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.

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

DESIGN MOOD. Please check all that apply.

- Relaxing
- Secret/private
- Social
- Energizing
- Uplifting
- Spiritual
- Nourishing
- Soothing
- Open
- Exciting
- Serene
- Playful
- Sheltered
- 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.

- **Curves**
- **Rectangles**
- **Formal**
- **Informal**
- **Rustic**
- **Raised beds**
- **Tiers/steps**
- **Hidden**
- **Sunken**
- **Other (describe)**

**Building Materials.** Please check all that appeal to you.

- **Concrete**
- **Flagstone**
- **Gravel**
- **Slate**
- **Marble, limestone**
- **Rocks, boulders**
- **Brick**
- **Wood**
- **Bark**
- **Copper**
- **Steel**
- **Wrought Iron**
- **Glass**
- **Other (describe)**
UTILITY STRUCTURES/AREAS. Please check features you would like to include.
- Paths
- Fences/Gates
- Pet run
- Maintenance Shed
- Compost area
- Potting area
- Firewood Storage
- Extra parking
- Garbage/Recycling storage
- Bike/Toy Storage
- Other (describe)

LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES. Please check features you would like to include.
- Deck
- Patio/Terrace
- Gazebo
- Pergola
- Swimming Pool
- Hot tub/Jacuzzi
- Sauna
- Water feature
- Sculpture
- Paths/Steps
- Retaining wall
- Outdoor kitchen
- Fireplace/firepit
- Lighting
- Greenhouse
- Child’s play area
- Sports court
- 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:
- Grow edibles
- Create a sanctuary space
- Attract wildlife
- Reduce wind
- Reduce undesirable noise
- Provide cut flowers
- Provide for exercise
- Create privacy
- Add fragrance
- Add texture
- Add soft sounds
- Low maintenance
- Low water use
- 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?
  o Early morning  mid-morning  noon
  o Mid-afternoon  early evening  evening or nighttime
  o 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)