INTERPRETATION CAN ADD INTEREST

The classic definition of environmental interpretation was suggested by Freeman Tilden in his classic book on the subject, Interpreting Our Heritage. Tilden wrote that interpretation is “an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience of visiting a particular street or park, and in some cases, can be an important component in promoting tourism. Tough, vandal-resistant materials make it practical in almost all settings, and there are usually skilled interpreters who can create the messages. Signs can be used to preserve historical information on-site or to introduce lay people to trees and other aspects of nature. They can add to the interpretive signs along a street or in parks. Interpretive signs along our streets and in our parks. Tough, vandal-resistant materials make it practical in almost all settings, and there are usually skilled interpreters who can create the messages. Signs can be used to preserve historical information on-site or to introduce lay people to trees and other aspects of nature. They can add to the experience of visiting a particular street or park, and in some cases, can be an important component in promoting tourism.

there. The best are as joyful as they are utilitarian. “When we invest,” they informed the mayor, “we favor with the delegation, the mayor was shocked at their response. “We don’t have any. We don’t want to burden the store. When they asked about landscaping requirements, they said, “... for many people trees are the most important single characteristic of a good street.” Whether a busy commercial strip, a downtown area with skyscrapers, or a quiet residential cul de sac, trees can add both beauty and function. Trees can add both beauty and function. Trees make any street a better street, and because of this, they deserve the same status and care as other parts of the city infrastructure.

One day a group of business professionals met with the mayor of a small western city to discuss bringing in a new nearby town that had a landscape ordinance. Trees — the dominant plant in any landscape — have a powerful effect on how any street looks, feels, and functions. Because of this, it is time to view trees not merely as decorations, but rather as valuable services not unlike water mains and streetlights. Some forward-thinking individuals call trees the city’s “green infrastructure.” It is a perspective deserving of wider adoption and one that can pay great dividends.

Trees enhance streets of all kinds. They contribute to customer satisfaction in shopping areas, provide more pleasant and restful living areas, and can even have a calming effect on traffic.

Trees for Better Streets

Great Ideas from Great Books

There is magic to great streets. We are attracted to the best of them not because we have to be there but because we want to be there. The best are so joyful as they are utilitarian.

— Allan B. Jacobs in Great Streets

Great Streets and other publications that can help transform your streets into more beautiful and practical places can be found by visiting arborday.org/bulletins.