Basic Landscape Design

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• The temptation to begin planting or building immediately is almost overwhelming.

• Whether you are landscaping a newly-built home or redesigning an existing landscape, the results will be much more satisfying if you plan first.
Goals in Landscaping

• Organize and develop the site for maximum use and pleasure.
• Create a visual relationship between the house and the site.
• Reduce landscape maintenance to a practical level
• Visit other yards or public gardens to get ideas.
• Go through magazines and books.
• Don’t rush into something that you have to live with for years.
• Make a budget and try to stay on it!
Match your style with your home
Soil Test

• Know where you stand on existing nutrient levels.

• Soil pH is a measure of acidity & alkalinity

• A soil pH of 7.0 is neutral. A soil pH below this is acid.

• Most plants do best in a slightly acidic soil.
Evaluate the Site
Assessing Your Landscape Needs

- Drainage
- Slope
- Hardscape (Patios, Sidewalks, Arbors, Decks, Outdoor Fireplace, Fire Pits, Water Features and Outdoor Kitchens)
- Assessing Sun & Shade Options
- Maintenance (High versus Low)
- Irrigation
Assessing Your Landscape Needs

- Screening for Unwanted Views and Noise
Organize your space

- Define your public and private area
- Establish service area(s) as needed
Establish Viewing Perspective
Consider Circulation Patterns
If you have a large lot, break the whole into bight size chunks.
What level of formality do you want?
Symmetrical Balance
Asymmetrical Balance
Simple Landscape

- A Tree
- Couple of Boulders
- Groundcover
Choosing Plant Material & Scale

- Trees (deciduous, evergreen, and flowering)
- Specimen Plants
- Anchor Plants
- Shrubs (deciduous and evergreen)
- Groundcovers
Choosing Plants

• Know the maximum size you need.
• Sun versus shade.
• Group plants with like needs.
• Allow room for plants to grow.
Creating a comfortable scale

• Avoid too crowded or too open exposures
• Trees provide a roof enclosing the area
• Leave open spaces
Create a landscape plan that flows by grouping plants in beds
Encourage movement
Specimen & Anchor Plants

Specimen Plants – Are plants that you want to stand out in the landscape.

Anchor Plants – Are plants that are used to balance out or add weight to a landscape.
### Examples of Each Type

#### Specimen Plants
- Crape Myrtle
- Deciduous Holly
- Styrax
- Hawthorn
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Redbud
- Yaupon Holly Std.
- Japanese Maples

#### Anchor Plants
- Nellie Stevens Holly
- Burford Holly
- Foster Holly
- Camellia
- Little Gem Magnolia
- Viburnums
- Arborvitae
- Elaeagnus
Specimen Shrubs
Textured Leaf Landscape Plants

- Maiden grasses with Dwarf Helleri Holly
- Indian Hawthorn with Lamb’s Ear
- Dwarf Yaupon Holly with Junipers
- Hosta with Liriope
- Knockout Roses with Grasses and Junipers
Broad leaves with Narrow Leaves
Color & Texture (continued)
Crape Myrtle
Oakleaf Hydrangea
Laying Out The Plan

- Scale 1/8” = 1’-0”
- Stake Location of Trees
- Stake Location of New Patios & Sidewalks
- Layout Outside Border of Landscape Using an Existing Water Hose
- After approving the Layout of Landscape Bed, Spray with Orange Marking Paint
- If in Spring or Summer Months, Spray Bed with Herbicide. Wait for existing Weeds and Grass to Die
- Remove all Weed and Grass Roots
Laying Out the Plan (continued)

• Cover Area in approx 6 inches of good promix and organic matter
• Place Plants in the Correct Location per Plan
• Dig Holes and Plant at the Same Depth Grown in the Container (Except Azaleas)
• Water all Newly Installed Plants
• Cut a Natural Edge along the Border of Landscape
• Mulch with 2” to 3” of a Natural Shredded Bark Mulch
• Stand Back and Watch it Grow
Liven up a Bare Wall
Espalier Fruit on a Wall
Add Architectural Features
Mass Color Bigger Impact
Mass Color Bigger Impact

Spiraea ‘Gold Mound’
Choose wisely
Plan well
Your landscape will be a success!
A GARDENER IS AN ARTIST THAT PAINTS WITH A SHOVEL INSTEAD OF A BRUSH.

Questions?