Bolstering First Impressions

A Checklist for Senior Living Campuses



Ours is the perspective of landscape architects and planners who focus on outdoor spaces as a canvas for designing Senior Living Campuses. First impressions set the stage for the tone and feel of any project. What is the first in-person chance you have to make this impression?

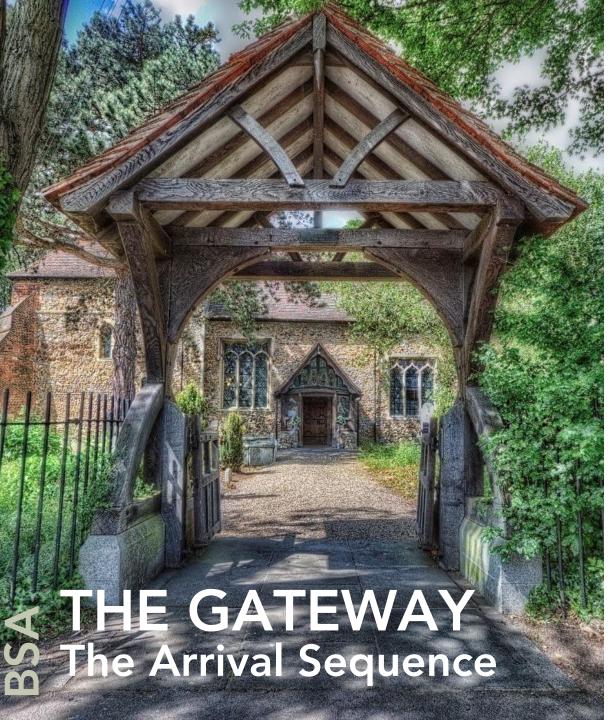
The Arrival Sequence

"We don't know where our first impressions come from or precisely what they mean, so we don't always appreciate their fragility." Malcolm Gladwell

Consider the views of your property from the entry drive:

- What is seen?
- Is there suitable screening?
- Does the front landscaping create a clear property boundary?
- What general aesthetic is being conveyed upon arrival?

THE FRONTAGE The Arrival Sequence



Provide a clear architectural statement of arrival and entrance:

- Do landscape features, such as signage, fixtures, and design details, reflect your company's brand and logo?
- Do landscape and outdoor spaces reflect and reinforce the architecture and function of the building?
- What sense of place does the entry landscape create?
- Is there a clear demarcation of where your site begins?

Guest arrival and parking areas should be easily accessible and conveniently located.

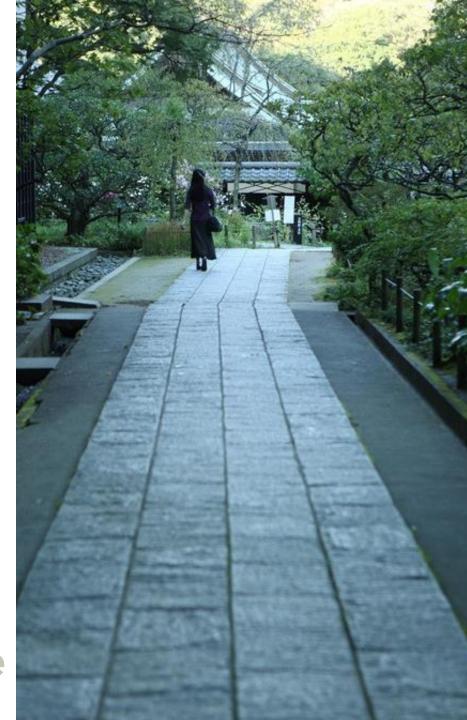
ARRIVAL COURT. The Arrival Sequence

- Is way finding signage clear and easy to understand?
- Are all all types of arrival effectively accommodated?
- Is shade provided?
- Are lighting levels safe yet not distracting?
- Are key aesthetic features of the landscape illuminated?

The transition from vehicular to pedestrian circulation is important!

- Are walking surfaces appropriate for seniors?
- How easy is it to find your way?
- Is the walk a pleasant experience
- What is seen, smelled, and touched along the way?

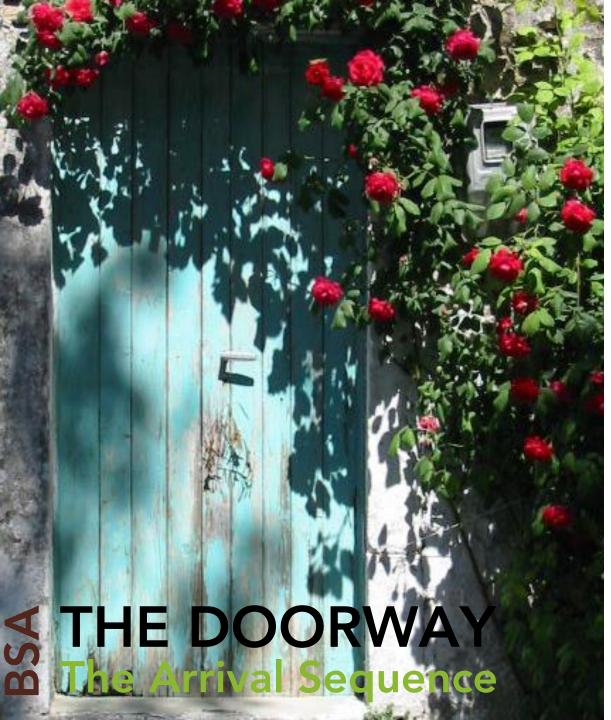
TRANSITION The Arrival Sequence



Nearing the destination, provide a location that says "this is a special place."

- Are there potted plants on the paving for a color accent?
- Is there any water in the landscape, creating white noise?
- Does the landscape compliment and frame the entry?

THE NODE The Arrival Sequence



This is the destination – the transition from outdoors to interior space.

- Is a clear visual connection provided from the arrival court?
- How does the landscape reinforce the look and feel of the building?

From inside, pleasing views of outdoor spaces should continue to be provided along the way.

- Are they safe?
- Are they easily maintained?
- How are they incorporated into the overall landscape scene?

OUTDOOR VIEW The Arrival Sequence

Outdoor dining venues are essential ingredients to a viable senior living environment. These spaces strengthen the visitor's experience and bring vitality to the outdoors.

- Can guests choose between sunny and shaded locations?
- Is there a great view to be captured?
- How easily are operational considerations met?

AL FRESCO The Arrival Sequence



These should be appropriately designed for the needs of the particular group of users.

- How is pedestrian mobility taken into consideration?
- How comfortable are these places?
- How can they be incorporated into your programming?

USABLE SPACE The Arrival Sequence

A Note from the Authors

How can we help you maximize your potential in the marketplace? We'd like to learn more about how we can help you achieve great things – whether that involves planning new construction, making repairs or renovations, or completely repositioning your product offering. Let's have a conversation soon.



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