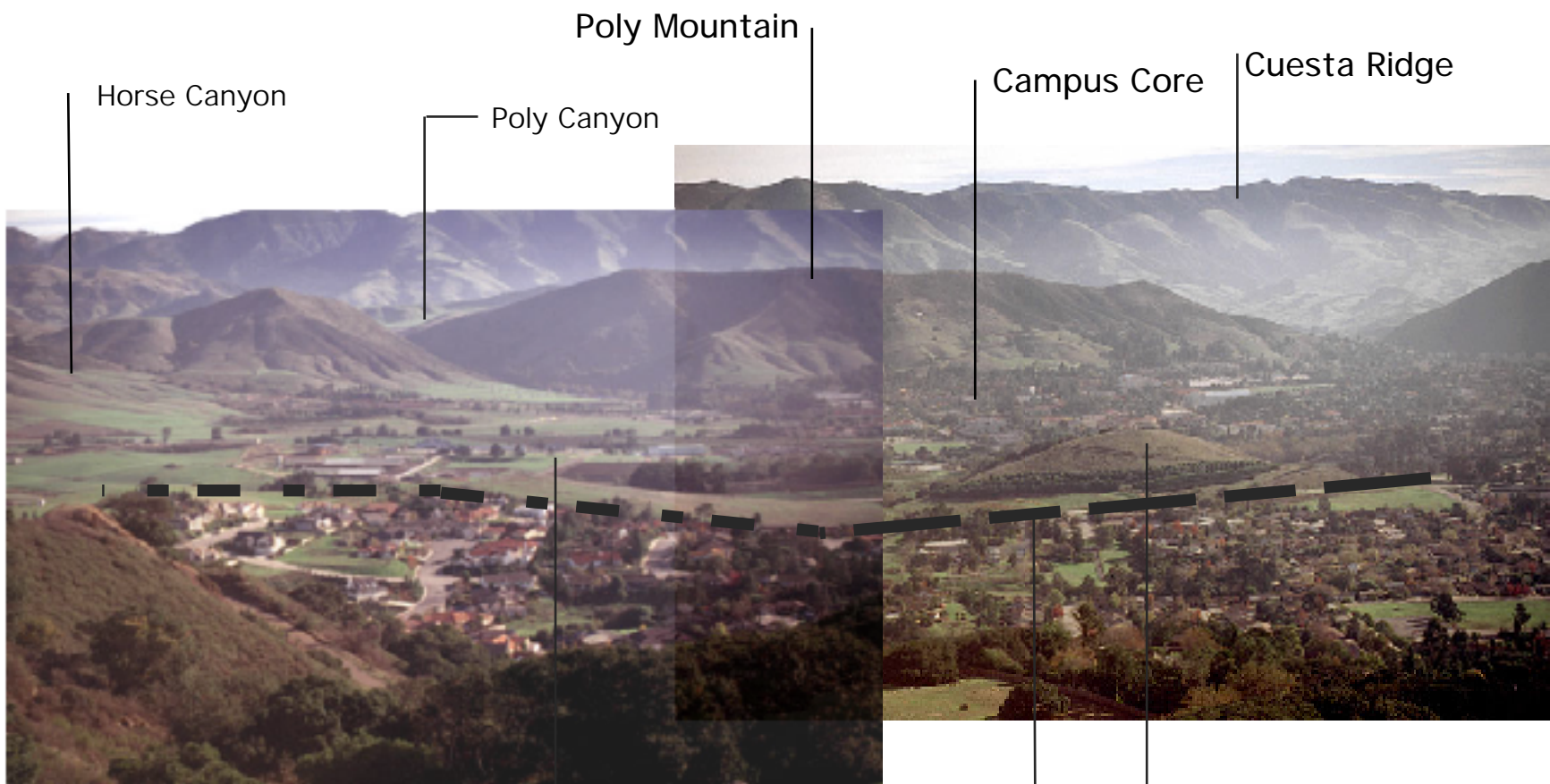


The Visual Experience of Cal Poly Lands

Dale Sutliff, Professor
Landscape Architecture Department

Some techniques and
terms for reading and
evaluating the landscape.



Horse Canyon

Poly Mountain

Poly Canyon

Campus Core

Cuesta Ridge

Agriculture Areas

Highway One

Radio Hill

MAIN CAMPUS AREA
Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo
from Bishop's Peak

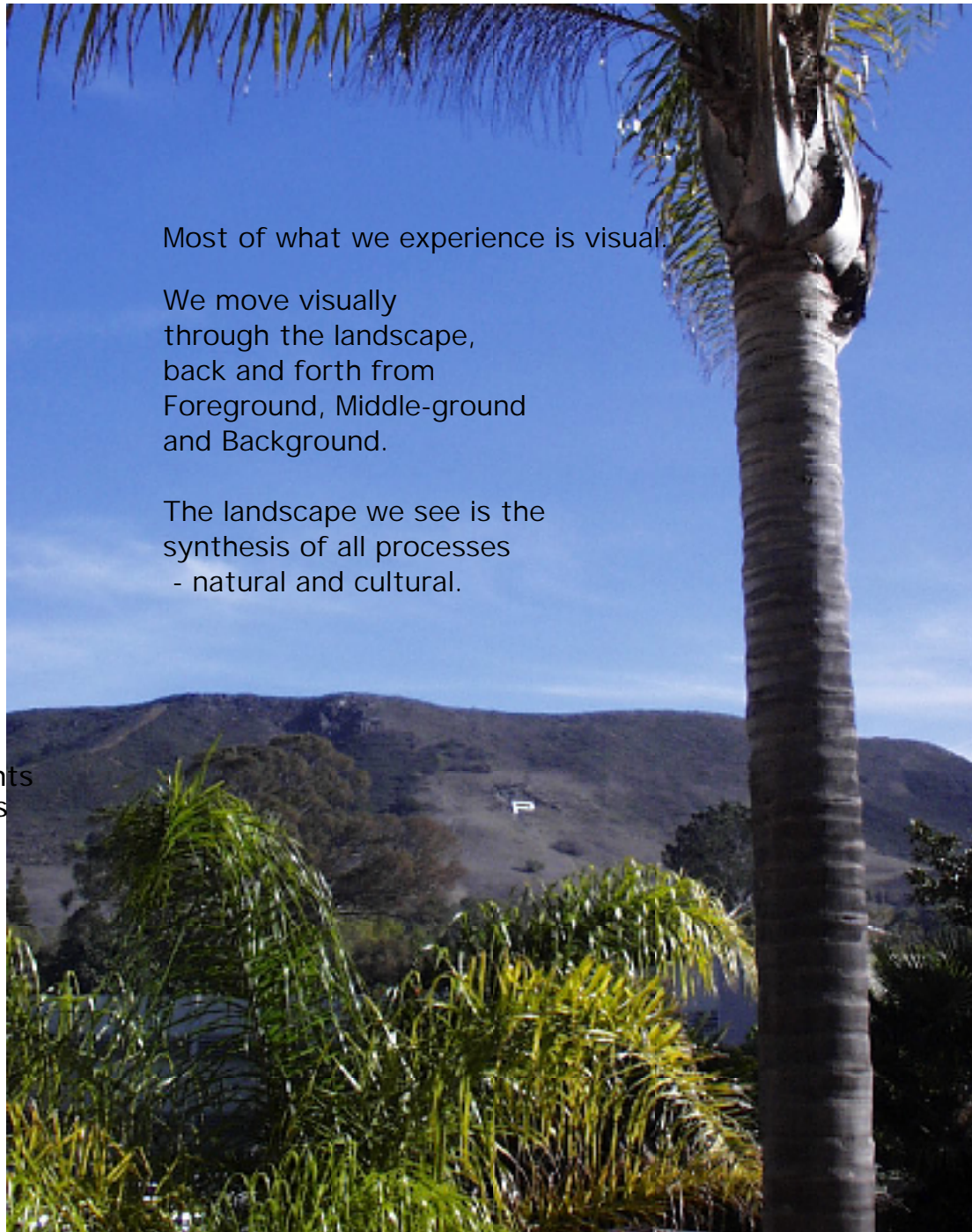


Any landscape is composed
not only of what lies before our eyes,
but also what lies within our heads. D.W. Meinig



...people react to environments globally and affectively before they analyze them and evaluate them in more specific terms.

Amos Rapoport



Most of what we experience is visual.

We move visually through the landscape, back and forth from Foreground, Middle-ground and Background.

The landscape we see is the synthesis of all processes - natural and cultural.

Background -
Native Chaparra plants
and mixed grasslands

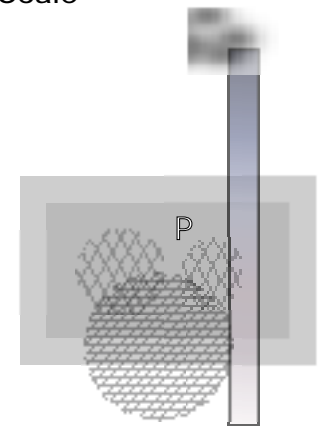
Middleground -
Australian and
Eastern U.S. trees;
buildings

Foreground -
Tropical trees

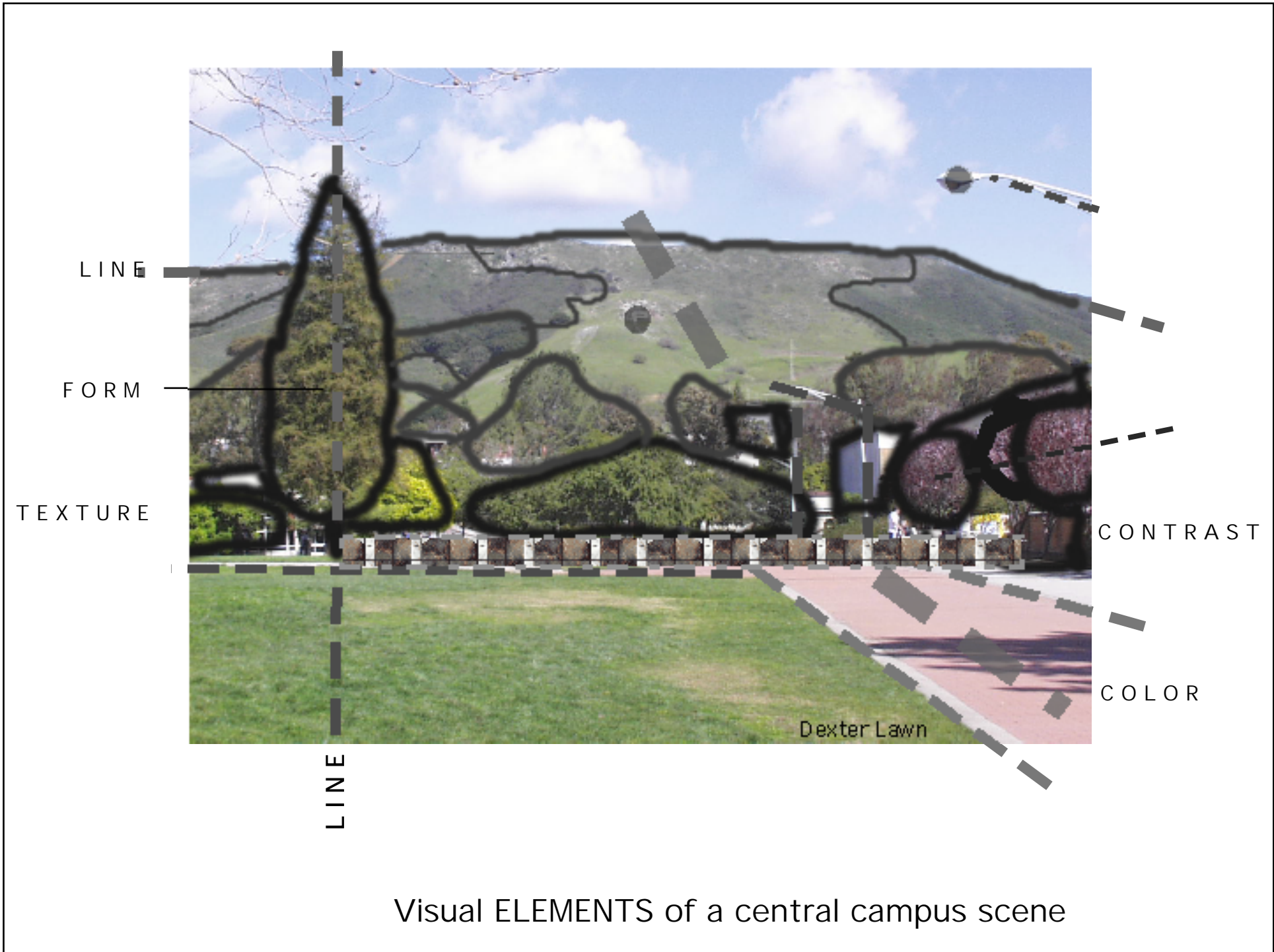
The main **Elements** that contribute what we see are:

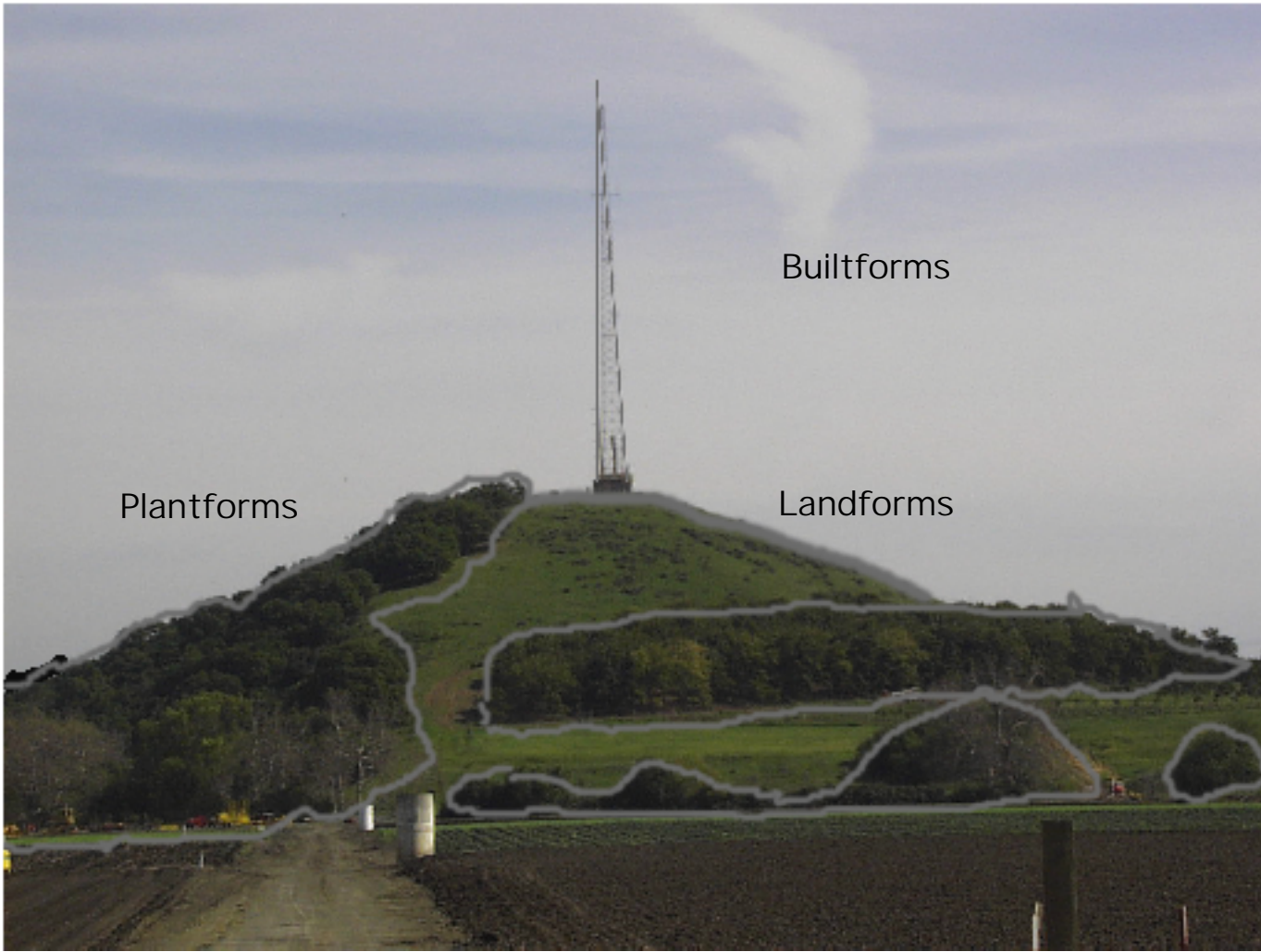
- Form (shape)
- Line (edge)
- Texture (grain)
- Color (hue)
- Contrast (distinction)

Light
Scale



Landscape
Composition





Plantforms

Builtforms

Landforms

Radio Hill

VISUAL CHARACTER COMPONENTS

Combined with other elements create patterns

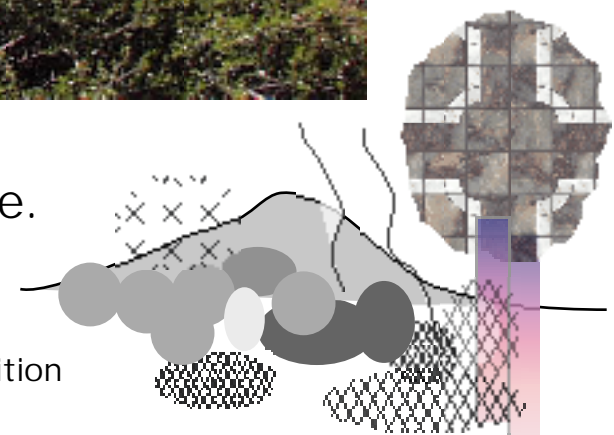
Balance and dominance create reaction



Bishop's Peak from Henry's Border

A California Native Plants area in the campus core.

Basic Composition



The following five images on the Cal Poly campus were presented at the Cal Poly Lands Seminar in May 2001. A survey of image preferences was taken of the audience prior to the formal presentation and discussion.

The audience (of mostly students from different majors) was asked to rate each image on a scale of 1 (Like) to 5 (Dislike).

Twenty-four responses indicated the audience preferences according to the order the images are presented here: 1 (Most liked) to 5 (Least liked).

Discussion took place about the reasons for likes and dislikes of the images before the seminar leaders presentation on how to document and assess a landscape scene.



1. Most liked image



2. Second most liked image. and
4. Fourth most disliked image.



3. Third most liked image.
(Slightly less liked than
image no. 2.)



4. Fourth most liked image.



3. Tied for third most liked image,
5. and fifth, most disliked, image..



Poly Canyon Gateway

What's your opinion of the images that follow?
How would you assess your opinion?
Analyze the scene using the tools presented earlier.
How might you re-compose the scene if desired?



Saddle Mountain in Poly Canyon.
Design Village in foreground.



Horse Canyon Gap and Bishoo's Peak



The Morros from Horse Canyon Hill



Steve Marx(seminar director) sampling Cal Poly lands.