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LANDSCAPE DESIGN

<u>Landscape Client Questionnaire</u>
Revised February 2009

In order to design a successful garden, you, the client needs to step back from what you want to see, and think about the individual needs of you and your family. Think about how you use your garden and how you envision using it. Do you need a safe place for children to play, a dining area for 2 or 20, a spot to read, relax, or soak up the sun? How about a place to stow the lawnmower and the garbage bins? And have you thought about your constraints? Do you have excessive sun or lots of shade? How about a dog that digs (or lifts his leg)?

Another thing to remember is, that like your home, your garden will need constant maintenance… leaves fall, weeds grow, irrigation nozzles plug up, shrubs need shaping, roses need dead-heading, and lawns need mowing.

In a good design **form** follows **function**. That means, first we must take into account your needs and constraints, then we can tie them all together and make a garden that both looks great and works for you!

So remember, as you ogle over those garden books, a successful garden begins with a plan designed around your individual needs as well as your individual taste, and remember, a design doesn't come with a full time gardener….

This questionnaire will help you focus on your needs and your desires as well as the practical sense of keeping your garden from getting out of hand. It will also enable me to design a garden that is right for you.

Please answer all questions that apply.

<u>Date</u>

<u>Client name</u>

<u>Address</u>

<u>Practical considerations:</u>

Garden will serve _____ # adults, _____ # children, ages _____

pets _____ # and type

<u>Existing Conditions:</u>

  What do you like most about your garden?

  What do you like least?

  What single most important thing would you change?

<u>Checklist:</u>
  Water source (city vs. well)

  Existing landscaping to remain (plants, paving, fencing, irrigation, etc.)

  Any home remodeling changes planned?

  Does a neighbor have any changes planned that might affect you?

How long do you intend to stay in your home?

When do you intend to use your garden (evenings, weekends, summer, fall)?

Do you have any noise issues?

Privacy issues?

Security issues?

Water issues?

Erosion or drainage issues?

Pest problems (deer, gophers, neighbor's dog)?

Allergy issues?

Any known problem soil conditions (rocky, sandy, clay, disease)?

Wind, frost, excessive shade or sun?

Underground utilities, septic, leach lines?

Do you have a desired completion date (e.g. the infamous June wedding)?

New Landscaping:

Functional elements:
What type of activities do you do (or want to do) in your garden?

1- Entertainment
Dining for _____# of persons
Daytime_____ or Evening_____ Frequency _____

2- Recreational activities (play areas for children, bocce ball, pool, spa)

3- Other activities (reading, relaxing, gardening, bird-watching)

4- Vehicular or pedestrian access considerations (walking paths, wheelchair, etc.)

What other elements would you like to incorporate?

5- Specialty gardens (e.g. vegetables, herbs, fruit orchard, rose or cutting garden, woodland garden)

6- Patio, deck, pathways, or other paved areas (any paving preferences as well)

7- Lawn area

8- Structures (pergola, fencing, arbor, gazebo, sculpture)

9- Lighting

10- Water feature

11- Outdoor kitchen, barbecue, fire pit

12- Utility areas (garbage bins, firewood, tool shed, pet run, potting shed, greenhouse, composting, extra parking)

Garden installation: Do you plan to hire a licensed Landscape Contractor?
  Or are you planning on installing the garden yourself?

Maintenance: How will the garden be maintained?
  By homeowner___
  By professional gardener___
  By maintenance co. _____
  Number of hours per week acceptable _____

Design Themes: How would you like your garden to look?
  Please circle one or more of the following:

  Country—colorful, mixed borders, perennials, informal layout with winding rustic paths

  Asian—simple; mixed shrubs and groundcover, serene, shady, lots of green, perhaps a pond or other water feature, slate or bluestone paving

Formal—symmetrical, clipped hedges, lawns, pergolas, paths, fountains

Contemporary—architectural foliage, strong color contrasts, mass plantings

California native—Mainly California native plants, gravel or mulch paths, natural/wild

Mediterranean—drought tolerant plantings… grasses, lavender, rockroses, olive trees, rosemary, flagstone/limestone/gravel or decomposed granite paving, stone or stucco walls

Design Mood: How would you like your garden to feel?
Circle all that apply:

Private	**Serene/Calming**	**Relaxing**
Casual/Informal	**Fragrant**	**Verdant/Lush**
Formal	**Symmetrical**	**Bold**
Fun/Whimsical	**Spiritual**	**Tropical**
Woodland	**Asian/Oriental**	**Rustic**
Comfortable	**Open/Expansive**	**Sheltered**
Exotic	**Flowing/Grasses**	**Practical**
Cool	**Warm**	**Natural/Wild**

Plant preferences:
Please list any plants that you must have in your garden:

And those that you would rather not see in your garden:

What flower colors are you fond of?

Or do you particularly dislike?

<u>Desired planting effect</u>:

____   *Instant gratification*
        (I want large shrubs and trees for immediate effect
        and don't mind spending the extra money)

____   *Delayed gratification*
        (I like to watch them grow and change and want to watch my budget)

<u>Budget:</u>
Most people don't want to think about this, but your budget will determine whether
your garden can be installed all at once or phased in over time; it will also determine
whether or not you can hire a professional landscape contractor to install and/or
maintain the garden.
The selection of paving materials and the size of the plant material specified in the final
plans will also be determined by your budgetary constraints.

Please circle the budget figure that is closest to what you are willing to spend:

Less than $5000 $5000 - $10,000 $10,000 - $20,000

$20,000 - $50,000 $50,000 - $100,000   Whatever it takes