



## BIODIVERSITY

Humans have placed enormous pressure on the world's plants and animals. Many species have gone extinct, and more are in danger of disappearing. At the same time, people over the years have moved many plants and animals around the world, and sometimes these newcomers take over, or become invasive. Landscape architects work to welcome friendly species to landscapes. Examples include pollinator gardens to support native insects, birds, and other animals, and land bridges over highways to let creatures that need lots of room, such as bears, elk, or moose, cross safely.

## MAKING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

Parks, gardens, plazas, whole cities, and wilderness are among the places landscape architects design with people in mind, to bring them together or give them places to spend time alone. Landscape architects make public spaces for people to enjoy the outdoors, to play, to walk or bicycle, or to hike and experience nature. The goal is to make these places in ways that help improve the environment and promote the health of people over time.

## CLEAN WATER

When it rains in cities and suburbs, rainwater may carry pollution from roads to sewers, and it often flows right into our creeks and rivers. Pavement often prevents water from soaking into the ground where it can replenish natural groundwater supplies. Landscape architects work on ways to prevent these problems by providing rain gardens and bioswales where water can soak back underground and filter out pollution by using soil and plants. Designs also may use tanks called cisterns to catch and store rainfall under streets, so it can be pumped back out to water plants.

## ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

The ways we use landscapes have a big effect on global climate change. Many types of development may contribute to climate change and worsen the impact of the extreme storms or droughts it causes. Roads and parking lots, and communities that spread across a lot of land, are all related to our warming climate and contribute to flooding, erosion, and wasting water. They may generate pollution (especially carbon dioxide) and urban heat. Carefully designed landscapes can help counter climate change by adding trees that provide shade, cool the air, and stabilize crumbling riverbanks. They also help conserve natural resources by encouraging people to walk or bicycle rather than drive cars.

## BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS

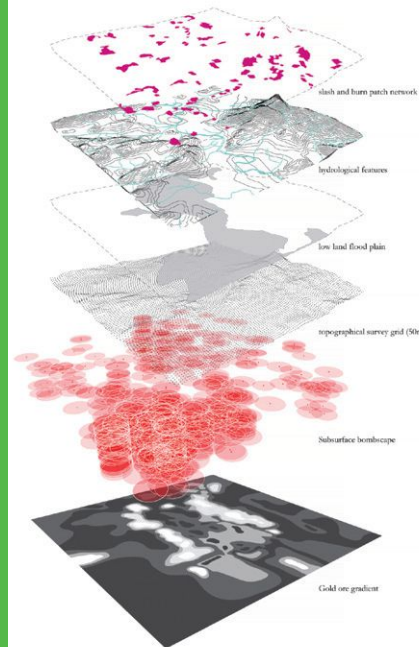
Landscape architects can help make sure that parks, playgrounds, schools, and stores are a pleasant walk from home, that there are plenty of trees, that water is not wasted, and that wildlife is safe.

## BETTER STREETS

Big, blank, or dirty streets can make a person feel isolated and unsafe. Busier streets with trees, sidewalks, restaurants, stores, and lots of people can make us feel more connected and protected. Landscape architects design streets to accommodate all kinds of people—those on foot, on bikes, in wheelchairs, waiting for the bus, and even in cars. Designers of streets usually include healthy trees for shade and beauty, lighting, and even hidden systems that can handle thousands of gallons of rainwater without sending it to the sewers.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Healthy landscapes promote the health of people. They provide places to walk, to sit, to play, to exercise, to explore, and to look at the stars. Landscape architects design these places to be safe and accessible to all people. They also help communities prepare for disasters with designs that reduce flooding during storms.



2012 ASLA Student Award of Excellence  
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