

encourage designers to make connections between experience and design. The spatial and physical ideas in the book are based on my experience of teaching landscape architecture and my own experiences of landscape: moving through it, stopping, looking, feeling, touching, talking, eating, sheltering, remembering. They are also strongly informed by a wide range of design theorists and writers concerned with human experience and the use of places. The bibliography and further reading sections at the end of the book identify some primary influences.

A visual approach to design

Landscape architects learn to design primarily through visual–spatial information. This is therefore a visual manual. It explores conceptual and physical dimensions of landscapes and design through drawings. It does not describe or define a design process. Instead it provides an annotated visual narrative and structure through which landscapes can be interpreted, understood and conceived in design. The value of the drawings comes also from their ability to describe image making which is (still) useful in landscape architectural practice (in addition to other visual media, including digital images). Handwritten annotations add layers of meaning to the drawings, frequently articulating activities and feelings associated with the landscape forms illustrated. This is intended to reinforce the concept of experiential landscape architecture.

Landscape elements and the morphology

The landscape elements of 'landform' or 'topography', 'vegetation', 'water' and 'structures' are conceived and illustrated as being the primary physical material with which designers create landscape form and fabric. Each of the morphological sections incorporates examples of how these elements create landscape forms. While in design the subtle integration of topography, vegetation, water and structures is paramount, they have been artificially separated to enable exploration of their design potential.

Using this book

Primary uses

The book can be used in several different ways. Its main uses are:

- to provide a conceptual framework (the seven-part morphology) for understanding the experience, use and structure of landscapes for design
- as a reference book for design considerations relevant to the creation and integration of spaces, paths, edges, thresholds, foci and detail
- to provide examples and sources of inspiration for ways in which the elements of topography, vegetation, structures and water may be used in design.