

SECURITY DESIGN (2003)



Policy Statement

The proliferation of makeshift security measures has had a detrimental effect on the visual aesthetics of many public, government, and institutional properties. The American Society of Landscape Architects encourages initiating directives and funding at the Federal, State, and local levels to replace existing makeshift devices with well-designed landscape elements in a comprehensive way. All proposed security measures should be designed as integral components in the landscape. These security design recommendations should be developed by teams of interdisciplinary experts lead by experienced Landscape Architects.

Rationale

Efforts in the recent past have been piecemeal attempts to provide security for individual buildings or small enclaves. We now have a condition that must be addressed to protect our values as an open and democratic society. Our nation has been forced to think about our vulnerability to further threats while dealing with the impacts of our security responses on the vitality of our economy, the integrity of our national symbols, and how we as a nation perceive our future.

Security design is the business of facility owners and users alike. Government officials, the security industry, design professionals, and the public must work together to ensure that our security responses are effective, without making our cities and communities look like fortresses. We can secure our society in a manner that preserves the integrity of our buildings, our public spaces, and our communities. Appropriately designed security measures can protect people and property, while clearly demonstrating that this nation continues to value an open society and accessible government.

Steps can be taken that will result in a more positive experience where security measures are fully and respectfully integrated into a site whether it be located in an urban, suburban, or rural landscape. Secure facilities should protect citizens and public officials by enhancing the public environment through design sensitive to its context. Security measures should be site specific and integrated.