as important as accommodating the detailed requirements of landscaped habitat.

Eco-logical design arranges program elements based on the highest and best use for all inhabitants. A building creates shade areas, reflected heat areas and may create new micro-climates and habitats. The specific tactics we use to create new habitat include making the best use of low, wet areas and high, mounded areas. This hydrozoning ensures plants that need lots of moisture get more run-off than plants that require drier conditions. This scheme integrates structure massing and roof plans with grading and drainage strategies.

Pedestrian and vehicular access are also considered, so designs accommodate the special physical requirements of people, such as providing for personal transportation versus large municipal or delivery vehicles. Walls and adjacent fencing need to be included in site planning. Incorporate tree and shrub locations in this process at this phase.

Notwithstanding cultural differences, there are universal or archetypal design philosophies which all have contributions to make to the design process. These include feng shui, geomancy, fibonacci, natural progression, Carl Jung, Joseph Campbell, Ancient Greek and Roman rules of order and proportion, the English Garden of Capability Brown, and so on.