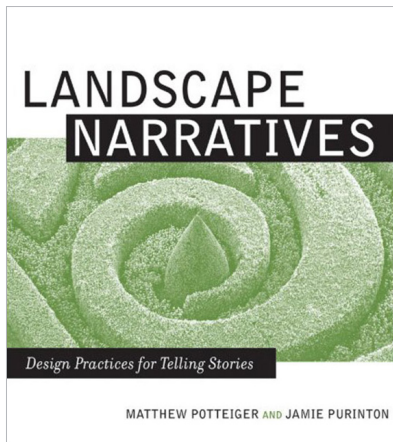


# Landscape Narratives

## Design practices for telling stories

Authors: Matthew Potteiger, Jamie Purinton

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If landscapes could talk, there would be a feast of narratives at every point of vision. "Landscape Narratives" is a publication by Matthew Potteiger, landscape architecture professor, and Jamie Purinton, landscape architect, and design teacher. In the volume of 340 pages, readers explore the relationship between landscape and narratives to understand the atmosphere of spaces formed by hidden layers of meaning over time. The authors present this information through poetic language in the book, complemented by pictorial representations and urban city plans.

The book divides into three sections: theory, practices, and stories. Within these parts, the authors present a wide range of case studies demonstrating the imprint of narratives on the landscape. The first section delves into the Gardens of Versailles in the 17th century to examine its layout to convey a narrative of power and control. In contrast, the second section explores the transformation of an abandoned railway site in New York City into a vibrant public park for the city, enhancing a narrative of urban revitalization, sustainability, and community engagement. The third section examines a historical battlefield in Pennsylvania. Here the landscape represents the heroism of soldiers in the pivotal civil war fought on its ground, following a narrative of remembrance. Furthermore, the authors investigate how contemporary streetscapes can reflect the identity of a community and sense of belonging.

Potteiger and Purinton's publication offers a thought-provoking perspective on landscape architecture through their collection of case studies. Their dedication to unravel the fabric of narratives in our surroundings makes the book an engaging and potent read with ever-evolving stories of landscapes. However, the complexity of weaving together subsections of the book oscillates between historical and contemporary contextual examples. This shift in focus encompasses not only narratives of landscape but also delves into theories from symbolism, identity, environmental psychology, and ecological narrative to spatial transformation. Additionally, while the authors explore various scales and types of studies to describe the impact of landscape in the atmosphere of its context, the connection between them is not always clear. While the book excels in emphasizing the importance of user engagement and interaction, the influence of landscape narratives on users' emotions is missing a connection. The book also sheds light on the link between landscape and memory, but it lacks a comprehensive study to understand this relationship better.

This publication successfully introduces readers to the captivating concept of landscape to communicate stories and evoke emotion. It serves as a valuable resource for students and practitioners of landscape architecture. Through this medium, the authors solidify that landscapes are more than just physical spaces; they are living and breathing narratives of shared experiences.