

The Twelve Principles of Design
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- ❖ Enclosure: A garden room defined by borders of various materials such as hedges, walls, and fences.
- ❖ Shape and Form: The contour and three-dimensional qualities of individual plants or groups of plants in the garden, as well as the outline of a garden room itself (order).
- ❖ Framing the View: Directing attention to an object or view by screening out surrounding distractions while creating a visually balanced and organized composition.
- ❖ Entry: A defined point of entrance into a garden enclosure which serves as a prelude to what lies beyond.
- ❖ Focal Point/Punctuation: Positioning an object to draw the eye and to create a feature of attention, sometimes by breaking the monotony of repetitive height, form, texture, or color.
- ❖ Structure: A variety of constructed features within the garden. Structures can add to the sense of enclosure, screen views, and provide a center of visual interest.
- ❖ Color: Orchestrating the color palette in the garden through the selection and arrangement of plants and objects.
- ❖ Texture, Pattern, and Rhythm: Using repeated surface characteristics and recognizable motifs, as well as the cadence created by the spacing of objects as elements of design.
- ❖ Abundance (Massing): An ample to overflowing quality created by the generous use of plants and materials.
- ❖ Whimsy: Elements of lighthearted fancy which, when added to gardens add enjoyment to the outdoor experience and personalize the garden.
- ❖ Mystery: Mystery in a garden uses the unknown, the unseen, and the imagination as elements of design.
- ❖ Time: Various garden styles reflect certain ages of design. Also, the passage of time and the seasons play a role in garden design.

Recommended Reading:

P. Allen Smith's Garden Home by P. Allen Smith, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2003

Residential Landscape Architecture by Norman K. Booth and James E. Hiss, Pearson/Prentiss Hall Publishers, 2005