Detailing for Landscape Architects spans across three major areas of landscape architectural detailing - aesthetics, function and constructibility - to demonstrate how powerful design patterns can transform thematic ideas into built realities.

Detailing for Landscape Architects shows how details can:

- Actively contribute to the overall form or geometry
- Be designed to be durable and adaptable
- Gracefully accommodate the natural growth of plant materials
- Anticipate maintenance needs to minimize future disruptions
- Maximize cost effectiveness while meeting functional needs.

Good detailing is an opportunity to advance the concepts, symbols, and aesthetic themes of the basic design. The detail patterns can be used to edit the schematic design, celebrating its strengths and eliminating features that are not contributing to the central ideas.

The patterns clarify the issues relevant to a particular detail but avoid stating what the solution should be. They are meant to provoke the designer to discover many possible solutions, and to provide a clear process through which each can be assessed.

The final portion of the book demonstrates the process of designing the details of three different landscapes: a plaza, a rooftop garden, and a residence.