

## Principles of Landscape Design

Landscape designers use these principles of design to create landscape designs that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Landscape design principles include

- Focalization or Emphasis
- Proportion and Scale
- Balance
- Order and Unity
- Repetition
- Rhythm
- Sequence or Transition
- Contrast and Harmony

### **Focalization or Emphasis**

Focalization or Emphasis directs visual attention to a point of interest or prominent part of the landscape design. This could be a hanging earth-forms sculpture, a stone-finished Corinthian garden fountain. Emphasis refers to those garden elements which initially seize attention and to which the eye continually returns. It is the creation of the more important and the less important elements in the garden. The parts of any composition should not be equal in their visual interest.



Figure 3.1 Focalization is created as a visual break in the sequence and flow of the landscape

### **Proportion**

- Proportion is the relationship that exists among the components of a landscape.
- It also describes the relationship between the components of the landscape and the landscape.
- Proportion involves the size relationships between and among the components making up the landscape

- Proportion describes the size relationship between parts of the landscape design or between a part of the design and the design as a whole.
- A large fountain would cramp a small backyard garden, but would complement a sprawling public courtyard.

### Scale

- Scale is the human perception of the size of space and form related to the human dimension.
- Scale is relative to the perception of the viewer. For a large two-story house, corner plantings that are proportional to the house may appear out of scale to the viewer.



Figure 3.2 Proposition and scale

- Relationship between the size of an object to the size of the other objects. within the same composition.

### Symmetrical or Formal Balance

It is achieved when the mass, weight, or number of objects both sides of the landscape design are exactly the same.

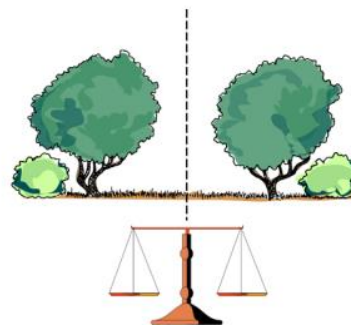


Figure 3.3 Formal balance

### Asymmetrical or Informal Balance

- In landscape design suggests a feeling of balance on both sides, even though the sides do not look the same.
- Asymmetrical balance in visual attraction may be achieved by using opposing compositions on either side of the central axis.
- This form of balance often has separate or different themes with each having an equal but different type of attraction.

