

# What is Landscape Architecture Integration?

## Worksheet

Landscape architecture integration means coordinating a building's design with its site's topography, vegetation, water and outdoor spaces so the architecture and landscape support each other functionally and visually.

## Questions

1. What does landscape architecture integration aim to achieve?
  - A) Separating buildings from their surroundings
  - B) Designing buildings and landscape as one coordinated system
  - C) Replacing all vegetation with paving
  - D) Ignoring site topography
2. Which of these is a softscape element?
  - A) Retaining wall
  - B) Paving
  - C) Native planting bed
  - D) Site furniture
3. What is the purpose of a bioswale?
  - A) To decorate a plaza
  - B) To slow and filter stormwater runoff
  - C) To provide parking
  - D) To replace a green roof
4. Why add a vegetated buffer near a wetland?
  - A) To increase hardscape
  - B) To protect the ecosystem from runoff and development impact
  - C) To reduce plant diversity
  - D) To speed up construction
5. A new office building is planned on a sloped site with heavy stormwater runoff. How can landscape integration solve this?
6. A school wants shaded outdoor learning spaces without shrinking the building footprint. What's an integrated design solution?
7. A housing development sits next to a wetland. How should the landscape architecture protect the ecosystem?
8. Define: What is landscape architecture integration?
9. Define: What is a bioswale?
10. Define: Difference between hardscape and softscape?

## Answer Key

1. B) Designing buildings and landscape as one coordinated system - Integration coordinates architecture and landscape so they function together.
2. C) Native planting bed - Softscape refers to living, planted elements like native planting beds.
3. B) To slow and filter stormwater runoff - Bioswales manage stormwater by slowing, filtering and absorbing runoff.
4. B) To protect the ecosystem from runoff and development impact - A vegetated buffer filters runoff and protects sensitive habitats from development impact.
5. Study the site's topography and drainage patterns before finalizing the building footprint. Use terraced landscaping and retaining walls to manage the slope instead of grading it flat. Add bioswales and rain gardens to capture and filter stormwater near the building. Combine the landscape strategy with the building's entry sequence for a unified experience.
6. Identify underused site edges and courtyards adjacent to classrooms. Plant canopy trees strategically to provide shade while preserving sightlines and safety. Extend interior circulation into covered outdoor walkways linking the landscape to the building. Use the same material palette (paving, seating) indoors and outdoors to unify the design.
7. Establish a vegetated buffer zone between built structures and the wetland edge. Route stormwater through bioswales before it reaches the wetland, filtering pollutants. Use native, low-maintenance planting that supports local wildlife instead of turf lawns. Limit hardscape near the buffer to preserve infiltration and habitat continuity.
8. Designing buildings and outdoor spaces together so architecture and landscape work as one connected system.
9. A vegetated channel that slows, filters and absorbs stormwater runoff.
10. Hardscape is built, non-living elements (paving, walls); softscape is living, planted elements (trees, lawns).

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