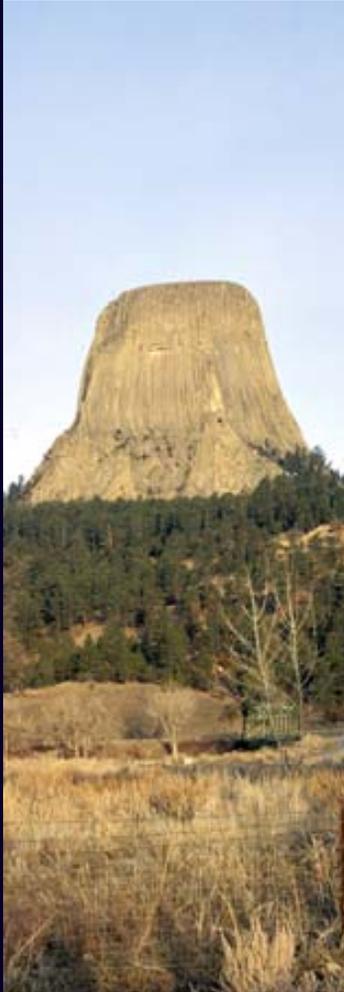


# Looking at Landscapes



# Objective

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You will use the three landscape analysis components –

*Landscape Types*

*Landscape Character Elements*

*Landscape Analysis Factors*

– to analyze and describe the landscape character of a given scene using common landscape vocabulary.

---

## Landscape Character

The character of a landscape is the overall impression created by its unique combination of visual features (such as land, vegetation, water, and structures).

# Landscapes Types

**Panoramic**



**Feature**



**Canopied**



**Enclosed**



**Focal**



# Panoramic Landscapes

---

- Broad, horizontal composition
- Little or no sense of boundary
- Open and expansive
- No features blocking background
- Includes plains, expanses of water, and distant mountain ranges
- Can often absorb developments without exhibiting visual degradation









# Enclosed Landscapes

---

- Landscape spaces surrounded by continuous groupings of features.
- Eye is drawn to enclosed portion of landscape.
- An example is a meadow or small lake surrounded by walls of trees or earth forms.
- Modifications within enclosure space may be highly visible.









# Feature Landscapes

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- Dominated by feature or group of feature objects.
- Typically includes such elements as a waterfall, prominent landform, or tree.
- Eye is drawn to feature.
- Vulnerable to modification if near feature.





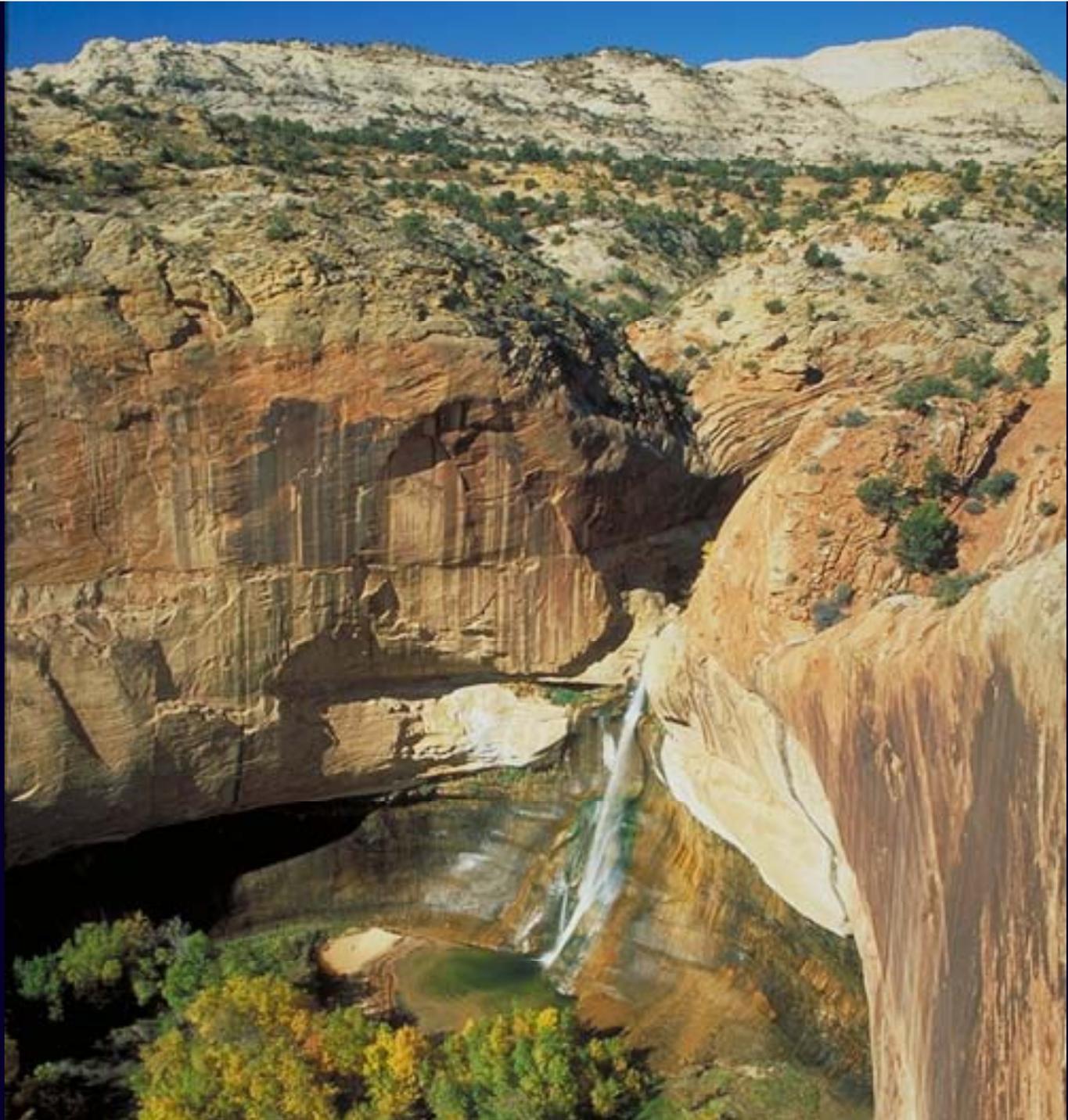




# Focal Landscapes

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- Tend to converge upon themselves as distance increases.
- Eye is drawn to focal point.
- Vulnerable to modification if near focal point.









# Canopied Landscapes

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- Features overhead create a ceiling or canopy.
- Typically within or at the edge of a forest where branches and foliage are overhead.
- Also within canyons with predominately arched, overhanging walls.







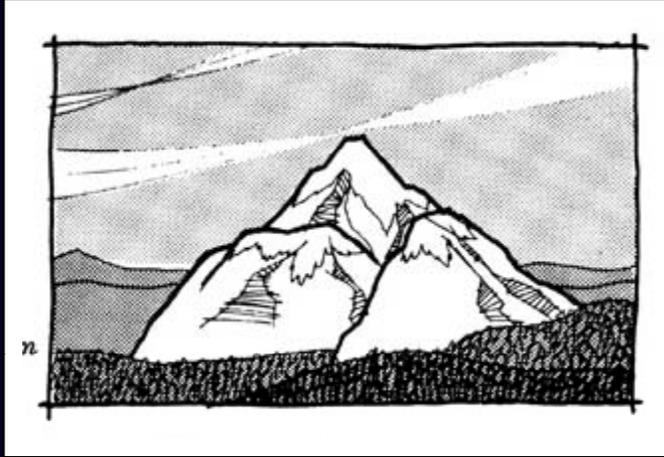


# Exercise

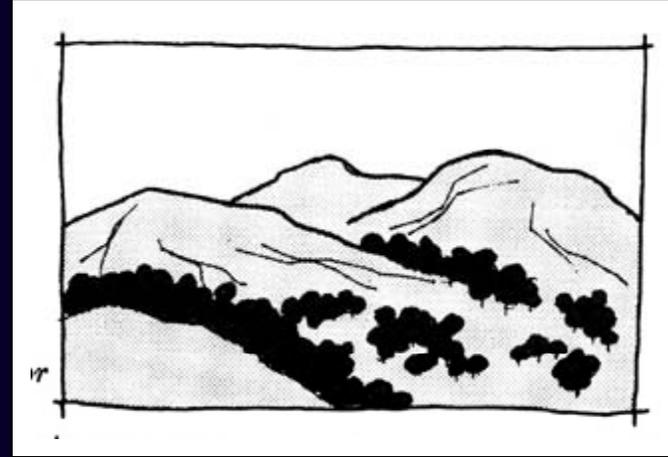
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# Landscape Character Elements

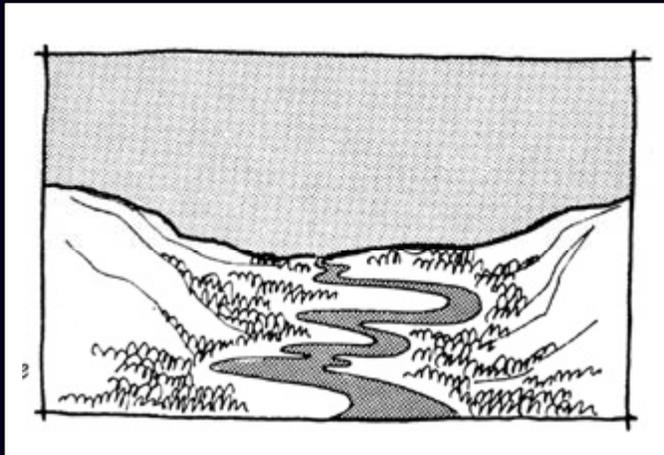
Form



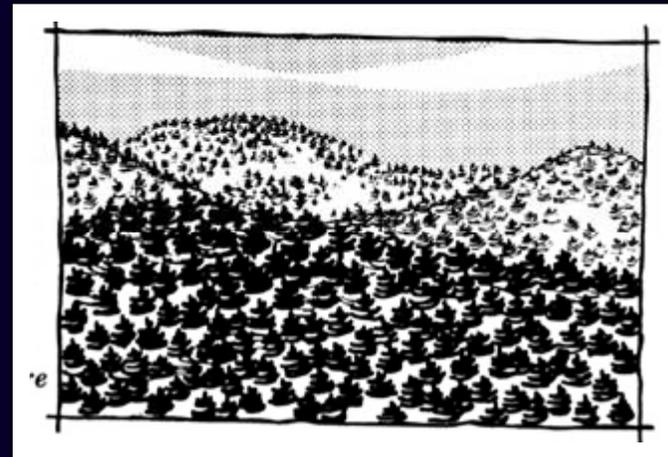
Color



Line

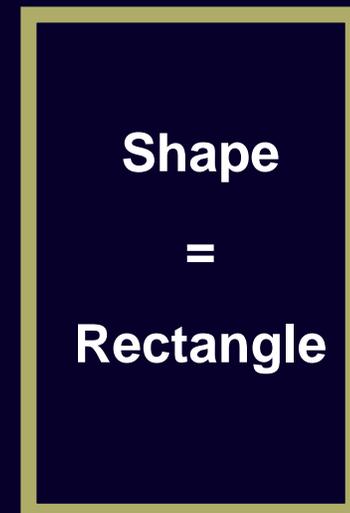
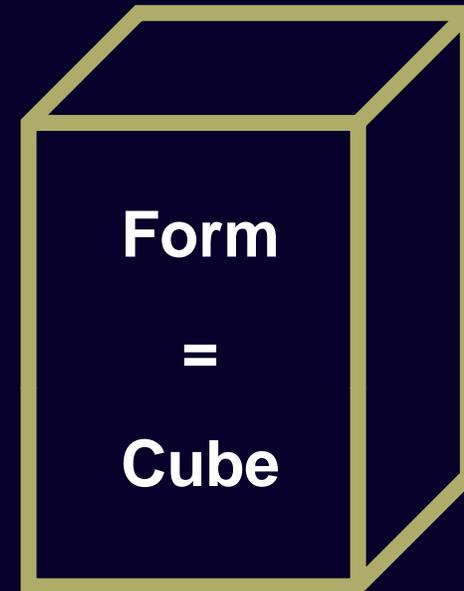


Texture



# Form

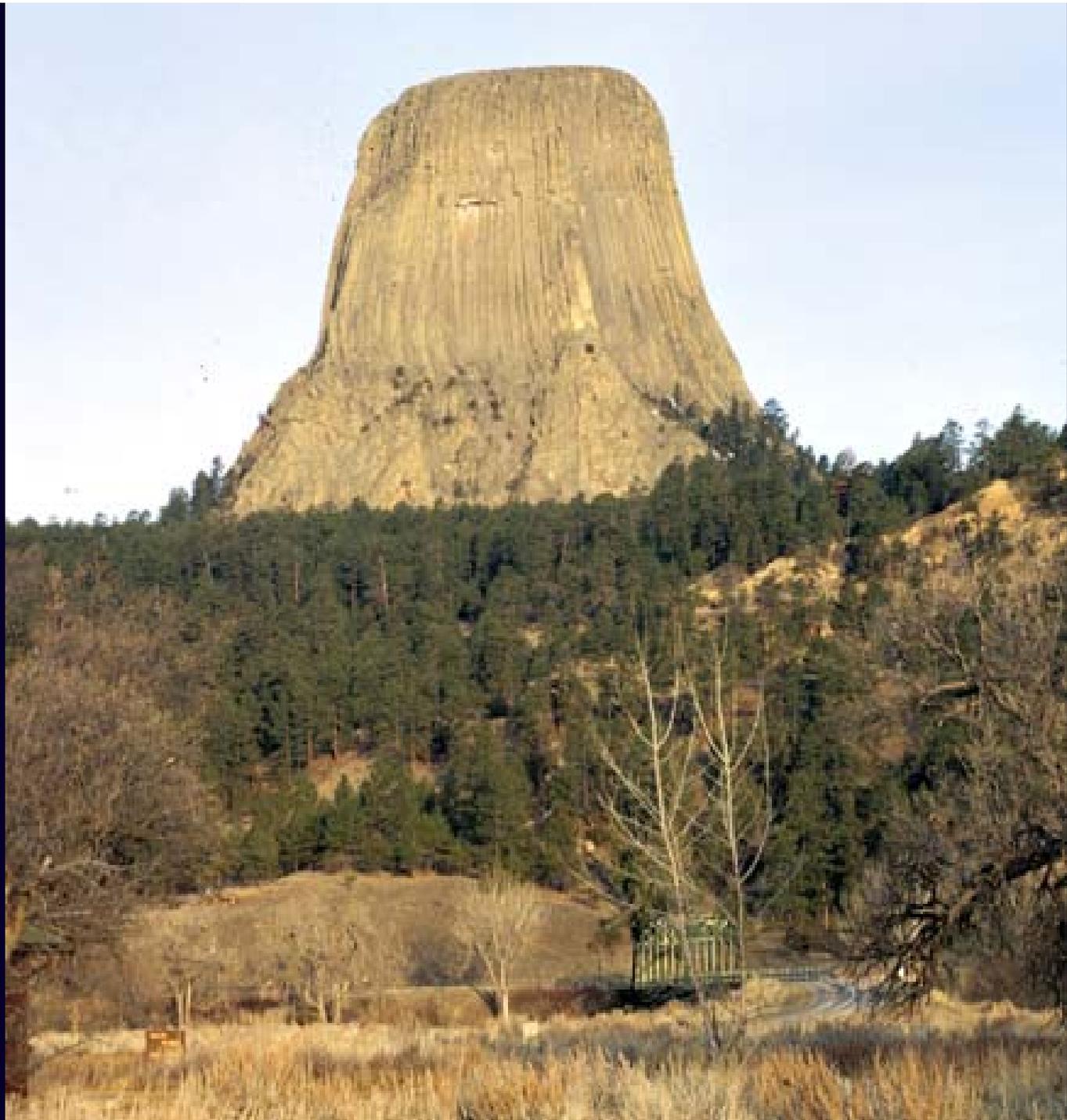
- Mass of an object or of a combination of objects that appears unified.
- If seen only two-dimensionally, it's called a **shape**.
- Forms that are bold, regular, solid or vertical tend to be dominant.



# Types of Form

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- Dimensional shape
  - Appears as a two-dimensional shape on landscape
  - Caused by contrast in color or texture of adjacent areas
- Dimensional mass
  - Volume of a landform, natural object, or built structure









# Line

---

- Path (real or imagined) that the eye follows in a landscape.
- Perceived in abrupt differences in form, color, or texture, or when objects are aligned in sequence.
- Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.

# Types of Line

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- Edge

- Boundary between two contrasting areas
- Outline of a two-dimensional shape on the land surface

- Band

- Contrasting linear form with two roughly parallel edges

- Silhouette

- Outline of a mass seen against a backdrop









# Color

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- Reflected light of a particular intensity and wavelength to which the eye is sensitive.
- THE major visual property of surfaces.
- Light, warm, bright colors typically advance and dominate.
- Dark, cool, dull colors will typically retreat.
- Appropriate color is often VERY effective mitigation









# Texture

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- The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern.
- Aggregated parts do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of the scene.

# Sub-elements of Texture

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- Grain
  - Relative dimensions of the surface variations.
    - Fine, Medium, Coarse
- Density
  - Spacing of surface variations.
    - Sparse, Medium, Dense
- Regularity
  - Degree of recurrence and arrangement of surface variation.
    - Uneven/Random, Even/Random, Gradation









# Exercise

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# Visual Variety



Landscapes with abundance and variety in form, line, color and texture, as well as combinations of landscape types, are typically the most interesting and visually appealing.





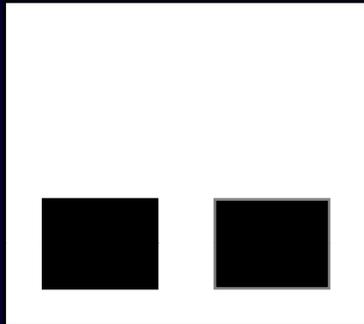




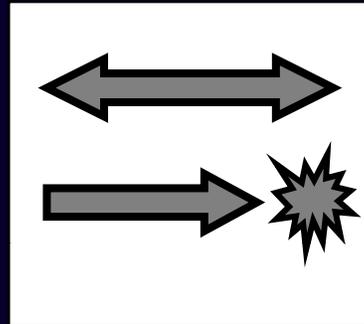




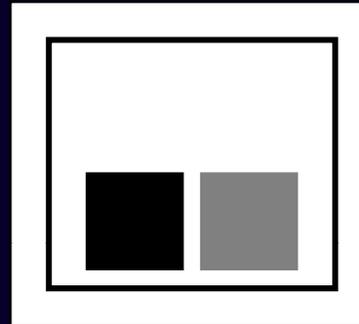
# Landscape Analysis Factors



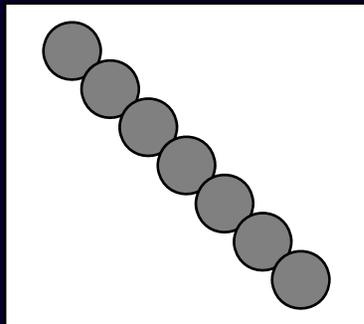
**Contrast**



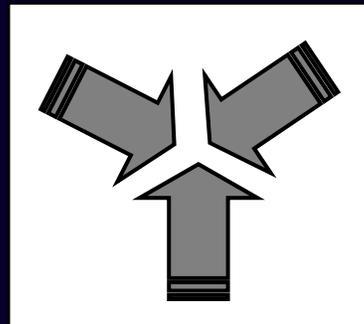
**Axis**



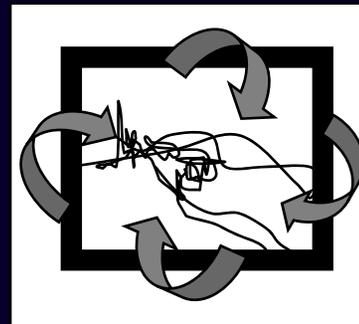
**Co-dominance**



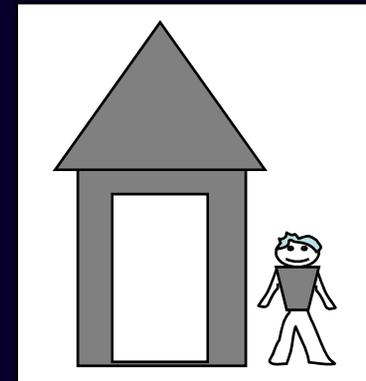
**Sequence**



**Convergence**



**Enframement**



**Scale**

# Contrast

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- Degree to which sharp differences in adjacent objects or areas exist.
- Landscapes or areas of landscapes with great contrast attract the eye more readily than those with little to no contrast.





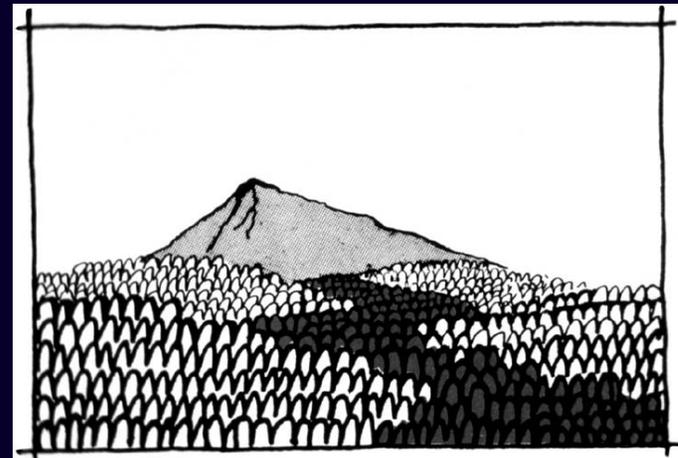
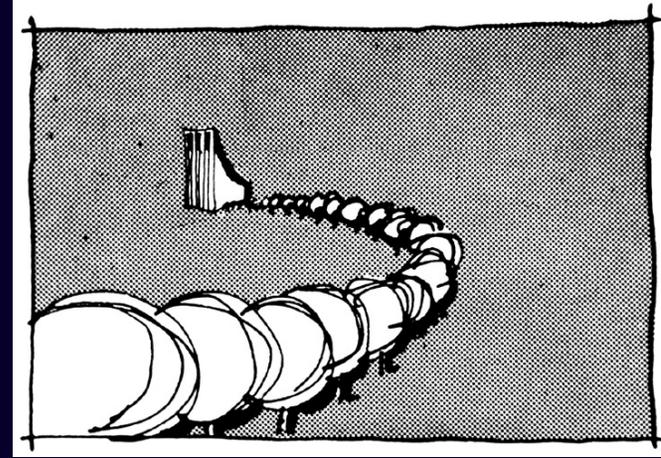






# Sequence

- Succession of landscape elements.
- Systematic repetition of form, line, color, or texture.



# Types of Sequence

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- Form sequence
  - Interruption of form sequence can create “missing tooth” effect.
- Line sequence
  - Can lead the eye to a distant object.
  - Removal of one of elements forming line would be visually disruptive.
- Color sequence
  - Can also lead the eye to a distant object.





# Axis

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- A straight line (real or imaginary) passing through the center of a landscape such that each half is symmetrical.
- Focuses viewer attention primarily on the terminus and its background.
- A design tool of great forcefulness.





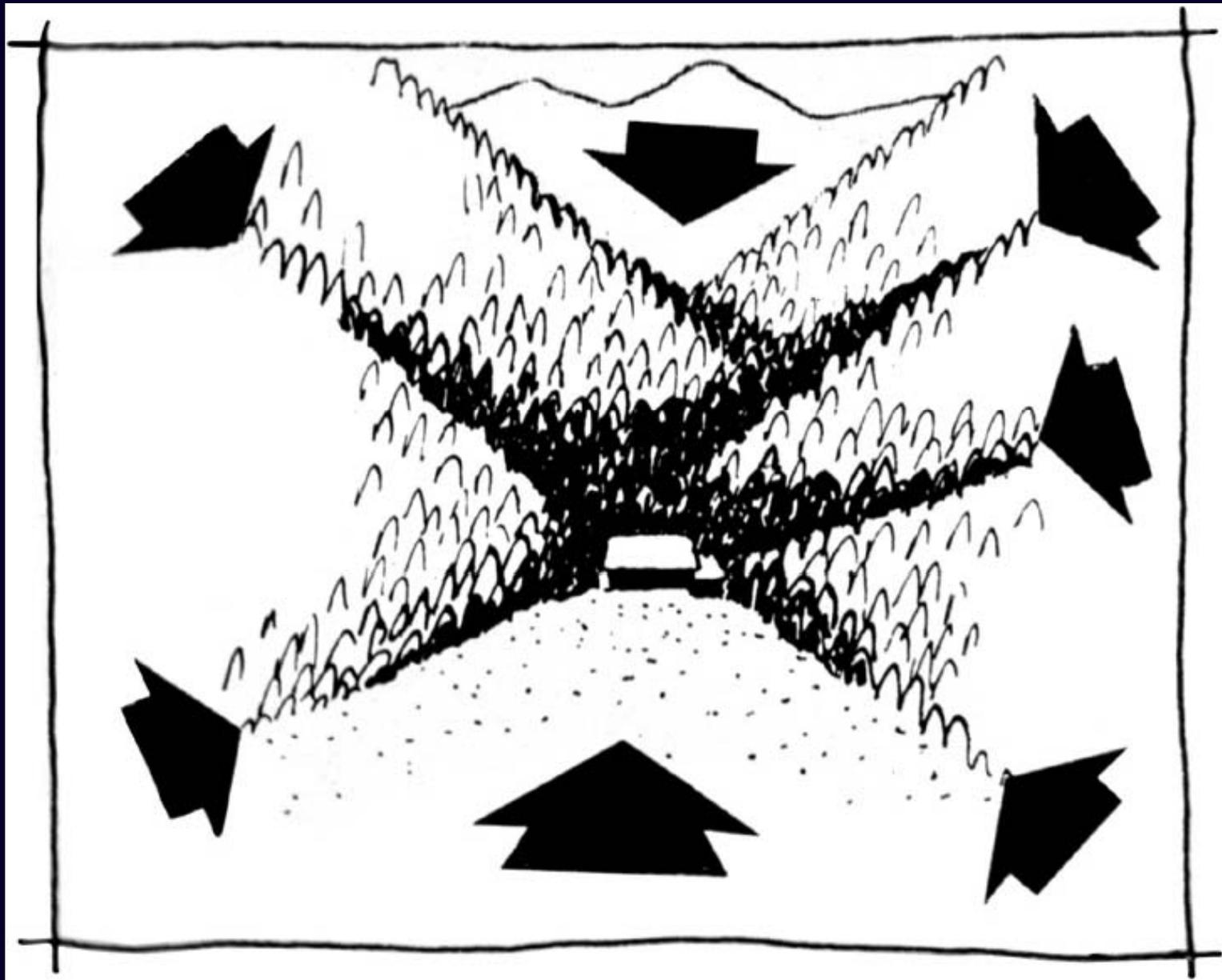


# Convergence

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- Two or more dominant landscape elements coming together visually.
- Tends to focus attention on one point or small area.
- Point of convergence generally becomes focal point within the landscape.
- Point of convergence is highly visible





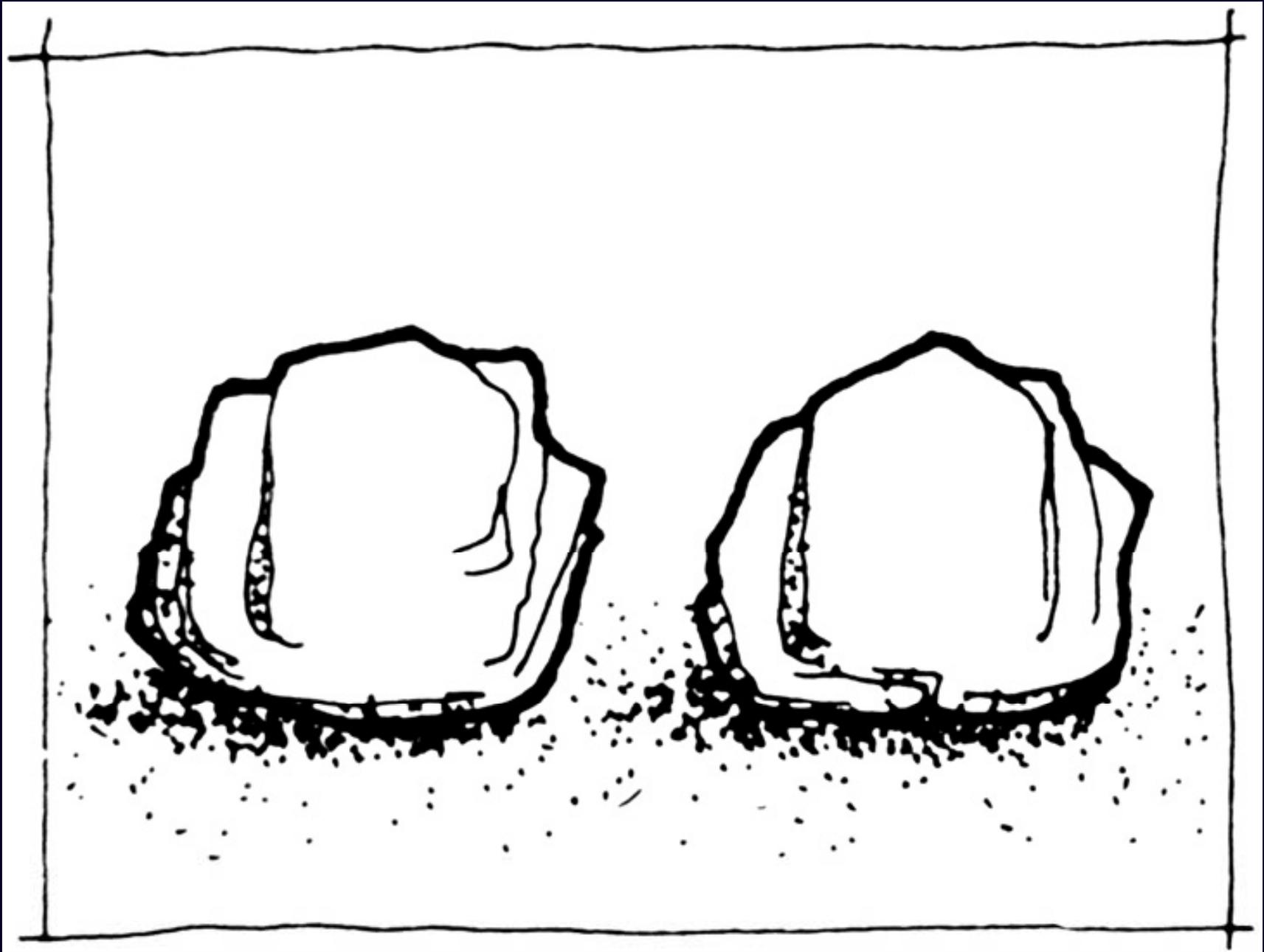


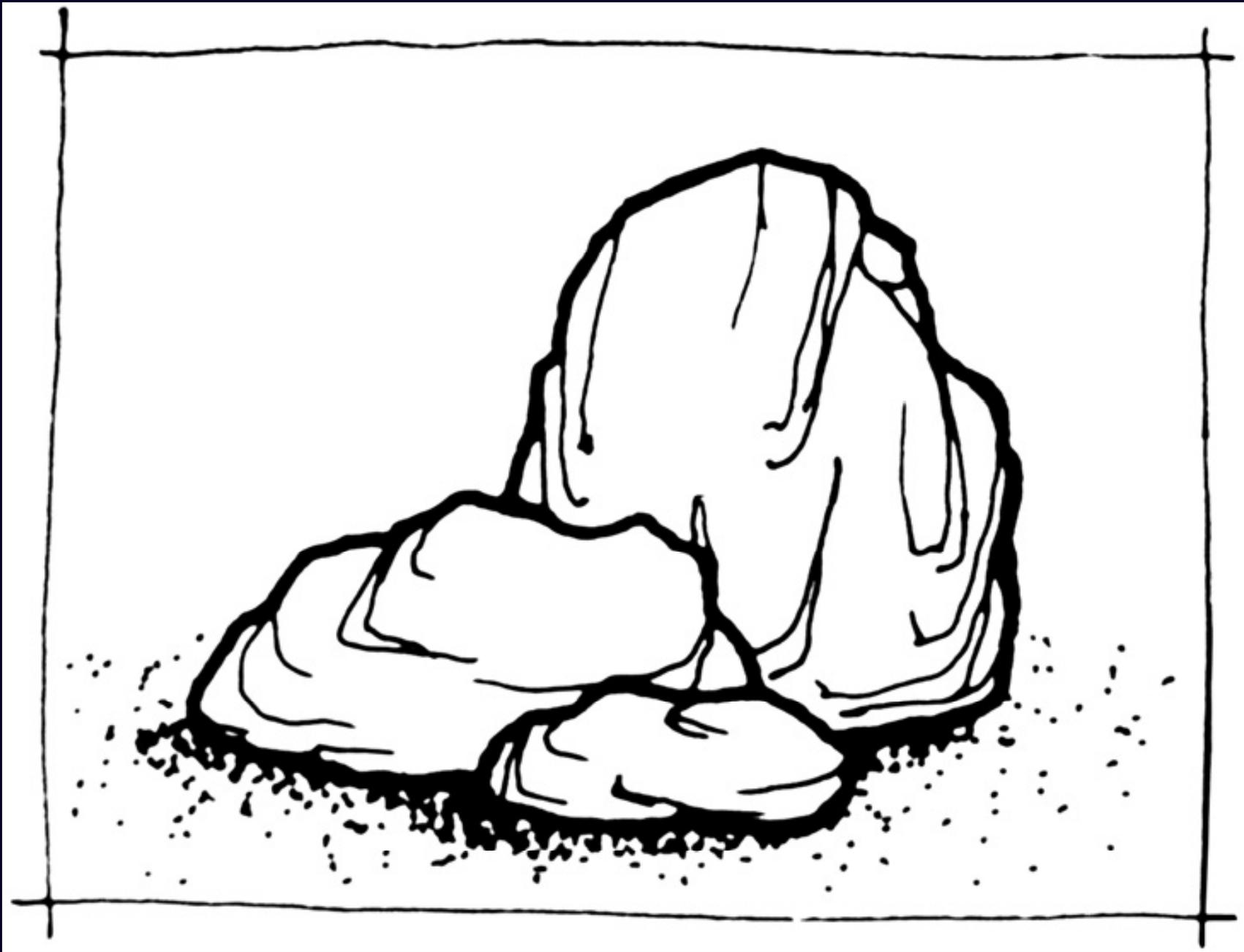


# Co-dominance

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- Two or more major landscape form features are nearly identical.
- Co-dominant features often produce a symmetrical composition that does not blend with the characteristic landscape.
- Natural landscapes with co-dominant features added are seldom as visually pleasing as those with a single dominant element.









# Enframement

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- Created when features in the landscape direct the viewer's attention inward like the frame of a picture.
- Walls of trees or rock cliffs on either side, reflecting waters at the base, and tree canopies overhead serve as forces of enframement.





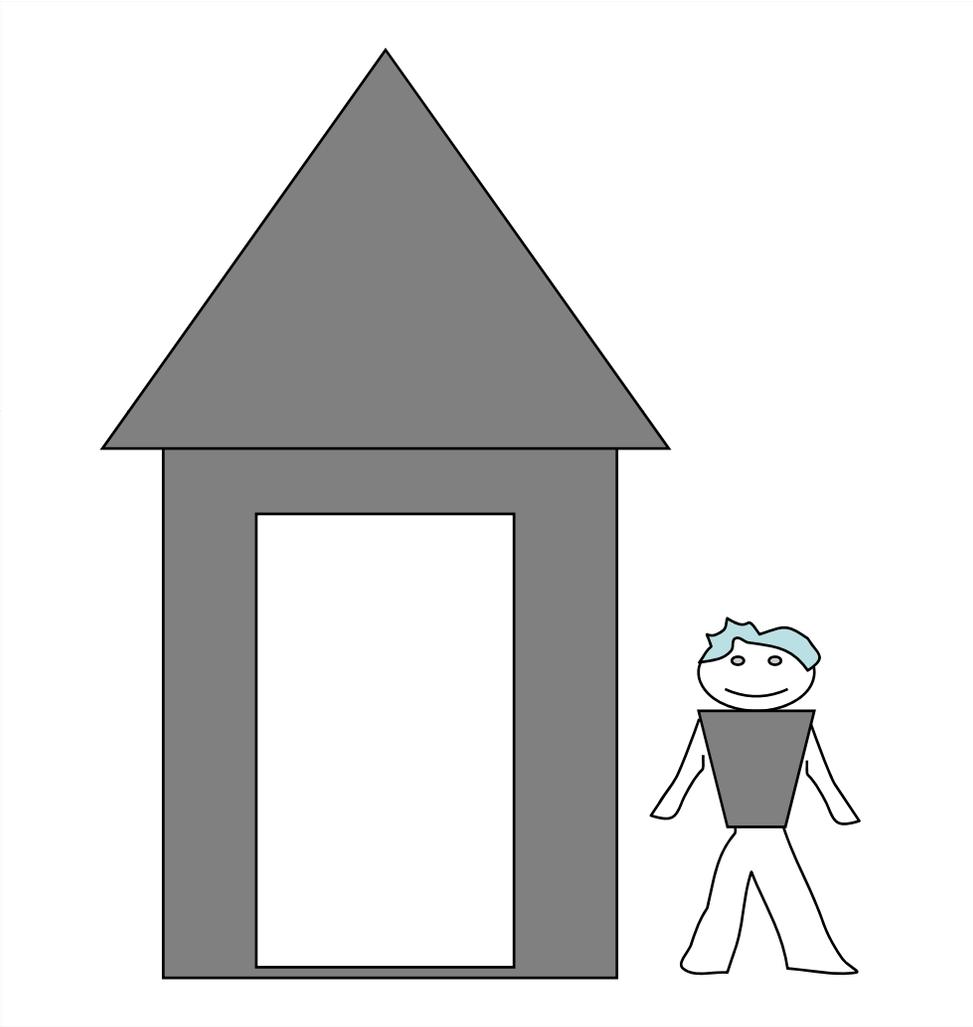




# Scale

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- The proportionate size relationship between an object and its surroundings.
- Relative to the landscape setting, scale determines the object's dominance in the landscape.
- The size of the space inversely affects an object's relative scale -- small spaces make objects appear larger.











# Exercise

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**“Change is inevitable,  
ugliness is not.”**

*from Scenic America website*