

Art principles of landscape

Landscaping is making of pictures with plant material and, hence, its principles are same as those of art. They are as follows:

➤ **Rhythm**

Repetition of same object at equidistance is called rhythm. It can be created through the shapes, progression of sizes or a continuous line movement, rhythm creates movement to the eye. In gardens, generally trees of single species of equal height and shape are planted to create this effect. In Mughul gardens, fountains and water canals have also been extensively used to create such effect. Now-a-days other objects like lights are also used to create the effect of rhythm.

➤ **Balance**

It is very important to maintain the balance on both sides of the central line. The principle involved in making balance of see-saw game can help in understanding this. Equal weights can be balanced only when they are equidistant from the centre. If weights are unequal, the heavier must move towards centre for making balance. The balance may be formal, informal or symmetrical types. Imbalance will look lopsided and will distract the attention. In making the balance with the plants, their form, colour, texture etc. are kept in view.

➤ **Accent or emphasis**

The accent or emphasis is created in the gardens to avoid the monotonous view. It is the method to stress the most important thing. This also serves as the centre of attraction. Mostly unusual objects like tall fountain, tree, statue etc. are used to create the effect of accent or emphasis. In English gardens, statues have been used extensively to create such effects.

➤ **Contrast**

This principle is most useful in emphasising the best features of an object. It can be very easily understood by following contrast colour theory. Against green background, a fleck of scarlet colour will make a contrast and will make scarlet colour prominent. In nature this is very common. Other contrast colour can also be used. Similarly, weeping growth habit against upright growth, dwarf against tall, rough texture against soft texture etc, are some of the examples which can be followed. It is also very important that one of the two contrasting objects must clearly dominate each other. In this way, one becomes feature whereas other acts as supporting background. The contrasting elements of equal power may create visual tensions.

➤ **Proportion**

It is the relation of one thing to another in magnitude. When two or more objects are put together the proportions are established. In a landscape design, space provided for lawn, paths, herbaceous borders, shrubbery border, trees, buildings and other garden objects should be in a right proportion. It will create harmonious effect and look better. Such effects can be noticed in Persian and Mughal gardens. Out of proportion allotment of area in garden will distract the attention. Proportion helps in space organization.

➤ **Harmony**

It is an overall effect of various features, styles, and colour schemes of the total scene. The degree of harmony or unity of various elements of landscape is a measure induced in us and is called as beauty. Therefore, the beauty can be defined as the evident relationship of all parts of a thing observed. When different parts of landscape are correctly placed in right way, produces a harmonious

effect. Such landscapes create picturesque effect and appeals to visitors. On the contrary, the absence of harmony or lack of unity is ugliness.

