

# LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

## Lesson 19: DESIGN PRINCIPLES

### I. LESSON DESCRIPTION

Students engage in a combined discussion and PowerPoint slide show to relate 10 design principles to the garden scenes depicted in the slides. *Estimated time requirement for this lesson is 25 minutes.*

**Curriculum Standards:** National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards, National Council for Agricultural Education, 2009:

- Plant Systems (PS):
  - PS.04.01.01.a. Define design and identify design elements.
  - PS.04.01.01.b. Explain design elements of line, form, texture and color and express the visual effect each has on the viewer.
  - PS.04.01.02.a. Discuss the applications of art in agriculture/horticulture.
  - PS.04.01.02.b. Discuss principles of design that form the basis of artistic impression.

**Student Learning Objectives:** After completing this lesson, students will develop an appreciation for ten principles of design in the landscape.

**Instructional Method:** Combined discussion and PowerPoint presentation.

### II. LESSON PLAN

Legend:

Text in normal face - Represents teacher's words.

*Text in italic face - Represents suggestions for the teacher.*

**Interest Approach:**

- (Write this quotation on the board.)* "To make a great garden, one must have a great idea or a great opportunity." Sir George Sitwell
- Please take a few minutes to make a quick sketch of your own great idea for a landscape or garden. Label specific trees, shrubs and flowers that you would include.
- (While the students draw, you can read another quotation.)* Sir George Sitwell also said, "In the ancient world it was ever the greatest of emperors and the wisest of the philosophers that sought peace and rest in a garden."

- While the term “landscape design” may mean different things to different people, it is generally the art and science of creating and sensibly organizing the outdoor environment to maximize plant performance and human use and enjoyment. It is solving problems that may exist on a site, emphasizing the good points, minimizing conflicts and ultimately creating a series of outdoor “rooms” or areas for play, relaxation, entertaining, and work.
- The accomplished landscape designer has built skills based on years of experience with both the science and art of plants. The science is *knowing* which species will thrive in a given situation, and the art is *understanding* how to create functional spaces and arrange the plants. A successful landscape design is evidence of the designer’s mastery of a rich plant palette *and* basic landscape design principles.

**Relevancy:**

- We will devote this lesson to understanding the basic principle of landscape design.

**Learning Objectives:**

- After completing this lesson, you won’t need to recite difficult concepts of plant physiology. Instead, enjoy the beauty of garden scenes and learn to appreciate the basic principles landscape of design.
- Now let’s take a look at/consider to some examples of good landscape design.

**Instructional Methods**

**PowerPoint Presentation and Discussion:** 20 minutes estimated

- *Present the PowerPoint file, 19\_DesignPrinciples\_PowerPoint.ppt.*
- *For each slide, after you recite the narration, ask students to voice their opinions about how the design principle relates to each photograph. Allow as much discussion time as you like; the 20 minutes estimated above has combined 10 minutes of your narration interspersed with about one minute of class discussion per slide.*

**Summary:**

- Whether or not you’re artistically inclined, awareness of these ten principles can help guide you toward a more aesthetic and successful landscape design.
- In the next lesson on design, we’ll learn about the process that professionals use to employ these ten principles.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Students can reflect on paintings found in books of Renaissance art. Instruct students to make connections between these 10 principles and the composition found in the paintings. The paintings need not be confined to landscapes; for example, a still life can incorporate many of the design principles discussed in this lesson.
- Assign the creation of a scrapbook of images that demonstrate the 10 principles. Students can collect clippings from magazines, snapshots, prints from the internet, and so forth. They can categorize the images under the most dominant design principle.
- What is the difference between a landscape designer and landscape architect? Students can perform some career research to learn more about the creative and technical requirements of these two fields.

## RESOURCES

### Books:

- Several books and videotapes on the landscape business appear in a catalog from the publisher of one of the nursery trade journals, American Nurseryman Publishing Co., 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60606-6904, 1-800-621-5727, [www.amerinursery.com](http://www.amerinursery.com)

### Websites:

- <http://www.anla.org/> - American Nursery and Landscape Association.
- <http://www.alca.org/> - Combined website of Associated Landscape Contractors of America and Professional Lawn Care Association of America.