

# Garden Design Insider Tips & Techniques

## How The Pros Do It



# **Take The First Steps To The Garden Of Your Dreams**

**Ever wondered how these stunning gardens you see on social media or TV programs are done?**

**Do you wish your garden could look as good?**

**Well now it can.**

Here at Beardsley Landscaping Services, we have been creating stunning gardens for over 27 years and have that fundamental understanding on how to design and build the perfect, dream garden.

Armed with this extensive knowledge we have put together this guide full of tips and tricks to help you on your garden transformation journey.

Investing in good garden design not only enhances your outdoor living experience, it can also add to the market value of your home.

A beautiful outdoor space is not only a place to relax but also somewhere to entertain and have fun.

Landscaping can totally transform a garden, turning it into your ideal space.

Although we take it for granted that our houses are divided into rooms, we find the concept of having similar "outdoor living spaces" a little odd, at first.

Yet the more conscious we become of outdoor living spaces, the more we can tailor them to suit our needs. Even the smallest garden can benefit from landscaping.

It can bring a new lease of life to your outdoor space and with such a variety of design ideas and options available, you can build your dream garden.

It is essential to plan your garden design thoroughly before you commit to having it constructed, this will ensure that you have a relaxing space that doesn't feel cluttered.

So correct planning at the outset is vitally important to achieve the garden of your dreams.

## **There are several key elements to consider when undertaking any design or landscaping venture.**

Following these key elements will ensure you succeed in the planning, design and creation of your perfect outdoor space.

- **Design** from the inside out. It might feel counterintuitive to plan a garden from inside your home, but this is where it will often be viewed from, so sightlines are really important. Consider which windows will overlook the garden and think about what kind of view you'd like to see from each one.

Consider matching the outside paving with the inside to give a feeling of continuity.

- **Form** is a core element within garden design. It is concerned predominantly with the look and feel of an object or space, particularly the type of lines used to hint at the garden style. i.e. Straight, bold lines suggest something formal and/or contemporary. Curved lines hint at something more 'natural' or informal.

- **Scale & Proportion** is concerned with the physical properties of an object, plant or space.

When designing a garden, it's important to keep the individual elements in proportion with the overall garden space.

For example, a huge patio that takes up half the garden would look completely out of proportion.

Similarly, a postage-stamp sized patio would look out of proportion in a large country garden.

- **Sun** and shade are equally important in the overall design of your garden. If you want to spend lots of time in your outdoor space, you'll need to factor in plenty of shady spots in which to rest and relax, as well as maximising sunny areas.

Taking account of how the sun travels around your garden, you may want to design in a pergola or similar structure to provide pockets of shade from the midday sun, or you might prefer to think longer term and add in a tree or two.

## Design Tips & Ideas

**Small gardens** can be the most challenging to design.



- Straight lines can make a small garden feel even smaller and more confined, whereas adding a curved patio, a shaped lawn or meandering pathway will add a sense of extended space.
- Consider concealing long sections of wall or fence with planting to break up the long visual lines and create a more interesting view. This will avoid the 'corridor' effect, where your eye is drawn straight to the end of the garden.

**Sloping gardens** can be very challenging to design effectively, however with careful planning can be very interesting and usable.

- Terracing a slope by means of cutting-in and the use of retaining walls is a great way make awkward areas of the garden more usable. Moreover, some stunning designs can be created using natural features such as water courses, combined with terracing.
- A raised patio or seating area at the top of a slope can create superb view of the rest of the garden, giving a feeling of space and openness. Whereas a shady retreat at the bottom of the slope can give a feeling of seclusion and privacy.





**Outdoor entertaining** areas have increased in popularity over the years, take advantage of good weather while bringing the inside out.

What could be more ideal than spending your days outdoors, enjoying lots of daylight and fresh air.

The keys to a successful outdoor entertaining area are:

- **Patios or Decked** areas need to be large enough to accommodate family or friends' gatherings calling for plenty of space to move around comfortably or even dance!
- **Comfortable seating**, dining furniture and even an outdoor kitchen, can take the humble BBQ to a whole new level.
- **Raised beds** are a great low maintenance option which also provide extra, occasional seating when needed.

### **More general design tips:**

- Many UK gardens are long, narrow pieces of ground, edged by a high fence with a central lawn and borders around the edge, which can look dull and uninspiring. The solution to making a small garden appear larger is to divide up the space.
- Not seeing the entire garden all at once will add intrigue and, if done well, create the optical illusion that it is far larger.
- Changes in level are another clever way to visually divide areas of garden into different 'rooms', with steps, raised beds or a platform deck adding a whole new dimension.



## 10 Common Garden Design Mistakes

- **Ignoring flow**

When people start to plan their garden, they often concentrate on siting objects, such as a shed, trampoline or bbq. It is far better to stand back and assess the space as a whole before you start.

It is recommended that the whole garden be split up into different areas depending on the family's needs and then about how the space will work in an interconnected way.

- **Making things too busy**

In their efforts to create the perfect garden, many people try to cram too much into their design when really the key is simplicity.

Choosing materials that complement the house and limiting the number of different materials will create a sleek design which is pleasing on the eye.

Also when creating a planting plan try to stick with a common theme running through it with swathes of the same plants instead of lots of different ones.

- **Treating the garden as separate from the home**

The best garden designs are ones that treat the garden as an extension of the house. Proper planning of where each individual area is going to be situated within the overall design is key. Splitting the garden up into rooms and having focal points to draw the eye out to the wider garden will give the feeling of interest and mystery.

- **Planting without planning**

When creating a planting scheme, all too often people cram in all their favourite plants without a thought to situation and favoured conditions. This usually results in many plants either underperforming or dying off completely giving an unbalanced and seemingly haphazard scheme.

The solution is to do research before you start planting. List plants that will thrive in the local conditions and try to place plants in the situation where they will thrive.

- **Getting Side-Trackd**

It's easy to get side-tracked when designing a garden, particularly if you envisage how the whole space will look. Many people tend to go off-piste and cave in to the latest trend, even if it doesn't suit the style of home and surroundings.

The solution is to establish the look and feel of the overall design from the outset and stick to it. It is important to spend your time and budget on the structural elements before you start on anything else.

- **Thinking small spaces need to be bland**

It is not necessary to keep a small garden uncluttered to make it feel bigger. The danger is to clear the garden of everything, but this only serves to make it feel smaller and uninteresting as everything can be seen all at once.

The solution is to ensure all the elements are designed to the correct scale and placed so they draw the eye around the space fooling the brain into thinking the garden is actually bigger than it really is.

- **Thinking a large lawn is essential**

Many people believe a large lawn is essential in a garden, but a big expanse of grass isn't always necessary. Although there's an understandable reason for having a lawn that's as big as possible, such as the need for a space where children can play, it doesn't have to be the size of a football pitch.

- **Skimping on border size**

Many people mistakenly believe narrow flower borders will require less maintenance than a deeper one but nothing could be further from the truth. The solution is to incorporate shrubs into the planting scheme, these don't require a lot of looking after and can deliver interesting structure, flowers, berries and autumn leaf colour.

By having a deeper bed to start with, the shrubs can develop into their best shape over time with less maintenance required.

- **Ignoring the sun**

Many people don't think about the direction their garden faces when planning their overall design. Which can adversely affect how the garden ultimately performs. It is essential to know which parts of the garden are in sun and shade so the right choice of plants can be made. Knowing the aspect of your garden will help you decide where to put certain things, such as seating and entertaining areas.

- **Being too hasty**

People often want a tall, screening hedge quickly, so assume they should plant fast-growing trees and shrubs, but plants that grow fast also grow huge. A Leylandii tree can grow 75cm a year and reach more than 15 metres in height. So, you may get a quick high hedge, but it will be a battle to keep it under control every year.

Consider planting larger specimens of slower growing species that won't get out of hand and won't outgrow their allotted space.

# **Employing Professionals**

## **Garden Designers**

Start by asking friends and neighbours. It may seem obvious, but a personal recommendation is often the best way to ensure you get a good job. If someone recommends a designer, visit the garden and see if you like the work. Talk to the client and find out the way the designer worked, what he or she charged and whether they were pleased with the end result.

Most garden designers offer a range of services from simple advice through basic design to a full design and build service and in some cases, ongoing maintenance. Most will want to arrange an initial visit to your garden, to show you their portfolio of work and discuss your needs.

Some designers charge for this initial visit, others don't, so check this before committing. Any garden designer worth their salt will be happy to explain their scale of charges to you before you go ahead

A simple design only service, could cost well under £1,000, while a full design and build project for a large garden could cost up to £100,000 – there simply is no average figure.



## **Landscape Contractors**

Before employing landscaping contractors follow this checklist to ensure you get the right people for the job.

1. Be clear what you want doing. Before calling anyone, make sure you know what you want them to do. If you have a design, make sure the potential contractor is comfortable working to it.
2. As for references. Get references and recommendations from the contractors' previous clients and make sure you follow up on them. Looking at photos of past projects is not as good as seeing the work in the flesh.
3. Is the work guaranteed. Make sure the potential contractor offers a guarantee, the longer the better. If the contractor is confident in his work he will offer a long guarantee, perhaps as long as ten years.
4. Agree the job in writing. Make sure you get a quote with all the work you require doing, included in writing.
5. Making changes to the specification. If you want to make any changes to the original quote, make sure the costs are agreed in writing before they take place... you don't want to be surprised by an 'extras' bill at the end of the job.
6. Completion. Never make the final payment until you are totally delighted with the finished job.

# Imagine Your Perfect Dream Garden..... We Are Expert At Realising Your Vision

**W**e believe everybody should have the garden of their dreams.

Here at Beardsley Landscaping Services we are *committed* to designing gardens which improve quality of life.

Whether it's a garden for entertaining family and friends or for enjoying a quiet, relaxing afternoon in the sun, we can create your ideal outdoor space that will add value to your life and home.

With 27 years of landscape construction behind us, when designing a garden, we have that essential understanding of what goes into the build including what is actually possible to construct and what the build costs of different designs are.

Because of our knowledge and experience, we know how important it is to fully understand our clients budget and requirements before the design process begins.

**Give your garden the Wow Factor with a Risk-Free, Hassle Free, 100% Guaranteed, Garden Design and Landscaping service already enjoyed by Over 700 Delighted Clients.**

Why not call one of our design team today and start your garden transformation journey.

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## ...And This Is What Drives Us Forward

***“Outstanding work from Ian and the team.”***



*From initial contact to job complete, they have been faultless. Clear pricing, hard workers and skilled at what they do. Finished quickly and with zero fuss. Just brilliant. We couldn't recommend more highly. Already rebooked for next project!*

Nick & Jenn

***“Job well done, and great value for money....”***



*“Just wanted to thank Ian and his team for a truly professional job, which has transformed our back garden....patient, precise and above all else level, I wouldn't hesitate in recommending him to anyone.”*

John Greenwood

***“Our back garden has been transformed.”***



*“It is not often we have our expectations exceeded, but this was certainly the case with the work Ian had done for us. I look forward to many a get-together with friends and family.”*

Patrick Archer

***“Thanks again for providing me with such a skilled team.”***



*“So happy with my garden, it turned out to be exactly as I envisaged with extra suggestions from you which made it perfect. The materials you advised me on were spot on, and you haven't charged me for any extras which I expected. It was a pleasure to have you and your team working for me, I would recommend your firm to anyone.”*

Joan...Stamford

# Take The First Steps To The Garden Of Your Dreams



## Book Your Free Design Consultation Today

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