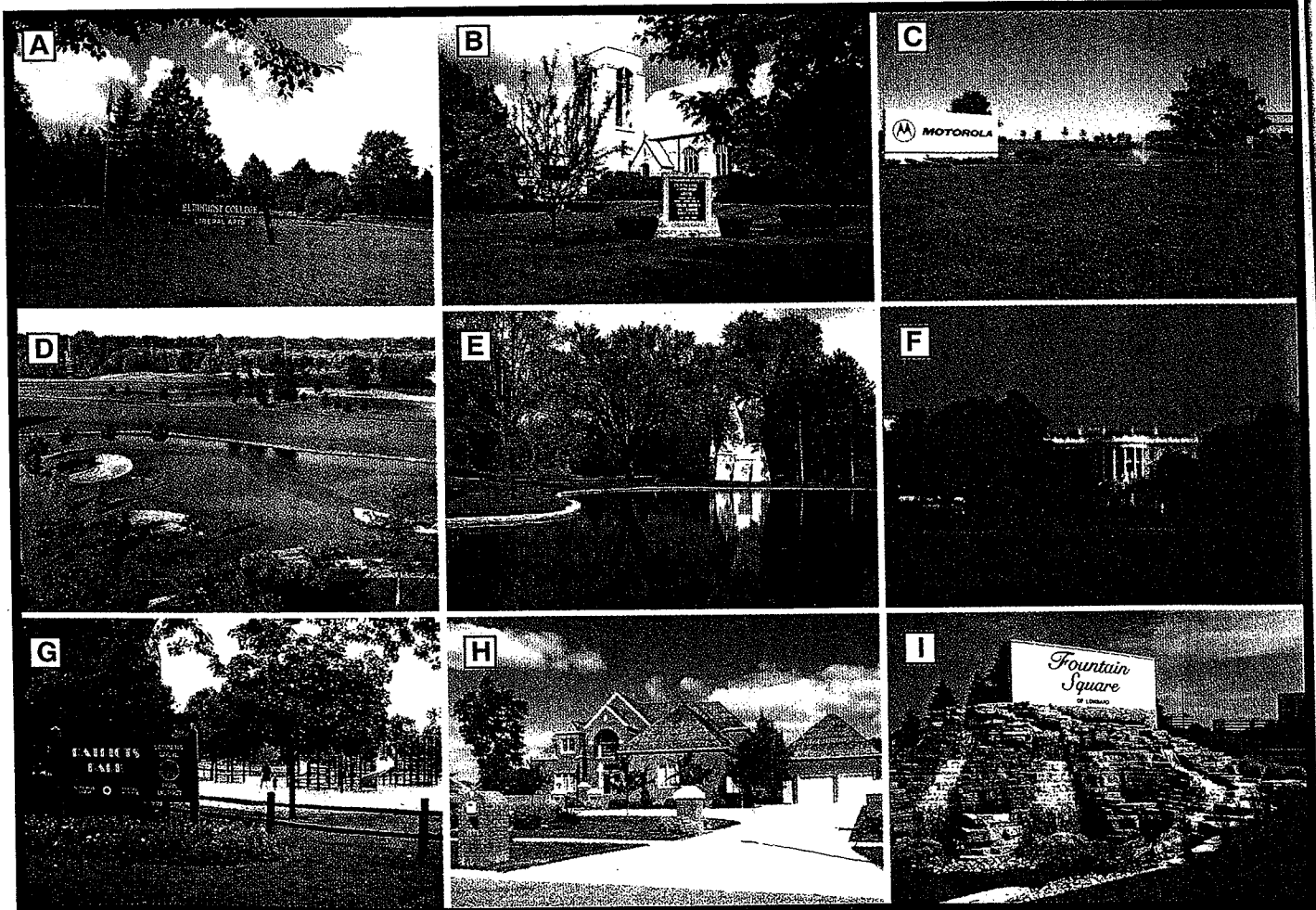


LANDSCAPING

Landscaping is a part of the ornamental horticulture industry. The **ornamental horticulture** industry uses plants and other materials for decorative purposes. Ornamental horticulture combines the principles of art with the science of growing plants. In addition to landscaping, ornamental horticulture claims the areas of floral design, greenhouse management, and nursery management. Sometimes the ornamental horticulture industry is referred to as the **"green industry"** because of the use of green plants.

TIP:

According to realtors and appraisers, a beautifully landscaped house sells faster and for more money than its neighbors.



1-2. Landscaping surrounds us in the United States. (a.) schools and universities, (b.) churches, (c.) corporate offices, (d.) golf courses, (e.) cemeteries, (f.) government buildings, (g.) parks, (h.) residential housing, (i.) shopping malls.

LANDSCAPING DEFINED

Landscaping is the segment of the green industry that focuses on the beautification of outdoor terrain and, to some extent, interior settings. Landscaping usually begins with the sculpting of the soil and natural lay of the land. Landscaping involves the planting of ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers (including grasses), perennial flowers, annual flowers, and bulbs. Landscaping involves physical features or **hardscape**. Hardscape includes fences, terraces, retaining walls, patios, walks, drives, irrigation systems, lighting, and water features.

Achieving an attractive landscape requires planning, proper construction techniques, and regular maintenance. It is not an easy task. Landscape professionals are challenged with every job. Landscaping is actually a practical application of problem solving. The challenge is for the landscape professional to determine the best method to beautify a piece of land.

Professional landscapers must consider many factors during the work on a landscape job. Some factors that influence landscapes are the terrain; the climate; the houses, buildings, and other physical structures; the intended use of the property; and the client's wants. The challenge for the landscaper is to allow for all the factors while developing a landscape that is both attractive and functional. The challenge created with the landscape process can often become quite complex.



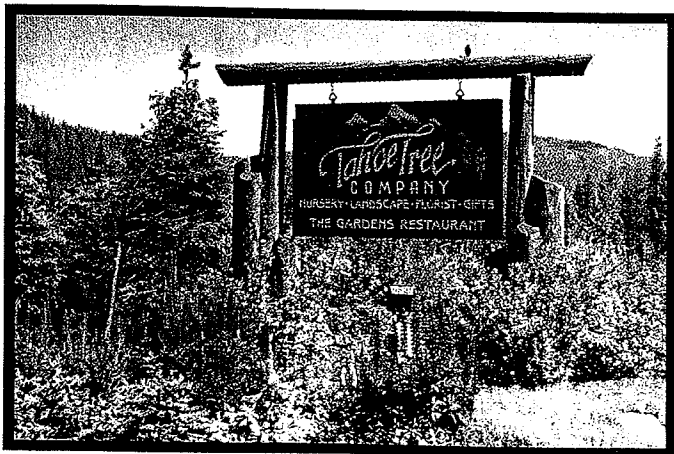
1-3. This series of photos show the house, the landscape plan, and a scene from the completed landscape. (Courtesy, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association)



1-4. Hardscape involves physical elements such as stone walls. (Courtesy, Church Landscape)



1-5. Landscaping involves problem solving. (Courtesy, Church Landscape)



1-6. This company has a landscape division along with a nursery, garden center, florist, and restaurant.

Landscaping Is Profitable

In the United States, nearly all developed areas are landscaped to some extent. The rewards for those in the landscape industry can be great. A 1995 Gallup poll found that in 1994 approximately 40.4 billion dollars were spent in the United States on landscape and gardening products. During that same period, 17.6 million households spent 13.4 billion dollars on professional landscape and lawn services. The 1994 totals show a 900 million-dollar increase over 1993 figures. Also, 35 percent of the landscape contractors recorded more than 500,000 dollars in gross receipts. Clearly, people value attractive landscaping, and there are productive career opportunities in the landscape industry.

This book will focus primarily on the design of residential landscapes and the three major segments of landscaping. The first segment, landscape design, deals with the planning of a landscape project. Once a design is prepared, work can begin on the second segment, installation or construction of the project. The third aspect involves the maintenance of the landscape so it will continue to be attractive over a long period.

LANDSCAPE BENEFITS

What are the benefits from well-landscaped residential properties? The obvious benefit is enjoyment given to the homeowner. Attractive or aesthetic views are pleasing. The beauty of a landscape is sometimes referred to as **aesthetic value**. Plants in the

landscape convey warmth, protection, and comfort. Landscapes designed with function in mind also lend themselves well to many activities. You might enjoy using the landscape for volleyball, entertainment at a cookout, or for growing fresh vegetables.

The time and money put into establishing a nice landscape pay dividends when selling a house. A study by Weyerhaeuser Nursery Products Division estimated that landscaping can add as much as 15 percent to the resale value of a home. The landscape provides the first impression prospective buyers have of a home. Attractive landscapes draw buyers out of their cars and into the house. According to realtors and appraisers, a beautifully landscaped house sells faster and for more money than its neighbors.

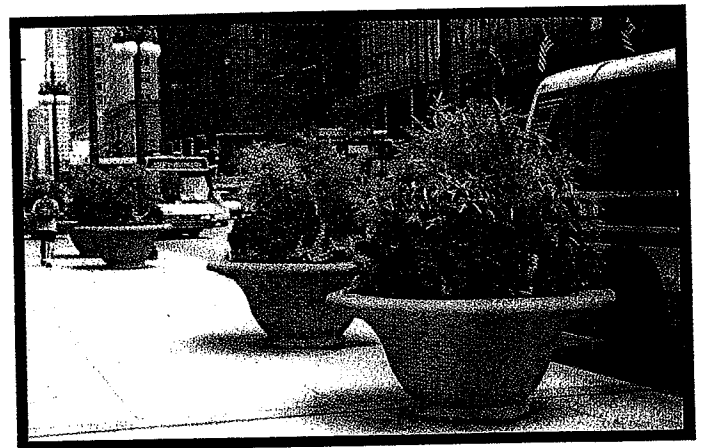
Landscape plants are good for the environment. The photosynthetic process in a leaf uses carbon dioxide and releases oxygen. Studies have shown that a 2,500 square foot area of turf releases enough oxygen for a family of four. Plants and soil organisms also scrub the air of pollutants, such as ammonia, benzene, toluene, trichloroethylene, and xylene.

Landscape trees play a major role in cooling the air. Shaded areas are naturally cooler than those in the direct sun. Well-placed trees cut cooling costs up to 20 percent. Carefully located landscape plantings also cut winter heating costs.

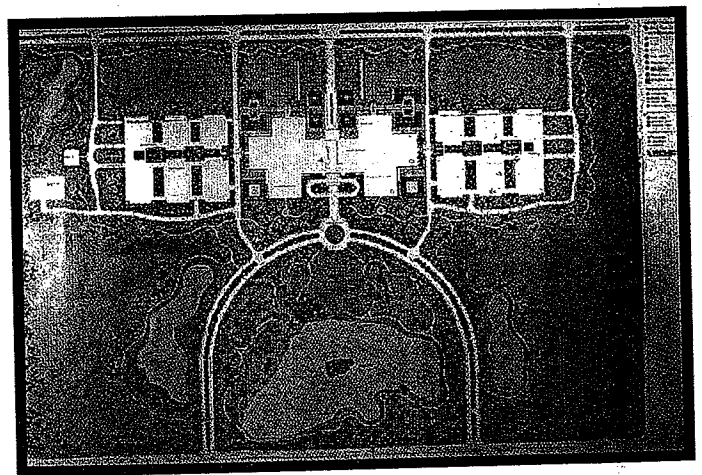
Well-landscaped properties reduce noise pollution. Noise from busy streets, railroad activity, and other sources is absorbed or deflected by landscape materials. The same barriers help to screen unwanted views and provide privacy.



1-7. Landscaping can add as much as 15 percent to the value of a home.



1-8. These planters in Chicago reduce pollutants in the air, reduce noise from the traffic, and provide a pleasant view.



1-9. Design is one segment of landscaping. (Courtesy, Joe Karr & Associates)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

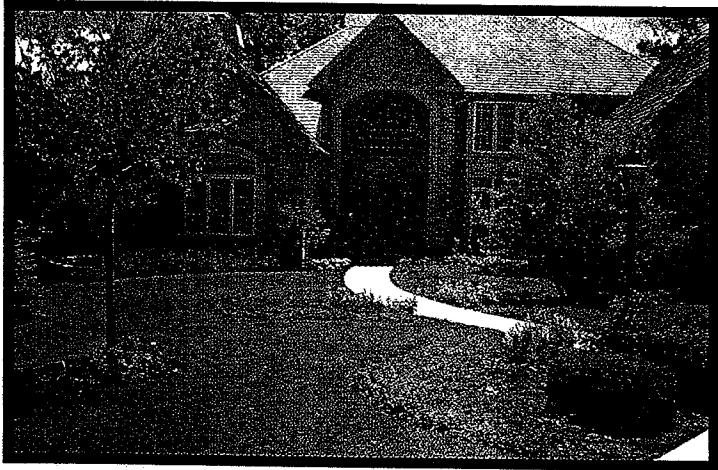
TIP: Attractive landscapes are achieved through good planning, proper construction techniques, and regular maintenance.

A well thought-out plan simplifies problems confronted by landscapers. A good analogy to a landscape plan is the use of a road map on a cross-country trip. On such a trip, you would refer to a map as you traveled on roads you had not traveled on before. The road map gives you direction and removes guess work from your travel decisions. Landscape

planning removes guesswork, too. Carefully planned projects are more likely to be attractive and functional than those with poor planning.

Landscape design is the practice of creating a plan to make the best use of available space in the most attractive way. Consideration is given to the relationships between the land, buildings, plants, and people. Professional designers have two main purposes in mind when designing landscape plans for a home or a building:

1. Show off the home or building to its best advantage.
2. Create both an attractive and useful setting for the inhabitants.



1-10. The landscape should show off the home to its best advantage. (Courtesy, Western DuPage Landscaping, Inc.)



1-11 Landscape design is the practice of creating a plan to make the best use of available space in the most attractive way. (Courtesy, R.S. Hursthouse & Associates, Inc.)

QUALIFIED DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

People trained in the area of landscape design fall into one of two categories. The two professional titles are landscape architect and landscape designer. It is sometimes confusing to determine

the difference between landscape architects and landscape designers. In general, landscape architects are educated to work on large scale projects, whereas, most landscape designers received education enabling them to develop plans for residential landscapes.

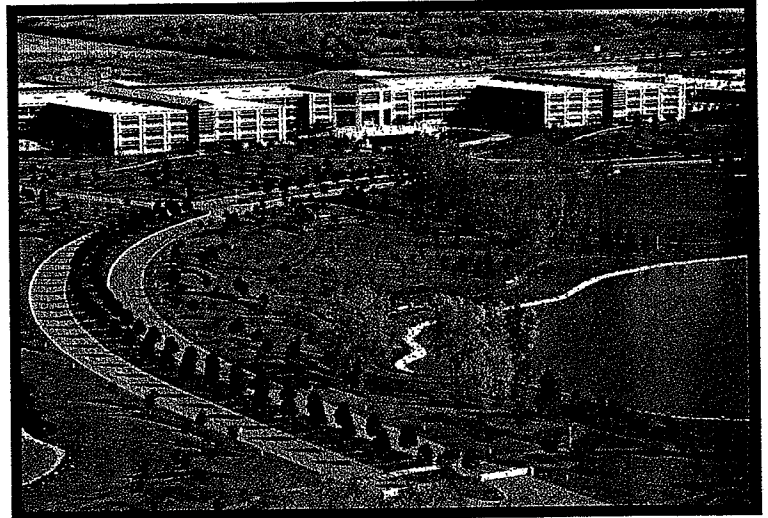
Landscape Architect

Landscape architects are trained in engineering, graphic arts, and architectural technology. They are skilled in designing functional plans based on the interrelationship of people and their surroundings. They use their creative talents to design projects ranging from small gardens to entire cities. The vast majority of their work involves large-scale projects, such as parks, golf courses, community planning, and large corporate complexes. Some landscape architects find employment designing plans for residential homes.

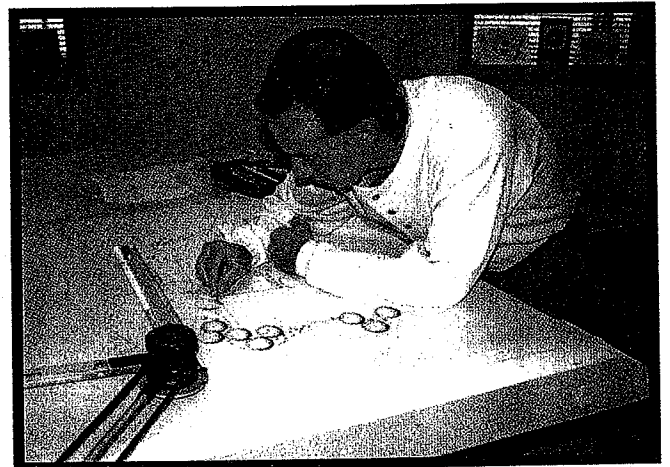
Most states require landscape architects to be licensed before they can practice. Formal training for landscape architects is the first step. Those interested in landscape architecture study for a degree in landscape architecture from an accredited college or university. Upon graduation, they gain experience as an apprentice for a professional architect. Finally, the landscape architect must pass a state licensing examination. For most landscape architects, education does not end. Many seek further degrees to improve their skills.

Landscape Designer

Landscape designers are trained in the art of design and the science of growing horticultural plants. Landscape designers work primarily with residential home designs and small commercial sites. They are often employed by landscaping companies or by garden centers and nurseries that offer landscape installation services. A knowledge of plant identification, cultural requirements for plants,



1-12. Landscape architects are skilled with large-scale projects. (Courtesy, Church Landscape)



1-13. Landscape designers are trained in the art of design and the science of growing horticultural plants.

construction practices, and the principles of design are required to be a successful designer. Landscape designers must also develop their personal skills. They must effectively communicate with the client about the landscape plan and with construction crews to see that the job is installed as designed.

Formal education beyond high school is needed for landscape designers. Some landscape designers gain their education through an associate's degree from a community college. Others earn a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from a four-year college or university. Further education is helpful.

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

Once a design has been drawn for a landscape project, work can begin on construction. **Landscape construction** is the segment of landscaping that involves the installation of materials identified in the landscape design. Construction projects range from being very simple, such as planting a tree, to very elaborate. Large projects may involve moving soil, installing drainage systems, building permanent structures, such as walls, walks and drives, and planting numerous plants.

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

The construction of the project is performed by a **landscape contractor**. Landscape contractors are hired to install the landscape. Their job is to transfer the design provided on

1-15. Landscape construction is the segment of landscaping that involves the installation of materials identified in the landscape design.





1-16. Installation of plant materials is a major aspect of landscaping. (Courtesy, Church Landscape)

paper to the actual landscape. Therefore, landscape contractors must be able to read and understand the landscape plans.

The landscape designer and the contractor may work for the same company. Sometimes, the contractor hires a designer. Sometimes, the contractor is trained in landscape design. The important thing is that the contractor fully understands what the designer has intended with a design. It is equally important that the contractor communicate with the designer when part of the plan simply will not work. A good working arrangement eliminates many problems during the installation.

There are many aspects to the landscape contractor's job. Like any business, landscape contractors advertise their work and try to build a professional image with the public. They develop business contracts with clients. Contractors may be responsible for obtaining building permits, and they must install projects in accordance with municipal codes. Contractors ensure that the materials called for in the landscape plan are ordered and that the necessary equipment is available and in working order. Landscape contractors must also hire qualified workers to do the physical installation.

Landscape contractors learn the profession while on the job and through school. It is common for an individual to start in this field as a crew member. As a crew member, they gain practical experience. They can also improve their understanding of plant care, plant identification, business skills, construction practices, and landscape design through formal education at a community college or university. Additional training programs for landscape professionals are available through state and national landscape associations.

TIP:

Good work habits involve job productivity and citizenship.

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1-17. The landscape supervisor provides leadership to the crew. (Courtesy, Church Landscape)

LANDSCAPE SUPERVISOR

Landscape workers are usually organized in groups or crews. A **landscape supervisor** or crew chief has responsibility for the crew. The landscape supervisor provides leadership. This individual assigns tasks to the workers and usually works alongside them. Teamwork among the workers is extremely important. Working well with one another improves the quality of work as well as the speed in which it takes to complete a job.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Landscape maintenance is the care and upkeep of the landscape materials after installation. Landscape maintenance includes tasks, such as mowing grass, fertilizing landscape plants, pruning landscape plants, applying pest controls, planting and weeding flower beds, removing leaves in the fall, cultivating soil, and applying mulch to landscape planting beds. The goal of a good landscape maintenance program is to keep the landscape as attractive and functional as intended in the original landscape design.



1-18. Landscape maintenance is the care and upkeep of the landscape materials after installation.

Most landscape companies focus on either construction or maintenance. There are several reasons for this. The specialized equipment required for each type of work differs. The workers are trained to do specific types of work and are familiar with certain equipment. Also, the types of projects performed call for different scheduling of workers. Some landscape companies do both construction and maintenance. However, those companies usually have some landscape crews assigned to construction and others to maintenance.



1-19. Maintenance involves weed control in planting beds.



1-20 . These employees demonstrate teamwork in the construction of a patio.

Landscape maintenance involves all types of landscape projects. A large portion of contracted landscape maintenance work is performed on large landscapes surrounding commercial office buildings, apartment buildings, townhouse associations, condominiums, etc. Most homeowners rely on professionals to do the more difficult installation and then maintain the landscape themselves. Other homeowners hire landscape professionals to attend to the upkeep of their landscape. Golf courses and large gardens requiring constant maintenance often employ workers year round.

WORKPLACE EXPECTATIONS

People who work for others are expected to have certain workplace skills. The skills go beyond technical skills such as how to plant a tree, design a landscape, or operate equipment. Employers look for common work habits in all their employees whether they are a designer, a foreman, or landscape maintenance technician. Good work habits involve job productivity and citizenship. Employers want employees who:

- Arrive to work on time everyday
- Dress appropriately for the job
- Stay on task