

# Double Your Utility With Functional Walls

In landscape design, efficiency is value. A retaining wall is often a structural necessity to manage a slope, but if it only holds back dirt, it is a single-use asset. Larkin Landscape and Design engineers walls that perform double or triple duty, maximizing the return on your hardscaping investment.

The "Seat Wall" is the highest-value upgrade. By building a wall to a height of 18-21 inches and capping it with a smooth, 12-14 inch wide stone, you create permanent seating. A 20-foot wall provides seating for 10-12 people. To buy outdoor furniture for that many guests would cost thousands of dollars and clutter your patio. A seat wall is always there, never blows away, and requires zero winter storage. When planning **Retaining Wall Construction Iowa**, this integration is a smart use of budget.

Integrated planters add biophilic value. By stepping the wall back to create a shelf, or building a raised box, we bring vegetation up to eye level. This breaks up the "monolith" effect of a large stone wall, softening the aesthetic. It also makes gardening accessible for those who cannot kneel or bend over.

Functionally, these walls also serve as windbreaks and sound barriers. A masonry wall blocks low-level drafts that can make a fire pit uncomfortable. It dampens noise from neighboring properties. By stacking these benefits—retention, seating, planting, shelter—you create a structure that contributes significantly to the lifestyle value of the home.

**Conclusion** Multi-functional retaining walls provide structural support while adding permanent seating and accessible planting space. This approach saves money on furniture, maximizes patio space, and enhances comfort by blocking wind and noise, delivering superior value.

**Call to Action** Build smarter, not harder, by designing a multi-functional wall with Larkin Landscape and Design.

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