
CONSIDERATIONS IN GARDEN DESIGN:

1. Functional
2. Maintainable
3. Environmentally sound-right plant, right place, right purpose
4. Cost effective
5. Visually pleasing
6. Multifunctional design
7. simplicity, sanctuary, delight
8. ***form—foliage—flower—fragrance—fruit—try + get at least 3 or more each quality in each plant for maximum value in deciding what plants to use
9. embrace constraints
10. practice restraint
11. adopt beginners mind
12. check ego at the door
13. focus on experience or design
14. think about solving problems not beauty
15. obsess about ideas, not tools
16. clarify intention

STEPS IN CREATING GARDEN DESIGN:

1. Brainstorm about purpose/activities to do in yard-complete backyard triage worksheets (pages 171-177)
2. who will be using this space: family, friends, pets, animals?
3. most likely time of day to be using space? How often will you entertain?
4. colors of house and surrounding buildings on lot:
5. style of house-
6. what door do you use?
7. sun/wind orientation
8. terrain type, soil conditions
9. current plants on hand
10. water sources/electrical sources
11. Is there sufficient parking?
12. building materials on hand
13. take measurements of space and draw space on graph paper
14. Site analysis: sun/shade/soil/topography/utility lines/
15. view space from both inside/outside house-what do you see, what do you want to see?
16. what views frame or need framing? does the space take advantage of distant views?
17. brainstorm all negatives of space
18. create grid lines for space coming off corners/doorways, etc
19. make bubble map of places to do activities- play, garden, eat, etc.
20. think about themes for your garden
21. link activities areas (paths, transitional spaces)
22. Consider maintenance issues for ease use
23. chose plants based on size, form, function, texture, colors,4season
24. plant in masses and layers, begin with trees, shrubs, flowers, ground-covers
25. each plant or plant mass should complement or contrast with neighboring plants.masses

26. where are the utility wires (above/below ground)?
27. What needs to get built? By whom?
28. What needs to get removed? By whom?
29. What focal points do you have or want?
30. Have you considered fragrance, 4 season interest, plants that move, sounds, water, texture
31. do you have both horizontal and vertical elements?
32. have you planned your garden with design principles in mind?
33. Does the space have qualities like an outside living room?
34. Does something dominate the space?
35. Does the back of the house have architectural details like front (shutters, window boxes, etc)