

Landscape design – before we begin

A landscape design involves many components and considerations such as Style and theme, structural or hardscape, drainage, colour, light and shade and of course planting. All of these factors have to be thought through in detail, to successfully produce a stylish, innovative and functional landscape.

We believe the most satisfying and enjoyable landscape is one that involves your ideas, likes and dislikes and caters for the way you like to live and entertain. These things, coupled with our experience and innovation creates an environment which is new and attractive, but comfortable, because it represents you.

Before embarking on the transformation of your home, it is a good idea have to look at yourself and your family and identify the things that create the ideal environment for you. Do you like things neat and ordered ? Formal or informal ? Are you bold and riotous or calm and soothing It is important to identify with the qualities you like, that reflect your personality, feel comfortable and please you daily. Look around your neighbourhood. Visit gardens in the Open Gardens Scheme. Look through gardening books and magazines. Decide what you like. This will influence the overall theme, the plants you choose or the colour scheme you would like.

Your lifestyle or family activities will have a bearing on the design we create. You may work long hours, have a hectic social life away from home or your friends and family may always be at your home. If you have children, they may need consideration. Other considerations such as a swimming pool or spa, a boat or trailer may require attention.

The list may be long and varied, however it is vital that you write it, so that we can transform a front or back yard into your perfect place . . .

Consider these items:

- **Sun/Shade** – pergola, gazebo, shade sail, tree
- **Water features** - fountains, waterfalls, cascades, ponds
- **Utilities** – wheelie bin, clothes line, hot water, air conditioner
- **Access** – pedestrian, vehicle, trailer
- **Prevailing winds** – Structures or plant requirements
- **Indoor Gardens** - Pots / Water Features
- **Steep slopes** – Slope stabilisation or Retaining
- **Security and privacy** – Fencing, screening hedges
- **Planting** – pool surrounds, boundaries, privacy
- **Hard surfaces** - concrete, exposed aggregate, pebble, paving, footpaths, decking
- **Views** - to enhance or screen
- **Children** – play structures, turf, sand pits
- **Storage** - Shed/ Garage
- **Lighting** - accent or mood
- **Entertaining** – BBQ, seating, patio, deck
- **Swimming** - Pool and/or Spa
- **Weed Control**, pests and diseases
- **Maintenance** - time availability
- **Water tanks** - round, slim, poly, concrete