

# Explain. Trees as landscape element

## 1 Use of Trees in Landscape Design Some Illustrative Examples

### Character

#### Form

The general form of trees are broad, round, square, tapering, and columnar.

#### Tapering and columnar

Normally used for avenue planting, used as screens and to frame a significant view

- *Polyalthia longifolia*
- *Grevillea robusta*

#### Broad & round

with dense foliage used as focus or for total shade

*Melia indica*

*Mimusops elengi*

With light foliage for tracery effect, delicate branching and foliage

- *Delonix regia*

#### Branching

Branching is either horizontal, weeping, angular, spreading or arrow.

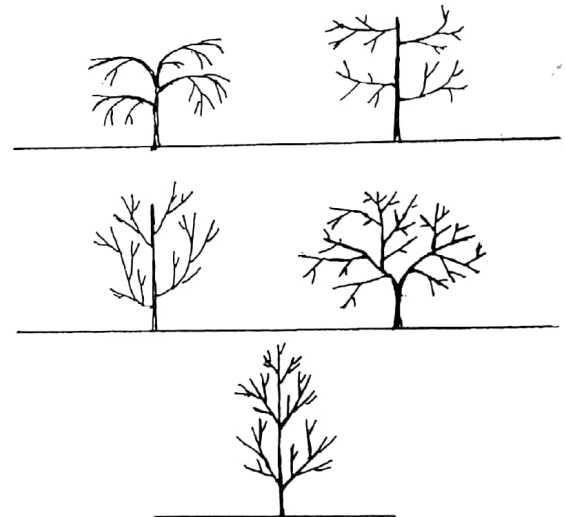
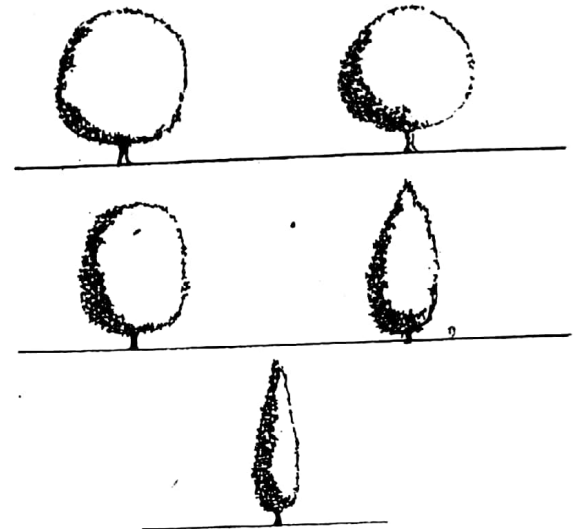
Weeping used near water for visual and functional aspects

- *Callistemon lanceolatus*

Arrow for avenue planting

Spreading as focal in courtyard or for shade

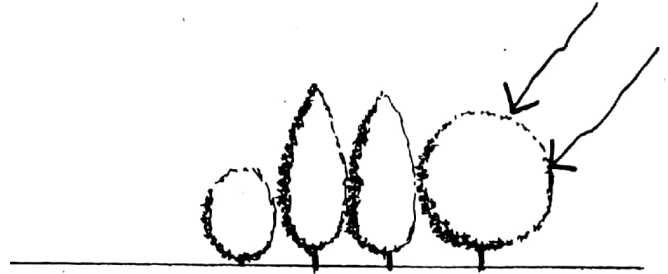
- *Melia indica*,
- *Delonix regia*
- *Kigelia pinnata*



### Function

Trees are planted for a number of purposes.

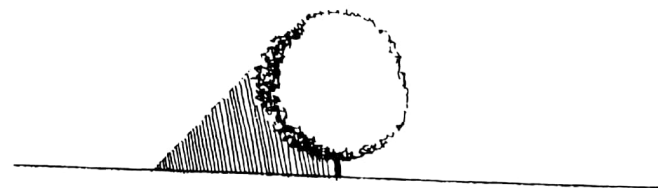
- To provide timber for commercial gain
- To serve as a wind break or screen



- To act as a noise baffle
- To provide shade



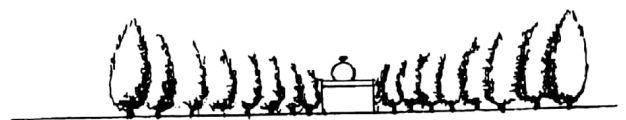
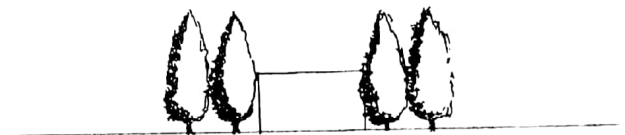
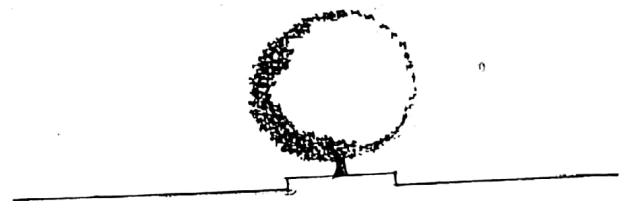
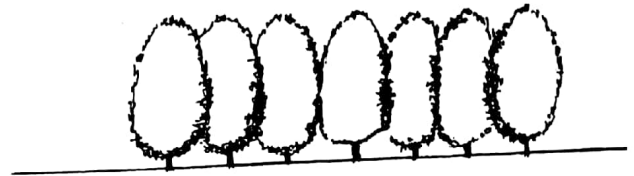
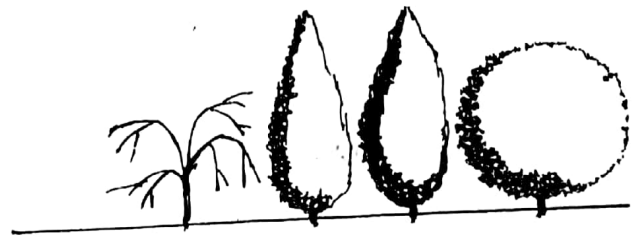
- To give scale to buildings
- To provide colour & form



### Visual Aspects

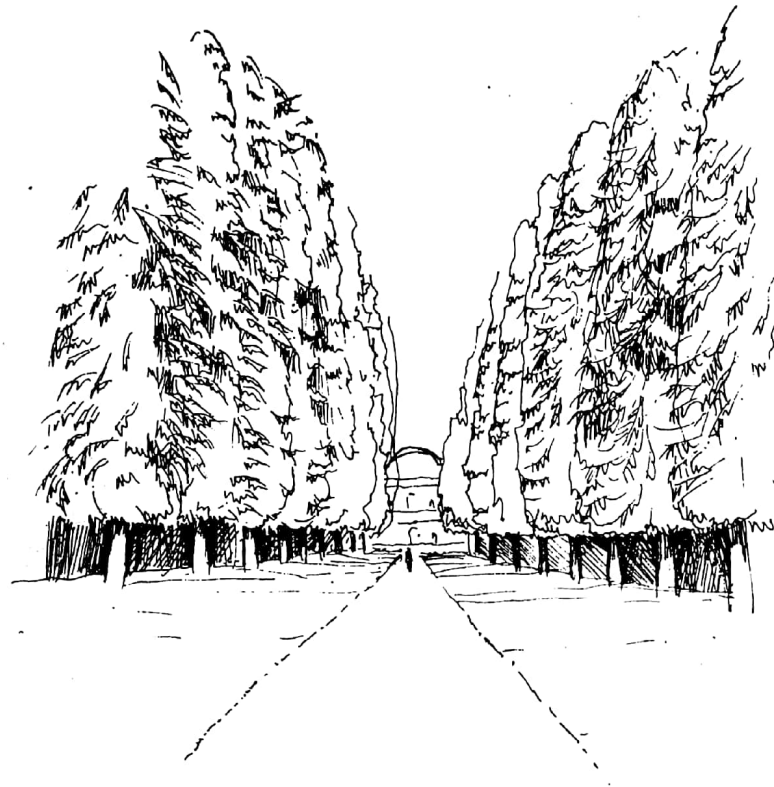
The visual characteristics of planting include colour, form and texture.

- Planted for contrasting shades
- Used as a backdrop for something important e.g. sculpture, statue etc.
- As a focal point
- Used to form an enclosure to accentuate the land forms
- To frame a building or to emphasise a specific view or focus onto a feature





*Pinus longifolia* in Nehru Park forming an enclosure accentuating and the mound.



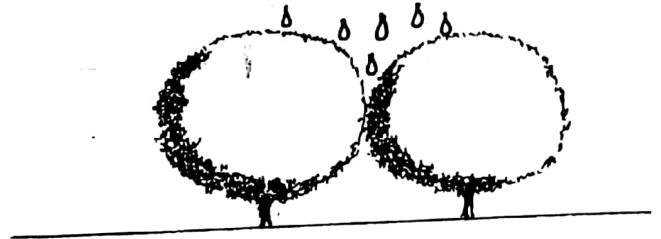
Row of *Polyalthia longifolia* directing the eye towards Lodhi tomb-forming a strong axis

### Ecological Values

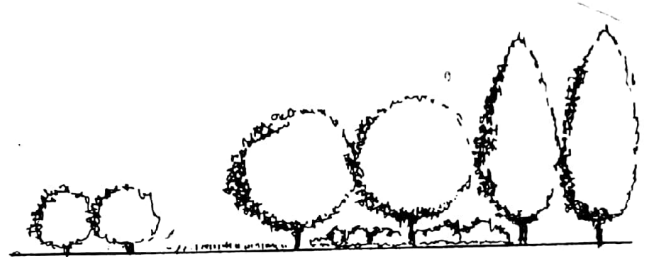
The ecological approach to the selection of trees requires a knowledge of major plant communities. Certain plants may do well in natural environment but may not do well in cities, due to atmospheric pollution and other factors.

Trees provide significant values to all sections of natural environment

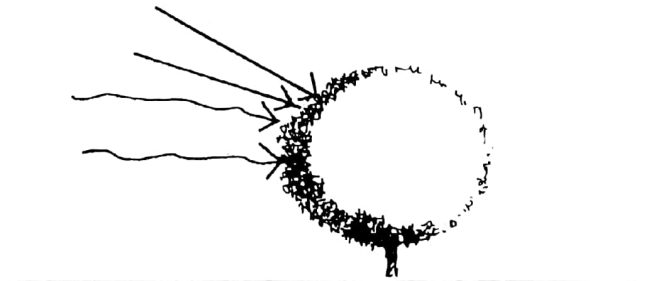
- In improvement of urban soil conditions by intercepting rain



- Improvement in the functioning of hydrological cycle by retention of water and less evaporation
- Increase in the diversity and quantity of wild life by providing range of habitats



- To moderate the extremes of urban microclimate



- Reduction of pollution levels

### **Soil Erosion**

Trees protect soil from being eroded as it prevents the rain from falling directly on the ground and most of the moisture to be absorbed gradually into the soil.



### **Habitat for Wild Life**

Trees provide living spaces and food for small animals birds and insects. The removal of trees deprive these creatures of a home and make our environment poor.

### **Wind & Dust Buffers**

High winds are slowed down by the dense foliage, creating sheltered conditions. As the speed of dust laden winds drops, the dust is deposited on the leaves and subsequently falls to the ground.



Plumeria alba planted next to side entrance of India International Centre for its rich foliage.