

LANDSCAPE DESIGN CHECKLIST

A successful landscape or garden begins with a plan based on individual needs and preferences. This questionnaire will help you and your designer focus on your needs and desires, and the special character of your site. These questions are not meant to be comprehensive, but to stimulate your own thinking about how you might derive the greatest satisfaction and enjoyment from your outdoor living spaces.

- What do you like most about your home's surroundings?
- How much time do you want to spend outside; what do you see yourself doing?
- How would you like to develop your outdoor living areas?
- What would you like to see out your windows?
- How might you describe your landscape interests?
- How would you like to feel in your garden?
- What do you like least about your home's exterior spaces right now?

The Functional Environment

Please check activities and family members that the exterior design should accommodate.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Partner? | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children? How many? What ages? | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing/listening to music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other family members? | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pets? What kind? How many? | <input type="checkbox"/> Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor dining? How many people? How often? | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor/outdoor entertaining? How many? How often? | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Meditation/contemplation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe) |

DESIGN MOOD. *Please check all that apply.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Soothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secret/private | <input type="checkbox"/> Open |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Exciting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Serene |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uplifting | <input type="checkbox"/> Playful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheltered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nourishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) |

Your Environment's Vital Statistics

- Do you consider your home to be a permanent residence or an interim home?
- What is the age and style of your home?
- Does your landscape face North, South, East, or West?
- Does the garden get sunlight between 9 a.m. and noon? Noon to 3 p.m.? After 3 p.m.?
- Describe your property's topography.
- Are there underground utilities, drainage systems other problems?
- Do you have plot plans or surveys?
- How would you describe the character of your site?
- Are there existing features you would like to remove?
- Are there features that you wish to renovate and keep?
- Are you or your next-door neighbors planning any major construction?

Hardscape – The Structured Environment

DESIGN THEMES. *What are your preferences? Please check one or more.*

- Asian** (symbolism, simplicity, more green than flower colors, use of stone)
- California** (native plants, 12-month interest, Mediterranean feeling)
- Contemporary** (dramatic foliage, strong color contrasts, mass plantings)
- Country** (colorful mixed borders, perennials, winding paths, eclectic)
- Formal** (symmetry, clipped hedges, topiary, classical architecture)
- Tropical** (hot strong colors, bold foliage, jungle-like abundance)
- Other** (please describe)

DESIGN FORMS. *Please check the shapes and styles you prefer.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curves | <input type="checkbox"/> Raised beds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rectangles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiers/steps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rustic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |

BUILDING MATERIALS. *Please check all that appeal to you.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Bark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel | <input type="checkbox"/> Copper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slate | <input type="checkbox"/> Steel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marble, limestone | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrought Iron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rocks, boulders | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brick | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |

UTILITY STRUCTURES/AREAS. *Please check features you would like to include.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paths | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood Storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fences/Gates | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet run | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage/Recycling storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Shed | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike/Toy Storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compost area | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potting area | |

LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES. *Please check features you would like to include.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deck | <input type="checkbox"/> Paths/Steps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patio/Terrace | <input type="checkbox"/> Retaining wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gazebo | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pergola | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace/firepit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hot tub/Jacuzzi | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sauna | <input type="checkbox"/> Child's play area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |

Softscape – The Planted Environment

The plants selected for your outdoor living areas can provide many things. Take a moment to consider the goals below. Please check each goal you would like to achieve through your plantings:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grow edibles | <input type="checkbox"/> Create privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create a sanctuary space | <input type="checkbox"/> Add fragrance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attract wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Add texture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce wind | <input type="checkbox"/> Add soft sounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce undesirable noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Low maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide cut flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Low water use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide for exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) |

- Are there plants of which you are particularly fond?
- Are there plants that you dislike or are allergic to?
- What colors would you like to have around you in your garden?
- Do you wish to have a lawn? For what purpose(s)? How large?
- Circle your favorite season(s):

○ Spring Early Summer Late Summer Fall Winter

- When will you be using your garden?
 - Early morning mid-morning noon
 - Mid-afternoon early evening evening or nighttime
 - Week days weekends

Installation, Care and Maintenance

- How much time will family members spend on maintenance each week, if any?
- Do you or will you employ a gardening service?
- Do you want an immediate landscape or will you install it in phases?
- Will you hire a professional to install the landscape or will you do it yourself?
- Please circle the budget figure that is closest to what you would like to invest:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Under \$5,000 | \$5,000 to \$10,000 |
| \$10,000 to \$25,000 | \$25,000 to \$50,000 |
| \$50,000 to \$75,000 | \$75,000 to \$100,000 |
| \$100,000 to \$150,000 | \$150,000 to \$200,000 |
| Over \$200,000 | Other (please explain) |