



DRAWING AFTER PHOTOGRAPH "A WELSH GARDEN"
BILL BRANDT c.1940
ECCENTRIC FOCI CONTRAST IN FORM, TEXTURE
+ LIGHT/DARK

Contrast

It is primarily through contrast with its surroundings that a focus is apparent as a distinct form in the landscape. In design, the creation and use of foci may often be as a counterpoint to dominant space characteristics. In this way a flat smooth space may contain a contrasting strongly vertical focus with coarse texture. Alternatively, a smooth, light-coloured 'shelf' becomes a focus on a dark rugged steep hillside. Smooth in rough places; rough in smooth; dark and light; bright and dull; warm and cool – these are all potential contrasting qualities between foci and their context.

Verticality of form

Foci are often strongly vertical forms, which enables them to function as visually dominant landmarks. Vertical forms contrast with the prevailing and relative horizontal nature of many landscapes. Islands are focal as relatively vertical forms within the flat plane of the sea, as are mounds and mounts in flat places (see Foci – Topographic, p. 155). In strongly vertical landscapes such as mountainous places, foci may contrast with forms of flatness or horizontality, or forms of even greater verticality.