

Short Communication

Studies on the principles of garden designing and its application in layout of gardens

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Garden design has also got certain principles like other subjects (Crowe, 1968). These help proper designing by selecting right garden features, plant species besides their placement, allocation of space, colour scheme etc. (Hunt, 1985). Moreover, style, elevation, harmonization, type of the garden etc. are also to be taken into account while designing gardens. The main purpose is to achieve an aesthetic effect in totality (Ingels, 1985; Moffat and Schiler, 1981).

Keeping these in mind, the main principles are categorized into following two groups.

Principles with regard to the selection of structures

These basically provide guidelines about selection of structures as these are integral parts of the garden (Nambison, 1992).

Boundary/Enclosure– This is a vital element in defining a garden which unify house /structure/building and garden into a cohesive whole creating a virtually continuous area for the garden development. Therefore, materials and design of the boundary / enclosure must be in harmony with the overall design.

Entrance/Gate – A garden entrance gives the first impression to the visitors and serves as preludes to what lies beyond. This, therefore, should be in conformity with the style and principles of the design followed.

Form and Shape – The contour, levels, shape and form besides selection of individual plant or groups must match with the design. The arrangement of shapes in relation to one another defines certain styles.

Structures – Every structure of the garden is important. These express style of the selected design and should be in accordance to the principles of specific design of the garden.

View – Placement of the structures and features of the garden is to be made following certain principles so that main objects are focused and draw attention of the visitors. This will create a visually balanced and organized composition.

Principles with regard to creating effects

Unity / Harmony – Unity is one of the main principles of design. This is expressed by harmonious placement of garden features in a proper way. Selection, placement and repetition of any particular element help to create unity in the garden. Height, size, texture and colour scheme of the elements and proper placement help to achieve unity. Finally, it refers blending of all garden features in such a way that every feature becomes interdependent for expressing the total effect (Root and Kelley, 1914).

Repetition – This is having direct relation with unity. Repetition of uniform elements having similar shape and colour creates unique harmonious effect (Smith, 1973).

Simplicity – This criterion emphasizes following simple design as per style and theme. Crowding of objects, plants, decors should be avoided in order to give prominence to each feature.

Balance – This refers visual equilibrium of different garden elements. In no case visual objects take abrupt turn or end. Therefore, correct positioning of the plants and features create a well balanced garden. As per design and style of the garden, a balance is to be maintained with regard to colour scheme, plants (shape, texture), structures, grade etc. so that everything is integrated together (Sudell, 1948).

Colour – Colour of flowers and leaves constitute a critical factor for whole design of the gardens as it creates attraction. Primary colours (violet, blue, green, yellow, orange and red)



Uniformity of shape of the features

as well secondary shades are to be used either in contrast or harmonious way depending upon the availability. Generally bright colours are put close to the visitors while cool colour at distant part of the garden (Thonger, 1944).

Proportion – This refers size of each element and allocation of the space. A small home garden should not contain voluminous ponds or giant statues. Every feature should be in relation with the total space available for the garden. Over sized elements and occupying large space by a single element will cause misbalance (Vant, 1931).

Rhythm – It denotes occurrence of things one after another. This may be seasonal reflection in the garden in autumn and winter. Planning should be done in such a way that there should be continuance of flowering in the garden having no void so that rhythm is not broken. Gradual changes in height and colour of the plant species are to be made so that the viewers notice the changes smoothly (Whitehead, 1966).

Natural Transition – This refers gradual changes in terms of plant height, colour, forms and size besides arrangement in ascending or descending pattern (Whitehead, 1966).

Accent – This refers a tree or shrub with attractive and distinguishing characters with respect to shape, leaf texture, flower colour and rarity, when punctuated in the prime location of the garden in a group or as individual with a view to break the monotony of forms, colour and arrangement of other plants in the design for creating more interest and pleasure (Wright, M. 1978).



Repetition of features for creating rhythm

CONCLUSION

Garden designing is specialised job and are based on certain principles to make the gardens attractive and purposeful. Each and every features need individual treatment for their specific use and placement in the garden.

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