



## Ground, 'wall' and 'sky' planes

For design purposes a space can be thought of as an area defined in three dimensions by:

- the ground plane,
- 'wall' or vertical planes,
- the 'sky' plane.

The design of outdoor spaces can be conceived of as a process of manipulating mainly the first two planes and occasionally the third. To think of places as being composed of abstract planes which make three dimensional forms helps the designer to develop spatial awareness and the ability to 'create with space'. Differing somewhat from the planes of most buildings, landscape

planes are often relatively complex, rugged and varied with a great deal of variation in horizontal and vertical surfaces. In topographic design, the ground plane may unobtrusively and subtly merge with a wall plane. 'Wall' planes may consist of vegetation that is coarsely textured and merges from the ground to an overhead 'sky' plane. Consequently, landscape design planes are often fluid, translucent, rich, complex, ambiguous and thick. It is some of these qualities that can make wall planes places in their own right. These are referred to as 'edges' and have a separate section later in this book devoted to exploring their potential in design.