



## Ecological and environmental roles of vegetation

Vegetation is a primary medium of landscape architecture not only for its aesthetic and structural properties and meanings (the focus here), but also for a wide range of environmental reasons. As part of ecosystems, plants form habitats for wildlife and people and contribute to biodiversity, particularly in urban areas. They clean the air and positively influence the climate for human comfort

and health. Being renewable, plants are major 'components' of sustainable living; providing food, building materials, fuel, medicines and chemicals. While this section primarily explores spatial, aesthetic and cultural aspects of plants, it is important to emphasise that their use in design always has environmental implications and potential.