

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Landscape Design Schools
COURSE III CURRICULUM**

a) *Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape:* Discuss seasonal displays, color schemes, and succession of blooms for their landscape effect. Note the special maintenance requirements for herbaceous materials, including wildflowers. Point out the need for knowledgeable personnel in continuing plant care and how changes in maintenance budgets and/or personnel often destroy the effect of a complex design if required horticultural practices are not continued.

b) *Landscape Design Accessories:* Discuss selection, role, and placement of accessories—sculpture, ceramics, furniture, water features, and container plants. Discuss function of accessories and stress the importance of their relationship to basic design. Emphasize design principle of proportion in use of accessories. Show how paving, streetscape furnishings, sculpture, and other art works can be used effectively, or not so effectively, as accessories. Compare initial investments versus long-term costs for maintenance of garden embellishments.

c) *Landscape Design for Maintenance:* Discuss design limitations, structural characteristics, and plants from a maintenance point of view. Point out the requirements for living and non-living materials used in landscape design. Stress resource-efficient development. Stress that maintenance must be considered in the early planning phases of the design process from the standpoint of budgeting and maintenance staff's capabilities. Consider landscape maintenance commitment over the long term as the key to lasting designs.

d) *Design on the Land—Regional Expression:* Provide an overview of the general design of the landscape across America. Discuss how the topography, land survey, and legal restrictions have affected land development and landscape design regionally. Discuss how individuals and society impacted the landscape character. Emphasize the transition from ancestral roots to search for an American landscape design identity. Discuss the local region in a case study.

e) *Development of Landscape Architecture from 1840-1940:* Discuss the influence of American design leaders (L'Enfant, Downing, Olmsted, Jensen, etc.) and landscape gardeners on American landscape design. Review how the impact of the 1929 Depression affected landscape architecture, changing its focus from the private sector (such as country estates by Platt) to the government-sponsored works in the public sector. With the beginning of World War II, point out the shift of interest and American manpower, essentially concluding this era.

f) *Introduction to Urban Design:* Point out the difference between the community of the past and today's urban environment. Consider such complex design problems as human scale, the automobile and mass-transportation systems, outdoor advertising, and architectural chaos. Point out that today's small town becomes tomorrow's urban environment; stress the importance for even the smallest community to make long range strategic planning and design, mindful of public health, safety, and welfare, through the use of competent professionals, collaborating with the public.

g) *Parks, Playgrounds, and Conservation Areas:* Discuss the role of parks, playgrounds, and conservation areas in today's society. Consider the differences between conservation areas and parks, noting the space organization of parks and playgrounds for use, beauty, and safety. Explore the basic types, sizes, and scopes of operations of playgrounds and parks; include the significance of cemeteries, arboreta, and botanical gardens as public parklands. Outline the development of a design with user-group (such as a garden club) participation; stress the value of professional involvement. Include the involvement of citizens in the decision-making process; review their activities, attitudes, and relationships, and their influence as taxpayers.

h) *Graphics Interpretation:* Review architectural materials and other aspects of reading landscape plans. Discuss the evaluation of elementary plans and how a client or committee will evaluate them. Stress the importance of the role of a liaison between the professional designers, horticultural consultants, civic committees, and planning agencies of the community in order to help communicate ideas. Briefly explain the kinds of common design documents—bubble plans, concept or presentation drawings, construction detail drawings and specifications; and final ("as built") plans.

i) *Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Design:* Discuss how evaluation standards consist of recognition of existing site characteristics and a logical process of analyzing the evolution of the design for both private and public landscape property. Point out the process of design as a basis for evaluation. Discuss the guidelines for evaluations of different types of designs (residential, public or business, special displays, etc.) and have practice examples for review. Cite the need for objectivity, integrity, diplomacy, and courtesy when critiquing.

j) *Special Interest Lecture:* LDS 20 lists suggested topics. NGC LDS Instructors' Chairman must approve any others.