



Foci and spaces

Focal forms often occupy the centre of a space. Centrality is an important theme in landscape architecture and can either be used or questioned. Centrality can suggest unity, self or hierarchy, symmetry and stasis. Off-centre focal forms contribute to a different spatial sense, less hierarchical and more dynamic. Focal forms within spaces draw people into those spaces, but also provide objects on which to rest one's gaze from the edge of a space.

Focal spaces

If providing some distinctive or differentiated form or experience, spaces can act as foci in the landscape. Examples of focal spaces are oases, glades or plateaus.

Foci and edges

Focal forms can be located singly or in groups along edges. For example, light marble sculptures are foci in dark green hedge niches and can be grouped into rhythmic sequences. As single forms on an edge, foci can be places to stop and sit, or may mark a gateway or threshold through to another space. Focal forms such as posts may be arranged to form a permeable edge and may also function as informal seating or waiting places (anchors).