



PRINCIPALS OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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8 PRINCIPALS OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

- Unity
- Balance
- Contrast and Harmony
- Color
- Transition
- Line
- Proportion
- Simplicity

Unity- Repetition and Consistency

Unity is expressed through one core element, harmony is created by the components used

- Create Themes-Give the Garden a name
- Materials
- Lines / Curves create flow
- Surfaces
- Size
- Texture/Shape/Form
- Focal points- Bold vs. Subtle
- Color
- How does your Garden Flow





Balance- Simple Equality



Symmetrical Balance

- Mirror image
- Can be very striking and impressive, but also quite risky
- Tends to be more formal

Asymmetrical Balance

- Color, forms, textures can remain constant
- Even scales/weight
- Balance is created through uniformity and repetition of elements

Empty Space vs. Filled Space



Contrast & Harmony- Stand Out and Blend In

- Contrasting elements draw attention
- Can be accomplished with color, form, texture.
- Too much will feel chaotic

- Harmony is achieved through repetition and balance. Creates flow.
- Similar elements, such as color, texture, form.





Color- The Spice of the Garden



Most used (and overused) element of design
A good Designer should research color, not only for uses, but also emotional responses and the science.

Warm colors

- Reds, yellows, oranges
- Be cautious mixing
- Tend to jump out and add to foreground
- Plants



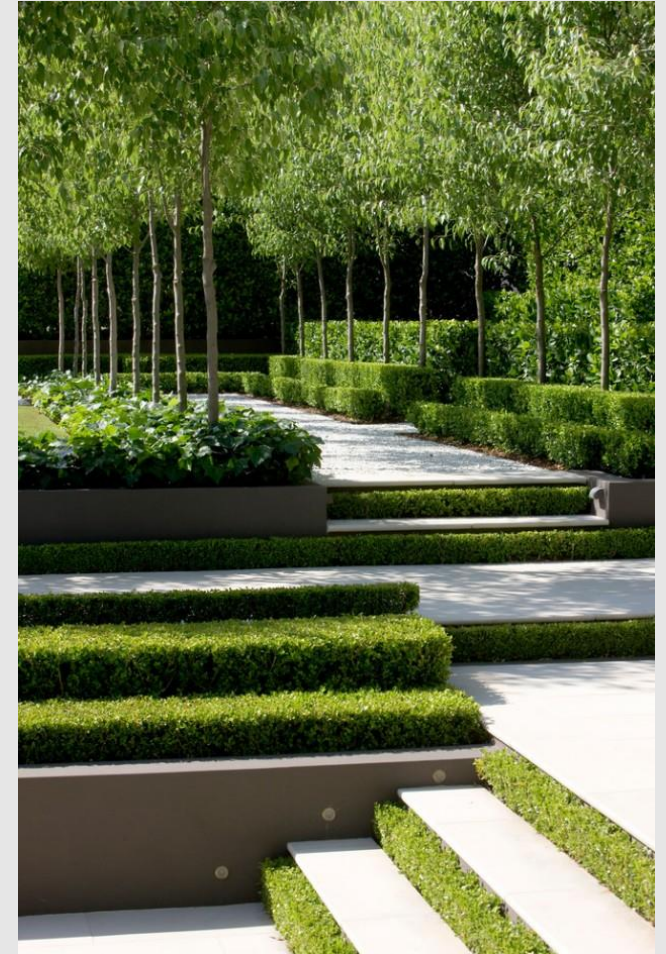
Cool Colors

- Blues, greens, pastels, and purple
- Move eye to background. Add depth



Transition- The Sequence of Events

- Gradual changes in the arrangement to create depth and character.
- Changes can come from plant size, color intensity, texture and foliage shape.
- Start with the big and work down
- Use to create illusion of depth or to frame a focal point.

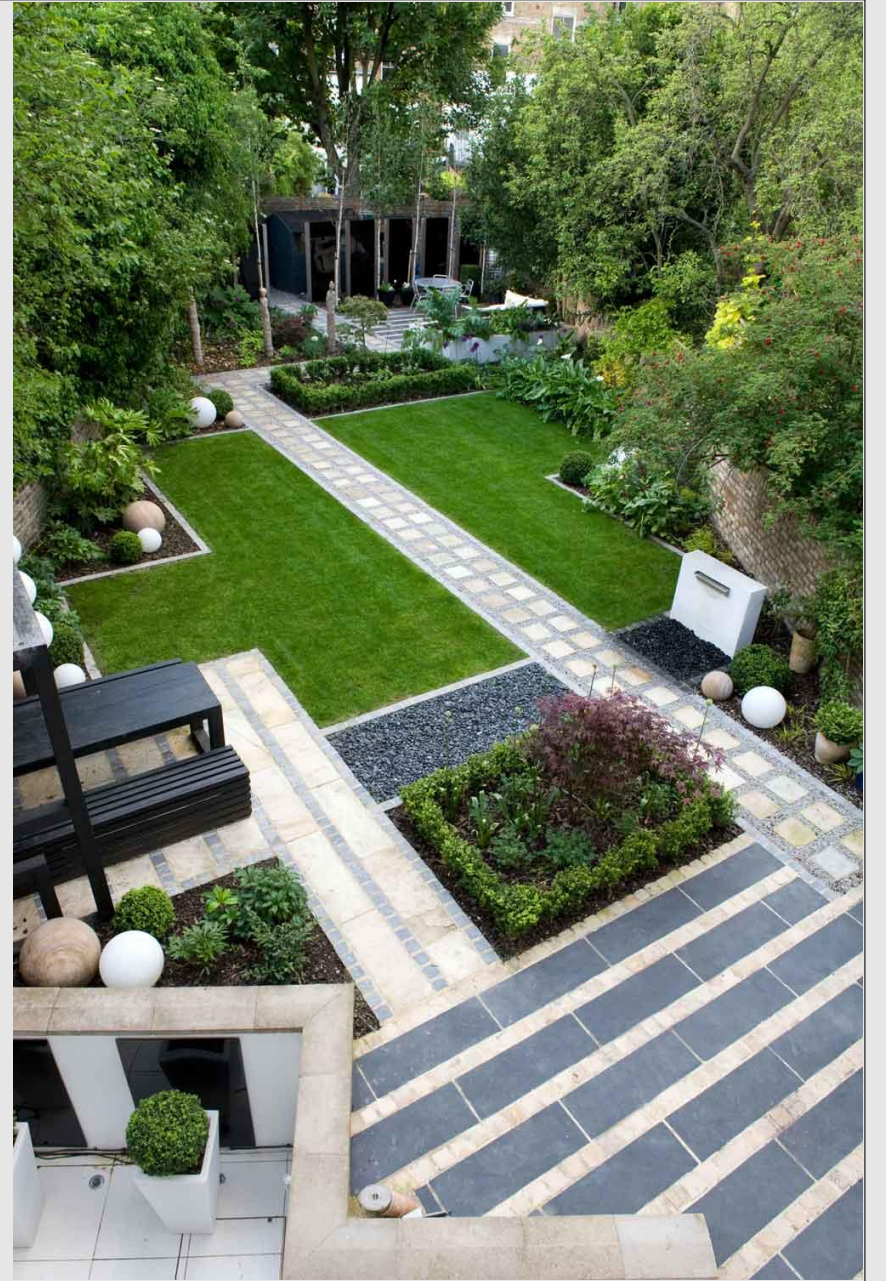




Line- The Soul of the Design

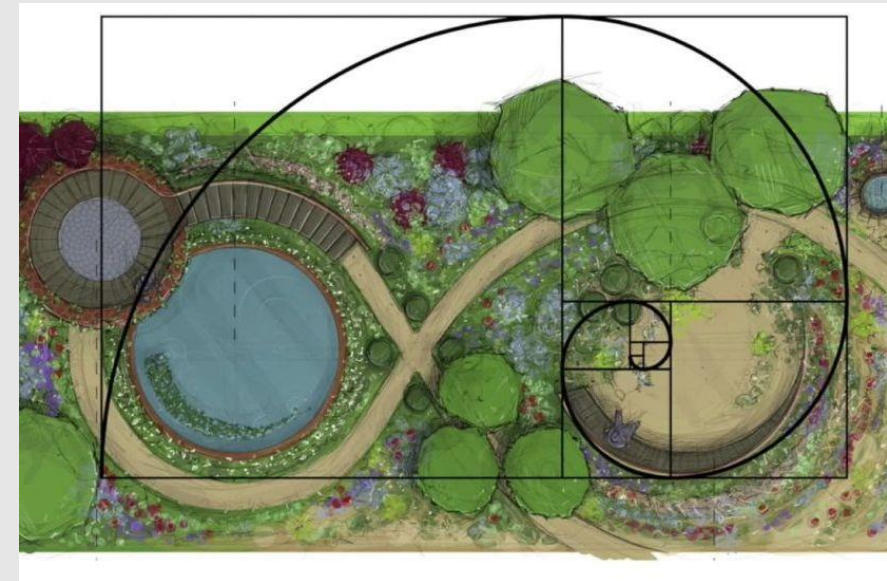


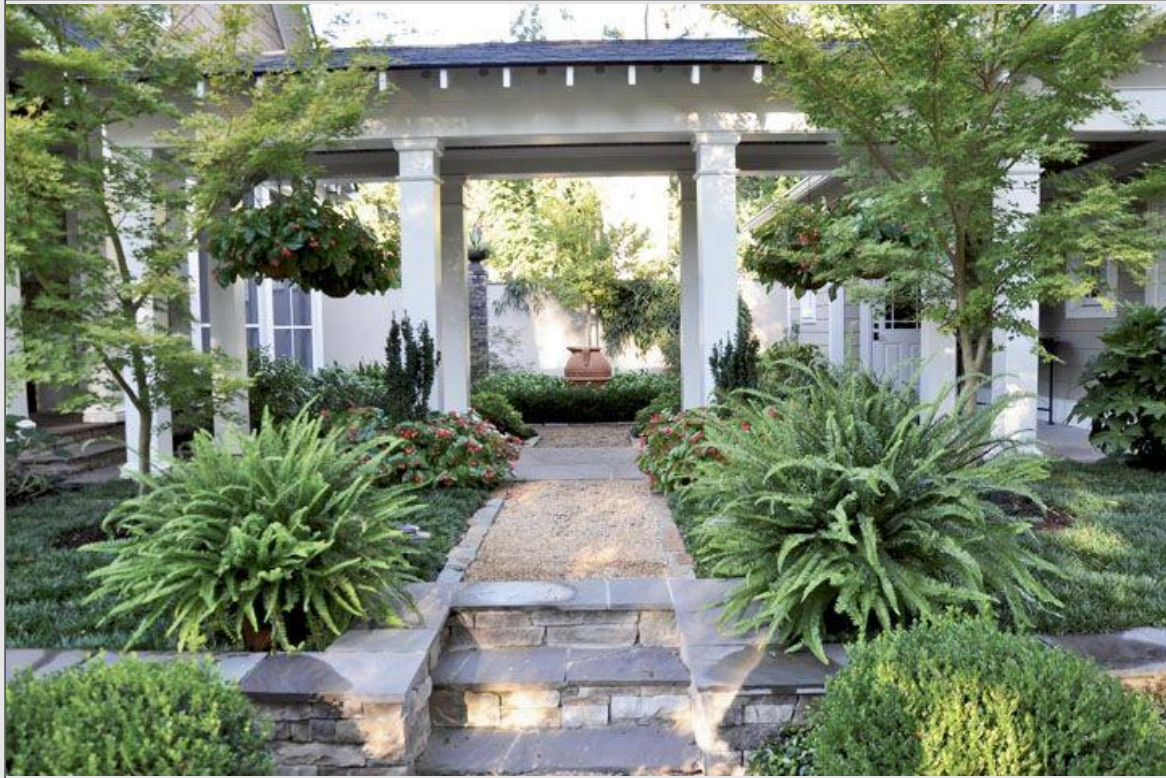
- Follow the regulating line
- Once committed, do not deviate
- Vertical 1/3 of horizontal becomes a boundary.
- Lines can add depth and “distance” to a garden.
- Paths and walkways are vital and generally define the dominant lines.



Proportion & Scale

- Size is the Scale, how elements relate is Proportion.
- The space will dictate the scale
- Mass smaller plants for a larger element
- Size matters. Where is it now, where is it going
- Create a pleasing relationship between length, depth, and height.
- Golden Rectangle 1:1.6 works out to roughly 5x8.
- Fibonacci Spiral





Simplicity- K.I.S.S.

- One of the best principals of art and design
- Pick 2-3 colors and repeat
- Repeat plants and combinations.
- Minimize “decorations”
- Be consistent with materials
- “Elements that do not provide improvement or impact can be omitted”





Prep and Plan for Success



- Even the Designer needs to know what install will entail
- “It’s better to plant a 50-cent plant in a \$5 hole than a \$5 plant in a 50-cent hole.”
Ralph Snodsmith, NY BG

Thank You!
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