

Landscape Design Accessories - By Donald Armstrong, R.L.A.

1. Accessories: Man-made elements that enrich and articulate outdoor spaces.
 - a. Planters, sculpture, water features, furniture, gazebos, pergolas, bird baths, signs, light fixtures, etc.
 - b. Through planning and design, you can eliminate a sense of clutter and provide a sense of unity.
 - c. Balance and harmony are achieved with proper selection and placement of landscape accessories.
2. Accessory: an object not essential in itself, but adding to the beauty, convenience or effectiveness of something else.
 - a. It should not compete with the total design.
 - b. Should be an integrated part of the whole design.
3. Purpose of an accessory:
 - a. Aesthetic like sculpture.
 - b. Functional like furniture, shade, shelter
 - c. Combination: Pergola give shelter, defines space, creates human scale, gives shade.
4. Necessary?
 - a. What is its purpose?
 - b. Will it be interesting and beautiful?
 - c. Will it fit into or relate to the overall design?
5. Selection and Design
 - a. It can be bought or custom-made.
 - b. Beware of the quantity of decorations that are in poor taste.
 - c. Will it relate to the other elements?
 - d. Will it compliment the surroundings?
 - e. Is it comfortable?
 - f. Is it durable?
 - g. What is the maintenance plan?

6. Placement

- a. It will appear to be a part of a unified design, not an afterthought.
- b. Functional elements should be located where they can be used.
 - i. Bench
 - ii. Trash can
 - iii. Drinking fountain
 - iv. Lighting
- c. Consider grouping by their function.
- d. They should not interfere with traffic.
- e. Consider shadows.

7. Sculpture

- a. Focal point
- b. Embellish an area
- c. Can be purchased or commissioned for the area
- d. Must be in scale with its surroundings.
- e. Consider viewing angles.
- f. The background should be simple.
- g. Elevation on a pedestal can evoke a sense of awe.

8. Outdoor Furniture

- a. Creates interest
- b. Provides comfort and convenience
- c. Should be appropriate size, scale and style.
- d. Raised planters and low walls can be seating.

9. Water Features

- a. Can be calm, reflective, gurgling, trickling, or turbulent.
- b. Each effect produces a different mood.
- c. Water attracts people, so the edge is very important.
- d. Maintenance is an important consideration.

10. Accessories should not compete with each other.