

Why a Landscape Architect?

We do not often recognize the work of landscape architects because it never occurs to us to look. Although the landscape is visible, its design and the design process often are not.

Clear differences exist between landscape architecture and other design professions. Architects primarily design buildings and structures for specific uses. Civil engineers typically apply technical scientific knowledge to the design of infrastructure. Landscape architects offer an essential array of talent and expertise to plan and design the built environment.



Landscape architecture is one of the most diverse design fields. A landscape architect is knowledgeable in the physical and the life sciences as well as the art of design and principals of construction. In addition to the better known arenas of parks, streetscapes and public plazas, landscape architects are trained in visual quality assessment, public facilitation and mediation, environmental impact studies, wetlands mitigation, urban design, historic preservation, large and small scale master planning, erosion control, and landscape water management.

In addition to landscape design, landscape architects incorporate social and behavioral elements throughout the entire design process. Training in social sciences such as behavioral psychology, sociology, anthropology and economics, allow them to bring a human dimension to their designs. They are skilled in evaluating existing environments, environmental perceptions and the effects of environments on people. By combining technical science and a design background with advanced training in social sciences, landscape architects are adept at planning for special needs populations, such as children, the elderly or the disabled.

For your next project, think of a landscape architect ... think of us early and think of us often.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
— Theodore Roosevelt

FAVORITE FLORA: SALVIA LEUCANTHA - MEXICAN BUSH SAGE



The March plant of the month is one of my personal favorites because of its prolific flower display. Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) is a native to the forests of Central and Eastern Mexico. It is a perennial that can reach heights of three feet and widths of up to four feet. This plant's most notable feature would be its showy blooms from spring through fall. These masses of purple, or sometimes blue, inflorescences will add more than just a dash of color to your landscape. Not only is this plant a pleasure to look at, but both its flowers and its narrow gray-green leaves have a velvety texture that are a nice break from the spines of many desert plants.

Mexican Bush Sage is best suited in full sun to partial shade. It is a drought tolerant shrub but is susceptible to frost damage in temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut back this perennial to the ground in early spring to remove the frost damage and allow for new healthy growth. Don't worry about pruning this plant back too hard, it will re-grow quickly in the spring with fresh foliage ready to bloom again. It can be planted in mass to take full advantage of its colorful flowers or as an accent mixed with evergreen shrubs. Mexican Bush Sage attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and is great in a sensory garden. Its softness, allows it to be planted near pathways and patios. This plant looks great among Sissoo Trees (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Regal Mist (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) and Prostrate Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*).



Photo of the Month

Rock Formations
Red Rock NCA, NV
Nicolette Fisk