UNITY WITH DIVERSITY

"MICROCOSMIC" STONE
GARDEN - TŌKAI - AN, KYOTO

UNITY - •RAKED GRAVEL
•CIRCLE FORM
•TWO MATERIALS

DIVERSITY -
•ROCK FORMS
•JUXTAPOSITION
GRAVEL † ROCK
FORM

Unity with diversity

The principle of unity with diversity in the form and detail of landscape is similar to the Kaplans' 'complexity and coherence', but is worth considering separately as a visual characteristic of designed places. The need for people to make sense of the order of places requires a certain degree of unity of form, elements and detail. Unity can be achieved for example through repetition or use of specific geometry, or through a limited 'palette' of materials. A landscape that is unified but lacks diversity can be considered monotonous. Diversity in landscape architecture refers to difference in form, elements and detail. A diverse landscape that lacks any unifying characteristics may be perceived as chaotic and therefore disorienting and alienating. Depending on the context, landscape architecture will seek to balance unity and diversity within a place or emphasise either characteristic which may be lacking in surrounding landscapes.