Landscape design

Presented by Village Garden Design

Plan ahead

- The planning process is the most important part of landscape design, but it is often neglected.

- A good landscape design provides for the desires of the family while addressing any needs specific to the site.

- A properly installed landscape will enhance the neighborhood and add to the property's value.

- The smaller the yard or budget the more important it is to have a plan.

Where on earth to begin?

- Start with your wants- get together with your family and create a list.

- This should be motivation enough to dig out your plat….you will need this to….

- Determine your needs-by performing a site analysis.

Your wish list

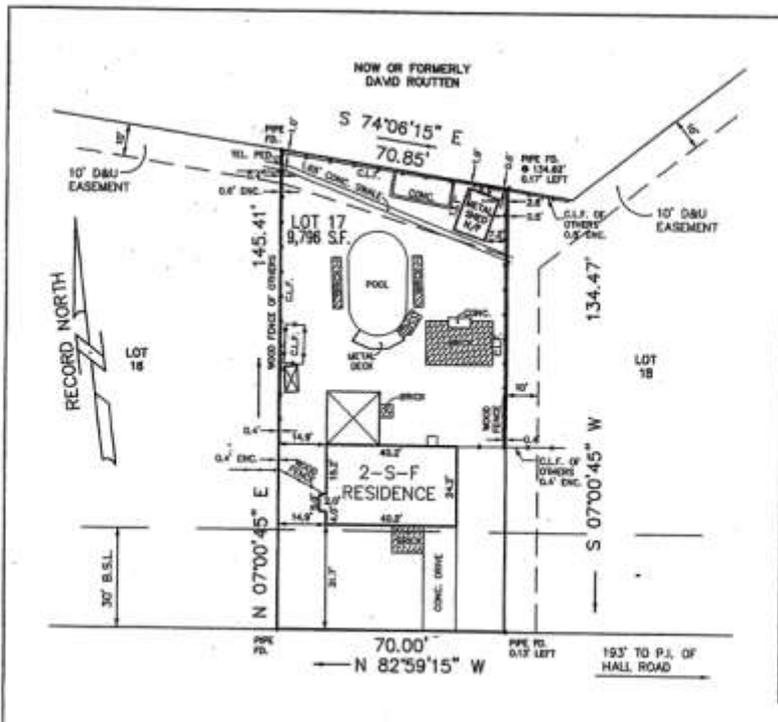Remember who is using the space & what it is used for!

????

- Curb appeal
- Patio-for what & how many
- Play area-swings/soccer/trampoline etc
- Dog run/clothesline
- Veggie garden/compost
- Storage for boat/firewood/trashcans
- Shed/work area
- Pond/hot tub/pool

Screen a bad view?

Get your plat, usually found with your mortgage paperwork, other wise city hall


North arrow

Property line

Easements

Dimensions

Location of buildings on site etc

Fence ownership

Setbacks

CBPA

- RMA-Resource Management Area-require approval for several landscape issues such as removing trees over 12" in diameter. All of James City County is RMA.

- RPA-Resource Protection Area-environmentally sensitive land along waterways protected from development because they function to improve water quality by filtering pollutants and preventing erosion etc.

- Delineated Wetlands-refers to an area that is either a stream, marsh, bog etc. that is environmentally sensitive and has been denoted as such by the Corp. of engineers
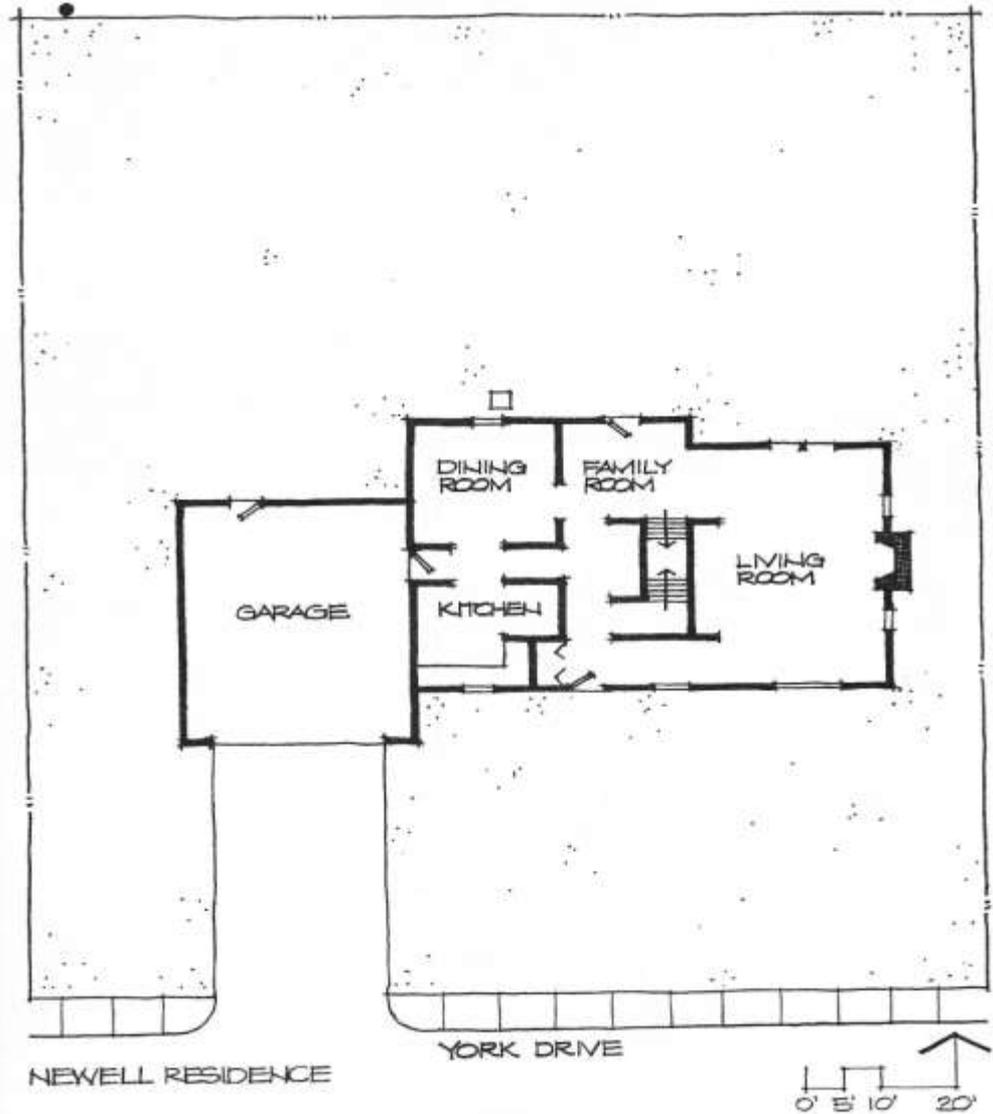
Create a scale map make several copies

- 1" equal 10 ft
- House and property boundaries
- Location of doors and windows (window hts)
- Immovable objects (may be determined by budget) driveways, walks, swimming pools.

NEWELL RESIDENCE YORK DRIVE 0' 5' 10' 20'
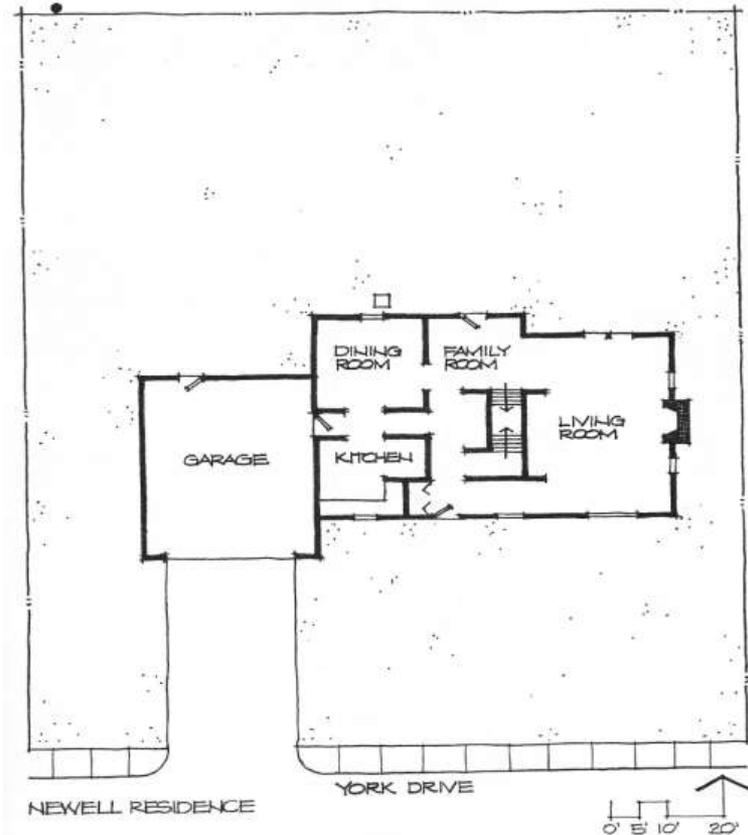
Note things you like and all your problem areas

as well as downspouts HVAC, meters, under house vents and access

GARAGE

DINING ROOM

FAMILY ROOM

LIVING ROOM

KITCHEN

NEWELL RESIDENCE

YORK DRIVE

0' 5' 10' 20'

Analyze your site
(site analysis helps determine your needs)

- Sun/shade-seasonal
- Temp/zone/wind-seasonal
- Privacy/noise/HVAC
- Views good/bad
- Soil pH/texture/drainage/compaction/erosion/slope
- Miss utility/septic system/overhead wires
- Existing plants/rocks/structures/roots/slope etc
- Land use
- Circulation

Your microclimate

plan with energy efficiency in mind

Remember seasonal sun patterns

Exposed surfaces heat up

Northern exposure has less light

Shade your HVAC to increase efficiency 10%

Your neighbors' landscape contributes

Remember seasonal wind

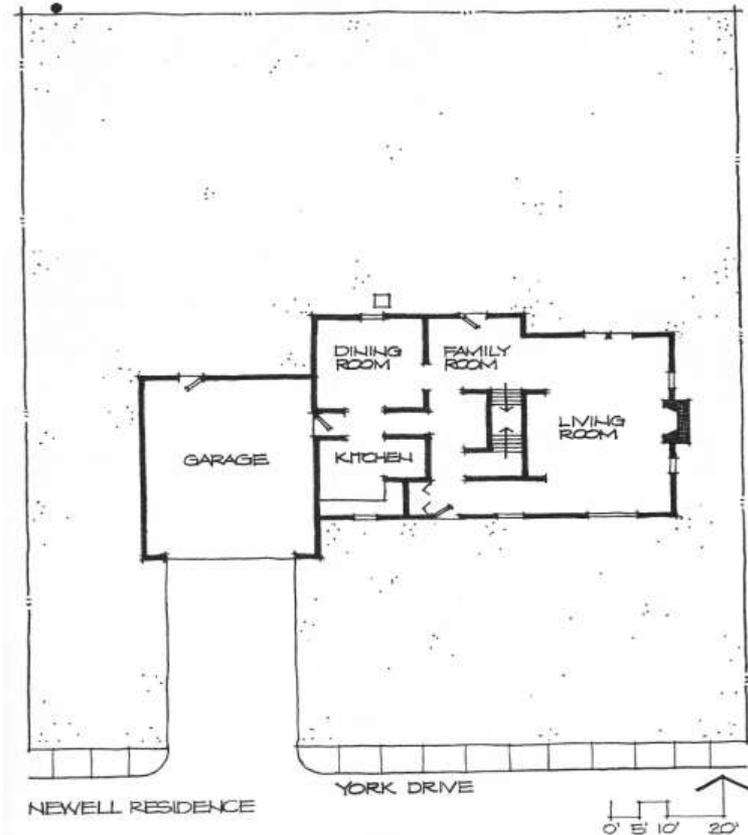Cool summer breezes from the SW

Cold winter winds from the NW

Seasonal sun
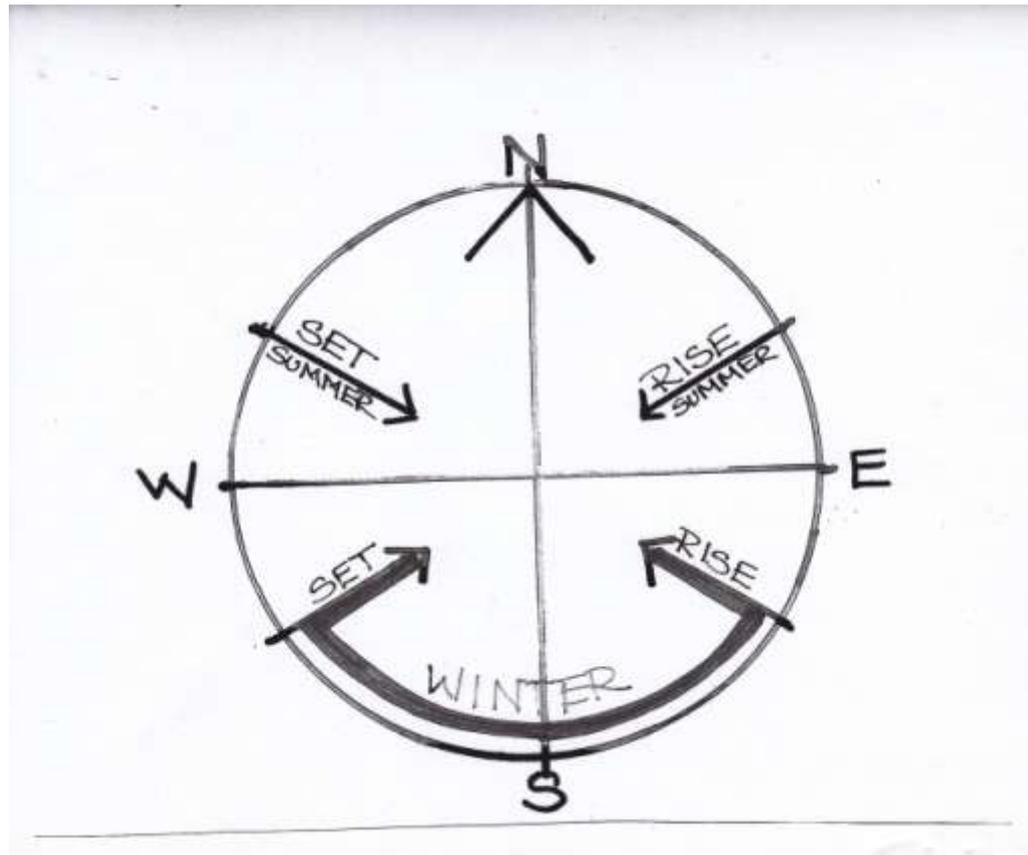
Sample
Wish list of homeowner

- Curb appeal
- Veggie garden
- Lawn area for kids to play in
- Bigger patio for entertaining
- Privacy for patio
- Work area for potting and planting
- Do something where grass won't grow

NEWELL RESIDENCE

YORK DRIVE

0' 5' 10' 20'

Sample
Analysis of the site

FIGURE 3-4 Site inventory and analysis.

NEWELL RESIDENCE

Research and Preparation

- Front walk & entrance too small
- Back patio too small for entertaining.
- Privacy needed in backyard on East side.
- Wind break on west side.
- HVAC too close & noisy by patio.
- Low electric wires.
- Keep access open to water faucet.
- Soil compacted where foot traffic is heavy.

Your plan should include

Public areas

- The front door
- Mailbox
- Driveway

Private areas

- Relaxation
- Recreation
- Meditation
- Entertaining

Service areas

- Storage
- Work area
- Utilities

Circulation

Public areas

provide access to your home

Private areas for…

- Entertaining

Relaxation

Recreation

Meditation

Service areas

- Should have convenient access

but not be visible from the outdoor living area!

Circulation

- Circulation provides access to and from the public, private and service areas in your landscape.

- The size of the path should be directly proportional to the importance of the destination.

- Access from the street and driveway should be thought out

Create a 'concept plan'

FIGURE 3-6 General functional diagram.
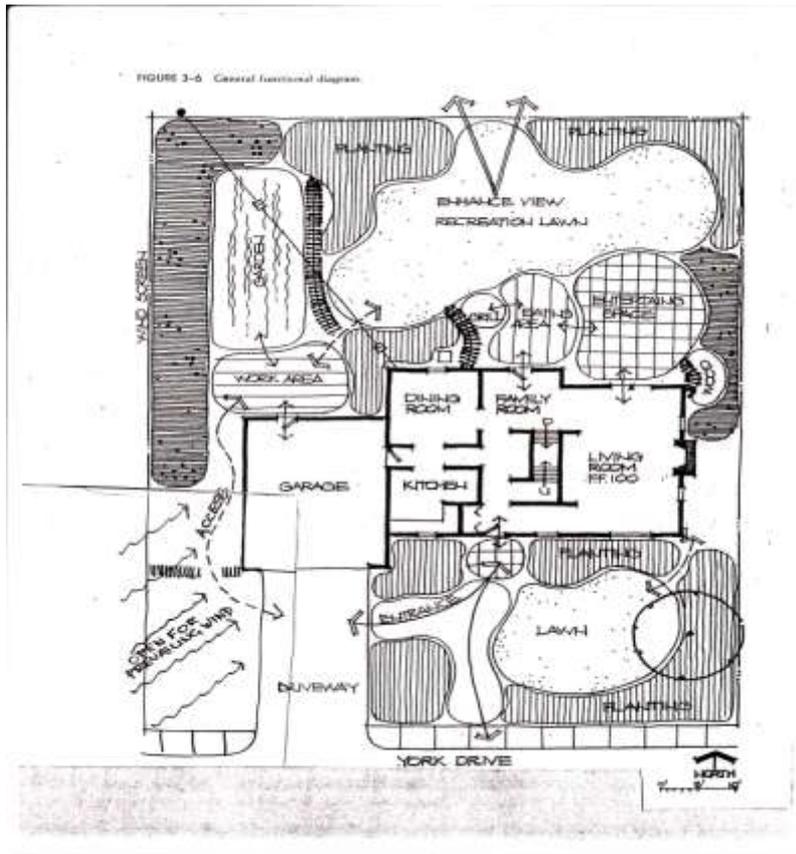
- Loosely sketch in areas for activities
- block in areas for privacy plantings
- Think through access to different spaces
- Generalize plantings by size

Sample
Concept plan
needs addressed?
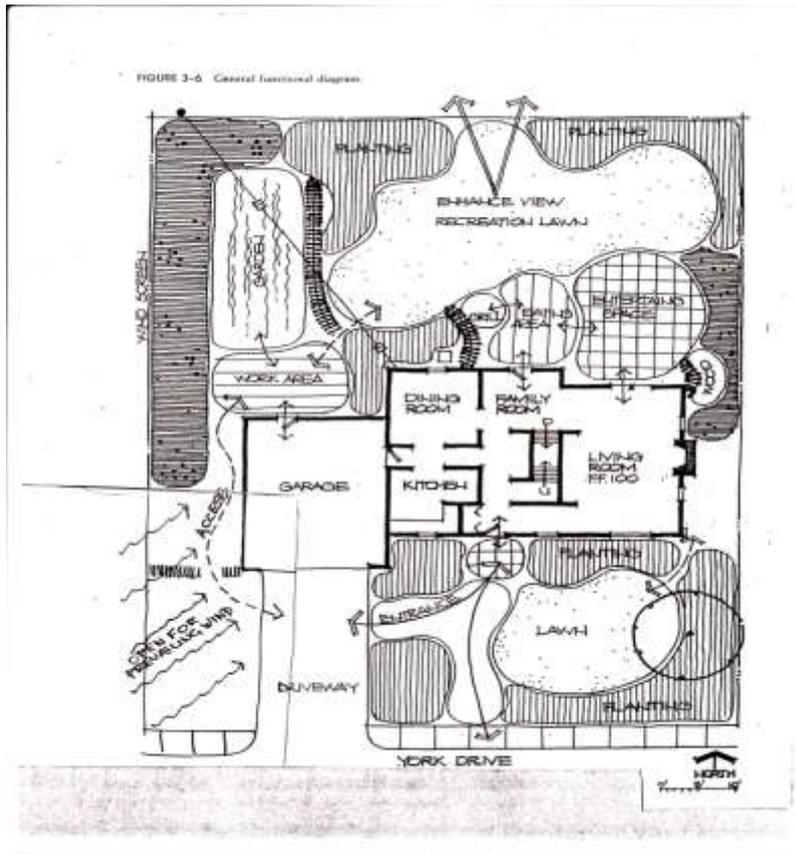
- Larger entry area
- Privacy
- Veggie garden
- Work area
- Wood storage
- Larger patio area
- Windbreak
- Circulation

Plan smart

think safety

- Don't obstruct a public right of way
- Don't block visibility of your drive or walk
- Don't plant sharp plants near a walk
- Remember bees love flowers-not everyone loves bees
- Don't block windows and doors
- A well maintained yard discourages crime

Sample
The design

FIGURE 3-9 Preliminary master plan
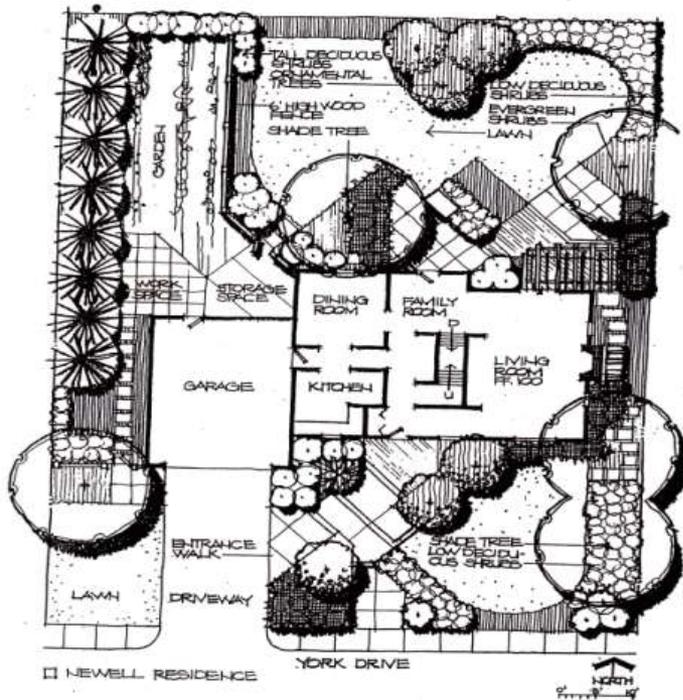
- Larger entrance to home
- Privacy on east
- Windbreak on west
- HVAC shaded by tree
- Patio area shaded
- Service areas screened from view
- Compacted turf areas replaced w/paving
- Circulation to all areas

FIGURE 3-9 Preliminary master plan.
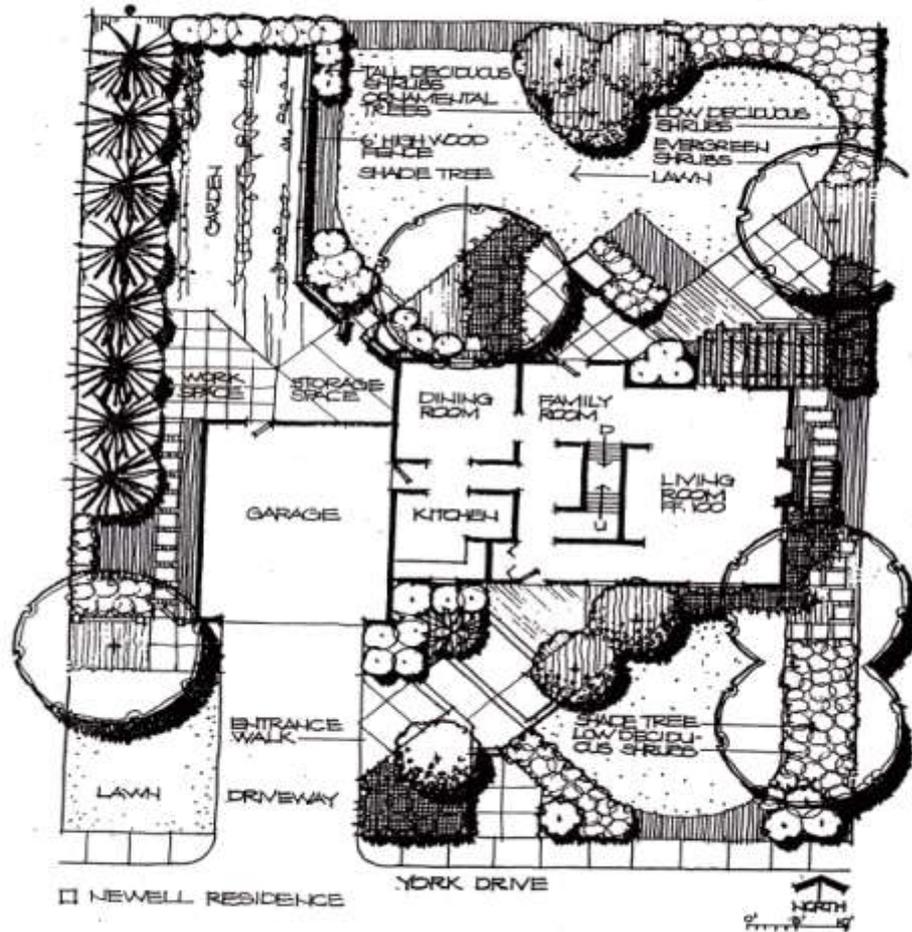
Plant selection

- Use what you have learned in this course to select the right plant for the right place.

- Remember to read the label for size information.

- Or choose a plant specialist to help you with your selections.

Part two

Principles of design

- **Unity**-central theme, unified look
- **Balance**-symmetry or asymmetry
- **Transition**-to slowly move into a new look
- **Proportion**-trees & shrubs in proportion to people & things nearby
- **Repetition**-of patterns & rhythms to keep design from being overpowering
- **Rhythm**-patterns created with line or color
- **Focalization**-focal points to draw interest

Achieving unity(harmony)
A central theme or unified look

Use local materials

Consider the architecture

Consider the habitat

Have a theme

Ideas for theme gardens?

- ???

Bird, butterfly, hummingbird, wildlife, nature, native plant, rain, water, rock, coastal, Williamsburg/colonial, Japanese, meditation, sensory, fragrance, cottage, perennial, winter garden, white garden, rose, cut flower, conifer, herb,

Edible landscape, whimsical, fairie, sculpture, railroad, topiary, bonsai, 'tropical'

Balance
symmetrical & asymmetrical

Symmetrical balance adds formality

Asymmetrical balance creates informality

Formal or informal?

Symmetrical or asymmetrical?

Transition to slowly move into a new look or area

Proportion

trees and shrubs in proportion to people and things nearby

Repetition

- Repetition is not always obvious.

- It can be repeated curves, shapes, colors.

- Repetition can also be achieved with plants using color, texture, or form

repetition

Rhythm

- Rhythm is a repetition of elements appearing at regular intervals which directs the eye through the design.

- Color, as well as form can create Rhythm in the design.

rhythm

Focalization

- to catch your eye, draw you in

- Like this….   Not this

Or this
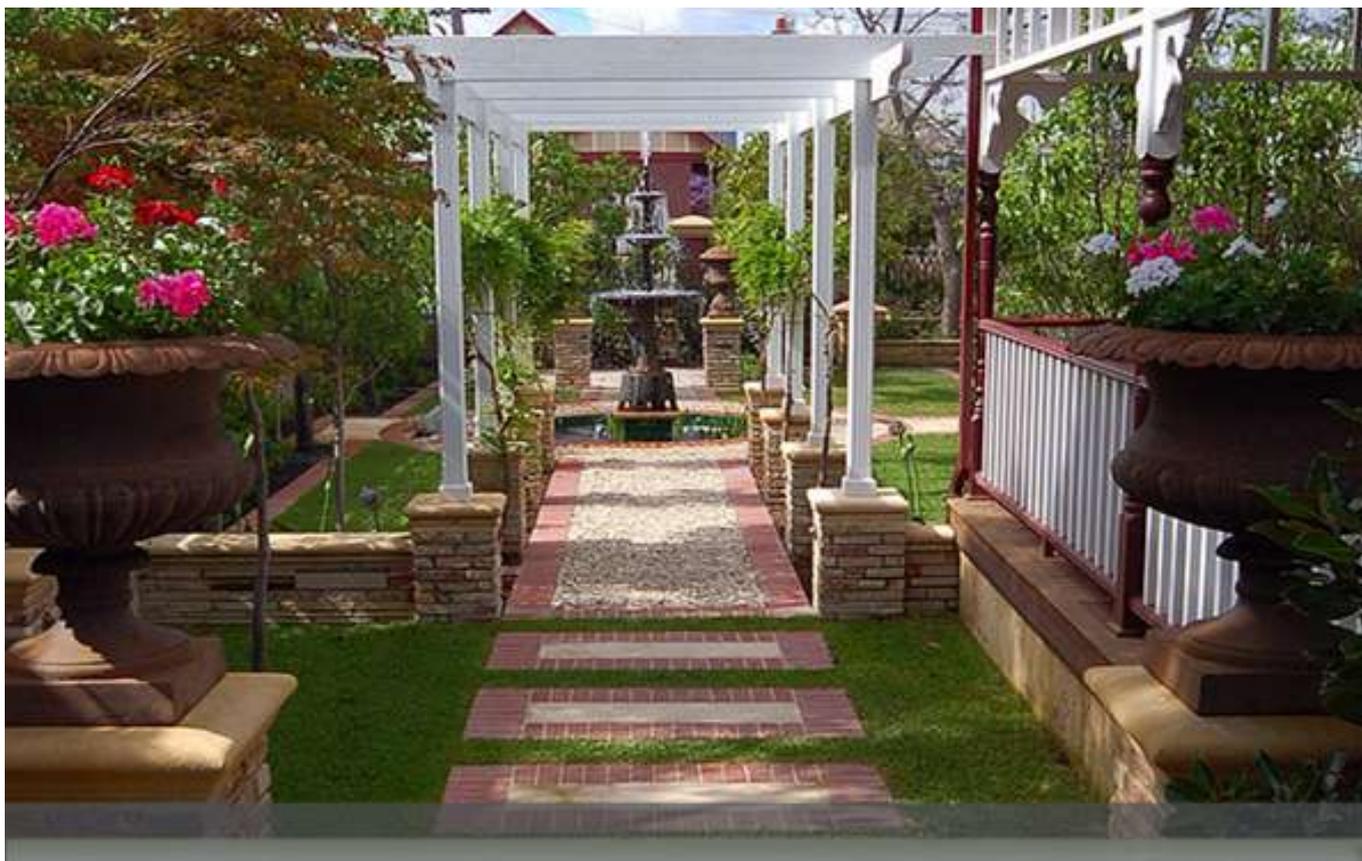
Elements of design

- **Color**-use color scheme throughout
- **Line**-direct physical movement or line of sight to draw attention to areas
- **Form**-shapes and sizes of trees and shrubs to create patterns
- **Texture**-adds to the atmosphere
- **Scale**-balances the size of buildings and tall trees which creates a protected comfortable environment

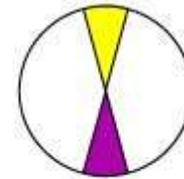# Color use the same color scheme throughout the space
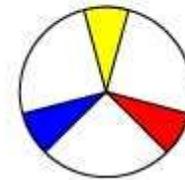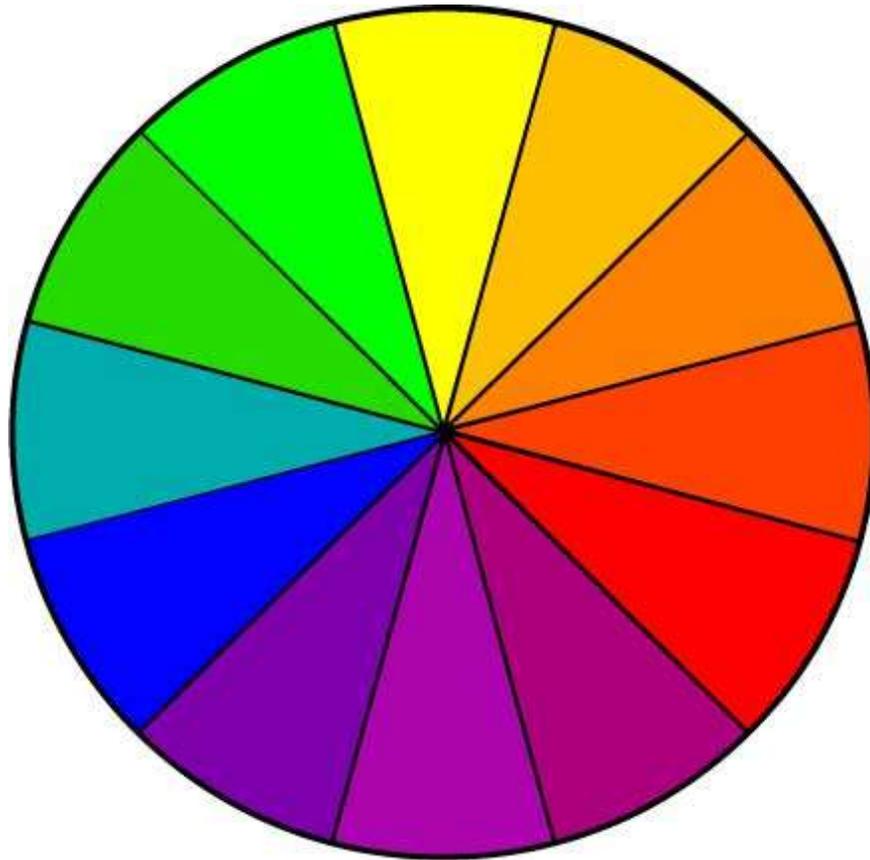
primary   analogous   hue
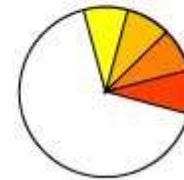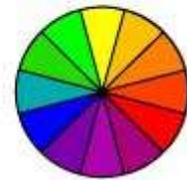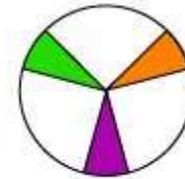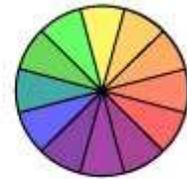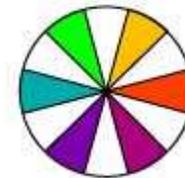
triadic

secondary   complementary   tint

triadic
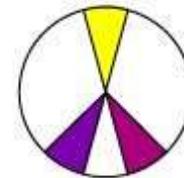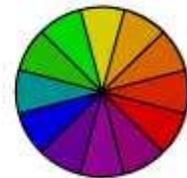
intermediate   split complementary   shade

Color schemes

triadic

complimentary

monochromatic

analogous

Line

- Directs physical movement

Line

- Also directs line of sight

Form

let the shape of plants create patterns

- Like this…..   Not this

Texture

- adds to the atmosphere

Scale

- Balances the size of trees and structures

Remember outdoor scale is bigger

Not this

Dominance

- All good designs contain some element of dominance

- A dominant feature will have impact, it will draw your attention

- Dominance can be created by size, form, texture, color or location

- Contrast is a good way to create dominance in the landscape

Dominance in large areas

- Use a high ratio of contrast 80:20 for areas you pass through quickly.

- Entrances to public buildings, neighborhoods, shopping centers

- The larger the area the bolder the plants…

In very large areas plants would be planted in great swaths and groups to have impact

- and to be seen at distance and speed

Such as along the highway

Dominance in smaller spaces

- Less dominance should be used in more intimate areas. 70:30 ratio

- In areas where more time is spent there should be more variety and smaller plants.

- These areas are generally used for viewing or relaxing.

A low contrast ratio 55:45

- Has no dominance and is confusing to look at.