Principals of Landscape Design: Focalization

Architectural Drawing
What We Learned Last Time...

- **Balance.** A well balanced landscape is essential to any outdoor space.
- Makes the space more enjoyable for the viewer.
- Two Types...
  - **Symmetrical:** Same on both sides.
  - **Asymmetrical:** Different on each side, however still maintains some balance.
  - **Proximal/Distal Balance:** Refers to distance. Depth in the field of vision.
Focalization

• Force the individuals view to a certain focal point.
• Any good landscape design has a focal point where the viewers eyes are drawn too.
• Choose and place visually strong elements into the landscape design.
• Focal Points can be...
  • Plants
  • Hardscapes
  • Architectural Elements
  • Color
  • Texture
• Do not overuse focal points!
Focalization Continued...

- **Focalization** creates a *visual break* in the *landscape*.
- Captures the attention of the viewer and *draws* their *focus*.
- Without a *focal point* the viewers eye is lost in the landscape.
- Do not place too many *focal points*, instead use other elements to guide the viewers eye to the focal point.
- Place visually interesting elements.
In Conclusion...

• Any good design has a good focal point.
• Use sparingly. Do not over use focal points.
• Use around the front doors of houses to draw the eye to the entrance way.
• Focal points should be strong visual elements such as...
  • Plants
  • Hardscapes
  • Fountains
  • Pools
  • Terraces
Your Assignment

• You will create an Symmetrical Design 75’ x 75’ with a central focal point.
• This will be designed as a public space (not a back yard).
• When you are done you will save it to the 2,4,6 Focalization folder within the Landscape Architecture Folder in the format “your last name – Focalization.”
• View the examples on the website.