

Vegetation spaces



Vegetation is a primary medium for defining space within landscapes. Planting design is a specialised and 'central' discipline of landscape architecture. Plants can be used and conserved as structural elements to create spaces. In these situations the ornamental properties of plants often play subsidiary roles. Plants can provide enclosure in ground, wall or sky planes and can be combined in an infinite variety of ways.

Trees and shrubs play major vertical spatial roles with herbaceous plants, grasses and bulbs often (but not always, as in the case of tall grasses) used in ground planes and for lower enclosure. Learning to mass and group plants for spatial effects is an important design skill. Treating plants as individual forms is only important when used as foci (see *Vegetation foci*, p. 158) or as accents. As design material, plants provide opportunities for a great deal of diversity in enclosure permeability and form. Time and vegetation management must be considered integral concepts in planting design.