



Living Landscapes: a wellspring of creativity

The best way to create a unique sense of place, beauty and character for your school is with trees and other plants. Most buildings are ugly and schools are no exception... but it is plants and trees that break the rigid lines and soften the hard materials and which, in a short space of time, have people exclaiming what a beautiful place this is.

At present many schools are spending money on school grounds improvements - hard landscaping, play equipment and structures, sculptures and other artwork - with little regard for trees and other plants. Yet these are the very things which will outlive all the man made features and provide a framework for your school gardens and buildings by adding living beauty, shelter, shade, sculptural space and a unique sense of place and identity.

My company has over 10 years experience of designing and planting such schemes in schools and colleges: from shelter belts and windbreaks through to avenues, orchards, footpaths and advising on trees that grow well close to buildings and playgrounds. Your new trees can provide food and coppice products; materials for art work and flower arranging; as well as making fine places to explore, teach, sit quietly, encourage conversation and generate peaceful awareness.

Both evergreen (very important with the majority of the school year taking place in winter) and deciduous trees should be used. We have a wonderful supply of 4-6 ft high trees which is the most beneficial height for planting in schools. This year I have sourced a supply of evergreen trees at fantastic prices – Lebanese, Atlas, Deodar and Japanese incense cedars; redwoods and other cypresses; evergreen oaks and beautiful Southern beeches.

We can advise on the most successful planting techniques and protection, and will work with your school to deliver wonderful landscapes right outside your classrooms.

If you would like to discuss this further or book a 20-30 minute illustrated talk on the subject of trees and nature being a major source of creativity in schools ...then do get in touch.

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January 2008

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