

John Norris of Norris Design was inducted into the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Norris was nominated in the leadership and management category by the American Society of Landscape Architects' Colorado chapter. Not only did the organization induct him and 34 other members, but it also recognized him for his contributions to his alma mater, Kansas State University. **The induction recognizes individuals “for their exceptional contributions to the landscape architecture profession and society at large” and is considered to be one of the organization’s highest honors, [according to a news release](#).**

Placemaking

Placemaking begins with possibility. Our integrated approach brings people of all disciplines together to discover the **inherent potential in every site, create a singular vision, and then bring it to life.** Our planners, landscape architects, brand specialists, irrigation experts, construction managers and placemakers come together to transform concept into reality — **creating places that grow better with time.**

We measure success through the impact we have on the people who live, work and play in the places we create.

We are knowledgeable planners, creative landscape architects and brand storytellers, all working together to **create more inspiring places from the start.**

Parterre is a mixed-use master planned community inspired by the **belief that everyone deserves a beautiful place to prosper.....**The name, logo, color palette and physical landscape have all been designed to **delight the senses, soothe the soul and inspire everyone to flourish.**

As the heart of this conservation-based community(Maryland Creek), **every design element from the site itself to the natural trails, native plant palette, limited use of lighting to comply with Dark Sky standards, and preservation of habitats reinforces the principles of biophilic design.**

<https://www.norris-design.com/>

Biophilic design

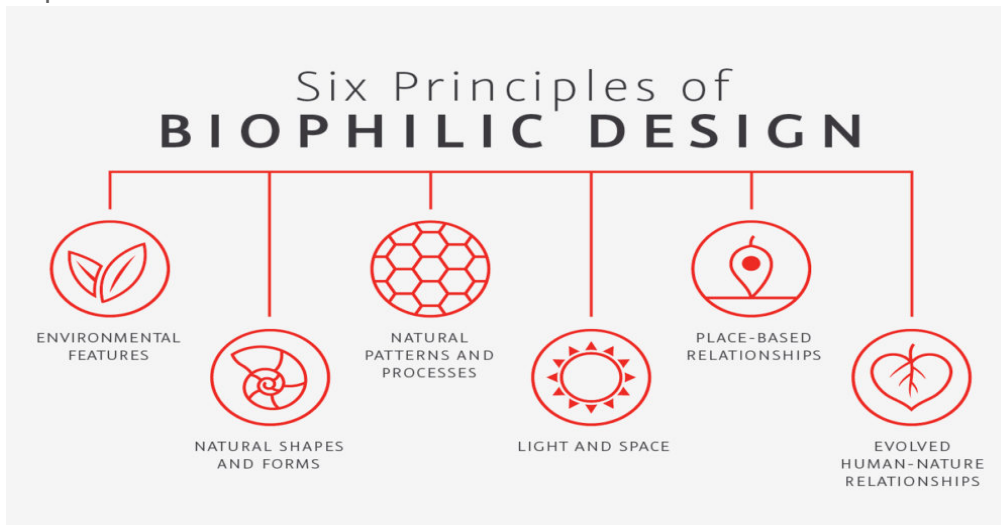
Biophilic design is a design style that draws from the natural world.

Biophilic Design is the practice of connecting people and nature within our built environments and communities. The International Living Future Institute has seen a demonstrated need among the Living Building Challenge community for biophilic design resources that can take the practice from theory to reality. <https://living-future.org/biophilic-design/>

Biophilic design is the practice of reconnecting people and nature within the built environment. Biophilic design involves translating elements derived from nature, into design outcomes that ultimately improve the health and wellbeing of occupants and foster a connection with nature <https://thebiophilicdesigner.com/biophilic-design>

What are place-based relationships in biophilic design?

Place-based relationship is a biophilic design element that focuses on connection with the ecology and prominent geographical features like mountains, deserts, rivers, and plants. This principle avoids the monotony of “placelessness.”



1. Environmental Features

Using characteristics of the natural world like water features, sunlight, actual vegetation, etc., in the built environment helps foster the human-nature connection in biophilic design. Nature-filled spaces reduce stress, improve comfort, and promote healing of the occupants. They enhance the moments of connection, reflection, and respite.

2. Natural Shapes and Forms

Using shapes and forms that are naturally found in nature is another important element used in biophilic design. These elements include columns, ovals, arches, shells, spirals, botanical motifs, biomimicry, etc. Right angles and straight lines are forms that are rarely found in nature.

3. Natural Patterns and Processes

In this principle, the sensory experiences are varied with transitions and complementary contrasts. This is achieved by having central focal points, patterned wholes, and clear boundaries in the building design.

4. Light and Space

This principle focuses on using different types of lights within the space. The use of natural light in abundance creates stimulating, dynamic, and sculptural forms in the space.

5. Place-Based Relationships

This biophilic element focuses on connection with the ecology and prominent geographical features like mountains, deserts, rivers, and plants. This principle avoids the monotony of “placelessness.”

6. Evolved Human-Nature Relationships

This principle emphasizes the inherent relationship between humans and nature. A good biophilic design addresses the affinity toward nature. Biophilic design is a new approach for restoring our connection with nature. The concept gives a sense of responsibility for the planet and our relationship with it.

<https://theconstructor.org/architecture/principles-of-biophilic-design/564602/>

The Role of Landscape Architecture in Creating Biophilic Environments

Joe Clancy

October 19, 2015

When we think of biophilic design, we think of nature. Its primary intention to reintroduce nature into our built environments. Yet much of the project and literature focus of biophilic design has been on interior environments. What about applications of biophilic design to the external built environment?

There is a noticeable bias towards architecture and a deficit in acknowledging the varied applications of biophilic design in landscape architecture.

It is easy to understand why, however, when we spend up to 90% of our time indoors, away from nature. But landscape itself has a role to play, and exploring these applications further could enhance the general public's understanding of biophilic design.

Movement

Landscape, whether urban or rural, is the medium through which we move, from space to space, building to building. The experience of the journey between these spaces and buildings is crucial to their success.

Landscape architects are well versed in creating spaces that facilitate movement and have intuitively been implementing patterns of biophilic design in their work, such as prospect, refuge and mystery. These patterns are vital for drawing users into a space, through a space, to a destination, while also making them feel safe and in control. These patterns can be seen in the literature of Jacobs, Gehl, Sussman and Hollander. By making our landscapes more biophilic, they will be perceived as safer, comfortable and more enticing.

Views to nature

With restrictions on the forms of biophilic design that can be accommodated in interior settings, external views to nature become necessary to establish interior restorative environments. However, creating external views to nature is pointless if there is no nature.

A network of micro-restorative spaces

In a wider urban context, landscape can bring biophilic environments to a wider population, enhancing health and well-being on a larger scale. **While land and space within urban areas is in short supply and at a premium, biophilic design doesn't require large amounts of space.**

In fact, according to a study by Richard A Fuller (et al) in 2007, **psychological benefits of green space had a stronger increase with higher levels of biodiversity, than an increase in green space area.** Added to this, the process of 'restoration', that occurs from interacting with natural environments, is accumulative. So multiple, **micro-restorative spaces or pocket parks could provide psychological restoration for an urban population.** Such spaces could be integrated into larger green infrastructure strategies for cities.

While landscape architects have numerous advantages to offer the emerging field of biophilic design, there are several obstacles. For one, there is a distinct knowledge deficit on the subject of biophilic design within the profession. In addition, a general lack of awareness of biophilic design and its benefits also exists. These obstacles can be overcome in time however, by incorporating biophilic design into University curricula on landscape architecture courses and through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events.

It goes without saying, we need biophilic environments inside and out.

<https://blog.interface.com/the-role-of-landscape-architecture-in-creating-biophilic-environments/>

CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND BIOPHILIC DESIGN IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Biophilia is a concept that reveals that people are instinctively connected to all other living systems. Biophilic design relies on the concept of biophilia with sustainability, and it carries the environment, architecture and urban design. At the forefront of urban design quality criteria is "sustainability". **Sustainability in landscape architecture is diverse, ranging from land use decisions at the urban and regional scale to the production of the right solutions for people's physical, psychological and social comforts in landscape design. The landscape architecture discipline can be achieved for human beings only when they integrate nature and natural processes into their design work, with the goal of sustainable and sustainable development**, which is possible with the biophilic design approach. In this study, concepts of sustainability with biophilic design are examined from today's concepts, and relations with landscape architecture are revealed.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317717585_CONCEPT_OF_SUSTAINABILITY_AND_BIOPHILIC_DESIGN_IN_LANDSCAPE_ARCHITECTURE

Examples of Norris Designs Placemaking

<https://www.norris-design.com/what-we-do/project-spotlights/>

Deputy Zack Parrish III Memorial Park--Castle Pines

Dedicated to the Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy who was killed in the line of duty, Deputy Zack S. Parrish III Memorial Park is a built symbol of sacrifice and community support. **In a community with close ties to law enforcement and public safety, the park provides Castle Rock residents a place for both recreation and reflection.** Visitors gather at picnic pavilions and plazas and also enjoy play areas, multi-use fields and connections to community trails. A memorial sculpture garden honors all public safety officials who are currently serving, have served or have given their lives in the line of duty.

AWARDS

- 2019 ASLA Colorado Merit Award: Design

Maryland Creek Park & Trails----PUBLISHED 3/21/2023--Silverthorne

Previously **an old dumping site for local mining activity**, the land where Maryland Creek Park now resides was once full of large pieces of concrete, logs, and deteriorated soil. **Soil studies for the site were erratic and inconsistent, which impacted site preparation.** The entire site is filled with soil and imported topsoil to level the playing fields. **Concrete was avoided in the design because of how the soils settle unevenly — in some places, up to a two-foot difference. Instead, asphalt paving and decorative bricks were used for their flexibility.**

While it couldn't be avoided, the **team focused on incorporating berms and screening to create safe spaces** that felt separated from the highway. The layout of the site also changed several times to ensure the playground was tucked far away from the highway and that users felt immersed once they were in the park. **The incorporation of screening boundaries to the adjacent community were also an intentional decision so that the park felt open to visitors while the residential community retained some privacy.** The **design also ensured that all boundaries are safe for wildlife and promote wildlife movement** through the park and accompanying trail system.

The park blends the idea of recreation and restoration — providing the opportunity for people to **discover the wonder of nature in a seemingly everyday setting.**

Largely, the design team focused on preserving the naturalized environment as much as possible rather than changing it.

Zipp Family Sports Park--Texas

Integrated into the surrounding neighborhood, Zipp Family Sports Park is a **natural gathering place** for this tight-knit community to play together.

