CONTENTS

Preface xi

1 Some Background on the Subject of Site Grading
   Site Grading Informs Design 1
   Let’s Begin 3
   The Importance of Grading in Design 4
   A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words 6
   Gaining an Essential Grasp of Site-Grading Concepts 7
   What the Student Needs to Know about Site Grading 9
      Professional Relationships 12
      The Basic Structural Approach to This Book 13

2 Site Grading and the Legal Requirements
   What Is Site Grading? 15
   Avoiding Grading Problems in the Landscape 18
      Encounters in the Field of Grading: Problems That Could Have Been Avoided 19
   Site Grading in the Professional Practice of Landscape Architecture 21
   Professional Registration to Practice Landscape Architecture 22

3 Site Planning and Grading Process
   Introduction 27
   The Design Process 28
   Steps in the Design Process Continuum 28
      Step 1. Background Research 28
      Step 2. Site Analysis 30
      Step 3. Program Analysis 36
      Step 4. Land Use and Circulation Diagram 38
      Step 5. Schematic Site Design 40
      Step 6. Schematic Design Grading Plan 42
Preliminary Site Grading Plan ........................................ 45
Design Development and Subsequent Phases in
the Design Continuum ........................................ 47

4 Drawing Conventions
Drawing Conventions: Landscape Drawings and
Music Scores .................................................. 49
Drafting and Representation .................................. 51
The Concept of Documentation Conventions in
Music and Design ........................................... 52
Following Drawing Conventions Prevents
Miscommunication ........................................... 56
Construction Documentation ............................... 57
Another Word about Scale .................................. 58

5 What Is Scale, Why Is It Important, and How Is It Used?
Scale: A Word of Several Meanings .......................... 61
The Need for Scaled Drawings ............................... 63
Site Grading Is Integral to the Phases of Design .......... 64
Using and Choosing the Right Scale ....................... 65
Reference Plan and Match Lines ........................... 66
Architect’s and Engineer’s Scales ............................ 68
Topographic Maps Are Useful Preplanning Tools ...... 69
Map Scales and Contour Intervals ......................... 72
Recognizing Landform Patterns ............................ 73
The Information Contained in Topographic Maps ...... 74
U.S. Geological Survey and Scales of Other Countries 75
6 Where Are You?
The Language of Maps ............................................. 77
How to Find and Locate Places in the Landscape,
or: Where Am I? ................................................. 78
Maps Serve a Variety of Purposes ................................. 82
Coordinate Systems .................................................. 82
  Latitude and Longitude: A Geographic Coordinate System .................. 82
Referencing System for a Land Parcel ............................ 86
Licensed Land Surveyor ............................................. 87
Locating a Building or Other Element on the Ground ............. 88

7 Contours
Introduction ............................................................. 91
  Reading the Landscape ........................................... 92
Contour Lines: A Language for Two Dimensions ................... 93
What the Landscape Would Look Like with Contours ............... 94
Contours Explained .................................................. 100
Slope in Plan and Section ........................................... 104

8 Signature Landforms
Landform Signatures ................................................ 109
Watershed Landform Signature .................................... 112
Putting It All Together .............................................. 116

9 Calculating Slope and Other Grading Calculations:
Tools for Gaining Mastery in Grading
Introducing Calculation of Slope .................................. 120
A Few Slope Conventions .......................................... 122
Slope Equation: Primary Tool for Most
  Calculations Required in Grading ............................... 124
10 How to Calculate Spot Elevations
Introduction ........................................... 139
When Are Spot Elevations Needed? .............. 139
Where Spot Elevations Are Necessary .......... 142
Overview for the Grading Conditions Discussion . 150
How Spot Elevations Are Used by Contractors . 151
How to Calculate a Spot Elevation ............... 151
The Steps for Establishing Spot Elevations on a Sloping Surface . 154
Using the Riser Height of Steps to Calculate Spot Elevations . 156
Use of Spot Elevations in Grading Plans ......... 156
Coordination of Spot Elevations with Other Elevation Conventions . 157
How a Contractor Uses Spot Elevations Shown on a Grading Plan . 159
From Schematic Design Plan to Grading Plan . . 160

11 Working with Contours: Creating Landforms with Design in Mind
Creating Landscapes Using Contours .......... 164
Getting from the Site and the Design to Grading the Site . . 166
Contours Used to Show Landform ............... 169
Creating Landforms for Programmed Uses . . 170
Contours Used to Show Surface Drainage ....... 174
Paved Surfaces Water Flow ....................... 178
How to Create a Level Area on Sloping Ground 180

12 Signature Solutions
Introduction ........................................... 185
Signature Grading Solutions ................. 186
Creating a Simple Slope .......................... 186
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Level Area on Sloping Ground</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature Solution: Creating a Sloping Surface</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Swale around a Level Surface to Direct Surface</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Drainage Swale</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Watershed to Collect Surface Water</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch Basin Design in Paved Area</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Sculpted Landform</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Detention Pond or Depression</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site-Grading Concepts for a Simple Residential Lot</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Initial Site-Grading Strategies</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Spot Elevations and Contour Grading for a Tennis Court or Other Large Court-Game Surface</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**13 Detailed Grading with Slopes, Contours, and Spot Elevations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading of Paved Surfaces: Walks and Ramps</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Process for Grading a Pedestrian Ramp</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Process for Grading a Bicycle Trail and Park Walkway</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of Walkway, Steps, and Seating Area</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Design Where Paved Area Meets Building</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance Accessible by Stairs</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot Grading Design</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site-Grading Design in Lawn Area</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculptural Landform Solutions in Lawn or Landscaped Areas</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Final Examples of Using Spot Elevations and Contours in Site-Grading Design</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Sequence for a Bus Shelter</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>