

Landscape Architecture and Courtyard

by:

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Preface:

Open spaces design in general and courtyard, in particular, are of individualistic features, incarnating the character of the designer in charge. Nevertheless, the elements and principles of any design are but mere embodiment to the designer's innate perspective of a competent project as a dominant influencing force. These elements and principles serve as binding codes and regulations, dictating the progress of the design. Designers reign supreme on the elements of any design, manipulating them as tools employed, to achieve its principles in the project. No question, scientifically speaking, the enlisted elements and principles are still under debate; as the cognition of the endorsed term "design" is yet controversial. Most artists incorporate the design conditions into their projects. However, some artists "break the principles" to quench their intrinsic need, to set up a courtyard using the line, form, texture, and color aspects, to replicate their own definition of an inclusive composition.

It is worth mentioning, that the aforementioned elements and principles of the courtyard design are detected within those works of art, which are by virtue applying landscape design on scientific basis. These elements are determined by the visual and physical features of the plant and hardscape formulating the landscape design. These features include line, form, texture, and color. A landscape designer accentuates these features, to perpetrate the design principles. (Service, 2007) These details and principles are but to consummate an exemplary manifestation of the denoted art and science of landscape design.

Courtyard is an enthralling topic to investigate, thanks to its pronounced contribution in building open spaces. Most of the past designed buildings enclose courtyards, for ventilation, thermal comfort and wind flow purposes. In open spaces plans, the existence of courtyards should be mandatory, to mould a sheltering environment for the residents regarding lighting, ventilation, and thermal comfort.

Recently, the awareness of having such courtyards in buildings has become essential, for many reasons. Consequently, studying how to design courtyard has become poignant as well. This book will help the students, to understand courtyard design.

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