

Biophilic Design in Public Space

August 26, 2026 • Summer Learning Lineup • Course 3 of 3

CLARB

ADVANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE





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BIOPHILIC DESIGN IN PUBLIC SPACE

PURPOSE

The purpose is to share how we **should** design and align with biophilic design principles to enhance public spaces.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Learn a brief history and definition of biophilic design & why it matters.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Understand core design strategies of biophilic design.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE 3

Understand the role of site furnishings in biophilic design and how material choices and basic shapes lead the efforts.



LEARNING OBJECTIVE 4

Learn the benefits of biophilic site furnishings as they relate to health, safety, and welfare.



01

**Learn a brief history
and definition of
biophilic design &
why it matters.**

EARLY HISTORY

Erich Fromm – coined
the term “biophilia.”



Edward O. Wilson – proposed
the “biophilia hypothesis”



KEY POINTS

- Nature IN the space.
- Nature OF the space.
- Nature inspired design.





DEFINITION

Biophilic design is a human centered approach aimed at improving our connection to nature and natural processes in the buildings & public spaces we create.



INCREASES SUSTAINABILITY

Biophilic environments help reduce ecological footprints while improving long-term resilience.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Green infrastructure consumes significantly less energy.

Solar Roof



Green Roof



GREEN, GREEN, AND MORE GREEN



FOSTERS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Biophilic spaces encourage human interaction, cultural engagement, and a sense of belonging.



CATALYST FOR INCLUSIVITY

Green spaces in urban areas help bridge socioeconomic divides.



REDUCING STRESS AND ENHANCING MENTAL WELL- BEING

The presence of nature has been linked to reduced cortisol levels, improved cognitive function, and increased emotional resilience.



SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON STRESS REDUCTION

Walking in or near
nature reduces stress.







Questions?

02

Understand core design strategies of biophilic design.

CORE STRATEGIES

Natural Elements & Materials

Abundant Greenery

Organic Forms

Water Features

Daylight & Shadows

Mult-sensory Engagement

Wildlife

Prospect & Refuge

Native Plants

Human Interaction with Nature

BLOCQ

CORE STRATEGIES

Natural Elements & Materials



Abundant Greenery



CORE STRATEGIES

Organic Forms



Water Features



CORE STRATEGIES

Daylight & Shadows



Multi-sensory Engagement



CORE STRATEGIES

Wildlife



Prospect & Refuge



CORE STRATEGIES

Native Plants



Human Interaction





Questions?

03

Understand the role of site furnishings in biophilic design and how material choices and basic shapes lead the efforts.

SEATING



MOVABLE SEATING



MODULAR FURNITURE SYSTEMS



SEATING WITH PLANTS

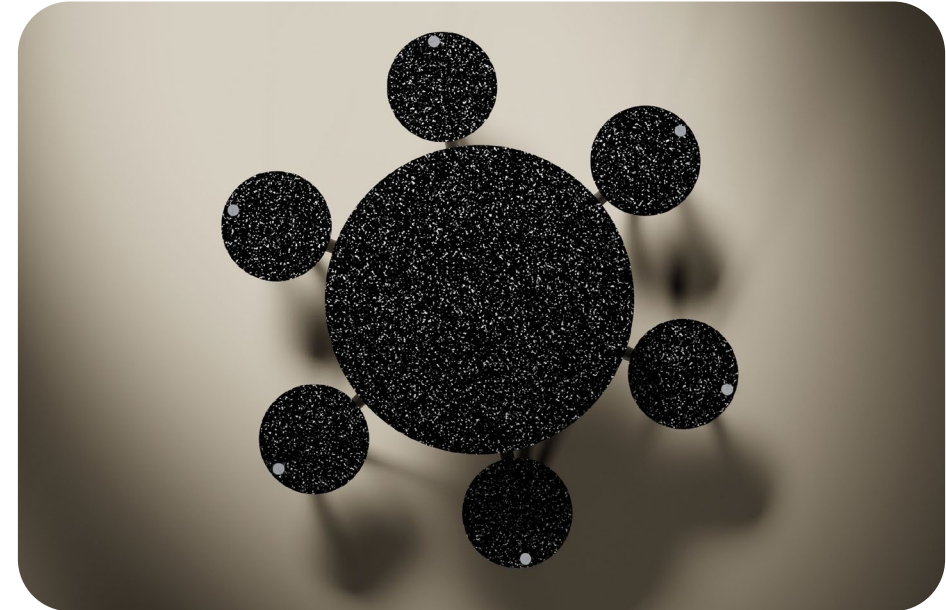




TACTILITY & SENSORY ENGAGEMENT



ORGANIC FORMS & BASIC SHAPES



MATERIALS



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Bronze Medal



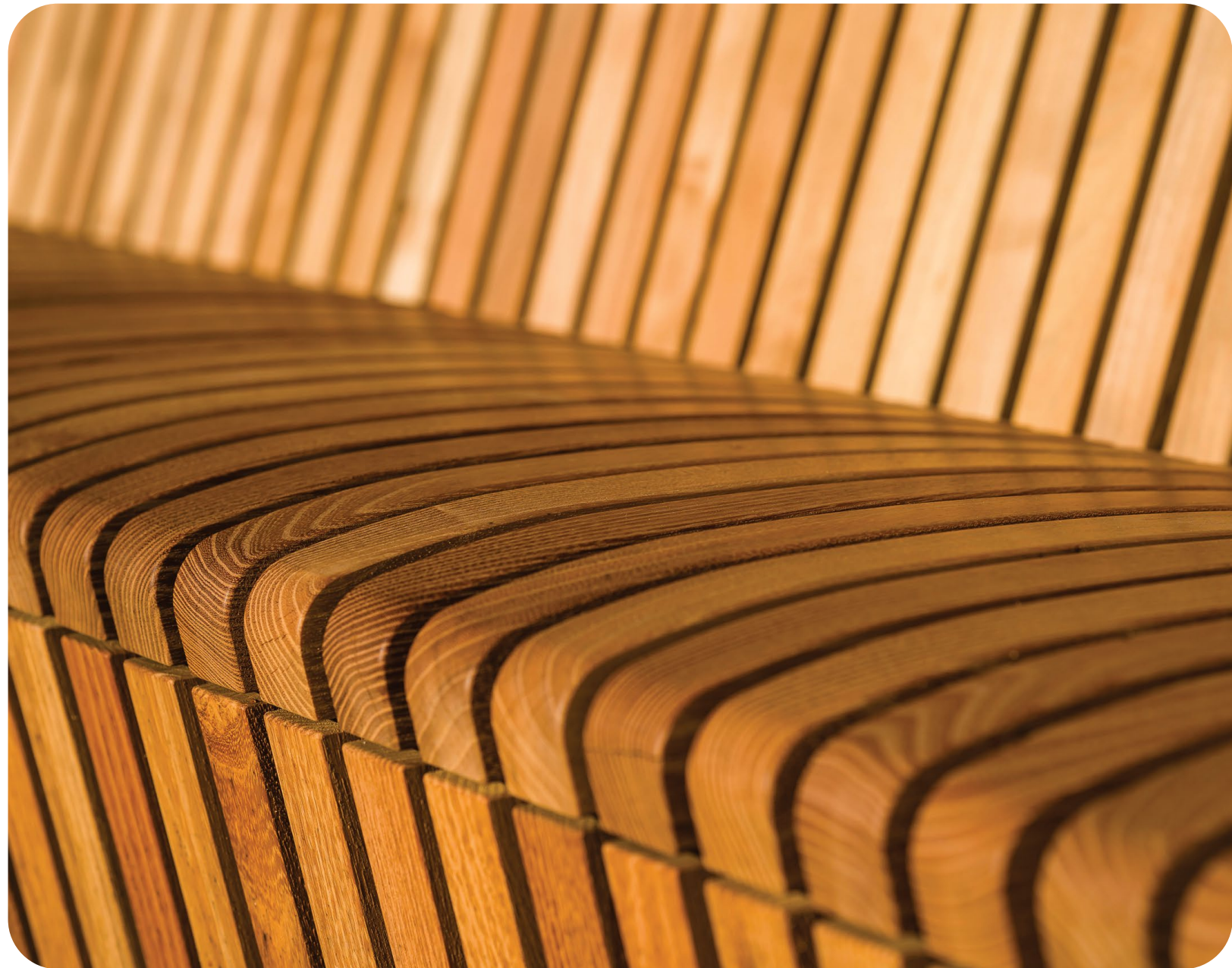
STONE

Silver Medal



WOOD

Gold Medal









IPE



[Jump to Ipê Amarelo: In detail](#)

Ipê Amarelo

Handroanthus serratifolius

ABSTRACT

Ipê Amarelo *Handroanthus serratifolius* has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2020. *Handroanthus serratifolius* is listed as Endangered under criteria A3cd+4cd.

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT ¹

► ¹ Hills, R. 2021. *Handroanthus serratifolius*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2021: e.T61985509A145677076. [ht...](#)



JATOBA



[Jump to *Hymenaea courbaril*: In detail](#)

Hymenaea courbaril

ABSTRACT

Hymenaea courbaril has most recently been assessed for *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* in 2022. *Hymenaea courbaril* is listed as Least Concern.

THE RED LIST ASSESSMENT ⓘ

►  Bachman, S. 2023. *Hymenaea courbaril*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2023: e.T19891869A68101847. [http...](#)

NOT EVALUATED

NE

DATA DEFICIENT

DD

LEAST CONCERN

LC

NEAR THREATENED

NT

VULNERABLE

VU

ENDANGERED

EN

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

CR

EXTINCT IN THE WILD

EW

EXTINCT

EX





ALL OF THE ABOVE?

SOME OF THE ABOVE?

BEST OF THE ABOVE?

THE FUTURE OF SITE FURNISHINGS

The future of nature-based site design is tied to creating multi-sensory and ecologically responsible spaces with furniture that echoes the structure of nature.





Questions?

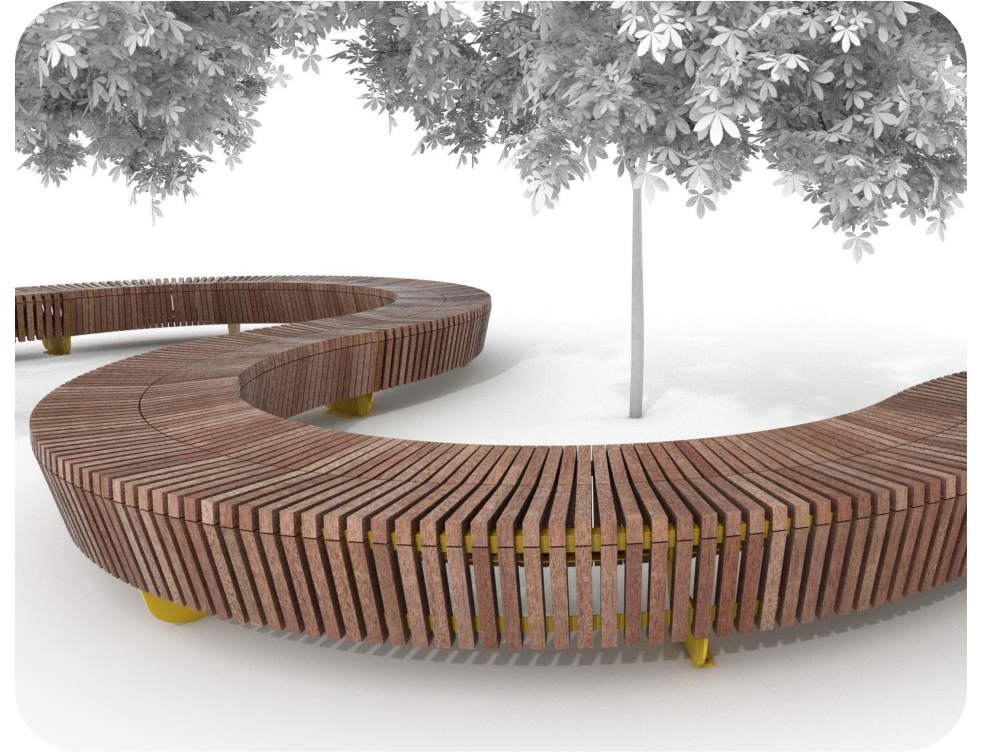
04

**Learn the benefits of
biophilic site
furnishings as they
relate to health,
safety and welfare.**

HEALTH BENEFITS



SAFETY BENEFITS



WELFARE BENEFITS



REVIEW & CONCLUSION

Designing with nature actively enhances sustainability, builds stronger communities, and fosters human well-being.



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Organic Shapes & Forms

Water Features

Daylight & Shadows

Multi-Sensory Engagement

Wildlife Integration

Prospect & Refuge

Native Plants

Human-Nature Interaction



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BIOPHILIC DESIGN IN PUBLIC SPACE



A photograph of a wooden park bench at night. The bench is made of dark wood and has a metal frame. It is positioned in front of a snow-covered ground. In the background, there are some trees and a few lights. The mmcity logo, consisting of two white circles followed by the text 'mmcity', is overlaid on the backrest of the bench.

●●mmcity

Thank You!

Example section subhead line text



ROOTED IN STRENGTH
ANNUAL MEETING 2026



COUNCIL OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL
REGISTRATION BOARDS



Questions?



Earning course credit

In-person attendees

Scan the QR code located on your table to sign the attendance form and complete the evaluation

Virtual attendees

Complete two steps by September 11:

- Take the post-session quiz
- Submit the session evaluation

Follow-up email to all registrants will include recording plus links to quiz, evaluation and slides

Complete by September 11, 2026

1. Post-session quiz (75% or higher)
2. Evaluation form (share your feedback)



**ROOTED IN
STRENGTH**
ANNUAL MEETING 2026



**Course
quiz**



Evaluation