

“Land” Architects

The first word in landscape architects is “Land”. The professional landscape architect is a steward of the land. Maybe the general outlook on our profession would be better served if we went by the title of “Land Architect”. Whereas architects design buildings, we literally design the land. The design of the land includes shaping, forming, and placing of all types of features on the land both living and inert. “Land Architects” have almost every element in nature to use as part of their palette.

One of the best ways to create effects, direct movement, screen less desirable views and accent features on a site is by manipulating the ground. Moving dirt around can be one of the most cost effective ways to make your landscape stand out. The shaping of land is also critical in conveyance of water and providing access. “Land Architects” go far beyond moving water from point A to point B or providing handicap access to a building. We create spaces that enhance the experience of visiting the site. Drainage can be directed through an aesthetic arroyo rather than a concrete channel. ADA access can become part of a safer and more enjoyable entry experience. Depressions can be created that hold run-off water and provide unique micro-climates suitable for a wider variety of plant material ... and animal life. Mounding can screen a parking lot and at the same time add interest by increasing the height of the landscape. Locating structures on a site is best done with an in depth understanding of how the land lays. The list goes on and on.



Let us help you make the most of your land ... after all we are “Land Architects”.

“Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”
— Albert Einstein

FAVORITE FLORA: CHILOPSIS LINEARIS - DESERT WILLOW



The Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) is a deciduous tree that will grow up to 25 feet tall and wide. Its best quality would have to be its profuse flowering habits in the warmer months. From spring through fall, with the peak May through June, the Desert Willow produces a colorful display of white, burgundy or pink flowers depending on the cultivar. These tubular shaped flowers are very fragrant and can attract hummingbirds as well as large bees, which are its main pollinator. Ultimately these flowers give way to long slender seed pods containing numerous seeds. *Chilopsis linearis* can be found in dry washes throughout the southwestern United States and Mexico, its native habitat. This small tree loves full sun locations and is

tolerant of extreme heat as well as temperatures down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Although it has no relation to true Willows, it does bear the Willow name due to the shape of its long leaves.

In the landscape, the Desert Willow can fill a variety of roles. Its small size makes it ideal for residential or smaller settings even though it can be used as an accent among larger trees. The tree tends to be multi-trunked but can be trained into a single trunk and an early age if desired. The Desert Willow is extremely drought tolerant although more frequent watering will speed the tree’s growth significantly. The flowering aspect of this tree makes it an ideal focal point or accent in the landscape. Its low branching characteristics also make it a suitable tree for an informal screen. Plant this tree among desert or tropical species downwind of pathways, windows or patios to take advantage of its wonderful fragrance when in bloom.

Photo of the Month
Bridal Veil Falls
Provo, UT
Stan Southwick

