

DRAW

Designing a landscape involves a lot of drawing to figure out how its parts will fit together on a site. It begins with simple sketches. Then the landscape architect begins to draw the site in detail, relying on measurements and other information about what is already on the site, which may be trees, streets, buildings, or utility lines. Most drawing eventually takes place on a computer, which helps the landscape architect precisely draw the kinds of plants that will be included, where pathways will go, and what kinds of construction materials will be used. These computer drawings are used by the builders, who put the pieces together to make the design become real.

COLLABORATE

Landscape architects work with a variety of other experts: horticulturists, ecologists, biologists, architects, engineers, city planners, construction managers, geologists, agronomists (soil scientists), hydrologists (water scientists), archaeologists, foresters, and marine scientists. They also work with people who live in the communities where they are designing landscapes, as well as their elected representatives, to build agreement about what a landscape should become.

DESIGN

For landscape architects, design is the job of creating a landscape to look and work a certain way. Design is much like art, but it also involves science and technology to make sure that all the parts—soils, plants, construction materials, and even the sun, rain, and wind—work well together to last for years. Landscape architecture involves a lot of STEM knowledge, as it needs a mix of science, math, engineering, and technology to achieve its goals.

MODEL

Landscape architects often build models of the landscape designs they work on. Sometimes these models are physical—they provide a miniature view of how a design will look when the design is completed. Often, the models are made by using a computer program. Computer models can help landscape architects figure out how the sun will shine on a site, what happens if the site were to flood, or where trees should be planted to provide shade. Making models helps answer a lot of questions before construction of a landscape even begins.

DISCOVER

Designing landscapes always involves discovering new things. As a landscape architect, you learn about all the different plants and animals on your site—even rare ones, or those you can see only with a microscope. You discover how water moves across and underneath the site, and whether it is clean or polluted. You discover the history of the site—who has lived there, how the land was used, and how it has changed. You'll study weather patterns and how they shape the land. You may study the site's rock formations or fossils. These discoveries will build your knowledge about how land, nature, and people all interact to shape landscapes over time.



Spontaneous Urban Plants, New York, NY
Future Green Studio