

Residential

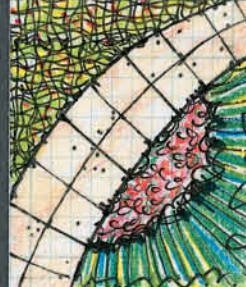
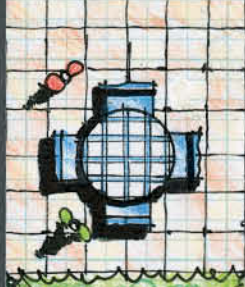
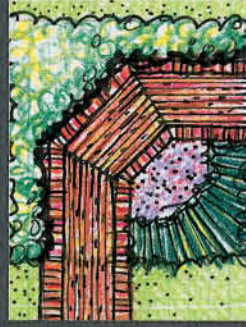
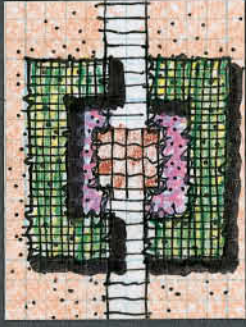
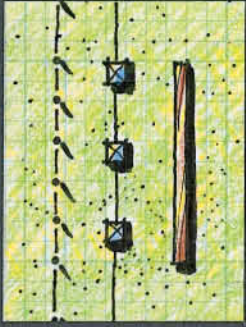
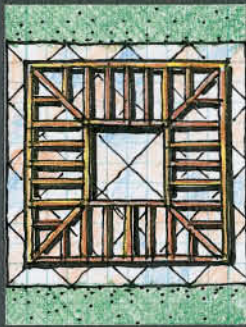
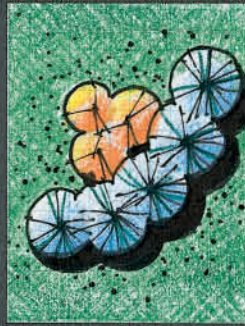
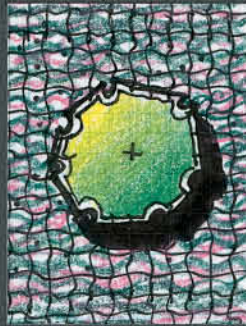
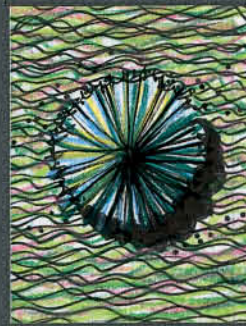
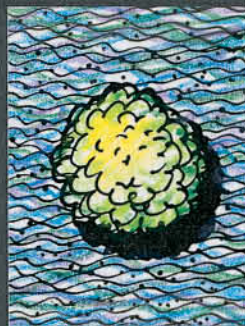
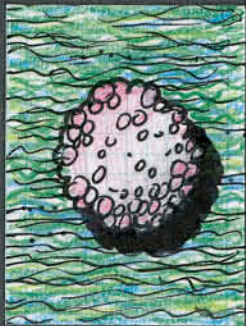
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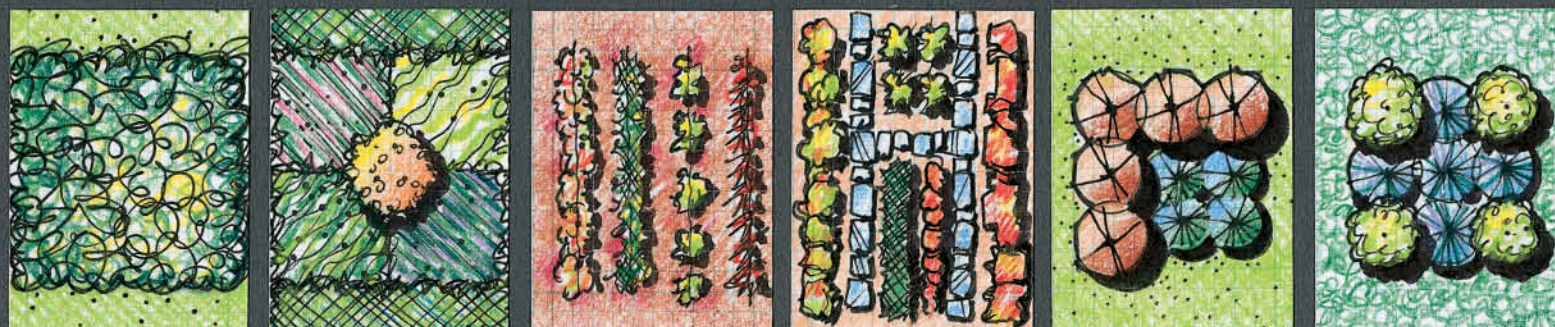
Landscape Architecture

Design Process for
the Private Residence

NORMAN K. BOOTH
JAMES E. HISS







RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

DESIGN PROCESS FOR THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SEVENTH EDITION

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*To my father, C. Curtis Booth, for his enduring passion
of geography and the natural environment, and for his
quiet ambition to share that fascination with others.*

*Ronnie, I dedicate this book to you, my lovely and loving wife.
You have been a consistent glowing light of love and inspiration
to me since I met you. Your support and encouragement
have been key to my happiness, and your unconditional
love has made me a better man.*

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Preface

The site that surrounds the typical American single-family home is a principal component of the residential environment. It is frequently larger in area than the house itself and is more visible to the public than the interior of the house. The landscape surrounding a residence is more than just background setting for the house. For many families, the residential site is integral to their lifestyle and family history; it is the location for recreation, family gatherings, special events, or memorable times spent entertaining family and friends. The landscape is also a place to nurture nature through gardening and provide a habitat for wildlife. The feel of the sun, the sense of a breeze, or the smell of flowers can only be experienced outdoors. And a well-designed and maintained landscape can on average add between 5 and 15 percent to the value of a property. The increased appraisal value is not only based on planting, but also includes walks, fences, outdoor living spaces, outdoor kitchens, water features, and so on.

The design of the residential landscape provides numerous challenges for a designer who works to ensure that the site directly affects the quality of life of the people who live with the design each day. Well-executed residential site design positively influences the quality of life by eliminating functional conflicts on the site, providing proper recreational and entertainment amenities, creating an environment that is sustainable, and establishing a visually attractive and restorative setting. Residential site design is an invigorating undertaking. The designer works closely with the clients on a personal basis, deals with the design in a detailed and artistic manner, and typically has the opportunity to experience a design as it evolves from a drawing to a three-dimensional reality in a rather short period of time. The residential site is also a potential laboratory to implement and test new ideas and materials. For many landscape architects, the residential site provides a chance to experiment and learn on a small scale before similar applications are made on larger and more public projects.

The design of the residential landscape represents a notable undertaking by design professionals. A 2013 survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects revealed that the average firm designs between six and 20 residential projects per year; 24 percent design more than 21 projects per year; and 14 percent design more than 30 projects per year. Virtually all design/build firms and many nurseries are also involved in both the design and installation of residential landscapes. Most homeowners, in fact, receive design services from these types of companies.

Nevertheless, residential site design is an endeavor that is commonly done poorly, inappropriately, and in some cases, incorrectly. A drive or a walk along a typical residential street reveals a host of problems and offenses to the eye. Over-manicured foundation planting, overgrown plant material, inadequately sized driveways, poorly conceived approach walks and entrances, and shapeless lawn areas are just a few of the common problems. The areas in the back of homes are no less rife with poor layout and visual chaos.

Consequently, the purpose of this book is to furnish the reader with the fundamentals of residential site design. We, the authors, are landscape architecture educators and in it, we present basic principles, concepts, procedures, and examples for preparing site plans and associated documents for residential sites. This book is intended for readers who are beginning their design careers, as well as for current practitioners who wish to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Some of the thoughts and principles in this book represent commonly accepted design knowledge used as a matter of standard practice by experienced designers.



Other ideas have evolved from the classroom where we have spent more than 60 combined years teaching landscape architecture students, people who work in nurseries, and landscape contractors. In doing so, we have developed numerous concepts and techniques we feel are essential in teaching and learning residential site design. Finally, there are a number of thoughts in this book that have resulted from our own practices in residential site design. We are both registered landscape architects and have designed more than 150 residential sites, many of them winning local, state, and national design awards.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

This 7th edition contains numerous revisions.

- Photographs of completed landscape projects designed by landscape architects and designers are integrated into Chapter 2 Outdoor Space, to show real-world examples of different types of outdoor rooms.
- Similarly, a real-life project with an actual client is included in Chapter 4 Design Process Overview to demonstrate the sequential steps of design process.
- Plans, diagrams, and photographs of before and after installation depict the design process from beginning to conclusion.
- A discussion and demonstration of using current computer technology and social media is incorporated into Chapter 5 Meeting the Clients and Chapter 8 Diagrams.
- In addition, coverage of the use and drawing of concept diagrams has been added to Chapter 8 Diagrams.
- Chapter 15 Rendering Landscape Design in Color is reorganized and now includes examples of quick plan-rendering techniques and the process of coloring a master plan in Photoshop.
- Finally, the text throughout the book is edited to remove extraneous content and to make the wording more comprehensible to the reader.

ORGANIZATION

Residential Landscape Architecture contains three sections. Section 1, Philosophical Framework, provides the primary principles and concepts on which the remainder of the book is based and includes chapters on the current state of the art, sustainability, and outdoor space. In Section 2, Design Process, we detail the process of preparing a design for a residential site from the initial contact with the clients to the completion of the master plan. It contains chapters on meeting and interviewing the clients, base map preparation, program development and site analysis, diagrams, preliminary design, form composition, and spatial composition. Section 3, Applications, demonstrates how to apply the design process to different residential sites and features chapters on special site situations and case studies. In addition, Section 3 devotes an entire chapter to the theory and techniques of color rendering.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First, we thank Erin Mulligan for her superb editing of this edition. She not only looked carefully at spelling, grammar, and clarity, but also read the text as if she were someone who had just purchased the book, questioning terms that were unfamiliar or unexplained, offering suggestions about relevancy, and challenging us to think beyond the boundaries of the previous edition. She was an energetic and demanding taskmaster who made this edition significantly better than the last. Without doubt, she has been our best editor.

We also thank the following individuals, and their landscape companies, for providing photographs of finished projects that help illustrate specific design principles throughout this 7th edition.

- Joel Korte, Urban Environments and The Brickman Group
- Tom Wood, Wood Landscape
- John Reiner, Oakland Nursery
- Jason Cromley and Matt Seiler, Hidden Creek Landscape
- EDGE-Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Finally, we are appreciative of the critical reviews of the previous edition provided by the following instructor:

- Charles Fulford, Mississippi State University
- Niall Kirkwood, Harvard University
- Michael Mohny, Penn State University
- Anna Reaves, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University
- Michael Seymour, Mississippi State University

Norman K. Booth, FASLA
James E. Hiss, FASLA

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section one

Philosophical Framework

CHAPTER 1 **The Typical Residential Site**

CHAPTER 2 **Outdoor Space**

CHAPTER 3 **Sustainable Design**

This section of the book offers a philosophical framework for residential site design. There are numerous approaches and theories to residential site design that range from minimal site development to the elaborate garden settings that are oases from the bustle of urban and suburban living. Further, some design approaches stress plant materials and the gardening aspect of a residential site, whereas others emphasize a sought-after lifestyle.

Within that array of possibilities, it is the underlying notion of this book that sound residential site design is based on a respect for the environment and the need to create outdoor living spaces that extend a client's lifestyle into the exterior environment. Chapter 1 is a critical analysis of the typical single-family site found in all geographic areas of the United States and provides a point of departure for offering a better way to design the residential landscape. Chapter 2 describes the fundamental building block of residential site design: outdoor space. The ideal residential landscape should be composed of well-defined outdoor spaces that provide settings for various activities and functions. Chapter 3 outlines numerous strategies for creating and maintaining a sustainable landscape that is in sync with the environment and its ongoing processes. All three chapters give the reader the background for designing a thoughtful, comfortable, and environmentally sensitive residential landscape.

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1

The Typical Residential Site

INTRODUCTION

Those who deal with the design and development of residential landscapes are concerned with three important and distinctive aspects of each project: (1) the client, (2) the site, and (3) the home. No two clients, sites, or homes are the same. Each client has his or her own unique personality, tastes, desires, wishes, lifestyle, etc. Likewise, each site is different from the next because of orientation, topography, views, vegetation, surrounding site conditions, etc. In addition, each house possesses its own particular architectural style, floor plan, decorations, furniture, and accessories.

The site surrounding a residence is the most important environment. It serves numerous utilitarian, aesthetic, and psychological functions for the residents as well as for visitors, neighbors, and passersby. As a setting for the house, the residential site is the context within which one views the architecture of the house. As the location for outdoor living, the residential site is an exterior extension of the functions that occur inside the home. Socializing, eating, cooking, reading, sunbathing, recreating, gardening, or simply relaxing are all activities that take place on the residential site. In addition, the site is an expression of the lifestyle and values of the residents. It reflects their personality and attitude toward their own environment, and it offers refuge from the routine and pressures of daily events. The sound of birds in the trees, the fragrance of a flowering plant, or the sight of a picturesque tree provide the mind and emotions with pleasurable thoughts and feelings.

Consequently, it is critical that the residential site be designed with the utmost care and sensitivity so that it fulfills its vital role in the overall residential environment.

Toward that end, this chapter examines the typical residential site found in most single-family neighborhoods in the United States. It provides an overview of what a common residential site looks like. It also analyzes the visual and functional qualities of front yards, backyards, and side yards of the conventional residential site. This analysis provides the foundation for subsequent chapters that present a recommended design process along with techniques and principles for improving the quality of the residential site.

THE TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL SITE

A drive or walk through almost any single-family residential neighborhood in the United States reveals a number of commonalities among the houses and their surrounding sites. What is usually seen (Figure 1–1) is a

Learning Objectives

By the end of the chapter, the reader should be able to:

- Identify the overall traits of the typical residential site such as house location, types of yards, and the general characteristics and uses of each.
- Identify conventional problems of the front yard including the lack of lawn edges, the prominence of the driveway and garage door, inadequate size of the front walk, unimaginative experience walking to the front entry, incorrectly designed entry foyer, existence of foundation planting, scattered lawn plantings, and lack of use.
- Provide specific examples of why each of the conventional front yard problems is a concern.
- Identify typical deficiencies of the backyard including views to neighbors, undersized outdoor living areas, minimal privacy, no concern for microclimate, uninspiring visual character, poor relation to interior of the house, presence of storage sheds, and the placement of vegetable gardens.
- Provide specific examples of why each of the typical backyard deficiencies is a problem.
- Identify ordinary difficulties of side yards including poor access, use as a storage area, little awareness of microclimate, inefficient use of space, and direct views between houses.
- Provide specific examples of why each of the ordinary difficulties of side yards is a problem.

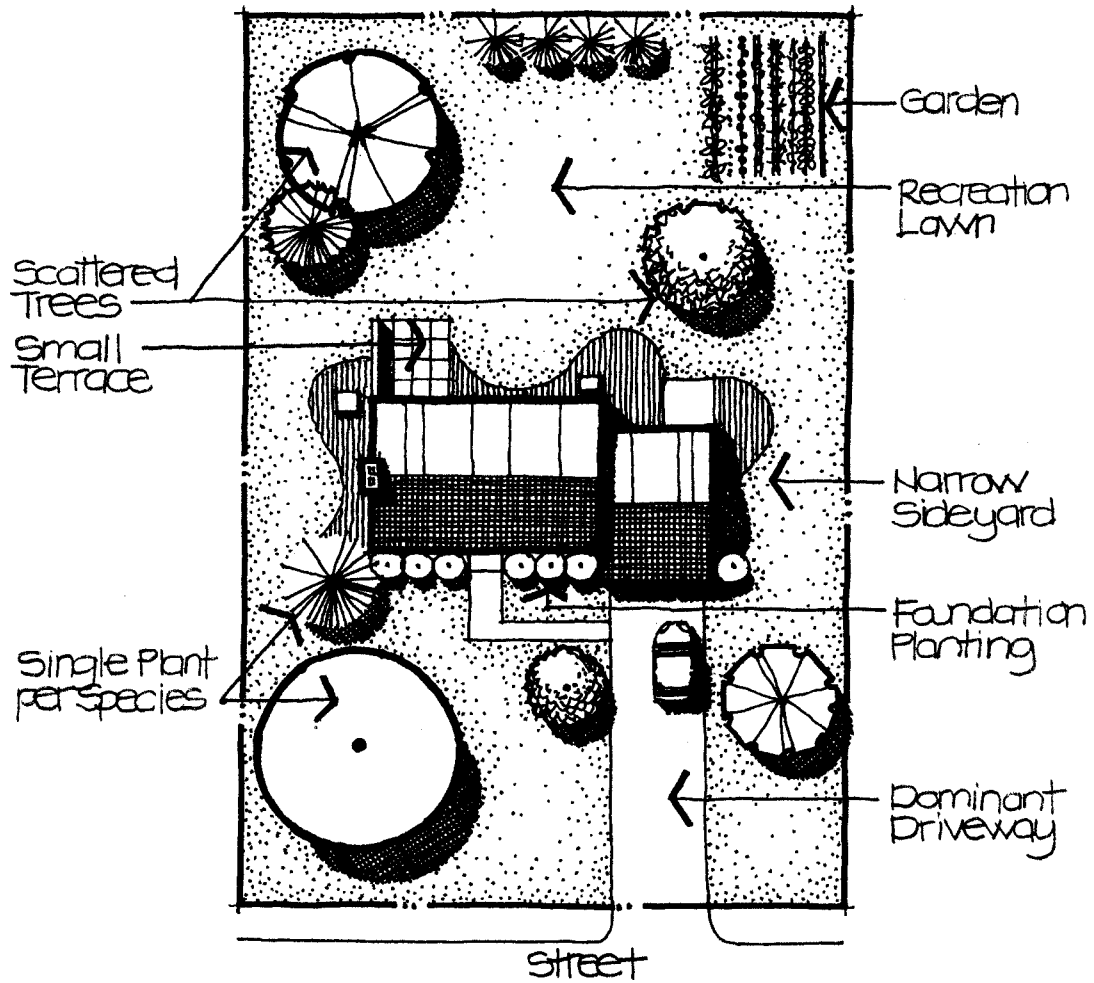


Figure 1-1
The typical residential site.

one- or two-story house surrounded by an expanse of lawn and various plantings. Regardless of the size of the site, there are four elements that comprise the entire property: (1) the house (home), (2) the front yard, (3) the backyard, and (4) the side yards. The placement of the house near the middle of the site creates front yards and backyards of similar sizes, and narrow side yards.

Houses are designed in a wide range of shapes, sizes, and character. Although some architectural features are repeated in a neighborhood, it is hard to find two houses that look exactly alike. Even if you were able to look inside two houses that have the same floor plan and house character, you would undoubtedly experience two different homes—you would see distinctive wall coverings, paint, carpet, tile, furniture, wall hangings, curtains, etc. Different people have varied personalities, occupations, hobbies, preferences, monetary resources, etc. The relationship between an owner and a house gives rise to a home, a unique place for a unique individual or family. Guidelines for integrating a house's architectural character into a landscape design are addressed in Chapter 5: Meeting the Clients, Chapter 7: Site Analysis and Design Program, and Chapter 10: Form Composition.

The front yard is the public setting for the house. A lawn, often manicured to create a lush green carpet, occupies most of this area with a driveway situated along one side of the site. In arid regions of the country, the lawn is sometimes replaced with



gravel or decomposed granite. The front yard is often dotted with trees, shading various parts of the yard. Typically, a row of plants extends along the entire base of the house. This foundation planting sometimes consists only of coniferous or broad-leaved evergreens that provide a year-round wall of green color. Finally, a narrow walk extends from the driveway and/or street to the front door of the house.

The backyard is the most varied area of the typical residential site. In older neighborhoods, or those found in western states of the country, the backyard is usually enclosed with walls, fences, or plantings. In these situations, the backyard is the most private area on the site. In newer neighborhoods, especially in the eastern and mid-western regions of the country, the backyard is often very open, with little or no definition of where one property ends and another begins. In these conditions, there is little privacy in the backyard. On most residential sites, the backyard is a more utilitarian area than the front yard and is the location of the outdoor terrace, work space, garden, and open lawn for recreation. It is usually the location for outdoor living activities. On other sites, the backyard provides little or no use to the residents; it is just leftover outdoor space that must be maintained.

The side yards are normally narrow leftover spaces with little use except to provide access between the front and back of the house. Consequently, there are few elements occupying this space except perhaps for scattered plantings, air conditioners or heat pumps, and stored objects such as wood, trailers, and other items that do not conveniently fit in the garage or basement.

Although this generalized description of the typical residential site does not apply to every site, it does summarize common characteristics of residential sites throughout the United States. What is particularly surprising and disturbing is that this “typical site” can be seen in all regions of the country from New England to Arizona and from Florida to California. True, there are regional variations in use of materials (especially plant materials), construction techniques, and attitudes toward the use and style of the residential site. Still, many similarities prevail in terms of size, function, organization, and general appearance of residential sites.

Let us turn to a more critical analysis of the three primary areas of the residential site: (1) the front yard (often referred to as the public space), (2) the backyard (commonly referred to as the private space), and (3) the side yards (usually not thought of as space at all). The conditions noted in the following sections are summaries of observations of single-family residential sites in the United States.

FRONT YARD

The front yard of most residential sites has two primary functions: (1) it is the setting or foreground for viewing the house from the street and (2) it is the public area for arrival and entrance into the house. In terms of its function as a setting, the front yard provides the “frame” for viewing the “picture” of the house from the street. Much attention is given to arranging plant materials along the base of the house and in the yard to establish “curb appeal”; that is, the front yard and house are attractive to look at from the street.

The front yard is also a public area where the main arrival and entry to the house are located. The residents of the house along with their relatives, friends, and other visitors use this public space as an introduction to the site.

Keeping these two functions in mind, let us look more closely at specific conditions of typical front yards.

1. *Front Lawn Lacks Edges.* On many residential sites, the placement of the house near the middle of the lot creates an open front lawn. The scale of this area often

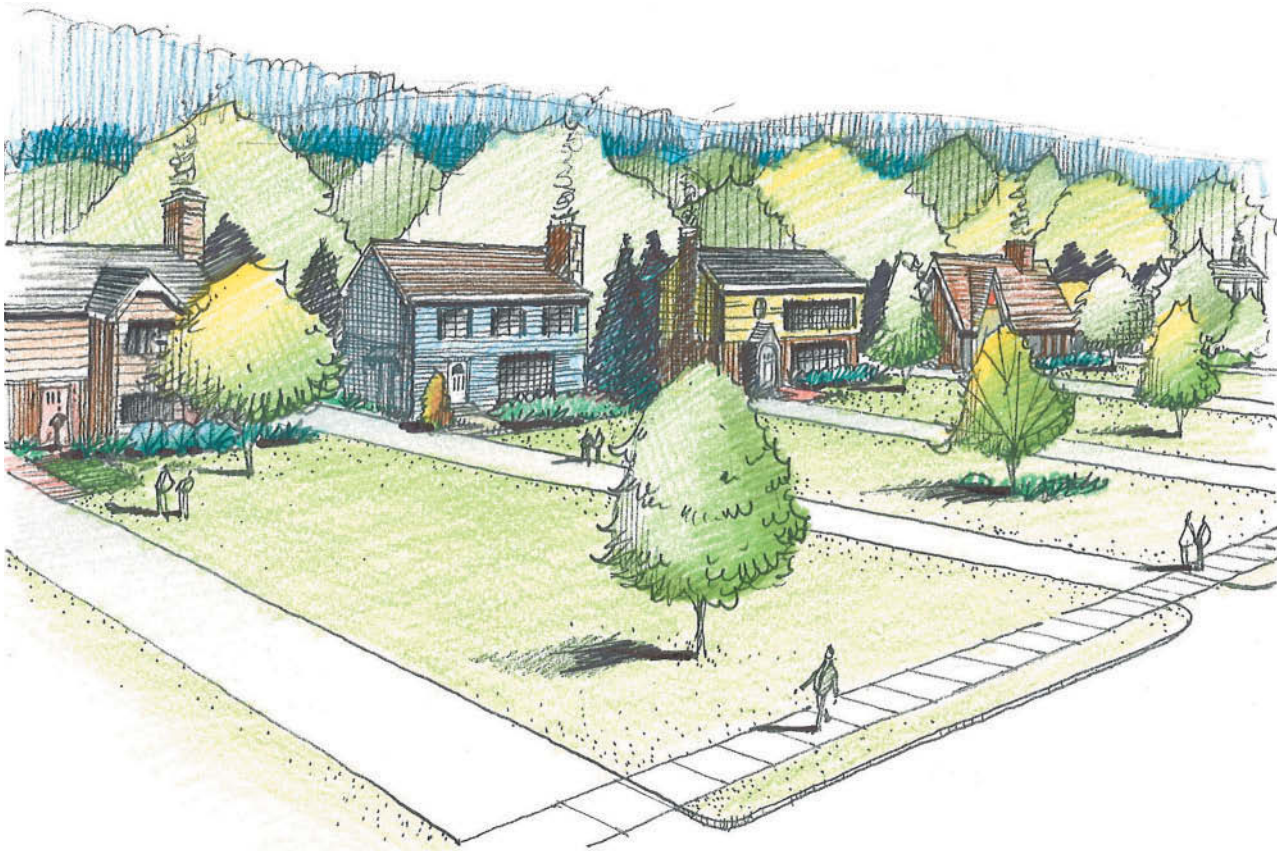


Figure 1-2

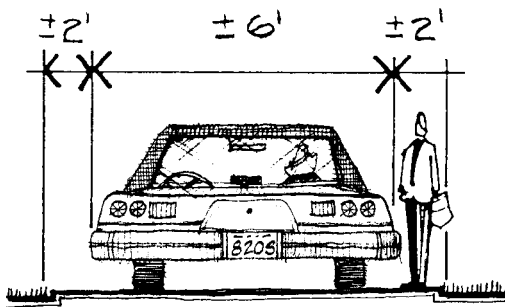
Many front yards lack defined edges.

gives a feeling of an anonymous “no-man’s land” because of its openness and undefined edges. This quality is frequently compounded when the front lawn of one site blends into the neighboring front lawn with no separation or division between the two (Figure 1-2).

2. *Prominence of Driveway and Garage Door.* The driveway and garage door are dominant visual elements of many front yards (Figure 1-3). The extensive area of asphalt or concrete and a large garage door are significant visual features that detract from the overall appearance of the front yard. The house’s front entry is insignificant and secondary by comparison. When cars are parked in the driveway, there is little or no room for people to walk except along a narrow edge or on the lawn (Figure 1-4). This is acceptable in good weather but is an inconvenience in wet weather or during the winter when snow is piled along the edges of the driveway. The narrow quality of the driveway is accentuated even more when the driveway is located in the side yard and lined with shrubs along the property line (Figure 1-5).
3. *Entry Walk Too Narrow.* The walk leading from the driveway to the front door is often about 3 feet wide. This dimension is too narrow and forces people to walk in single-file fashion (Figure 1-6).
4. *Entry Walk Hidden from View.* Another problem of the entry walk is that it is not easily seen, especially where it connects to the edge of the driveway (Figure 1-7). In such cases, there is nothing to acknowledge or call attention to the location of the entry walk.

**Figure 1-3**

The driveway and garage are dominant visual elements of many front yards.

**Figure 1-4**

There is little room for a person to walk with a parked car in the driveway.

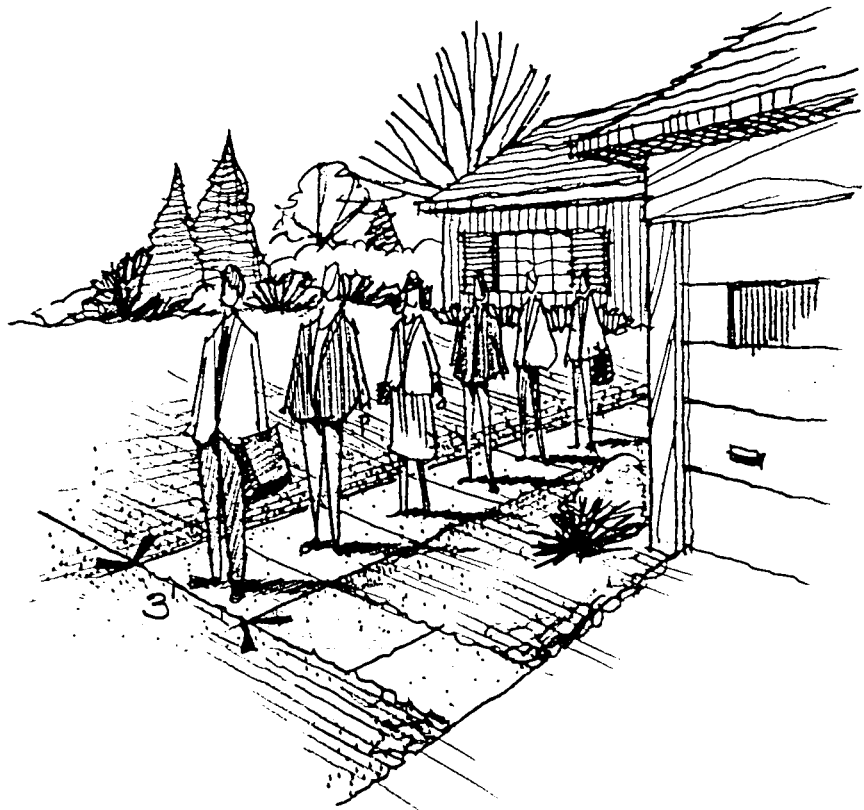
5. *Entry Walk Lacks Visual Interest.* As a person proceeds along the entry walk, there is very little visual interest. A large open expanse of lawn on one side of the walk and a wall of foundation planting on the other side (Figure 1-8) do not provide a memorable experience. And the walk's pavement material typically lacks a distinct character or appeal. It is simply a rather dull environment to walk through to get to the front door.
6. *Entry Foyer Too Small.* A concrete pad or stoop located at the front door serves as the outdoor foyer or arrival area. It is often so small that no one can stand on it while the storm or screen door is being opened without getting hit in the face or stepping away from the stoop (Figure 1-9).

**Figure 1-5**

Shrubs lining a driveway located in a side yard accentuate its narrow quality.

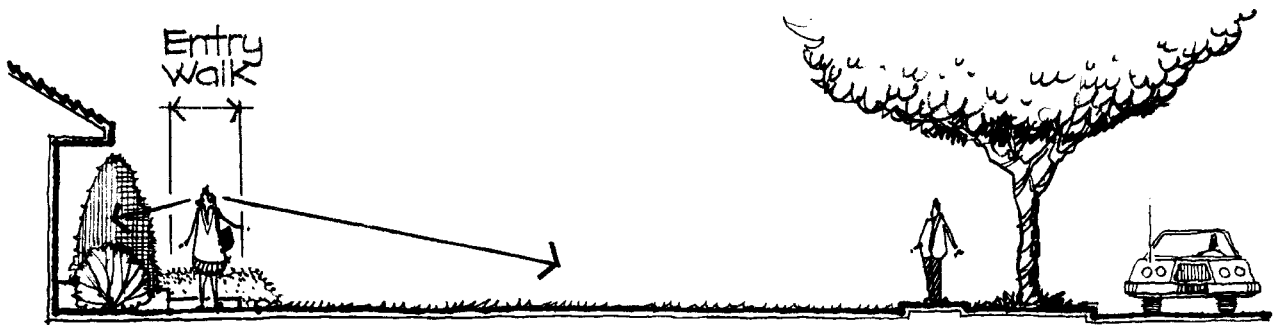
Figure 1-6

The typical 3-foot-wide entrance walk forces people to walk single file.



**Figure 1-7**

Many entrance walks are hidden from view.

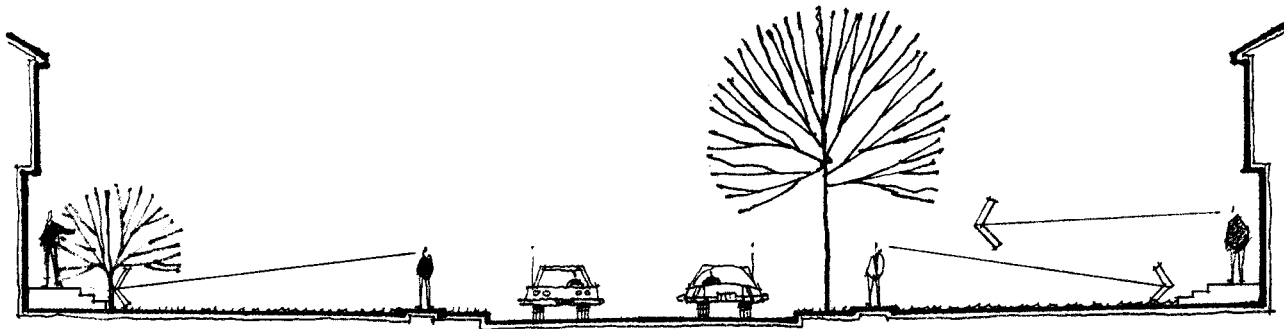
**Figure 1-8**

An open lawn and a dull foundation planting provide little visual interest from the entry walk.

7. *Entry Foyer Lacks Enclosure.* The entry area or foyer often lacks an adequate sense of separation from the street and the rest of the front yard. The stoop is often exposed directly to the street or even to the neighbor's house across the street so that everyone can easily see the comings and goings of visitors (Figure 1-10). Also, the entry is directly exposed to sun, wind, and precipitation. All of these factors make it uncomfortable for a visitor to stand for very long outside the front door.
8. *Hidden Front Door.* An opposite problem of some outside arrival and entry areas is that the front door is hidden from view. This most often results from overgrown plant materials screening out the view of the front door (Figure 1-11). Not knowing exactly where the front door is an uncomfortable and confusing feeling for a first-time visitor.
9. *Foundation Planting.* The use of plants in the front yard is frequently limited to foundation planting—the practice of lining the foundation of a house with a row of shrubs (Figure 1-12). These shrubs, typically evergreen for year-round green color, are often manicured into geometric forms such as cubes, pyramids, and spheres (or, if you like, footballs, pop cans, ice cream cones, boxes, and so

**Figure 1-9**

Many entrance stoops are too small, making it awkward to open the door.

**Figure 1-10**

Many outdoor foyers lack spatial enclosure and separation from the front yard, the street, and neighbors.

on; Figure 1-13). This visual treatment of plant materials is characteristic of Italian and French Renaissance gardens, where plants were sheared and clipped into geometric shapes to reflect the strong formal character of the gardens and the architecture.

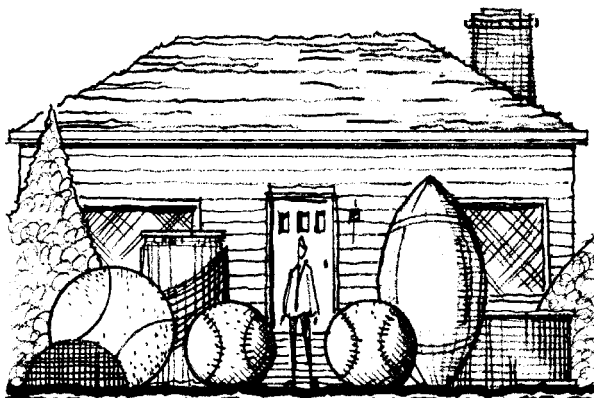
Foundation planting has been used in the United States since the late 1800s when it was first used to hide high foundation walls on houses that were constructed several feet above the ground to create basements for gravity-air furnaces. However, most contemporary houses have little or no foundation wall exposed.

**Figure 1-11**

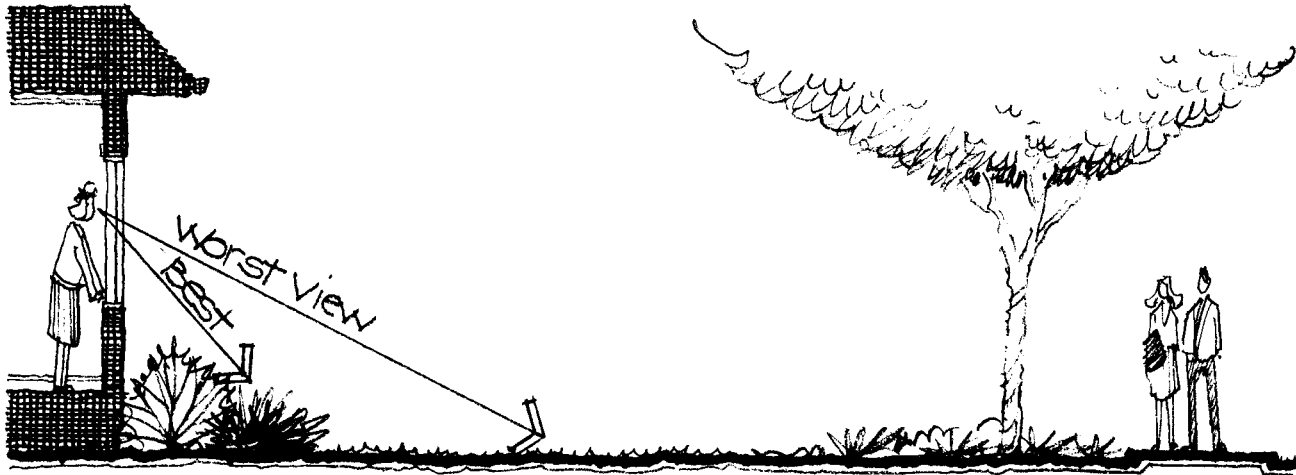
*Overgrown plant materials
hide the entry walk and
front door.*

**Figure 1-12**

Typical "foundation planting."

**Figure 1-13**

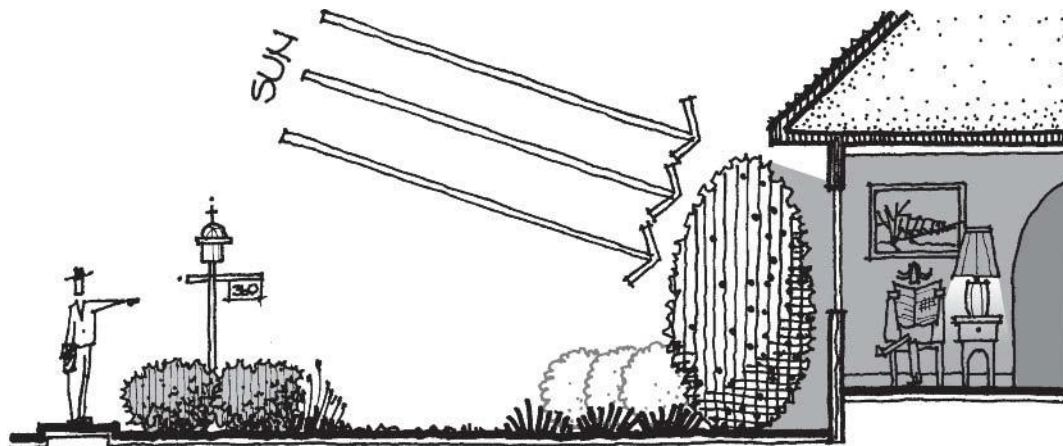
*Foundation plants are often
trimmed into precise geometric
shapes resembling footballs,
baseballs, etc.*

**Figure 1-14**

Foundation planting cannot be seen from inside the house unless a person is standing at the window.

Another problem of foundation planting is that it is seen more by people on the street than by the homeowners. Foundation planting cannot be seen from within the house unless a person is standing at the window (Figure 1-14).

10. *Overgrown Foundation Planting.* A major problem with many foundation plantings is that they are overgrown to the point of obstructing the windows of the house and crowding adjoining entry walks. On some sites, the windows on the first floor of the house are completely covered with a mass of foliage, thus blocking out light and views to the outdoors (Figure 1-15). Some homeowners permanently close the window shades to block the view of the back of the shrubs just outside.
11. *Scattered Plants in Lawn.* Randomly placed trees and shrubs located throughout some front yards “fill” the lawn area (Figure 1-16). This makes maneuvering a lawn mower like driving through an obstacle course.
12. *Little Enjoyment of Front Yard.* One overall characteristic of many front yards is the lack a memorable image or style. Many front yards are bland, unexciting, and similar to the others in the neighborhood. Furthermore, most front yards provide little opportunity for outdoor living or enjoyment by the residents. There are few places in most front yards to sit, have a cup of coffee, talk with a friend, or read a book.

**Figure 1-15**

Overgrown foundation plants hide windows and reduce the amount of sunlight entering the house.



Figure 1–16

Randomly located plants in front yards fill the entire space.

The challenge for designers is to improve these conditions so that the front yard is an attractive, useful, and inviting space on the residential site.

BACKYARD

The function of the backyard, on the typical residential site, is to accommodate a number of activities including (1) outdoor living and entertaining, (2) recreation, and (3) utilitarian activities such as gardening and storage. To support these activities, backyards normally contain outdoor furniture, barbecue grills, sand boxes, play equipment, swimming pools, cords of firewood, air conditioners, metal storage sheds, and so on. Although different and sometimes even incompatible, all these activities and elements are commonly placed in relatively close proximity to one another in the backyard. This makes the backyard the most intensely used portion of the typical residential site and also the most difficult to organize and design.

A more critical review of the backyard reveals the following conditions:

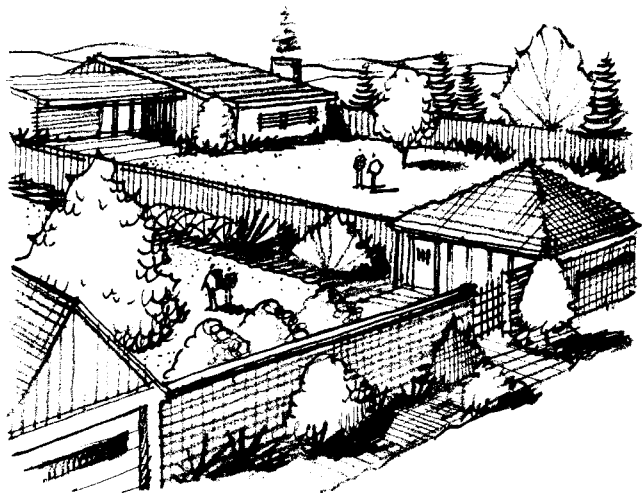
1. *Lack of Separation.* The backyards in many newly developed neighborhoods are open and ill-defined areas. One yard blends into the next to form a giant green space accessible to everyone in the surrounding area (Figure 1–17). As a result, there is little sense of identity or privacy. The activity that goes on in one's backyard becomes the visual business of surrounding neighbors. This discourages the use of the backyard for people who enjoy privacy. With time, these same backyards generally become more enclosed by fences and plant materials to create some separation from neighboring sites.
2. *Walled/Fenced Backyards.* In the western part of the United States, backyards are apt to be totally enclosed by walls or fences (Figure 1–18). Sometimes alleyways are located behind these backyards for access to garages located at the back end of the property. The result is that backyards are isolated from one another with few or no views to the landscape beyond.

**Figure 1-17**

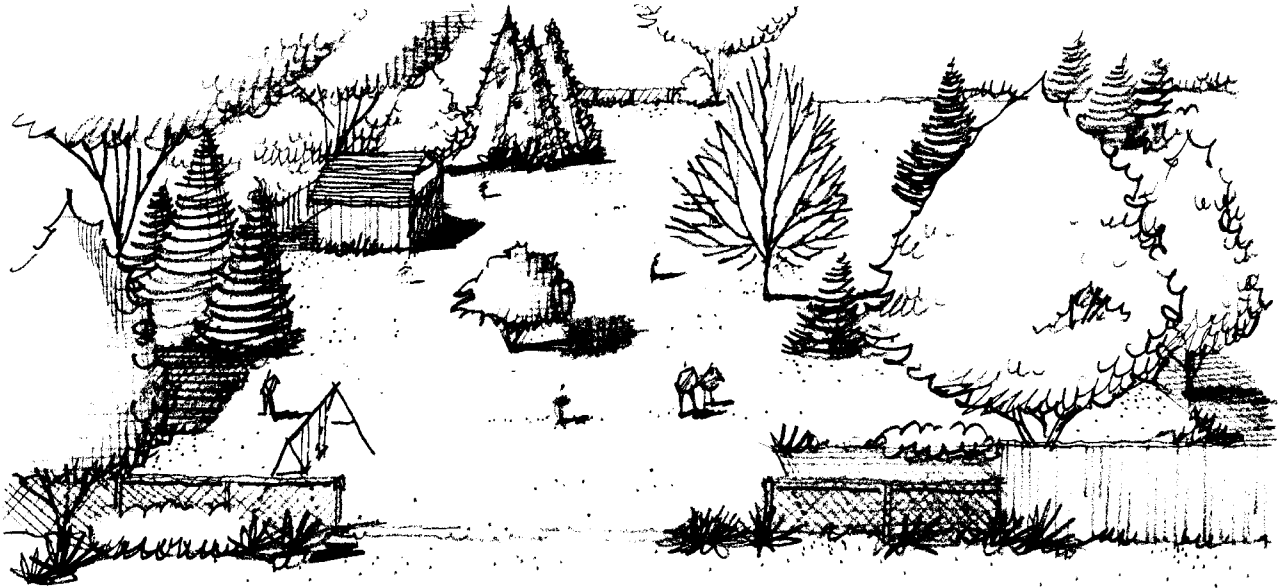
Many backyard areas blend in with each other to form an anonymous open space.

Figure 1-18

Some backyards, particularly in western states, are completely enclosed by walls.



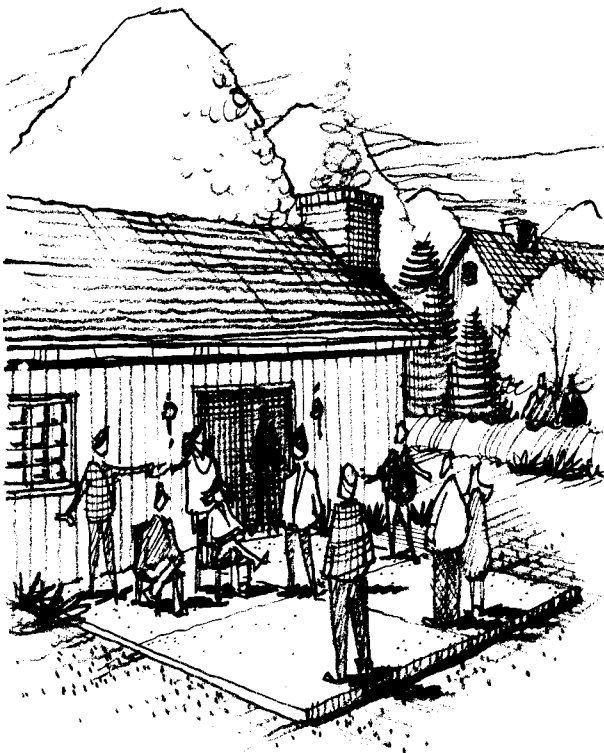
3. *Dissimilar Visual Character.* There is generally a common character to the front yards of homes in a given neighborhood owing to similar size of the homes, similar setbacks, and similar lot sizes. By comparison, the backyards in the same neighborhood are very different from one another due to variations in lifestyles,

**Figure 1-19**

Backyards that are completely open to each other create unsightly views and visual chaos.

interests, personalities, and family size. When the backyards are open to each other, the overall result is visually chaotic (Figure 1-19).

4. *Undersized Outdoor Living Areas.* The outdoor living and entertaining space, if it exists at all, is often established by a terrace. One problem is that many are too small (Figure 1-20). A 12' × 12' area (or between 100 and 150 square feet) is common, especially in new subdivisions. Although this is enough area for several chairs, a small table, and a lounge chair, it is hardly adequate for entertaining several guests.

**Figure 1-20**

A common 12' × 12' outdoor living and entertaining area is too small for comfortable entertaining.

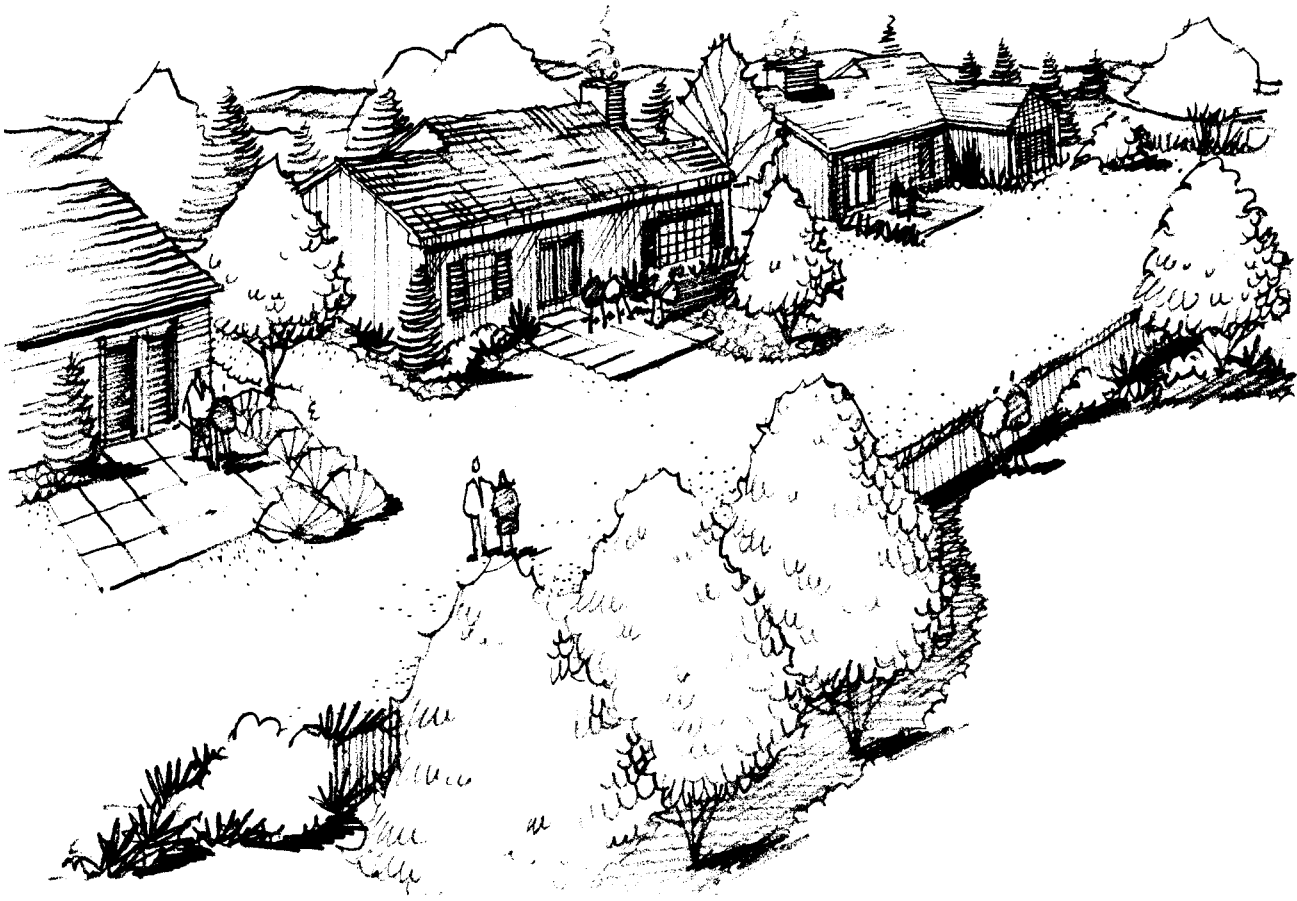
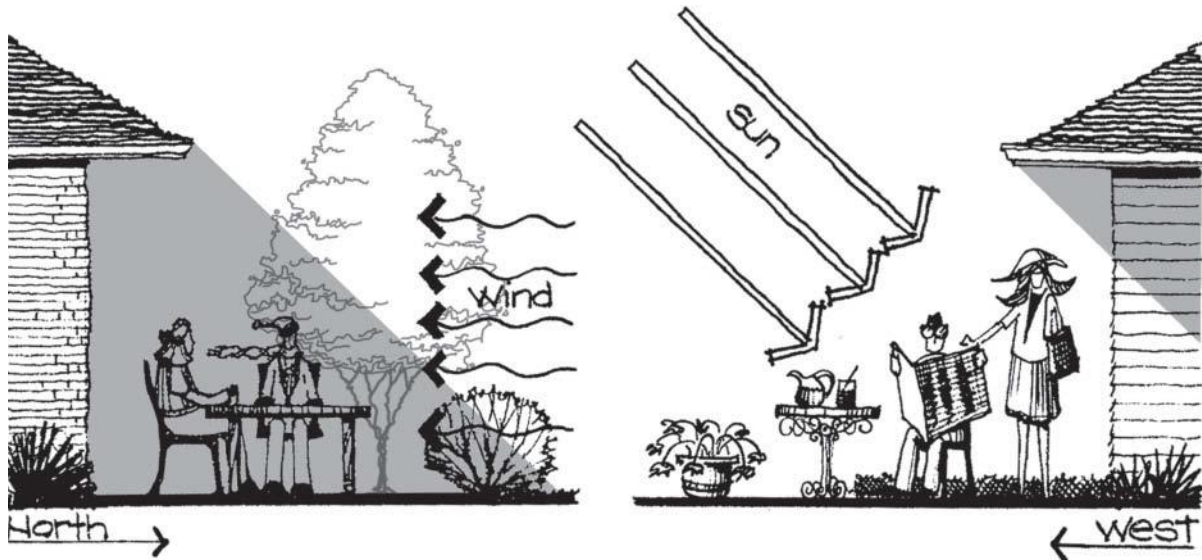


Figure 1-21

Many outdoor living and entertaining spaces lack spatial enclosure and visual separation from neighbors.

5. *Lack of Privacy.* Terraces are usually intended for relaxation and entertainment. However, they are often uncomfortable to use because they lack any sense of enclosure for privacy (Figure 1-21). They are open and exposed to the view of the surrounding neighbors. People feel as if they are on public display when sitting on the terrace.
6. *Harsh Microclimates.* Another reason for the discomfort of many exterior living and entertaining spaces is that they are not located or designed with climate in mind. When located on the north side of the house, these spaces are cool and damp much of the time, as well as exposed to cold winter wind (Figure 1-22). When located on the west side of a house, terraces are very hot during summer afternoons, particularly when not adequately shaded. People do not use outdoor spaces where sun, wind, and precipitation are not been properly considered.
7. *Lack of Appealing Character.* Like front entry walks, many exterior living spaces lack personality or character. They are cold, impersonal spaces that are uninviting to use for any length of time. For many, it is a drab experience to sit with nothing to look at except an open expanse of lawn or the backs of the neighbors' houses (Figure 1-23).
8. *Weak Relation to House Interior.* Another problem of some exterior living spaces is that they have a weak relationship to the interior of the house. Elevation changes and distance isolate rather than coordinate the indoors with the outdoors (Figure 1-24).

**Figure 1-22**

Some outdoor living and entertaining spaces lack protection from sun and wind.

**Figure 1-23**

Some outdoor living and entertaining spaces are devoid of unique character and personality.

Some back doors exit onto a concrete stoop that is smaller in scale than the front-door stoop. This creates the same problem as illustrated in Figure 1-9.

9. *Unsightly Storage Sheds.* Many families possess a collection of maintenance and recreational equipment such as outdoor furniture, barbecue grills, lawn mowers, garden tools, wheelbarrows, children's toys, bicycles, skis, and so on. A typical two-car garage has little extra space to store all these things. Consequently, many homeowners erect metal or wood storage sheds in their backyards to take care of extra belongings. These sheds are usually different in style and character from the house and consequently can be eyesores.
10. *Vegetable Gardens.* A vegetable garden is often stuck in one of the back corners of the yard. It is placed some distance from the nearest water source yet still close enough to the house to be seen as a brown patch of bare earth in the nongrowing season (Figure 1-25).

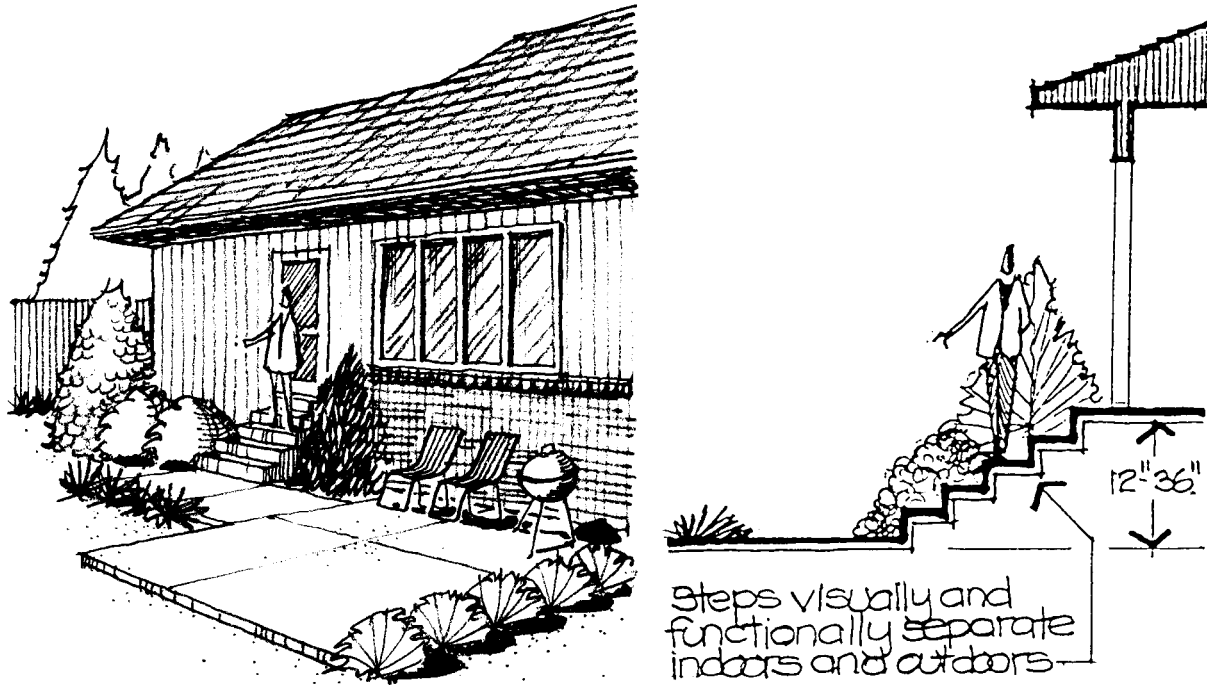


Figure 1-24

A flight of steps at the door isolates the outdoor living and entertaining space from the indoors.

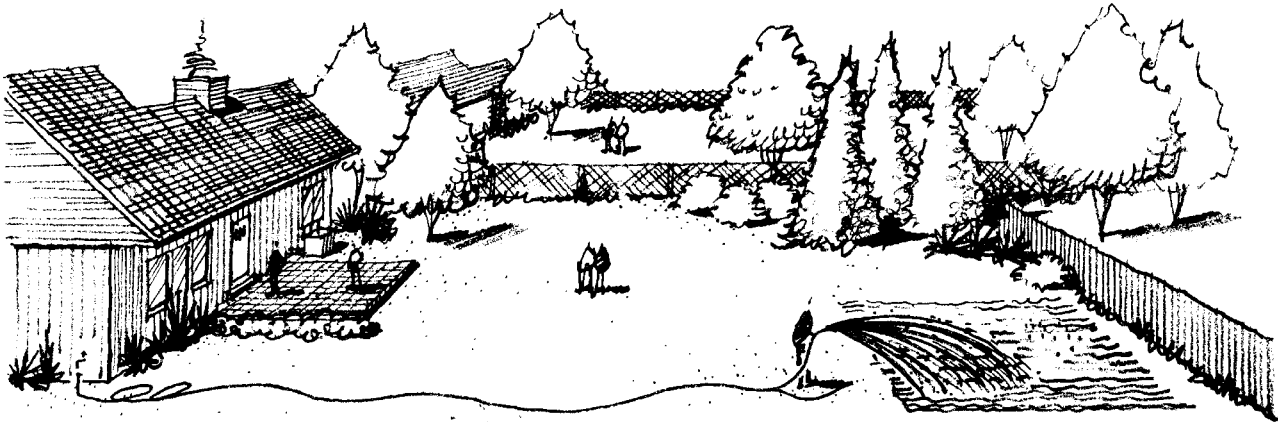


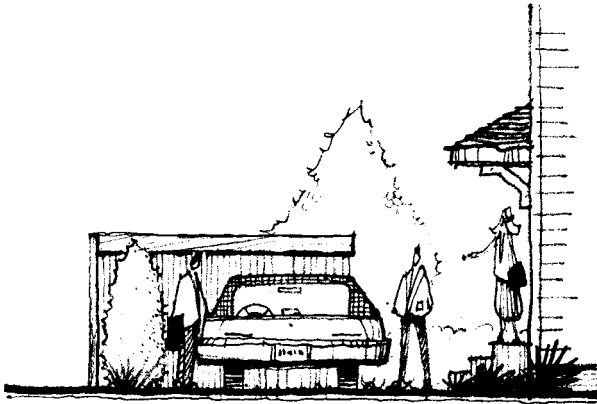
Figure 1-25

Vegetable gardens tend to be placed in far corners of backyards where they are eyesores and remote from a water source.

The biggest design challenge with most backyards is to combine diverse activity areas with aesthetic considerations. Entertaining, cooking, recreation, and gardening spaces should be carefully located with function in mind while also making the backyard an attractive and nurturing retreat.

SIDE YARDS

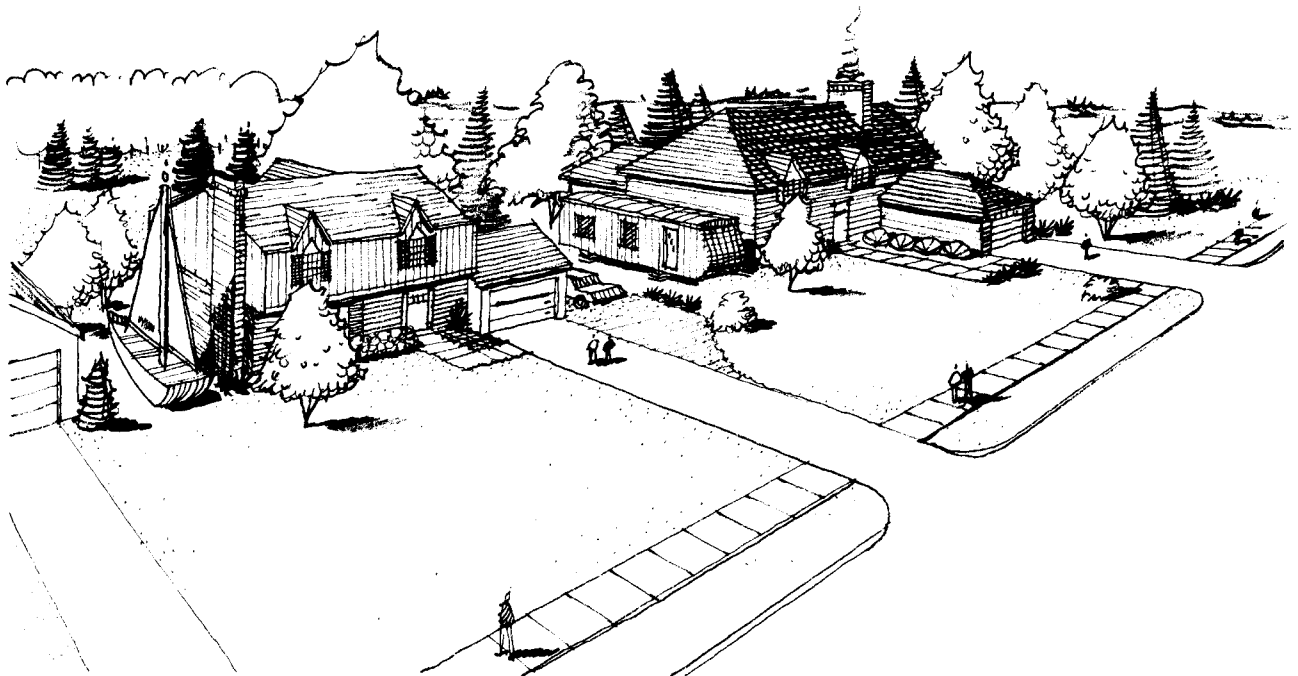
Unlike the front yard or backyard, most side yards have little use except to provide access around the side of the house. Consequently, most side yards are wasted and left-over areas. (Corner sites or those that do have generous space on one or both sides of the house are exceptions.) They are often trouble spots owing to the lack of direct

**Figure 1-26**

A driveway located in the side yard leaves little room for people to walk.

access from the house and because of the narrow space that exists between the house and property line. Side yards vary in width from a narrow 3 to 5 feet to a normal 8 to 12 feet or more. The following describes typical side-yard conditions:

1. *Dominated by Access.* Access through the side yard may be vehicular, pedestrian, or both. For vehicular access, a driveway usually fills the side yard (see Figure 1-5), creating problems similar to those of a driveway along a side of the front yard (Figure 1-26). When cars are parked in a side-yard driveway, the limited space feels even more cramped than the front yard.
2. *Preferred Location for Storage.* Because side yards are out of the main areas of activity as well as primary lines of sight, they are often used for storing visually objectionable equipment and materials. Larger side yards are apt to be storage areas for cars, boats, recreation vehicles, and so on (Figure 1-27).
3. *Damp and Dark Microclimate.* Some side yards are dark, damp, and humid owing to their narrowness and lack of sun exposure. This is especially true of regions that receive significant rainfall.

**Figure 1-27**

Side yards are sometimes used for storage of cars, trailers, boats, etc.

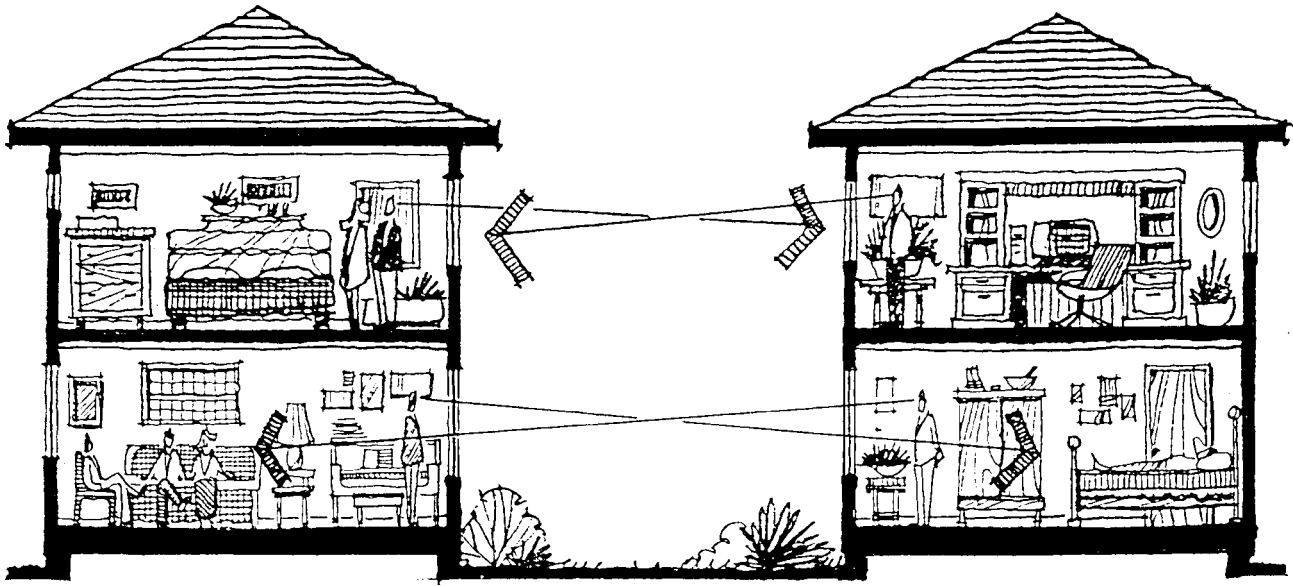


Figure 1-28

Narrow side yards minimize privacy between adjoining houses.

4. *Wasted Space.* Expansive side yards are unused as activity areas owing to poor accessibility from within the house. This can amount to a sizable wasted area that still has to be maintained.
5. *Views Between Houses.* The narrow size of some side yards allows the windows of one house to directly face the windows of the neighboring house, thus minimizing privacy (Figure 1-28). To solve this problem, most homeowners keep the curtains in these windows closed all the time. A more extreme solution, which is a common occurrence, is the construction of houses with no windows facing the side yards.

SUMMARY

The typical American single-family residential site is commonly composed of the front yard, backyard, and side yards, each with a number of challenges that are encountered in almost all regions of the country. The house itself may have a distinct architectural style or it may possess a commonplace character similar to others in the neighborhood. Sadly, the typical residential site is an undistinguished setting that needs help.

It is easy to be critical of most residential sites and to feel discouraged by the lack of good design.

Yet, most residents do care about their landscape, often taking great pride when it is attractive and functional. The typical residential site provides a rewarding opportunity for the landscape designer to create an appealing and stimulating setting that enhances both the client's lifestyle and the quality of the environment. Landscape designers should not underestimate their ability to dramatically affect people's lives. The chapters that follow provide the foundation for accomplishing this.

2

Outdoor Space

INTRODUCTION

There are numerous factors to consider in the design of a residential site. The designer must take many items into account, including clients' wants and needs, the relationship between the interior (rooms, doors, windows, and so on) and the exterior, budget limitations, and the opportunities and constraints of the existing site conditions. As the designer develops a design solution, additional considerations should address the functional relationships among the required uses; the character of the spaces to be created; and the specific sizes, shapes, colors, and textures of the materials selected for the design. However, there should be one central theme that guides all reflections about residential design: *the creation of usable outdoor space*, perhaps more clearly understood as *outdoor rooms*. This should be the principal way of thinking about a residential site and the basic building block for developing a design solution.

The importance of outdoor space is based on the philosophy that residential site design is a three-dimensional composition, not simply the creation of two-dimensional patterns on the ground or the arrangement of plants along the base of a house. Space is the entity where we live, work, and recreate. Consequently, all the site elements that make up the outdoor environment, such as plant materials, pavements, walls, fences, and other structures, are the physical elements that define outdoor space. A residential designer should think of design as the creation and organization of outdoor space and should study how these components define and influence the character and mood of space.

This chapter discusses what outdoor space is, how it is created, and how it is used. This is done by comparing and contrasting outdoor space with indoor space. In addition, guidelines are suggested for locating and designing such outdoor spaces as the arrival and entry space, living and entertaining space, dining space, recreation space, work/storage space, and garden space. Overall, this chapter establishes the basic philosophy for residential site design that is followed throughout the remainder of the book.

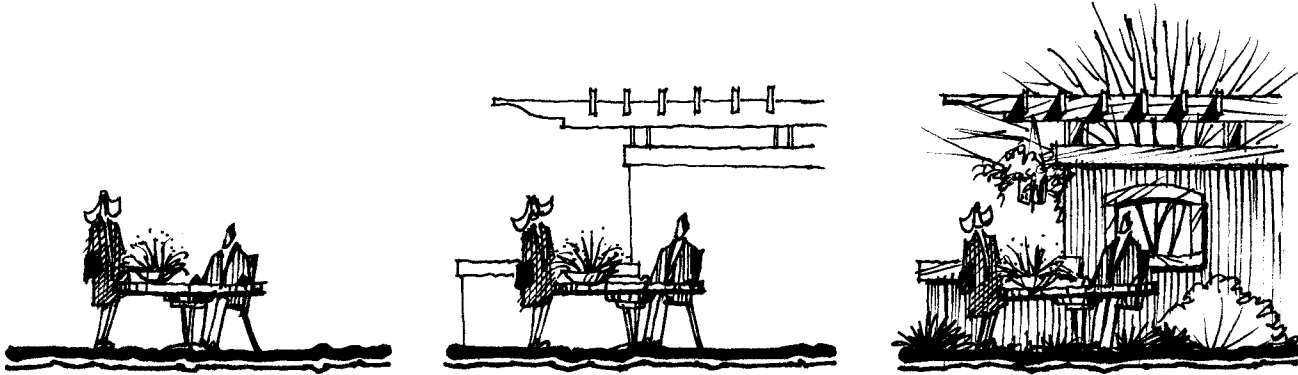
OUTDOOR SPACE

What is space? When designers use the term *space* in a design context, they use it to describe any three-dimensional void or hollowness contained by the sides or edges of surrounding elements; for example, indoor space is physically defined by the floors, walls, and ceilings.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the chapter, the reader should be able to:

- Define outdoor space and identify the seven suggested possible outdoor spaces of a typical residential site.
- Identify the three planes of enclosure and give specific examples of landscape elements that can be used for each plane.
- Name the five zones that comprise the outdoor arrival and entry space and identify design consideration for each zone.
- Identify specific design guidelines for the outdoor living and entertaining space related to size and proportion, arrangement of furniture, circulation, vertical and overhead planes, and relationship to adjacent spaces.
- Identify specific design guidelines for the outdoor food-preparation space related to location, circulation, wind direction, accommodating cooking tools, and the element of fire as a cooking element.
- Identify specific design guidelines for incorporating an outdoor dining space related to location, plan proportions, and planes of enclosure.
- Identify specific design guidelines for the "outdoor recreation space" related to size, location, overall shape, relationship to other spaces, and views.
- Identify specific design guidelines for the design of a pool and fountain.
- Identify specific design guidelines for incorporating an "outdoor work/storage space" related to location, pavement material, and enclosure.
- Identify specific design guidelines for incorporating an "outdoor garden space" related to location, relationship to other spaces, sunlight, water sources, and views.

**Figure 2-1**

A successful space needs (1) sufficient space, (2) planes of enclosure, and (3) spatial character.

Similarly, outdoor space is perceived as space bound by physical elements of the environment such as the ground, shrubs, walls, fences, awnings, overhead arbors, and tree canopies.

For laypeople, the concept of outdoor space is often a difficult one to grasp because they are accustomed to describing the landscape as a collection of physical objects such as buildings, trees, shrubs, and fences rather than space itself. It takes a change of focus and training to view outdoor space as the void between these objects.

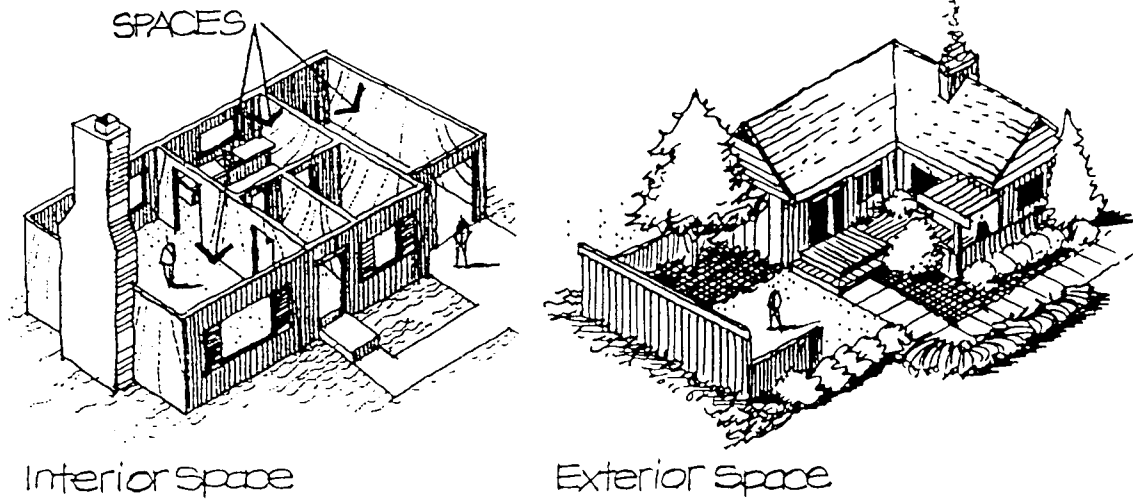
A successful indoor use area functions as a usable space if there is (1) sufficient area, (2) adequate privacy, (3) decoration, and (4) furnishings. In a similar way, outdoor space is successful when it provides the same qualities.

Figure 2-1 illustrates three sequential steps in the development of a successful sitting space. First, basic function is established by the bare necessities, such as a table and chairs. But, people are apt to feel uncomfortable here because of the lack of any spatial definition. People appreciate some enclosure provided by floors, walls, and ceilings. So, second, the feeling of being in a room is created by adding such design elements as a pavement, a fence, and an overhead arbor. However, until these three elements have some character, the space will feel like an empty model home. Therefore, third, it is necessary to select materials, patterns, and colors for the pavement, wall, and arbor to successfully create an aesthetically pleasing space.

An effective means for understanding outdoor space is to think of it as a series of outdoor rooms similar to the interior rooms of a house (Figure 2-2). Each interior room has a sense of enclosure that is clearly defined by the floor, walls, and the ceiling. Similarly, there may be such rooms as the entry space, entertaining space, living space, dining space, and work space in the outdoor environment. Like their interior counterparts, outdoor spaces are defined by three planes of enclosure: (1) the base plane, (2) the vertical plane, and (3) the overhead plane (Figure 2-3).

Base Plane

The base plane or floor of an outdoor space supports all activities and site elements in the outdoor environment. It is the plane on which people walk, run, sit, work, recreate, and play. As such, the base plane receives the most direct use and wear. Areas of a site that endure intense or concentrated use are typically covered with a hard surface such as a pavement, whereas other areas that receive infrequent use are most often

**Figure 2-2**

Outdoor space is similar to indoor spaces.

covered with a soft surface such as lawn, ground cover, or mulch. The base plane is the primary plane on which the designer organizes intended uses (or functions). It is important to realize that good design starts with function, and functional organization begins on the base plane.

**Figure 2-3**

A space defined by all the three planes of spatial enclosure.

(Photo courtesy of Hidden Creek Landscaping, Hilliard, OH)

**Figure 2–4**

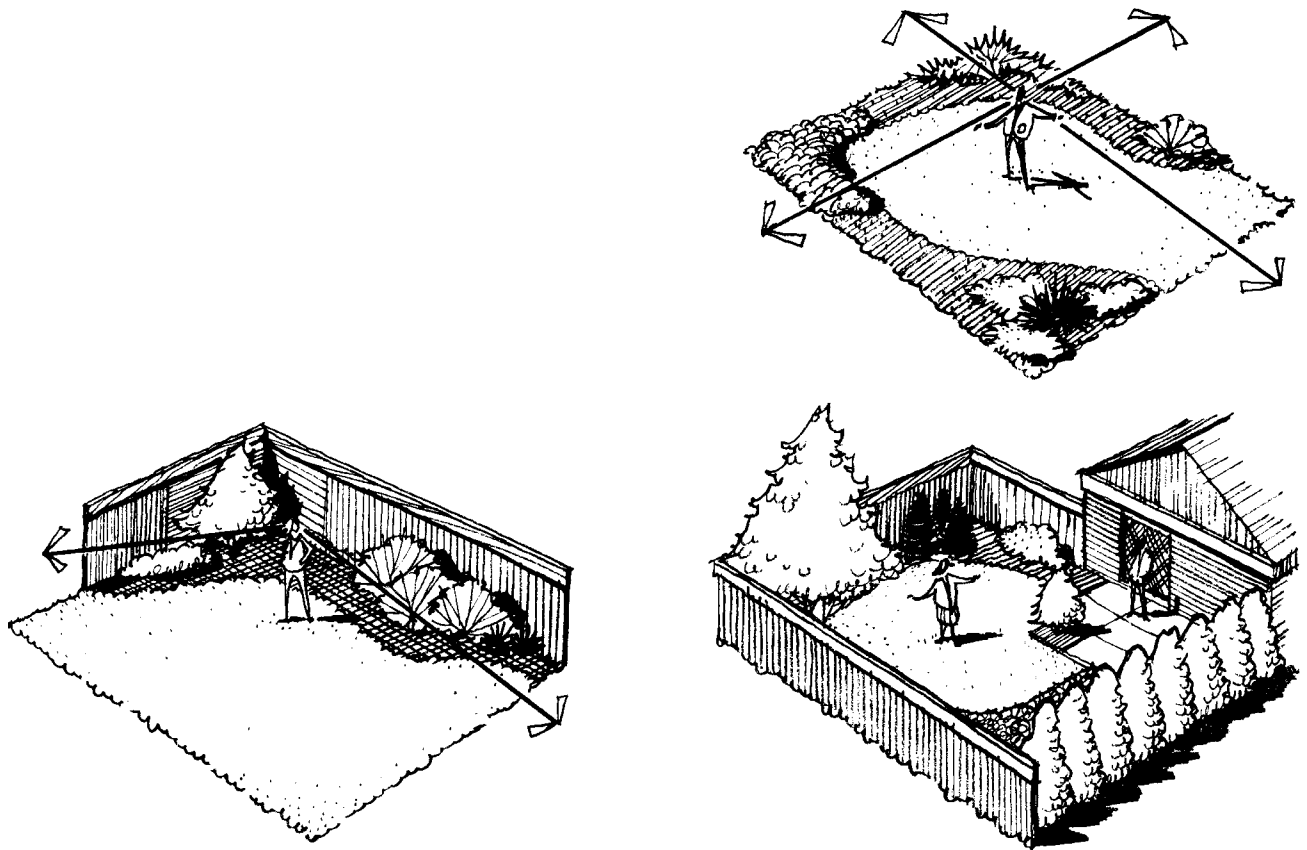
Vertical planes (landform, walls, fences, and plant materials) are used to provide spatial enclosure.

(Photo “top” courtesy of Urban Environments, Inc., Columbus, OH; photo “bottom” courtesy of Oakland Design Associates/Oakland Nursery, Columbus, OH)



Vertical Plane

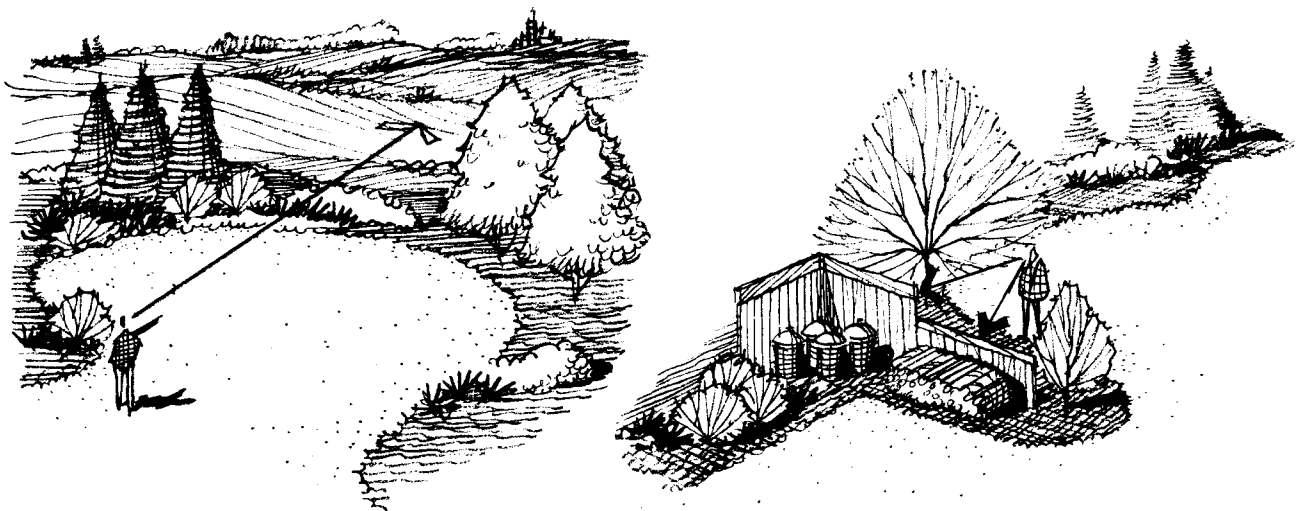
Vertical planes are established by such site elements as the facades of a house, walls, fences, the foliage mass of trees and shrubs, tree trunks spaced close together, and steeply sloped ground. The vertical planes' most prominent role in the landscape is one of enclosure (Figure 2–4). Vertical planes define the edges of a space and separate one space from another. In addition, vertical planes directly affect views by controlling how much or how little is seen from any one place in the landscape. Similarly, the amount of vertical enclosure influences the degree of privacy experienced in a space. An outdoor room may be open with views extending outward in many directions, partially enclosed on several sides, or totally enclosed with an inward orientation (Figure 2–5). Vertical planes may be used to direct and enframe views to desirable places or screen views from unattractive features (Figure 2–6). In addition, the materials, colors, and patterns of vertical planes influence the character of the space. Vertical planes may vary from tall to short, rough to smooth, light to dark, solid to transparent, and so on.

**Figure 2-5**

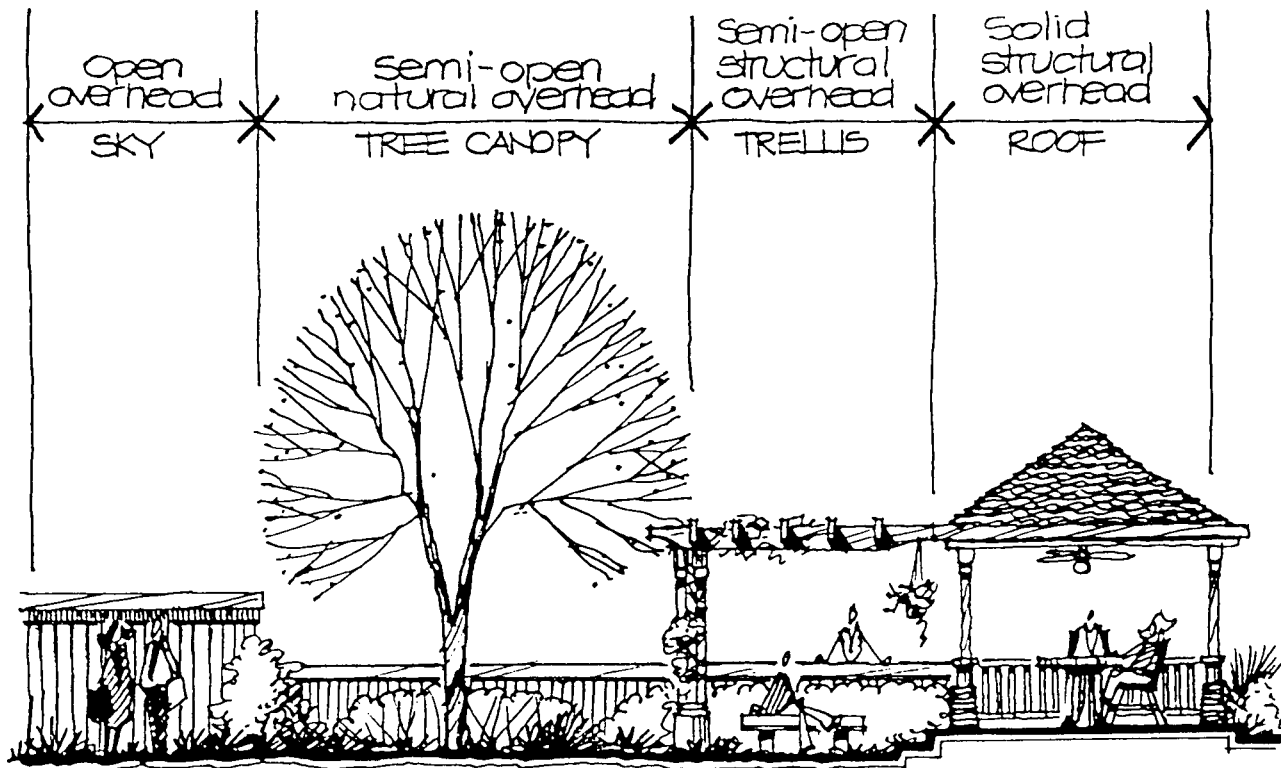
A space may have varying degrees of enclosure.

Overhead Plane

Overhead planes are created by canvas awnings, overhead trellises arbors, pergolas, gazebos, the underside of tree canopies, or even the clouds in the sky. Such planes have two functions. The first is to influence the amount and quality of natural light that enters a space from above (Figure 2-7). The degree of light entering an outdoor

**Figure 2-6**

Vertical planes enframe or screen views.

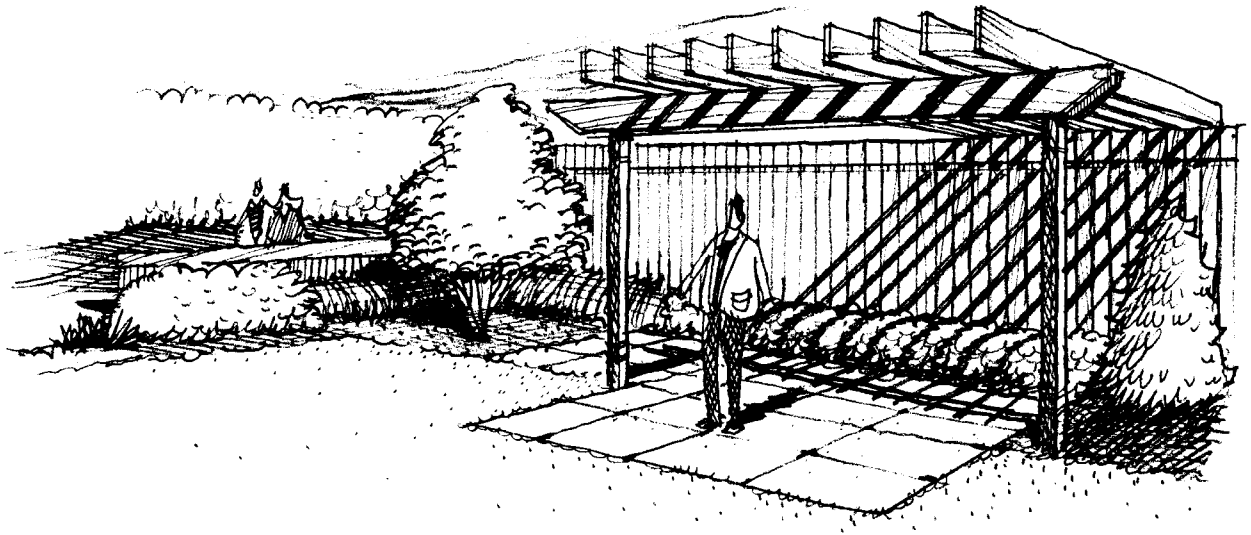
**Figure 2-7**

Overhead planes affect the amount of natural light entering a space.

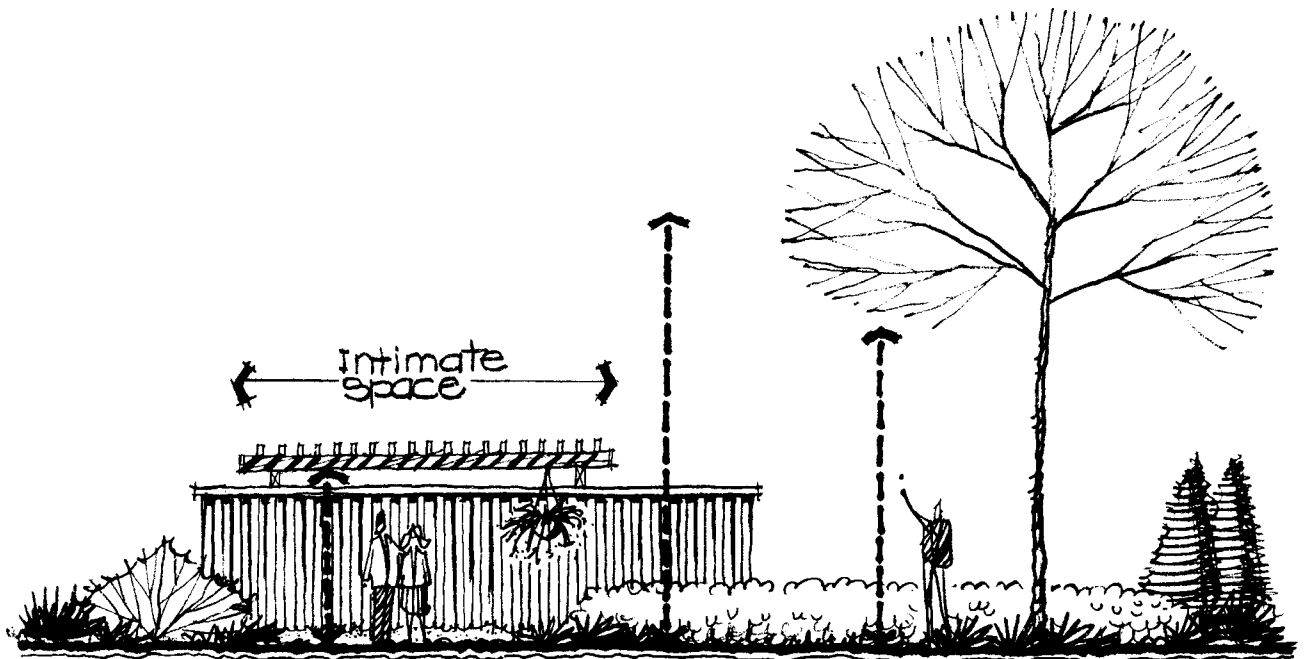
space from above can vary greatly. On the one hand, there may be no overhead plane, which maximizes the amount of natural light entering a space. On the other hand, the overhead plane may be completely solid allowing little or no natural light to enter the space. In between these two extremes, overhead planes may comprise various semitransparent and translucent materials that permit filtered and diffused light to enter into an outdoor space. Very dramatic light effects can be created by an overhead arbor (with or without vines), open trees such as a honey locust or palo verde, or light-colored canvas awnings. In a similar manner, a semitransparent or partially open overhead plane can cast attractive shadow patterns on the ground, adjacent walls, or fence (Figure 2-8). The second function of the overhead plane is to influence the perceived scale of a space. A low overhead plane creates an intimate feeling, whereas a high overhead plane establishes a more uplifting or lofty setting (Figure 2-9).

In the outdoor environment, the base, vertical, and overhead planes function together to create a variety of spaces with different uses and feelings; for instance, an outdoor space may be almost completely enclosed to create a rather intimate and inward focus (Figure 2-10). Such a space tends to have a strong sense of privacy and separation from other spaces. In contrast, an outdoor space may be quite open to provide an expansive feeling, outward-oriented views in many directions, and exposure to sun and wind (Figure 2-11). Ultimately, the designer must decide what type and degree of enclosure is most suitable for an outdoor space to achieve the intended use and mood.

Outdoor space is similar to indoor space, but there are differences that should be recognized and appreciated. Generally, when a person is indoors, there is little

**Figure 2-8**

Overhead planes can create attractive shadow patterns.

**Figure 2-9**

Varying heights of overhead planes create different feelings of enclosure.

question as to where one room ends and another begins. The walls separating one room from another are typically solid and fixed in place with doors or other openings being the only spatial connection between them. Another characteristic of interior space is that the degree of enclosure does not change over time. In addition, light does not vary much, especially if windows are small or absent.

By comparison, the edges of outdoor spaces are not as rigidly defined, so it is sometimes difficult to perceive where one outdoor space ends and another begins.

**Figure 2-10**

An outdoor space may be almost completely enclosed and isolated from its surroundings.

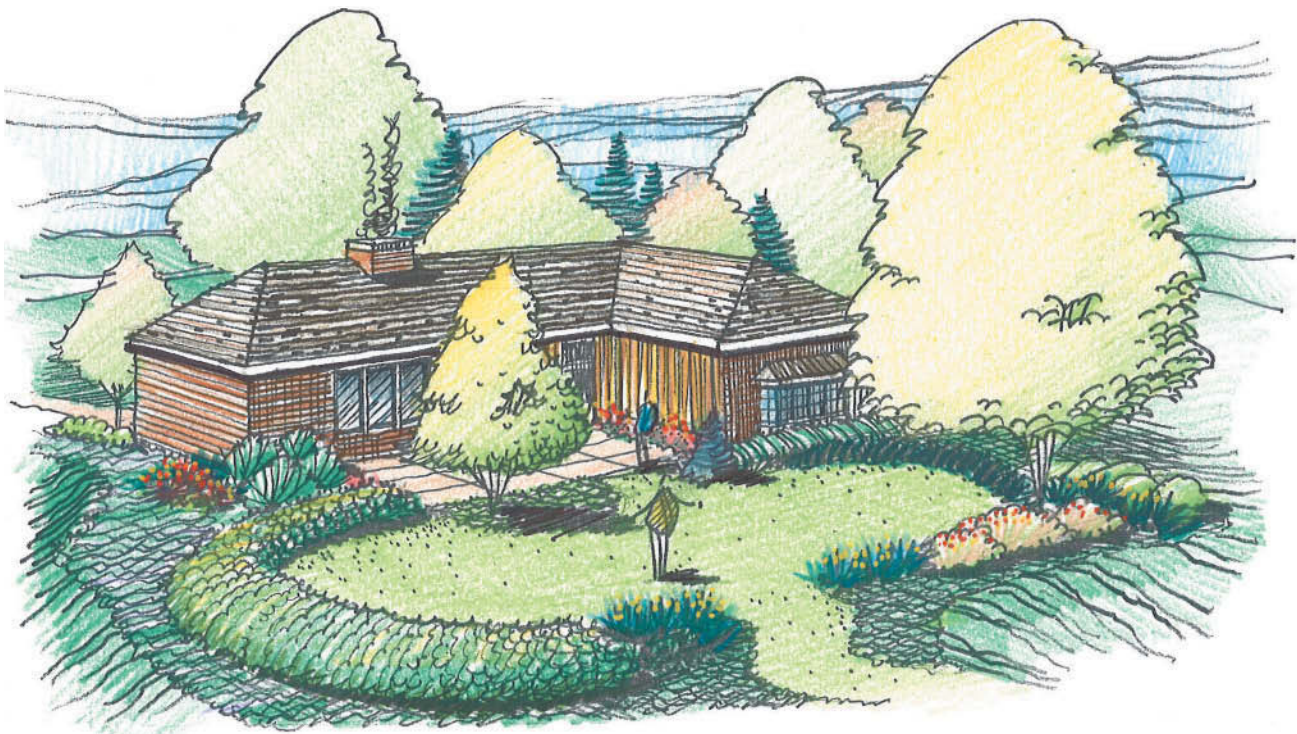
(Photo courtesy of Hidden Creek Landscaping, Hilliard, OH)

**Figure 2-11**

An outdoor space may be open and allow views to the surrounding landscape.

(Photo courtesy of Wood Landscape Services, LTD, Hilliard, OH; design by EDGE, Planning and Landscape Architecture, Columbus, OH)

Outdoor spaces often tend to be defined more by implication than by obvious enclosures (Figure 2-12); for example, plants don't usually provide the sharp, clear edge that interior walls do unless they are pruned to form precise hedges. Many plants have a fairly open character and are amorphous in shape, thus allowing views to extend to spaces and objects beyond. In addition, the elements that define outdoor space are often arranged in an informal manner, unlike the typical straight walls in a house.

**Figure 2-12**

Unlike indoor spaces, outdoor spaces is more open and less defined.



Outdoor spaces change more dramatically over a period of time in comparison to their interior counterparts. Growth and seasonal variations have a tremendous influence on the space-defining abilities of plant materials. In some locations of the country, a space defined essentially by plant materials may seem very enclosed during the summer but quite open during the winter when leaves fall. Perception of outdoor space is also influenced by variations in weather (sun, clouds, fog, rain, snow) and light. An outdoor space may seem very appealing on a warm, sunny day yet uninviting and dismal on another day. Spaces tend to feel smaller and more enclosed during the evening than during the day because of reduced viewing distance in the dark. All the possible combinations of factors make the perception of outdoor space highly variable.

OUTDOOR ROOMS ON THE RESIDENTIAL SITE

As stated earlier, a residential site can be thought of as a series of outdoor rooms or spaces similar to those found inside the house. The most significant outdoor spaces include an outdoor arrival and entry space, living and entertaining space, food preparation space, dining space, recreation space, work/storage space, and garden space. The intent of this section is to examine each of these spaces to more clearly understand their functions and to present design guidelines for their development. This is accomplished by studying the indoor counterpart of each outdoor space to gain insights into how outdoor spaces might be designed.

Indoor Entry Foyer

The entry foyer is the space usually located immediately inside the front door. Its purpose is to serve as a transition space between the outdoor and indoor environments. The foyer is a transition space in the sense that it acclimates a person after entering or before leaving the inside of the house. It is a place where people stand temporarily to welcome visitors or say goodbyes.

Outdoor Arrival and Entry Space

The outdoor arrival and entry space is the exterior complement to the interior entry foyer. It has many similarities, but a few differences as well. As discussed in Chapter 1, the outdoor arrival and entry space on the typical residential site lacks identity and character. Although people can get to the front door, an important question is: Does this space provide a pleasant experience that says “welcome,” or is it simply plain and unappealing?

Some design guidelines for the outdoor arrival and entry space can assist a designer in developing a pleasant entry space to complement the residence. To start with, a well-designed outdoor arrival should comfortably accommodate pedestrian movement from off the site to the front door of the house in a safe and orderly fashion. The route should be obvious and easy to negotiate during the day and at night.

In addition, a well-designed arrival and entry space should display an attractiveness that complements the residence and provides a pleasant experience. This space should provide comfort and interest to visitors and possibly also serve as a delightful place to sit and relax. The outdoor arrival and entry space should be designed to have character and personality that responds to the site, the house, and its residents.

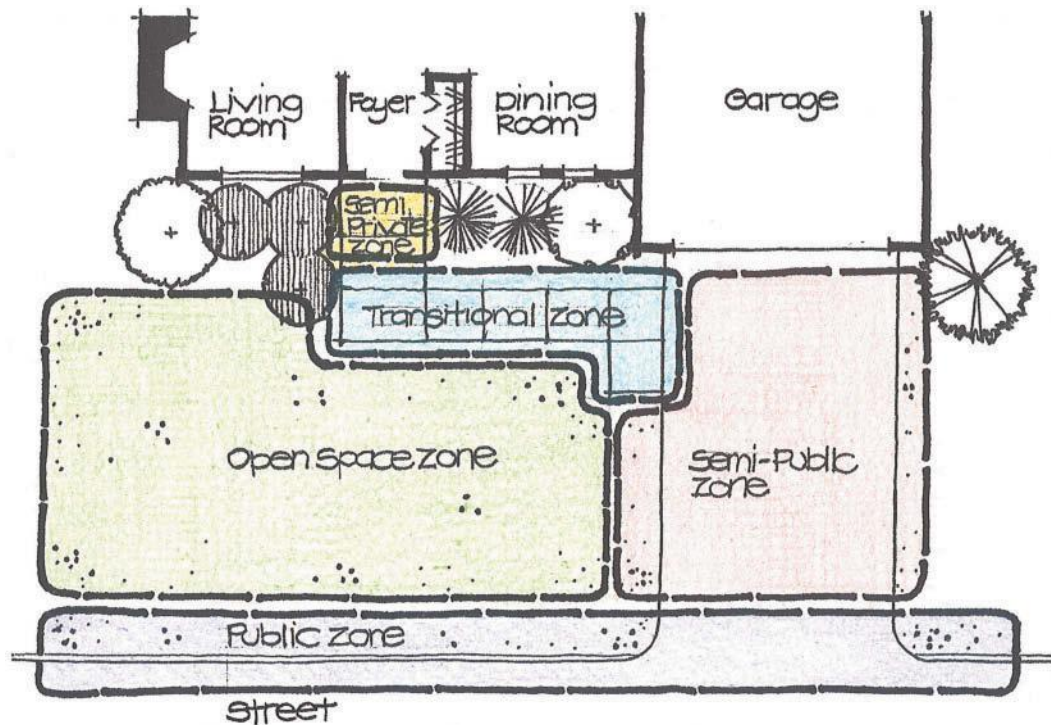
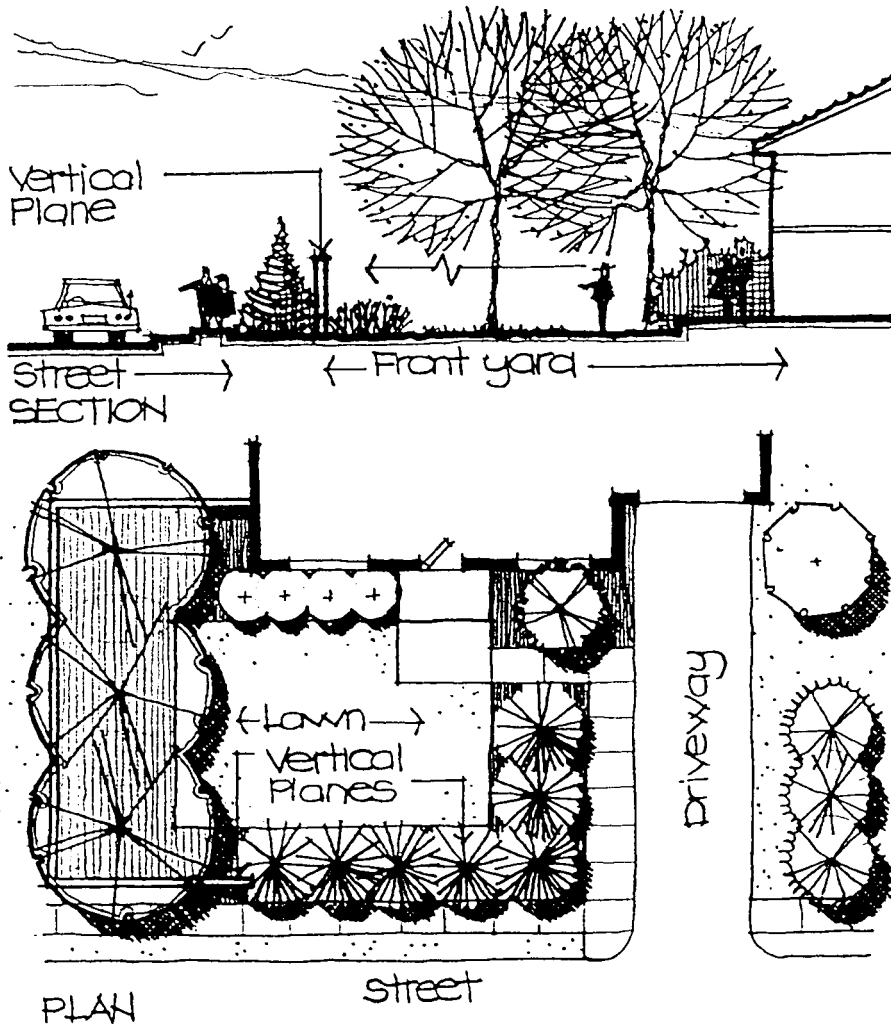


Figure 2-13
Zones of entry on the typical residential site.

The entire outdoor arrival and entry space can be divided into five zones relating to arrival and entry (Figure 2-13). A person proceeds through or adjacent to each of these zones when arriving and leaving the property. The “public” zone is defined by the curb and the property lines. Whether on foot or in a vehicle, a person begins the arrival sequence the moment the curb zone or property lines are crossed. The “semi-public” zone occurs on or along the driveway, which is normally the least defined or enjoyable part of the arrival and entry sequence. The walk between the driveway and the outdoor entry space represents the “transitional” zone. This zone is pedestrian oriented, thus making the scale and detail of this area critical. The “semiprivate” zone is the outdoor foyer. Like its interior counterpart, this space serves as a transition zone as well as a place for meeting and greeting visitors. The “open space” zone occupies the remainder of the front yard. In many instances, this zone is taken up by the front lawn and plantings. Although a guest may not actually walk through the lawn, the lawn is nonetheless a visual element.

Each of these zones contributes to the overall experience of arriving at the site and entering the home, so each should be carefully studied during the evolution of a design solution. The following paragraphs provide guidelines for each of these zones.

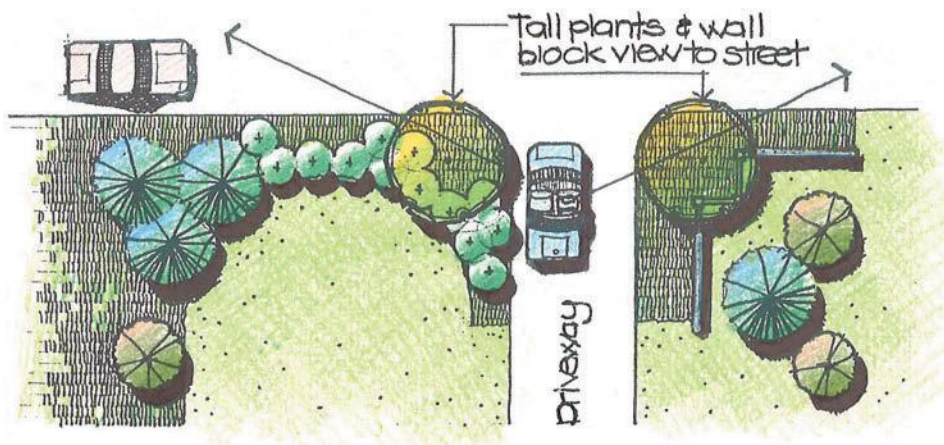
Public Zone This first zone is designed to acknowledge a sense of entry onto the site. The borders of the site, particularly the front edge along the sidewalk or street, may provide a sense of enclosure for the front yard with low walls, fences, or plantings (Figure 2-14). A sense of entry is felt when walking or driving through this plane of enclosure just as when a person walks through a doorway of an interior room. This concept also separates the front yard from the street, establishes a greater sense of privacy, and makes the front-yard space more comfortable, especially if it is used for sitting and relaxing. Some words of caution are warranted about enclosure near the street. First, the height of walls or plantings in this zone should not interfere with the ability to see in and out of the driveway, especially for drivers backing

**Figure 2-14**

Vertical planes are used along front of the property to provide a sense of enclosure and separation from the street.

into the street (Figure 2-15). Secondly, enclosures should comply with local zoning ordinances, which often restrict the location and height of walls, fences, and plantings in the front yard.

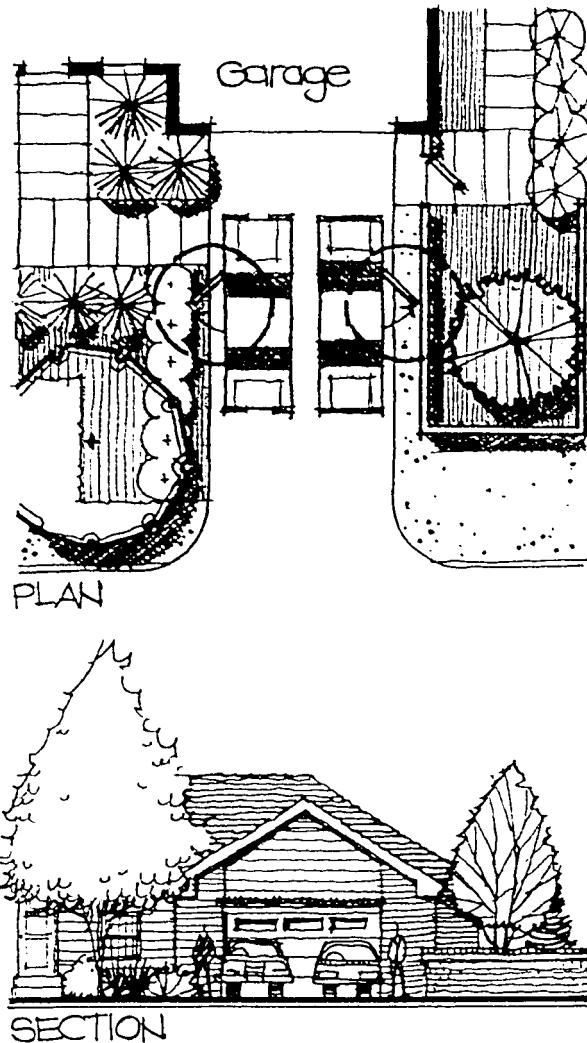
Semipublic Zone The next zone is the driveway and the area along its sides. Its major function is to provide adequate space for parking cars and for people to move about on foot in a comfortable manner. The driveway should be wide enough to allow

**Figure 2-15**

Tall plants and/or fences should not be placed in locations that inhibit the driver's view of the street.

**Figure 2-16**

Plants, walls, and so on, located too close to the driveway interfere with the opening of car doors and pedestrian circulation.

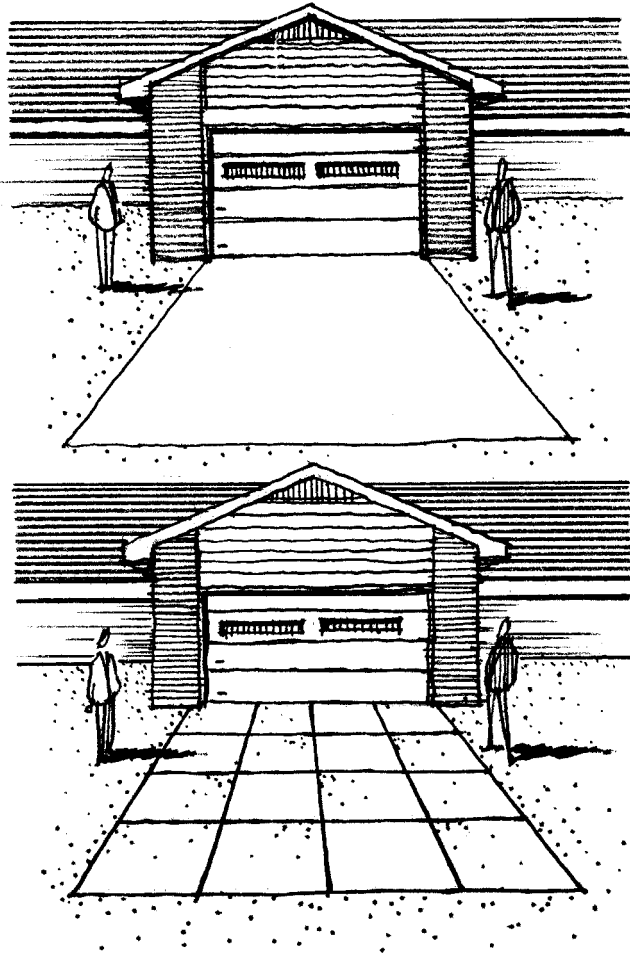


the desired number of cars to park conveniently, but not so large as to visually dominate the arrival area or front yard. Most cars require a $9' \times 18'$ space for parking. All walls and plantings should be kept back from the edge of the driveway so as not to interfere with the opening of car doors or people walking along the edge of the driveway (Figure 2-16).

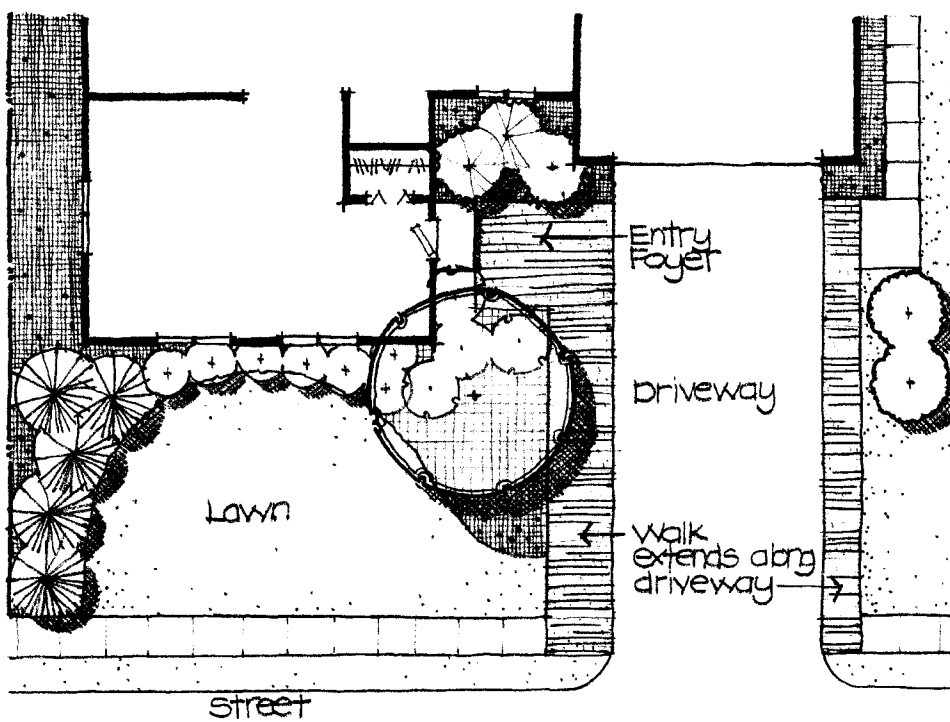
The pavement material and pattern of this zone should be given careful thought. Owing to the relatively massive size of many driveways, the pavement material can have a direct influence on the perceived scale of the driveway and its visual appeal. Simply providing a scoring pattern in the concrete reduces the apparent size of the driveway (Figure 2-17).

Adequate space should be provided along the edge of the driveway to allow people to walk without having to rub against parked cars or having to tread on wet grass, planting beds, or in snow piles. This can be accomplished by providing a walkway that extends along one or both edges of the driveway (Figure 2-18). To identify this as a pedestrian area, the pavement should be a different material and/or pattern than the driveway. The walk surface should be flush with the elevation of the driveway and should not contain steps or other abrupt elevation changes. Low plantings can be used to reinforce the edge of the walk or to separate it from adjoining spaces or lawn areas.

If the entry walk does not extend along the driveway's edge, it should be obvious as to where the entry walk to the front door is located. This can be done by locating an

**Figure 2-17**

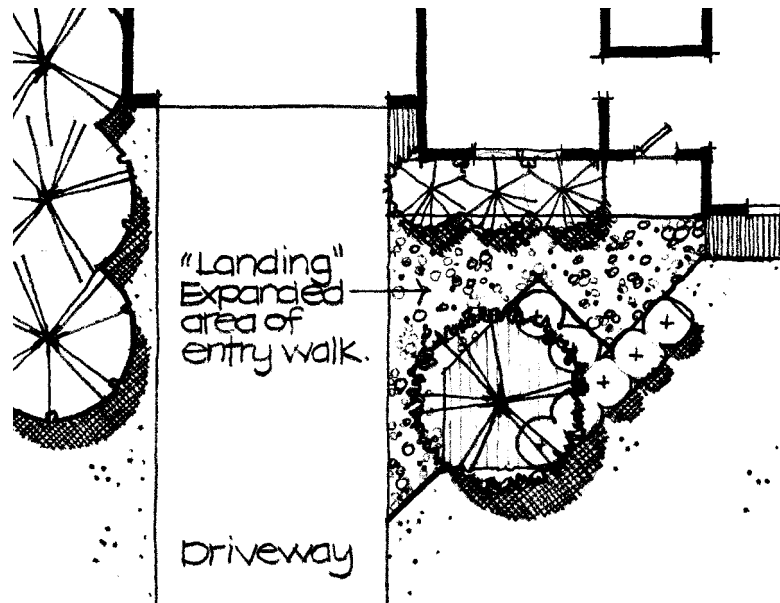
A simple scoring pattern reduces the apparent size of the driveway.

**Figure 2-18**

Walks on both sides of the driveway provides easier access to the entry walk.

**Figure 2-19**

An expanded entry walk or "landing" provides a more welcoming approach.

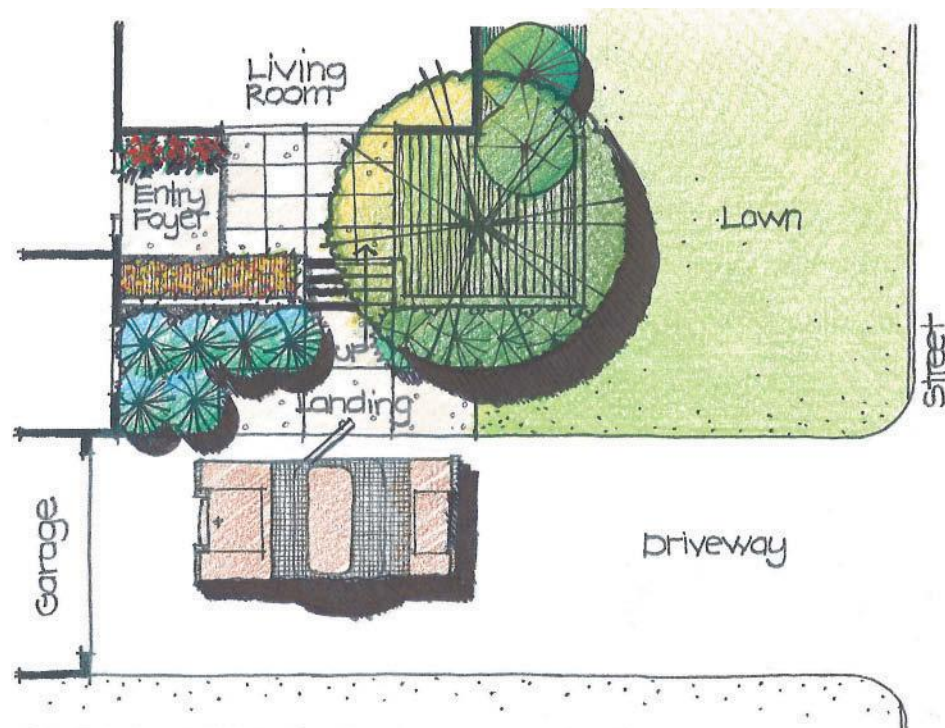


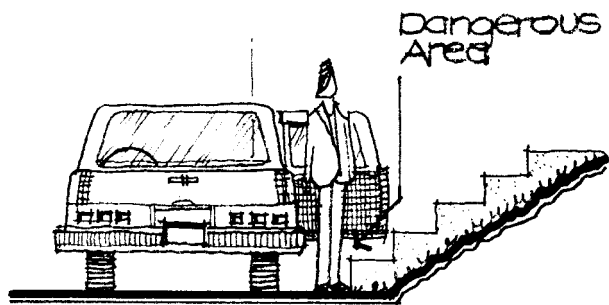
expanded area of walkway or landing at an appropriate place along the edge of the driveway (Figure 2-19). This landing should ideally resemble a funnel shape so it is immediately recognizable and can gently guide people onto the entry walk itself. In addition, this area should be located at a place along the driveway where most cars stop to park (Figure 2-20). This allows people on one side of the car to step directly out onto the landing. Steps should not be placed right next to the driveway where they can catch someone by surprise (Figure 2-21).

The landing area can be further acknowledged by the careful placement of an accent element to attract attention, such as an ornamental tree, a planting with seasonal color, a light fixture, or a combination of these elements (Figure 2-22).

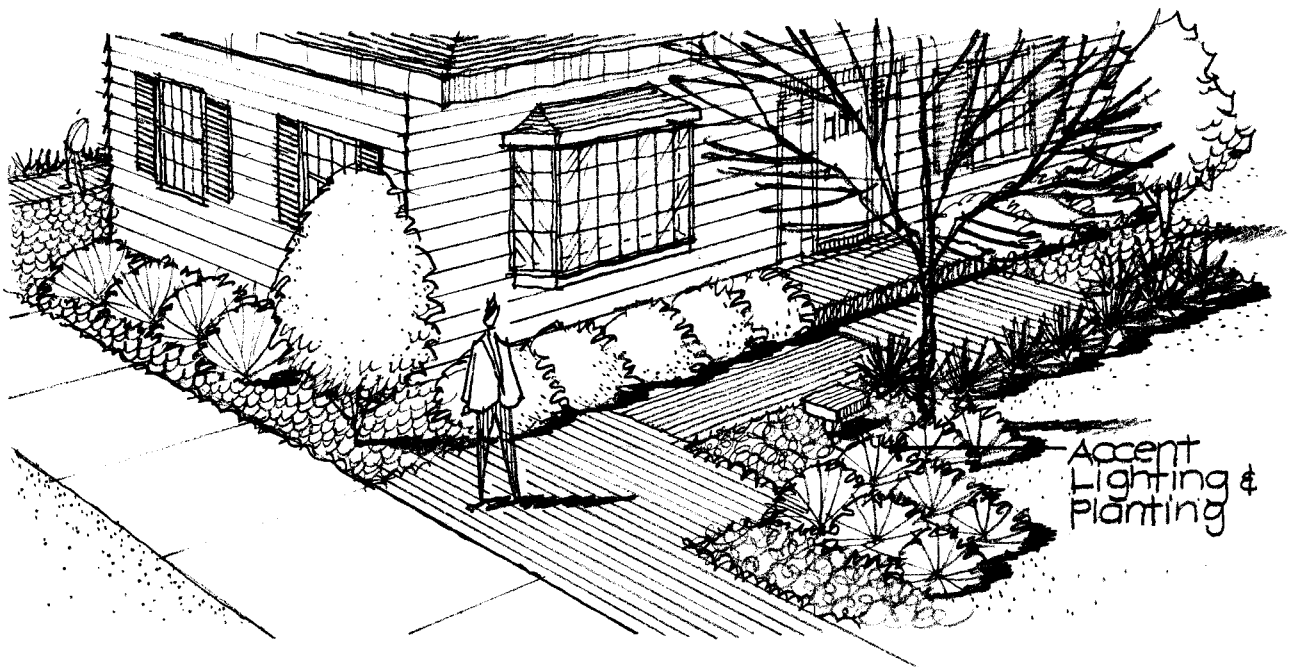
Figure 2-20

The landing should be located where a car would normally be parked in the driveway.



**Figure 2-21**

Avoid placing landing steps too close to the edge of the driveway.

**Figure 2-22**

Plantings, a light, an ornamental tree, and so on can accent the location of the "landing."

Transitional Zone The next zone or subspace in the arrival sequence is the entry walk. Its primary function is to accommodate and direct movement from the driveway (semipublic zone) to the outdoor foyer (semiprivate zone). It should provide a safe walking experience with a variety of pleasant views along the walk. This can be done by creating a fairly direct walkway, or slightly altering the direction of the walk and varying views and points of interest as a person moves toward the front door (Figure 2-23). In addition, specimen plants, seasonal flowers, sculpture, water, or other elements can be located along the walk to enhance its character. Low walls, fences, or plant materials incorporated in the walk can help direct and reinforce movement (Figure 2-24). These low vertical planes also provide enclosure so a person doesn't feel like he or she is walking through an undefined open area. Although the entry walk should be interesting, it should not be so indirect that it confuses or frustrates a visitor (Figure 2-25).

In terms of safety and convenience, the walk should be at least 4½ feet wide so two people can walk side by side comfortably (Figure 2-26). If necessary, steps can be incorporated in the entry walk to take up any grade changes.

**Figure 2-23**

A meandering walk provides different views as one moves toward the front door.

(Photo courtesy of Wood Landscape Services, LTD, Hilliard, OH)

**Figure 2-24**

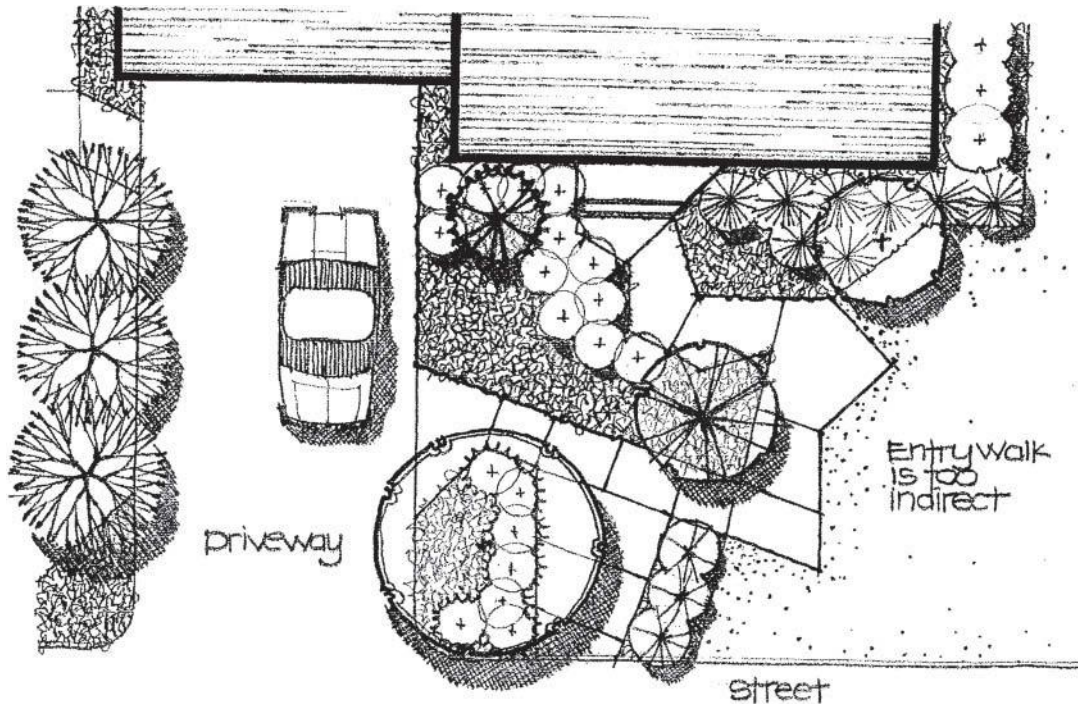
Low walls, fences, and plant materials help direct movement toward the front door.

(Photo courtesy of Wood Landscape Services, LTD, Hilliard, OH)

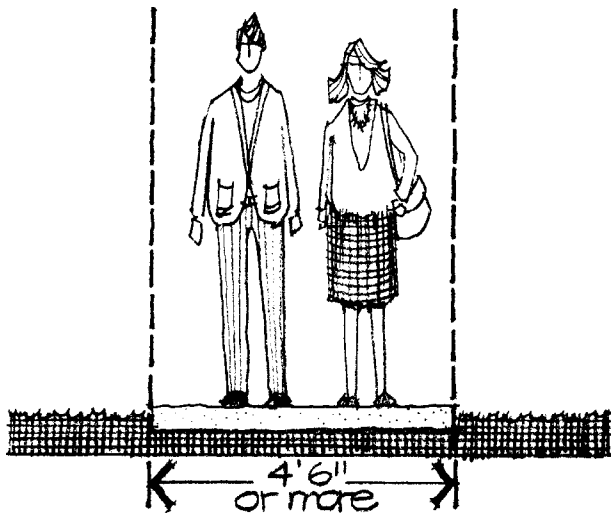


Semiprivate Zone The outdoor foyer is the next zone of the arrival sequence. This space is similar to the interior entry foyer, serving as a transition space, and for stopping and gathering. The outdoor foyer is a transition space between the entry walk and the interior foyer, just as the interior foyer is a transition between the outdoor entry space and the rest of the house.

The outdoor foyer should be larger in size than the entry walk and have approximately equal plan proportions so it feels like an arrival space. This space should be large enough to allow for a small group of people to gather outside the front door without being in the way of the opening and closing of the door. In

**Figure 2-25**

Avoid entry walks that are too long and indirect.

**Figure 2-26**

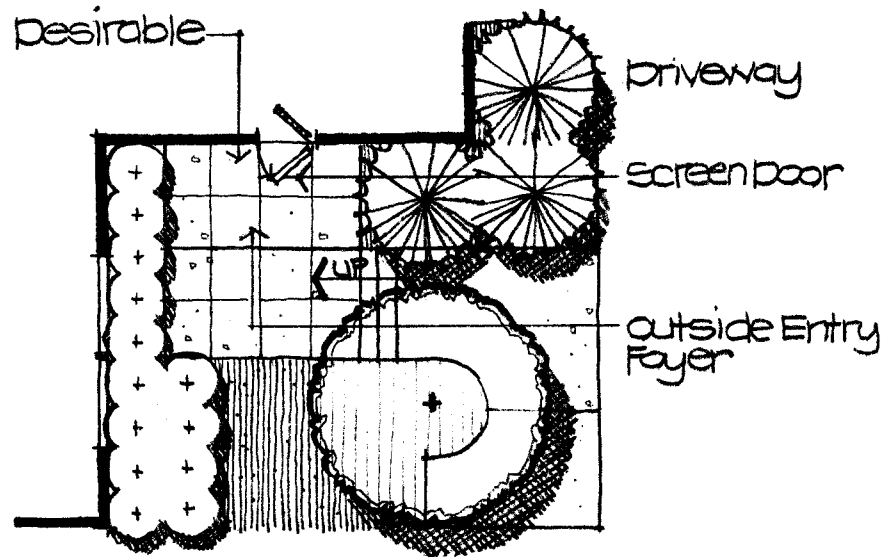
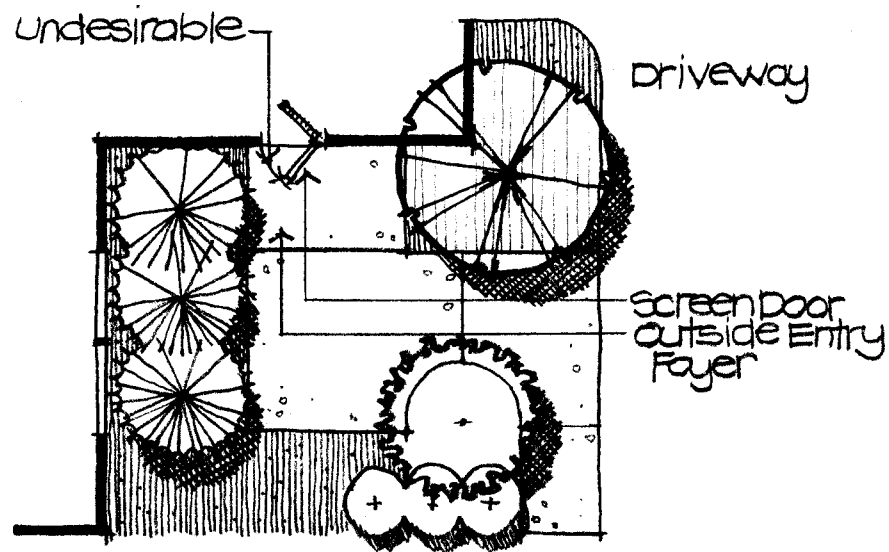
Minimum suggested walk width for two people.

addition, the outdoor foyer should be designed so the majority of its area is on the side where the front door opens (Figure 2-27). This allows for easier entry into and exit from the house.

To furnish an adequate sense of enclosure in the outside foyer, careful consideration should be given to the three planes of enclosure. The ground plane might be constructed of a different material and/or pattern than the entry walk to suggest its distinct use as a stopping and gathering space (Figure 2-28). Vertical planes can control views into and out of the outdoor foyer and give a sense of separation from adjoining areas of the front yard. As seen in Figure 2-29, an ornamental tree can not only provide an accent element but also serve as a screen and “turning element” that directs

**Figure 2-27**

Provide adequate space for entry in relation to the swing of the door.



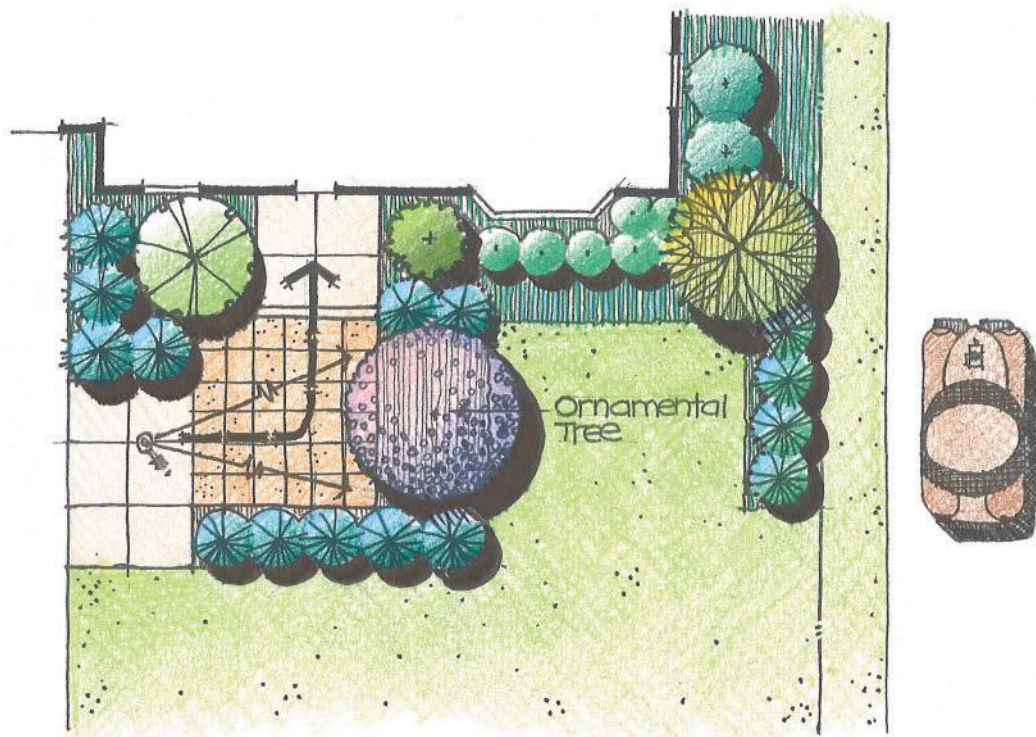
people toward the front door. Depending on the degree of enclosure desired, the vertical planes may vary in height and transparency. In some instances, the outdoor foyer may be fairly enclosed for privacy, whereas in other situations, carefully selected views to other areas of the yard may be established. Again, the designer should check local zoning ordinances for restrictions of height and placement of any vertical structures such as walls or fences.

The overhead plane can be used in the outdoor foyer to provide an intimate scale to the space as well as to provide protection (if it is solid) from hot summer sun or precipitation.

**Figure 2-28**

A change in the pavement material and/or pattern emphasizes the entry foyer.

(Photo courtesy of Wood Landscape Services, LTD, Hilliard, OH)

**Figure 2-29**

A tall element or ornamental tree provides accent, screens view, and directs movement.

As with the interior entrance foyer, the outdoor foyer should imply a warm welcome and provide a pleasant atmosphere. This can be done by furnishing the space with potted plants, sculpture, or other elements to give the space a personal touch; for example, a bench in the outdoor foyer can provide a place to sit and be a gesture of hospitality.

**Figure 2-30**

In small front yards, usable space and plantings may be used instead of lawn.



Open Space Zone The last zone of the outdoor arrival and entry space is the remaining area in the front yard. Depending on the overall size of the site, this zone may vary from a small piece of ground to an expansive front lawn. Its size will influence how this area is best used. For small sites, this zone may be a planting area incorporated into some of the other zones. In this situation, there may be no need for lawn. This zone may serve other purposes such as a sitting space (Figure 2-30) that is integrated into the outside foyer.

On larger sites, this zone is often lawn, planting beds, trees, or other elements that serve as the foreground for the house and other areas in the front yard. To what degree this area is incorporated into other zones of the front yard is a matter of circumstance and choice. The remaining yard area might be strongly separated (Figure 2-31) or integrated harmoniously with the other zones (Figure 2-32).

In conclusion, all the zones of the outdoor arrival and entry space should establish a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Because it is one of the most significant outdoor spaces on the residential site, the outdoor arrival and entry space deserves a great deal of design attention.

Indoor Living and Entertaining Room

One of the major rooms of the house is the living and entertaining space. Depending on the client, this space may be the living room, the family room, or the great room. In any case, this space is usually semipublic in nature because it is the place where visitors can be entertained and business conducted. In addition, the residents often spend many hours in this space. Two reasons for its frequent use are (1) the decor and furnishings establish a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere and (2) the space can be used for a variety of functions such as family gatherings, entertaining guests, eating, reading, listening to music, watching television, conversing, and so on. Lighting plays an important role in the utilization of the entertaining space because it can normally be altered to match the mood of the activity that is