## Elements and Principles of Landscape Gardening

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Lines

- Line may be placed at the junction of two materials such as a border of water and land for grass and walkway.
- It is used to create as control pattern of movement and attention.
- Straight lines denote formality quality and solid structure.
- Curved or zigzag lines are less passive encourage slower movement and are common in informal gardens.
Colour and tone

- It brings the world to the life.
- It creates variety of responses.
- It creates depth (blue colour) or nearness (red colour).
- It gives feeling of warmness or coolness.
Habit and form

- Straight growing plants take the eye vertically.
- Horizontally growing plants pulls down the eye and are good for planting in small compounds, depicts close intimacy between the plants and earth.
- Columnar canopy shaped plants takes the eye vertically while globular plants takes the eye horizontally.
Texture

- It is defined as the representation of the structure of the surface of leaves and bark, and is determined visually.
Types of texture

- Fine
- Medium
- Coarse
• Light
  • Day- Morning, Evening, Night
• Space or Volume
• Mobility
  • Deciduous, Semi-deciduous and Evergreen
  • Running water
• Styles
  • Formal
  • Informal
  • Free
  • Wild
Principles
Simplicity

- The landscape designer must develop simplicity in the design, to provide a restful setting for the outdoor living in the property area. Simplicity in design is achieved through several ways:
- Repetition of same species for similar form (silhouette), habit or colour and construction material.
- Smooth flowing of silhouette or grouping of plants.
- Avoid too many species in a small place.
Unity or harmony

- It is an overall effect of various features, styles and colours of total scene. The unity in design is achieved by several ways:
- In simplest form, unity is expressed by the repetition of identical elements.
- Plants in the landscape should be limited in kind and variety in order to produce an unified effect as too many divergent shapes, textures or colours generate confusion, thus we can say that unity is achieved through various ways:
- First, the unity of style, feeling and function between the house and the garden.
- Second, the different components of the gardens should merge harmoniously with each other.
- Third, to achieve some harmony between the landscape and the garden, so that train creepers on the porch to bring home close to the nature.
Balance

- Balance influences the eye movement as lines and shapes have visual weight or visual magnetism.
- Equal weights can be balanced only when placed equidistantly from the centre.
- If the weights are unequal, the heavier must move towards the centre for making balance.
- **Symmetrical or formal balance** is achieved when identical elements are positioned equidistantly from the central axis. In making the balance with the plants, their form, colour and texture are kept in view.
- **Asymmetrical or informal balance** creates the same amount of interest on both sides of the outdoor room, but does not create an exact duplication of elements. A tree on one side is balanced by planting a group of shrubs on the other side.
Proportion

- is concerned with the size relationship of the features of the landscape. It is the relation of one thing with the other in magnitude. The space allotted for different features should be in right proportion as under:
  - Lawn (25-30%)
  - Paths (20%)
  - Herbaceous borders (20%)
  - Shrubbery (15-20%)
  - Trees (15%)
  - Buildings (35-40%)
  - In stairs the tread and riser should be in right proportion for indoor and outdoor rooms.
  - Other features should be in right proportion.
Accent or focalization

- The feature which first attracts the eyes is known as accent or focal point or focalization. That feature may draw attention through its form (shape), habit, colour, size, texture, sound, motion, etc. The hidden focal point is called as vista. This may be created through a specimen plant, flowers, statues or fountains.
Rhythm

- Rhythm is an easy connected path along which the eye will travel in any direction from one point to another without disturbance. The important examples of rhythm are:
  - The action of a dancer in case of Punjabi folk dance in which the eye travels from one dancer to another without disturbance.
  - When a stone is thrown in a water tank, the waves are seen in rhythmic action.
  - The beat of marshal music.
How rhythm is created in a design?

The rhythm is created through three ways as under:

- Through repetition of shapes
- Through progression of sizes
- Through continuous line movement
Through repetition of shapes

- When a shape is regularly repeated at proper interval, a movement is created which carry the eye from one point to another in such a way that one is unconscious about the separate units. Rhythmic advancement makes it possible for the eye to pass it from entire length of space as follows:
  - Rose garden
  - Mountain in the lake
  - Formal avenue planting
Through progression of sizes

- The sequence in the contour either in ascending or descending order and the eye is carried forward along the easy route by this way without disturbance. There is more enjoyment in the garden when larger objects are involved in progression of sizes. The important examples are:
  - Arrangement of landscape sceneries in the room through progression of sizes.
  - Stones placed along the pool or well in descending order.
  - Same forms of the plants in progression of sizes in the garden.
Through continuous line movement

- The rhythm is to be found in the continuous movement of a line, while the undulating lines are moving parallel in the flowing water in canal or river.