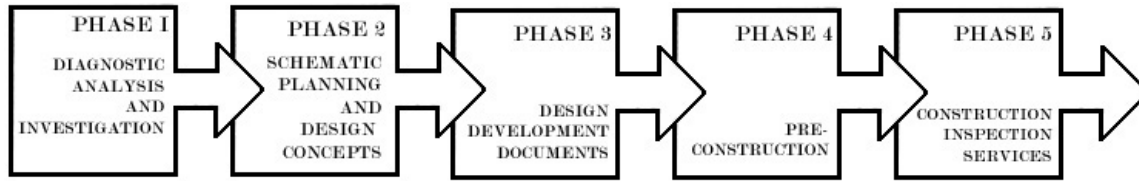


Walter Cudnohufsky Associates, Inc. General Design Process

Landscape Architects and Planners

Designing a landscape is a process involving many layers and steps, both subtle and bold. An overview of the design process is described below.



Phase 1: Initial diagnostic analysis and investigation

Investigate, through readily available data, the opportunities and constraints of a proposed project.

- Identify and prioritize client goals and intentions.
- Perform preliminary assessment of site.
- Draft initial project goals and objectives.
- Determine whether to continue the process (*based on.?*)
- Organize project process and form design team.
- Acquire site data through maps, photos, literature, regulatory requirements, walking the site with the client, etc
- Identify critical priority issues and policies.
- Confirm development program and strategies with client.
- Articulate preliminary planning and design concepts.
- Prepare preliminary design cost magnitudes and strategies
- Make informal contracts with approval agencies, etc.

Research missing information, and summarize data into a form for use during the course of the project.

- Contact utilities, town offices, etc. for information on buried utilities, legal and relevant regulatory information
- Plan the inventory and assessment process.
- Prepare base map or maps. A topographic survey is most often a separate and parallel task.
- Perform physical area, site inventory, and analysis
- Determine approval requirements and consequent strategies.

Phase 2: Schematic planning and design concepts

Determine whether a particular concept is feasible based on the needs of the client or users and the most evident physical, economic, political, and legal constraints.

- Refine the preliminary program and alternatives.
- Establish design criteria and standards.
- Prepare conceptual or schematic plan or plans.
- Develop prototypical design studies.—*what does this mean?*
- Draw schemes in section, elevation, and/or axonometric view—to help both client and designer see the plans from a third dimension.
- Run the numbers—calculate square feet, cubic yards, areas of change, materials required, etc.
- Refine cost estimates (based on above).
- Test feasibility of important design elements.
- Assess pros and cons of each concept.
- Test reaction of client (and contractors, engineers, permit authorities when advisable) to various concepts.
- Seek preliminary approvals for preferred concept.

Phase 3: Design Development Documents

Refine schematic plans into design development and construction documents, and obtain final approvals.

- Prepare definitive site plans (building, and engineering plans by others).
- Assess legal and community planning implications.
- Perform sensitivity analysis of major assumptions.
- Complete construction documents such as the following: Landscape plans, planting plans, layout or staking plans, earth work/grading and drainage plans, irrigation, lighting, and construction details.

Phase 4: Preconstruction

Plan and organize the desired construction and management process to ensure maximum control of quality and cost.

- Prepare preconstruction schedules.
- Meet with potential bidders to review site and client needs and specifications
- Solicit bids within a predetermined process.
- Negotiate contracts with selected bidder(s).
- Award contracts.

Phase 5: Construction inspection services

The level of involvement and cost of construction *oversight* (??) can vary widely depending on a number of factors. A project manager or clerk of the works is needed to coordinate the work, particularly when a number of different contractors are needed to complete specific tasks.

- Identify the existing elements of the site that will require protection, and ensure measures are taken to protect them (e.g., key trees, existing utilities, stone walls, etc.).
- Supervise and coordinate the construction process, including scheduling, reporting, recording, inspecting, monitoring and controlling costs, and general administration.
- Accept plans, approve completed work, and authorize payments to contractors.