

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

A Guide to Green Building Outdoors

J. William Thompson & Kim Sorvig
American Society of Landscape Architects

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- keeping healthy sites healthy
- constructing for and with plants
- working with a site's water regime
- reducing the impacts of paving
- using local, salvaged, or recycled materials
- estimating energy costs over time
- respecting the need for darkness and quiet
- evaluating the resource costs of conventional landscape maintenance

Sustainable Landscape Construction re-evaluates the assumption that all built landscapes are environmentally sound, and offers practical, professional alternatives for more sustainable landscape construction, design, and maintenance. Packed with clear concepts and never-before-compiled resources on “green” landscape work, the book is an inspiring overview of important practices and strategies.

Organized around ten key principles of sustainability, the book offers specific methods that can help accomplish those principles. Techniques and materials of landscape construction, both alternative and conventional, are evaluated, using criteria such as energy savings, non-toxicity, and renewability in manufacture.

More than 100 projects from around the world are described and illustrated, proving that sustainable methods are viable today – economically, functionally, and aesthetically. The book’s extensive lists of resources for further information are an invaluable tool for implementing the ideas discussed, and for adapting them to local and regional conditions.

Sustainable Landscape Construction will be an important complement to basic landscape construction texts, and is a one-of-a-kind reference for professionals in landscape architecture, construction, and maintenance; students in landscape construction and related design courses; and landowners, community groups, and others concerned with the health of specific sites.

J. William Thompson is story editor for *Landscape Architecture*, the award-winning magazine of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Kim Sorvig is research professor at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of New Mexico, and co-author of the *Sustainable Building Technical Manual* published by the US Green Building Council. He has written extensively on landscape technology, ecology, and landscape interpretation.

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