



Grading for Landscape Architects and Architects

By Peter Petschek

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"The contour line is the only precise and accurate means for representing the free and natural formation of terrain in the plan; so learn to use this instrument!"
Professor Hans Loidl, Landscape Architect and Teacher

The two design elements of landscape architecture are plants and terrain. While the subject of vegetation is well documented by numerous publications, there is a lack of technical literature in the field of grading.

This volume fills that gap: History, forms of terrain, basic principles, digital modeling, slope reinforcement systems, construction site implementation, and practical examples all are treated in detail by the author. Short problems, systematically organized and arranged in increasing order of difficulty, enable the reader to apply what he or she has learned. The exercises are suitable for self-study. Together with the large amount of practical information provided by the book, they also enable architects to become familiar with grading as an important design element of landscape architecture.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

"Using contour lines is the only precise way of communicating the grading of freely shaped landforms in plan; so you had better become an expert!" Professor Hans Loidl, landscape architect and lecturer A landscape architect has to consider functional, aesthetic and ecological criteria when making design decisions. Grading is of elementary importance in the decision-making process – in addition to planting, it is one of the landscape architect's most important tools. This book deals with the basics – landforms, scales, gradient, interpolation, spot elevations, contour lines, and cut and fill calculations – as well as delving into more specific topics such as landscape stabilization, stormwater management and grading on the construction site. It reviews the potential of digital site modeling and its application to the actual staking out of sites and remote control systems for machinery. The book closes with a number of inspiring projects and a set of practical exercises, which will assist readers, landscape architects and architects alike, in becoming familiar with site grading as one of the most important design tools in landscape architecture.

About the Author

Peter Petschek is a landscape architect and a professor at the HSR Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil (Rapperswil University of Applied Sciences). He teaches the courses in execution, grading, CAD, DHM, and 3D landscape visualization in the Bachelor's and Master's Programs of the Department of Landscape Architecture. He also directs the Fachstelle für Garten- und Landschaftsbau (Research Center for Materials and Construction) of the Institut für Landschaft und Freiraum (ILF, Institute for Landscape and Open Space). The ILF is active in applied research in all areas of landscape architecture.

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