Landscape Preferences in the Arid Southwest: Comparative Results from the Phoenix Area Social Survey and North Desert Village
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Central Research Question: What residential landscape types are most preferred for front and back yards, and Why? To what degree are household yard preferences indicative of functional, aesthetic, environmental, social or other values attached to residential landscapes?

Reasons Cited for Preferences

**A Few Patterns**
- Strong association between front and back yard preferences overall, particularly between mesic and oasis.
- Less variation in preferences for demographically similar NDV residents, who mostly preferred mesic landscapes, or grass lawns, followed by mixed, oasis landscapes, especially for back yards.
- Greater preference among PASS sample for desert, which was the most preferred front yard option. Preference for desert declines in back yards, while the courtyard landscape type increases substantially.

**Pass Landscape Images**

**Reasons for Preferences**
- "It's mixed with the grass which I understand is because of water conservation, and that was making... it's not as green..."
- "Dustbowl kids can't play in the dirt or it's very important."
- "It was mixed with the ground which I understand is because of water conservation, and that was making... it's not as green..."
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**Quotes:**
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**Future Steps**
For both studies, reasons cited for front and back yard landscape preferences will be analyzed qualitatively according to a coding scheme that assesses the relative importance of the following reasons for particular preferences:
- Aesthetics, e.g., natural looking, green
- Environment, e.g., birds, water conservation
- Maintenance, e.g., labor costs, maintenance
- Recreation, e.g., children play, exercise, gardening
- Health, e.g., spiny cactus, allergies
- Familiarity, e.g., grew up with it

Bibliographic Note: The PASS images and tables were adapted from Larsen, L. and S.L. Harlan. "Desert Dreamscapes: Residential Landscape Preferences and Behavior." Landscape and Urban Planning, in press.