

Garden Designing and Landscaping.

Outdoor areas are often the last to receive design attention but that should not be ---- landscape around your home is as important as the inside of your home. *Plants makes your home more welcoming.*

Well executed landscaping can compliment your home's aesthetics- right plants, flowers, shrubs can enhance your home by adding colour, texture and fragrance.

What makes a great garden?

Random placing of plants does not make a great garden. Other elements like Colour, Line, Texture, Form and Scale need to be considered as well.

1. **Colour** in landscape design is crucial - It creates *Dimensions* and *Interest*

Colours create:

- Harmony.
- Contrast.
- Highlight.

Colours attract Butterflies and Bees- White and Yellow are great eye catchers.

2. Line

- Connects and defines the space creating outdoor room.
- Pathways of Flower beds, creates strong defining lines.
- Even a water body like pond can define a line.
- Line impacts the flow of garden.

Different styles of lines

- ✓ Straight line - creates formal looks.
- ✓ Curved line - creates informal looks.
- ✓ Vertical line – makes the space larger - tree.
- ✓ Horizontal line – give expanse- usually that's the garden area.

3. Form

- Shape of plant is form – the line, direction and arrangement of branches and twigs.

- This is dependent on landscape design theme.
- Two types – *formal* and *informal*.

4. Texture

- Flower, Leaves, Bark, Branches all have texture.
- It helps create variety.
- Close up textures come from size and shape of leaves, twigs and branches.
- Distance textures from entire mass effect of plants and quantity of light and shadow.

Maintain balance in your landscape design by avoiding these mistakes:

- Avoid Creating Horticulture zoo – two of each plant.
- Avoid repeating same pattern over and over again- red white, red white.
- In creating a garden balance of dominate and supporting elements is needed.
- When we look at a garden from any direction, one needs to observe a dominate element – example – tree.
- Multiple dominant elements screaming for attention, takes away the beauty of the garden.

Creating an Impact- *is the most important aspect of designing. Some pointers*

- Plant in numbers – use the same plant in continuity to create impact
- Use repetition – its easy to create a messy look when planting , if you try to plant one of everything. Reuse the same colour, shape or plant variety in planting.
- Create bold contrasts of colour. Together the colours are more effective than when used alone.
- Play with geometry , take advantage of lines, shapes and angles, to create drama and impact.
- Have fun with plants – transform ordinary to extraordinary with some pruning and training – topiaries , espalier.
- Incorporate containers. Mix containers with beds and borders.
- Mix material - plants and hard spaces(non plant material)
- Create Features - fountains, pergolas.
- Add Accessories to the garden- animal and bird shaped pots, chimes, bird houses.

So Create a distinct identity for your garden. It should reflect the inside of your home and should be an extension of your personality. Landscaping and Design is not about only Plants it is about You

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