

landscape architecture experience guide

The first step to creating your outdoor oasis



Incredible landscapes don't happen on their own. They result from careful planning and an "eagle eye" toward the details. Speaking of eagles, incredible landscapes also protect the natural habitat so that we humans can coexist with nature and have all the great amenities that make the warmer weather worth waiting for. This guide will help take the mystery out of what it's like to work with a landscape architect and why working with one will make time outside even more enjoyable.

We take your outdoor space from blasé to exhilarating.

why hire a landscape architect?

There are many reasons. Here are our top four.

Expertise and Creativity

We are trained and licensed professionals with the knowledge and expertise to design functional and beautiful outdoor spaces. That expertise comes from annual continuing education and lots of project experience. The details transform a ho-hum outdoor space into a wow space; a landscape architect is your key to unearthing them.

Planning and Coordination

Landscape architects have experience planning and coordinating all aspects of landscape design: from site analysis and schematic design, to construction documents and project management. We create a comprehensive plan for your outdoor space, including everything from planting design, to hardscaping, lighting, and more.

We ensure that all elements of the design work together for maximum effect. We handle all the communication between allied design professionals and municipal agencies.

Environmental Consciousness

Landscape architects are trained to create ecologically sensitive landscapes that promote biodiversity. Strategies we frequently use include: incorporating green building materials, implementing effective stormwater management practices, installing energy-efficient lighting and water-saving irrigation systems, and specifying native plants in your landscape design.

Increase Property Value

A well-designed outdoor space increases the value of your property. We can help you make informed decisions about which landscape features will provide the greatest return on investment.



It's more than just plants.

We love plants (and impressing people at outdoor cocktail parties with our knowledge of their Latin names). We also love marble, bluestone, pools, decks, pergolas, and all the technical stuff that keeps water from invading your basement. When we design an outdoor space, we look at everything: from the circulation of cars and people on-site to the recreational elements that drive your lifestyle.



When to involve a landscape architect.

You should involve a landscape architect whenever you want to up your outdoor game.

If you're building a new house, adding an addition, or ready for that pool house you always wanted, it's best to include us as early in the process as possible. We will work with your architect to help site the house and/or outbuildings in the optimal place to create synergy for the entire property.



Landscape Architects vs. Landscape Contractor

If you are looking for a bespoke design where details matter, choose a landscape architect. Landscape architects are licensed professionals with a degree in landscape architecture, who have satisfied the apprenticeship requirement under a landscape architect to learn the craft, and have passed a state-sponsored licensing exam. Plus, we are required to keep up with annual Continuing Education classes that keep us at the leading edge of new methodologies and trends.

By contrast, landscape contractors or design-build firms do not have to have licensed professionals on staff. In fact, they are not permitted to. They might get you a set of drawings faster with a lower design fee, but you get whatever the contractor you are working with is familiar with designing. That means your outdoor space will look like everyone else's in the neighborhood. Oh, and those low design fees often lead to high construction costs because you can't take the design and get competitive bids from other contractors like you can with us.

Did you know landscape architects must take an oath to put the "health, safety, and welfare" of our clients first? That primary objective protects you throughout the entire process, from the first pencil on the page to the last blade of grass. We ensure your project's design best meets your unique needs, as opposed to steering it towards in-house construction services.

Understanding your vision

This stage is all about getting to know you. We will ask lots of questions and ensure we know exactly what you envision for your outdoor space.



Investigating your site

Before we can begin designing, we need to do our research, including understanding any zoning restrictions on your property and investigating the existing site conditions.



Construction Drawings

Once you choose a Schematic Design to move forward with, we'll start finalizing all the details that make it unique. The final product in this stage is a set of construction drawings that allow us to help you get competitive bids from contractors and are used to get necessary permits.



Agreeing to work together

This is when our formal work together starts. We'll send you a proposal and contract outlining our services, expected deliverables, and fees.



Schematic Design

This is the fun part! In this stage, we'll start sketching our ideas for your property. You will begin seeing your outdoor oasis take shape through sketches, precedent imagery, and early site plans.



Construction Administration

We competitively bid the Construction Drawings, and provide cost transparency throughout the life of the project. By engaging your landscape architect to oversee construction, you get peace of mind that what we design, including all the unique details, makes it off the paper and into the ground.



frequently asked questions

Here are some of the more common questions we get asked. Head over to [our website](#) for more.

Do you charge for on-site consultations?

Our process starts with an online questionnaire and a follow-up conversation to understand your goals for your project. Afterward, we will give you a ballpark estimate for our design fees. If that investment is acceptable, we will schedule a no-charge site consultation.

What types of projects do you work on?

Over 17 years in business, we have found that we add the most value to projects with significant scope and complexity. Our specialty is landscape architecture for new home construction and complete backyard makeovers, including pool environments, outdoor kitchens, fire lounges, storm water management, plantings, and lighting. We enjoy turning challenging or ho-hum sites into incredible outdoor environments.

How long does the design process last?

6-8 weeks, depending on how many design professionals we need to coordinate with (architects, civil engineers, etc.) and your availability to collaborate on decisions.



about bayview

Our tight-knit team is dedicated to improving outdoor enjoyment through landscape architecture. Our designers spend time to truly listen to and understand our client's goals and aspirations so that we can make sure every design detail enhances the whole.

We create unique and award-winning outdoor environments that add value to people's lives without losing sight of our responsibility as stewards of the land.



Successful design is a collaboration
between a client with dreams and
a landscape architect with vision.