

The Private Realm:

Strategies for creating a cohesive neighborhood landscape

Introduction

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Urban / Landscape Designer at GRAEF

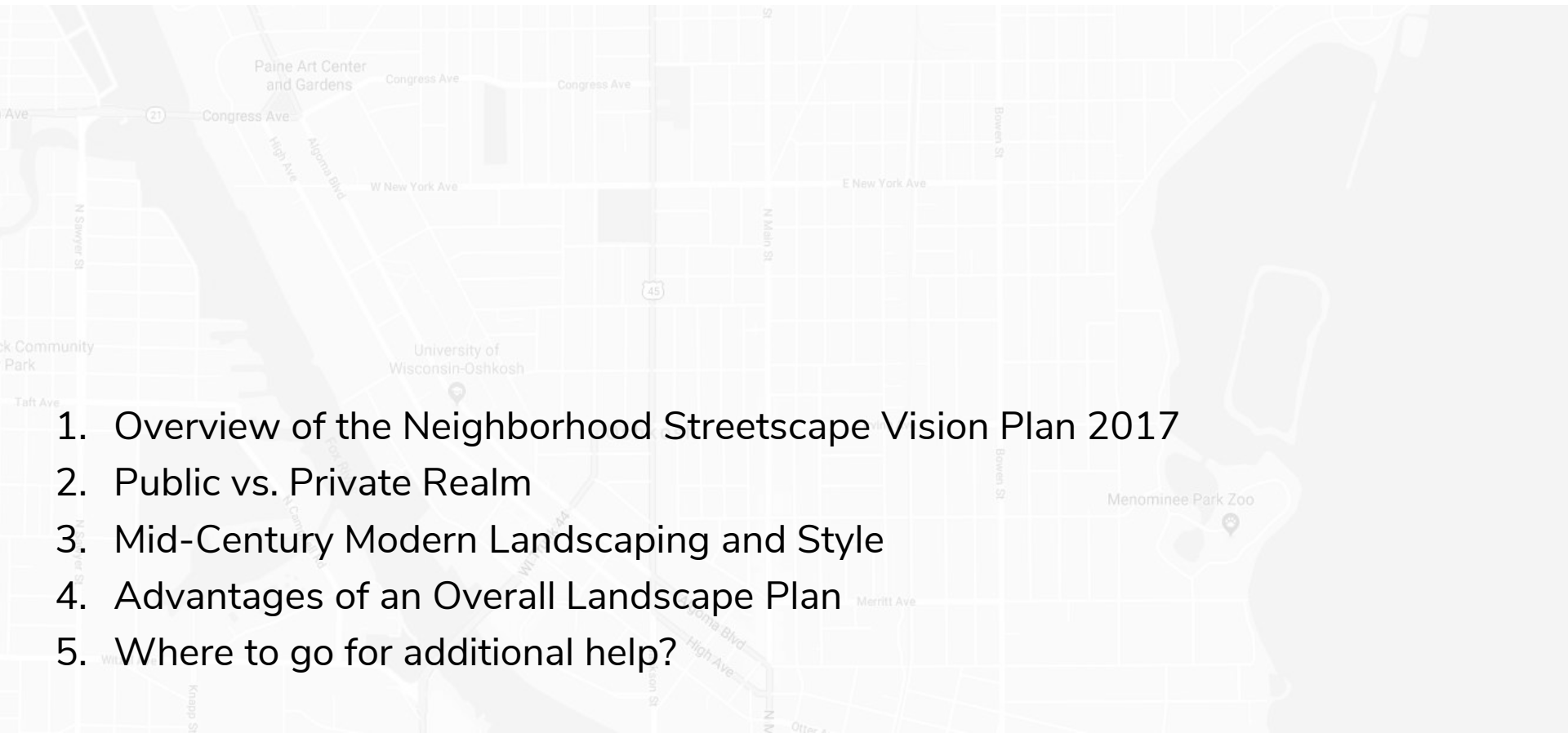
Grew up in Green Bay, WI

Serve as Committee Chair within the WI
Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

Masters of Landscape Architecture
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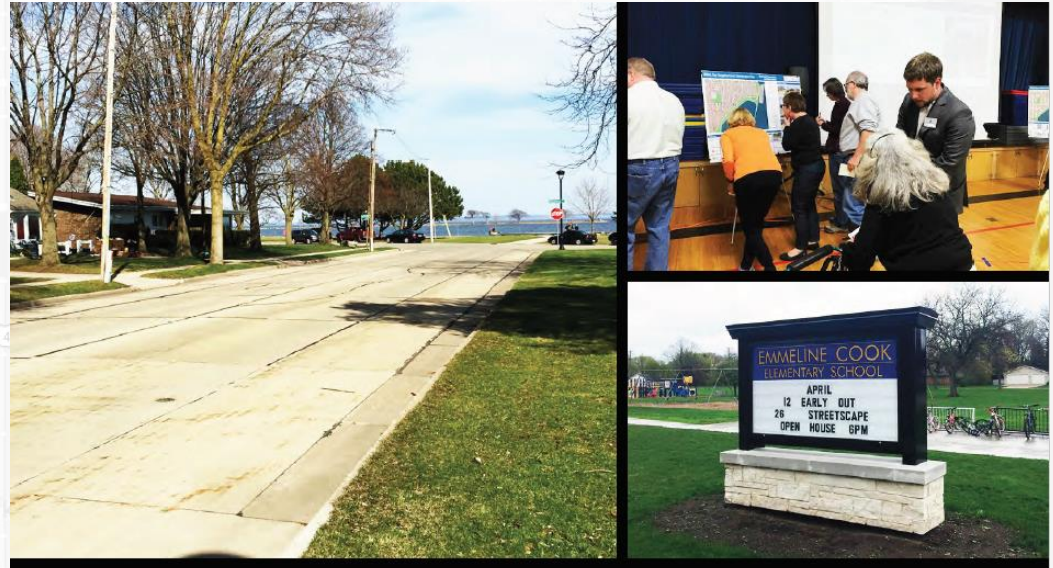


Agenda

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1. Overview of the Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017
 2. Public vs. Private Realm
 3. Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style
 4. Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan
 5. Where to go for additional help?

Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017

- An evaluation and streetscape improvement design guide for the Millers Bay and Northshore Neighborhoods.
- Sought to create a brand that emphasized the Mid-Century Modern architectural style found within the neighborhood homes.
- Completed in October 2017



Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan

October 2017



Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017



Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017

Existing homes found within the Millers Bay neighborhood.

Many are of the Mid-Century modern era of architecture approximately 1933-1965.



This style of architecture creates a unique neighborhood feel that should be emphasized throughout.

Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017

The plan evaluated 5 total intersections within the Neighborhood.

The 5 intersections were strategically chosen as each of them have similar conditions to others within the neighborhood.

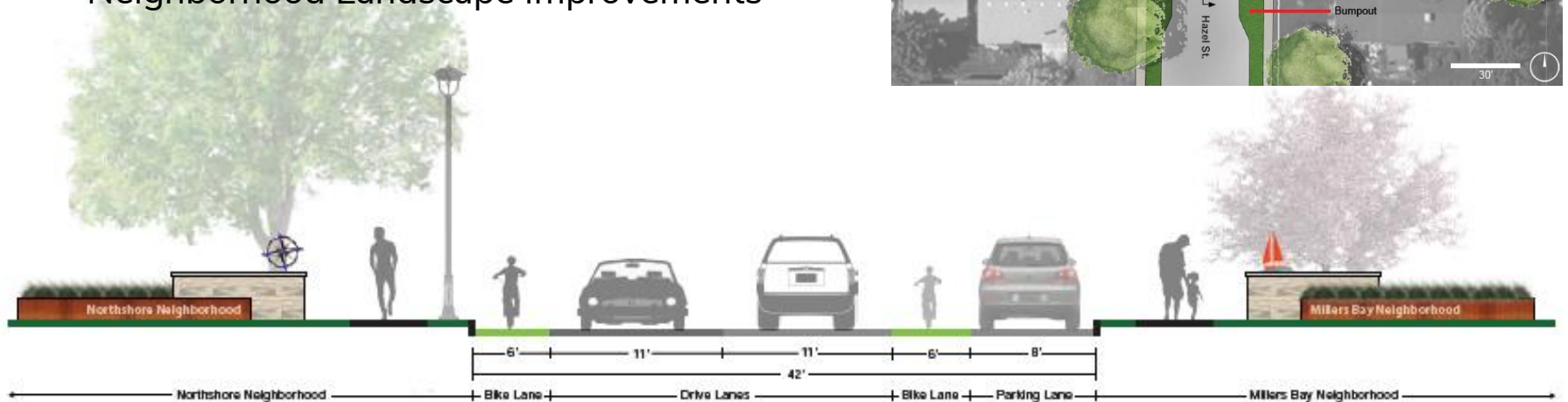
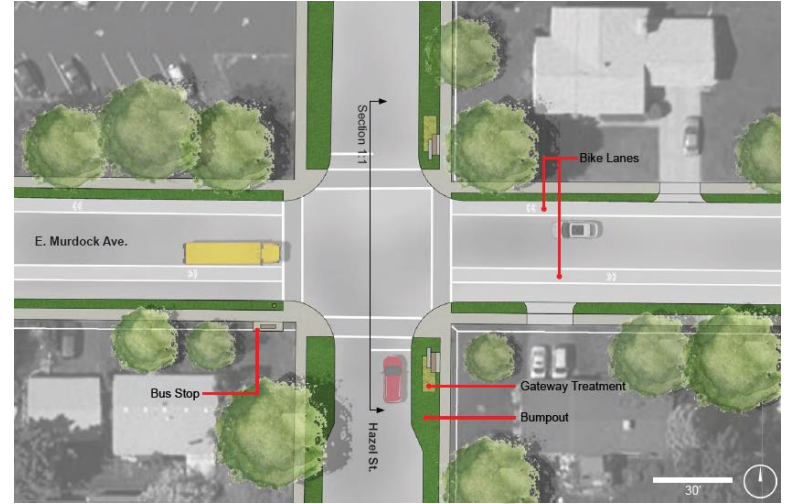
This decision allows for the incorporation of design elements to all of the intersections without designing each individually.



Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017

Intersection design focused on:

- Pedestrian Safety
- Vehicle Movement
- Streetscape Improvements
- Neighborhood Branding
- Neighborhood Landscape Improvements



Neighborhood Streetscape Vision Plan 2017



Concept Neighborhood Designs

Public vs. Private Realm

Public

The public realm focuses primarily on the parts listed below. Typically, the public realm deals with infrastructure types of improvements.

- Intersection Improvements
- Right-of-way enhancements
- Utility and Infrastructure relocation
- Park and Facilities Planning
- Open space frameworks/improvements

Together the two realms create what each of us experiences when walking or traveling through individual neighborhoods.

Private

Private realm elements tend to be of a smaller scale, and located within or adjacent to private property. These improvements are typically up to the individual preferences of the land owner.

- Private landscaping
- Patio enhancements/improvements
- Turf management
- Architectural detail elements

Public vs. Private Realm



Public vs. Private Realm



Public vs. Private Realm



Source: Philadelphia Water Department



Source: The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Rain Gardens

Bioswales



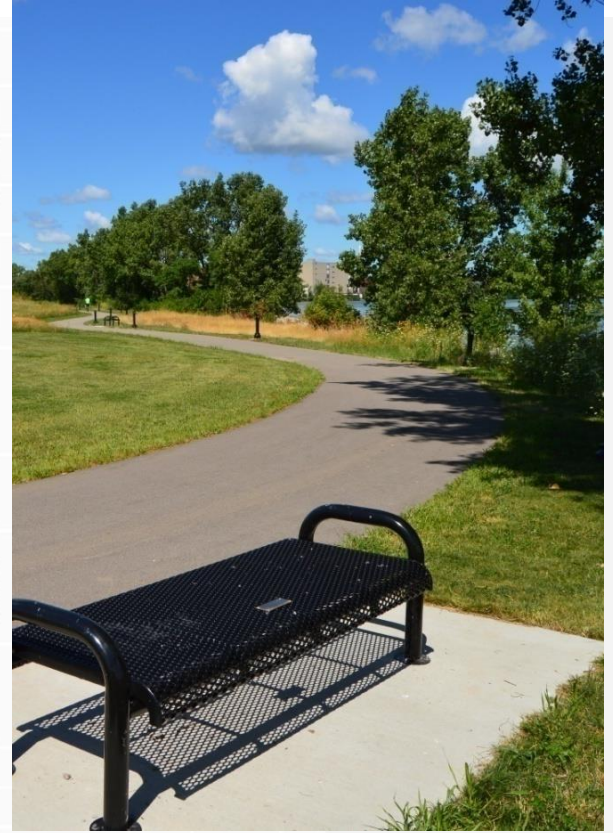
Source: Seattle Neighborhood Greenways



Source: Walkable Princeton

Crosswalks/Pedestrian Safety

On Street Bike Lane



Parks and Trail Systems

Public vs. Private Realm



Source: G. Brown Design

Public vs. Private Realm



Rain Gardens



Site Walls



Private Landscaping



Private Landscaping

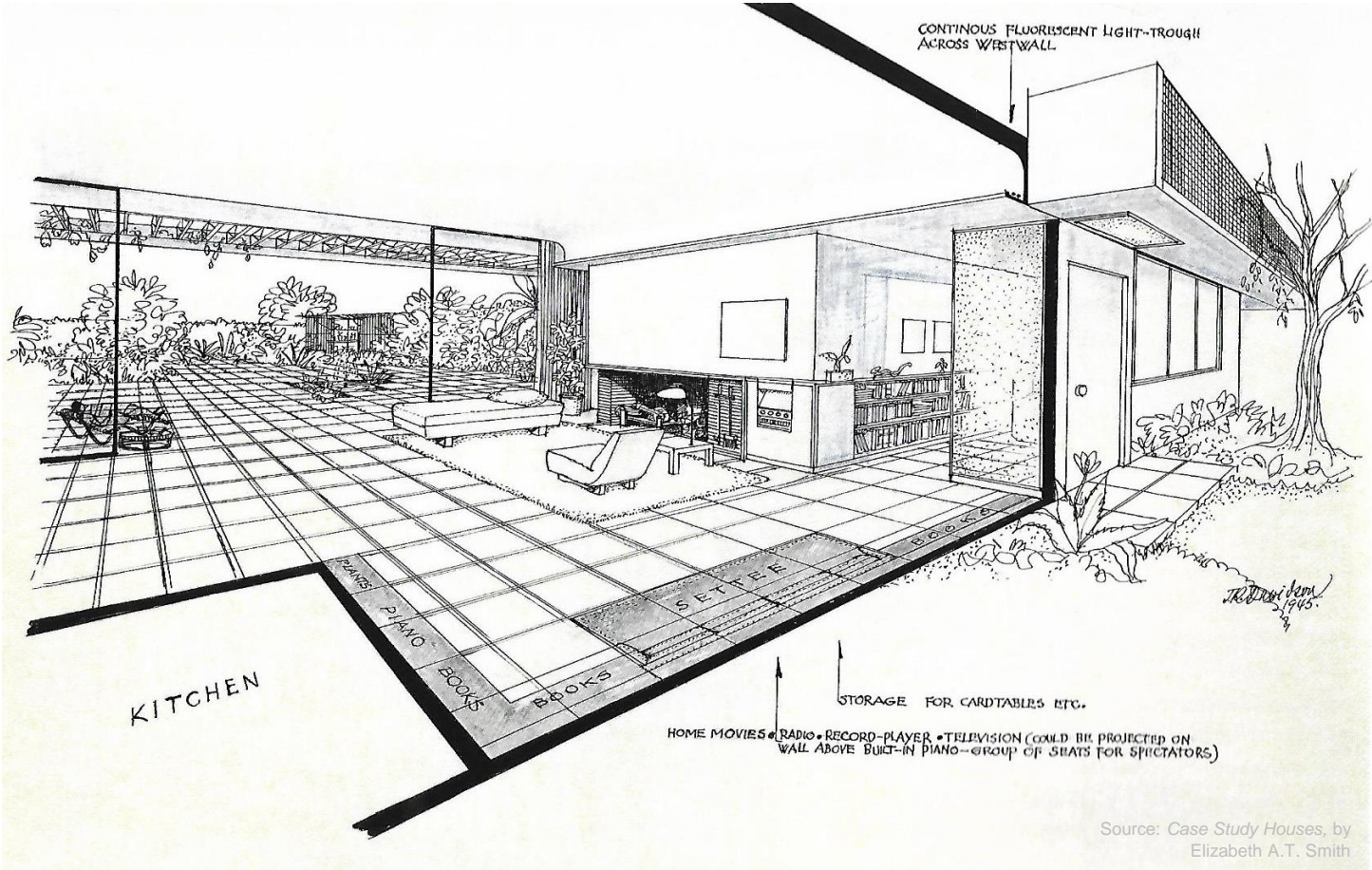


Private Landscaping



Private Landscaping

Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style



Source: Case Study Houses, by Elizabeth A.T. Smith

Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style



Thomas Church



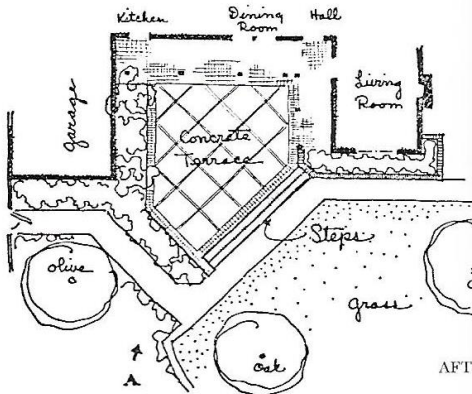
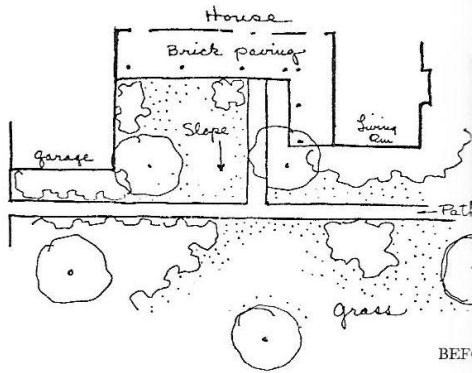
Garrett Eckbo



Lawrence Halprin

“Outdoors and indoors are inseparable; they are complementary and supplementary, two sides of the same door.” – Garrett Eckbo

Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style



Source: *Gardens are for People*, by Thomas Church

Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

“Your entrance should say “Welcome,” and the steps should be an invitation.” – Thomas Church



Source: *Gardens are for People*, by
Thomas Church

Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Horizontal Architecture
- The architecture is emphasized in the horizontality of the wooden planters that are terraced as you approach the front door.
- While the house is dark in color, there is a softness to the yard. That comes from the plant lined and paver driveway.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Evergreen plants and natural boulders are used to emphasize the house.
- Planting helps to separate the house from the road, creating a social space in between.
- Mid Century Landscape is about creating spaces or rooms that reflect and embrace their surroundings.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Grade separation clearly defines space.
- The vantage point from the front yard gives the space a unique feel surrounded by mature trees.
- The retain wall uses natural materials that contrast the dark tones of the home.
- The use of a ramp creates a unique approach to the front door, creating intrigue for visitors.



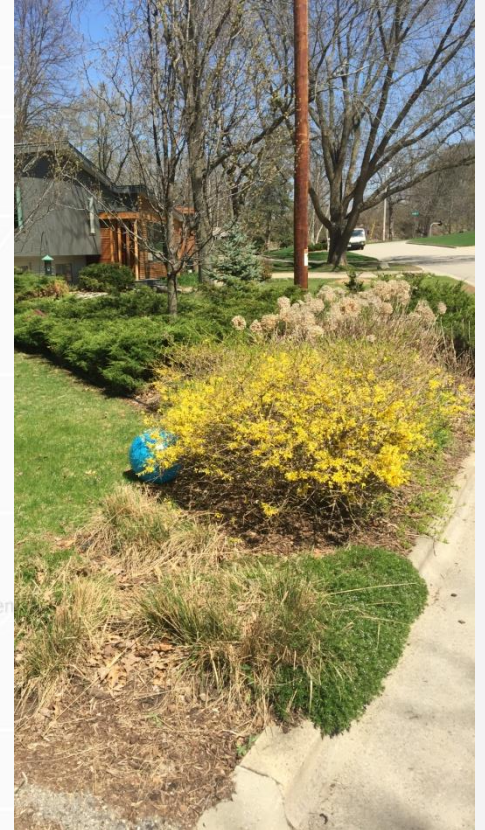
Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Dedicated front porch acts as an invitation and extension of the interior of the house.
- Not all landscaping needs to be extravagant.
- Long linear site wall makes the statement that this is a Mid Century design.
- Notice the plantings “borrow” the large trees and use them as delineators of space.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Front yards are more than decoration. Inviting, and useful space.
- Perennial plantings encompass the play space, defining where children can play, and where they should not.
- The use of evergreens and winter appeal give the sense of enclosure all year round.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- A clear instance of delineated space.
- Very new landscape but the use of natural materials as sculptural elements is the design intent within this space.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Definition of spaces and borrowing from the surrounding environment.
- Sculptural Art is another form of Mid Century landscaping.
- Notice the art is placed in front of three large windows. Again the concept of borrowed space can go both ways. Interior to exterior and vice versa.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- This yard has many of the features already discussed.
- Front porch with seating area creating a usable space.
- Borrowed landscape enhancing views interior and exterior.
- Inviting entry via the ramp



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Grade separated front porch space via small site wall.
- The use of a ramp creates a unique approach to the front door, creating intrigue for visitors.
- Interesting approach to this landscape is its lack of turf grass. This yard is completely covered in ground cover perennials and shrubs.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

- Front porch space allows for seating elements.
- Landscape features are positioned to be enjoyed from the interior via large glass windows.
- Use of natives and evergreens provides for year round delineation of space and appeal.
- Home feels as though it is part of nature and the environment.



Mid-Century Modern Landscaping and Style

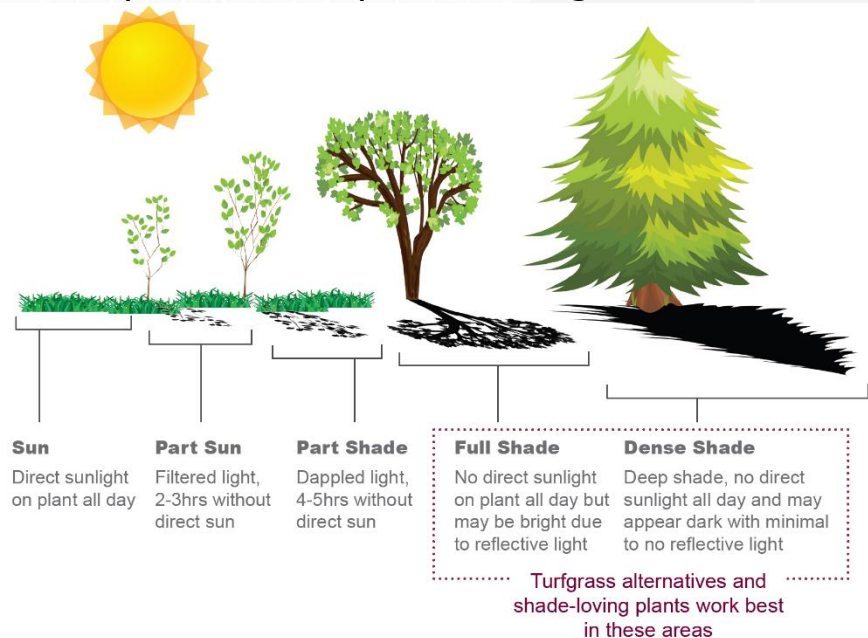


Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Environmental and Site Considerations

An evaluation of the site characteristics can directly influence specific design conditions such as:

- Sun vs. Shade Species
- Wet vs. Dry
- Soil Conditions
- Drainage
- Unique Features
- Unique Problems
- Bed Shape and Size
- Focal Points – Signage, Posts, Lighting
- Seasonal Variations

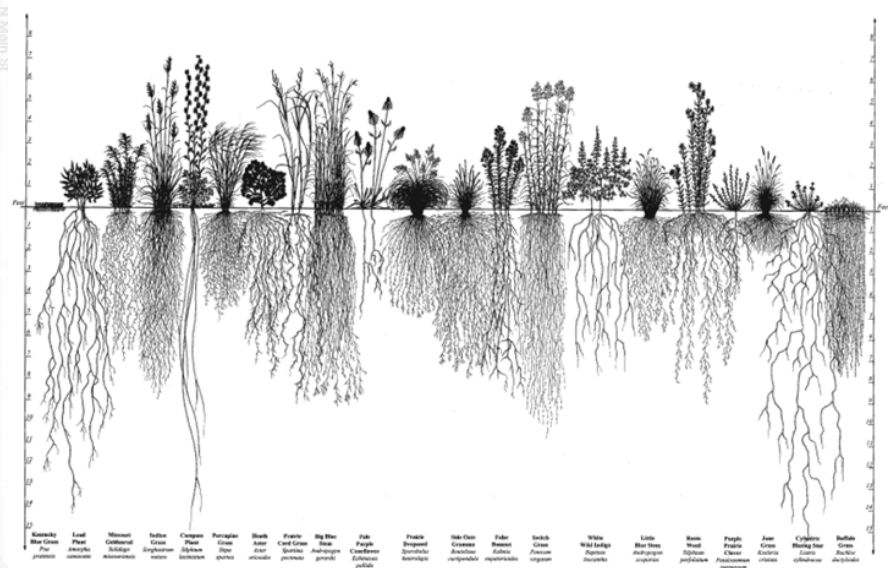


Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Plant Characteristics

Each plant has preferred characteristics that determine how well it grows and how well it adapts to a particular environment.

- Mature Size
- Heat Tolerance
- Drought Tolerance
- Evergreen vs. Deciduous
- Native or Adapted to Wisconsin
- Low Maintenance
- Invasive
- Poisonous



Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Plant Considerations

- There are not plants that are more Mid Century than another.
- It is important when selecting plants to get plants that will survive the proper environmental conditions and the amount of maintenance you intend to provide.
- These plants are some that will thrive in the typical climate we see in Wisconsin and are personal favorites of mine.



Arrowwood Viburnum



Pink Rose



Red Prince Weigela



Karl Foerster Grass



Purple Coneflower



Stella De Oro Daylily

Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Plant Considerations

- Continued from previous slide.
- When doing plant design, it is good practice to have approximately 30-40% of the plants be evergreen. This will help with year round structure, as well as create a balance of color.



Dense Yew



Green Velvet Boxwood



Creeping Juniper



Prairie Dropseed



Nodding Onion +
Catmint



Snow Hill Salvia

Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Design Principles

The following principals, when used consistently, create and emphasize a unified look.

- **Unity** – How the landscape elements tie together with existing structures.
- **Balance** – The symmetrical and asymmetrical placement of plants.
- **Rhythm/Sequence** – Progression of similar forms, colors and textures throughout the landscape.
- **Simplicity** – Simple lines and shapes create repetition but familiarity.
- **Variety/Complexity** – Adds to the landscape interest and creates the style of the landscape.
- **Proportion/Scale** – This is the relationship between all of the landscape features.

Advantages of an Overall Landscape Plan

Landscape Installation and Maintenance

Long term survival of a landscape is dependent on the care that it receives. Proper care and bed preparation are vital in improving the plants' chances of survival.

- **Bed Preparation and soil considerations** - amend the soil with compost and expanded shale
- **Available irrigation and proper watering** - check sprinklers and water source
- **Plant Placement** - proper spacing based on future growth rate and mature size
- **Long term maintenance requirements** - know proper care and pruning needs
- **Seasonal color changes** - annual color has seasons, plan for cool & warm season changes
- **Mulch** - conserves water and provides soil enrichment over time and looks great

Where to go for additional help?

Local Resources

1. University of Wisconsin Horticulture, UW Extension
 - a. <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/contact/> or via Facebook.
2. Wisconsin Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
 - a. <https://wiasla.com/>
3. Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association
 - a. <https://www.wisconsinlandscape.org/>
4. American Nursery Association
 - a. Schmalz Custom Landscaping, <https://schmalzlandscaping.com/>
 - b. Van Zeeland Nursery & Landscape, <https://www.beautifyouryard.com/>
 - c. The Bruce Company, <https://www.brucecompany.com/>

Where to go for additional help?

Print Resources

1. *The Midcentury Modern Landscape* by Ethne Clarke
2. *Gardens are for People* by Thomas Church, Grace Hall, Michael Laurie
3. *Case Study Houses (1945-1966)* by Elizabeth A. T. Smith
4. *The House Beautiful Book of Gardens and Outdoor Living* by Joseph Howland

