

Why Choose a Landscape Architect ?

Focused Design Emphasis

A registered landscape architect can help define your needs while offering insights and ideas you may not have considered. They are formally trained in the intricacies involved in designing with living, evolving materials. In addition to traditional planting design, a landscape architect is qualified to provide grading plans, propose storm water management solutions, and perform land-use planning. A landscape architect may even oversee all aspects of your landscape installation to ensure a high quality finished product that reflects your goals.

Landscaping is an Investment

You wouldn't trust your financial portfolio to an amateur. Let's face facts, landscaping is an investment that can run in the tens of thousands of dollars or more. A landscape architect is trained to handle your investment in the most efficient way while meeting your landscape needs. Hiring a talented landscape architect early in the process may actually save you money.

Landscaping is one of the only items in home construction that results in a positive return on investment. A Clemson University study found landscaping can result in more than a 100% return on investment. The report concluded that "Homeowners wanting to increase the value of their property will do well to consider the cost-effective, return potential of quality landscaping, and to safeguard their investments by hiring licensed, professional landscape architects/contractors to perform the work." The return on investment is contingent upon the quality of the landscape installation. In other words, just because you spent \$10,000 on landscape and garden plants doesn't mean you'll get that money back. It's important that you find the right

landscape designer / contractor for your project and use only high-quality materials. One hundred \$10 plants from the big box hardware store doesn't have the same value as twenty \$50 plants purchased at a local garden nursery. Overall, landscapes can add as much as 15% to the value of your home compared to other houses on your street.

Please visit the [American Society of Landscape Architects](#) Residential Design Section for more information on the value of a quality landscape. Strength Through Ethics and Education

A landscape architect, upon being registered, agrees to serve his clients and work only in their best interests. Due to this oath, they are committed to proven construction techniques that uphold the highest standards of health, safety and welfare.

A registered landscape architect is a degreed professional committed to continuing education ensuring that they are familiar with not only the latest trends but also the best design and construction practices.

Highly Trained Professionalism

A landscape architect will be able to provide you with examples of work similar to your project as well as a resume and personal references. In addition, they will be active in professional organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and be active in the betterment of his/her community. This information should provide peace of mind that your job will be handled correctly and in a professional manner.

Landscape improvement is an important and worthwhile investment; you have the right to hire the most qualified professionals to help you plan and implement your goals. Don't hesitate to ask for references and/or examples of past work.