

A modern house with dark wood siding and large glass windows, surrounded by lush landscaping and a wooden walkway. The house has a prominent chimney and a covered patio area. The landscaping includes various plants, ferns, and a wooden walkway with integrated lighting.

HOMEIDEAS.CO.NZ

LANDSCAPING

IDEAS GUIDE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PLAN. PLAN. PLAN.

This goes for any part of the house, but especially when it comes to the landscaping. There are so many factors to consider that it can be very easy to lose direction.

So sit down, read through these tips and then start working on your landscape plan.

A modern garden design featuring a building with a dark, vertical-slatted facade on the left. The garden includes a paved area, a lawn, and several rectangular planters with dark foliage. A large tree with reddish-brown leaves is on the right. The background shows more trees and a fence.

START WITH A BRIEF

A BRIEF IS A COLLECTION OF
INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL
USE TO HELP DESIGN YOUR
SPACE. IT IS AS MUCH A

WISH-LIST

AS IT IS DOCUMENT ABOUT
YOUR CURRENT SPACE. IT IS
YOUR WANTS, NEEDS AND
REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR
LANDSCAPE.

HOW TO USE A BRIEF

CONCEPT

A brief will help you negotiate the concept of your landscape.

DESIGNER

Use your brief to describe to a designer what you want. That way you will both be on the same page.

DECISIONS

Refer back to your brief when you are faced with tough decisions. Are they aligned?



MATCH THE STYLE

MATCH THE ARCHITECTURE AND STYLE OF YOUR HOME WHEN DESIGNING YOUR LANDSCAPE, IT SHOULD BE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR INDOOR LIVING SPACES SO SHOULDN'T CLASH OR COMPETE WITH YOUR INTERIOR.

CONSIDER HOW YOUR OUTDOOR
AREAS ARE THROUGHOUT A DAY

ENTIRE DAY

How will sun, shadow and conditions affect your area during each of these phases?

Planning this out will ensure that you are making the most of each
space at different times of the day.

A person with short dark hair, seen from behind, is looking at a wall covered in various architectural plans, diagrams, and sketches. The person is wearing a grey and white horizontally striped sweater. The text is overlaid on this background.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Poor research and planning often wastes a lot of time and money. Check council regulations and consent processes, site conditions such as soil and drainage as well as where pipes and services are so these can be factored in.



CONSIDER **MAINTENANCE**

Do you want something that requires little maintenance or are you happy and able to put more time in? This is important when considering what trees and plants to use, as well as paved areas and decks which often need to be resealed/stained.

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION.
DON'T GET CAUGHT UP AND
FOCUSED ON SOMETHING
AESTHETICALLY APPEALING

FUNCTION

BEFORE CONSIDERING HOW IT
WILL YOU WANT SPACES THAT
ARE PRACTICAL AND
USABLE AS WELL AS BEING
PLEASANT TO LOOK AT.

A hand-drawn landscape design plan is shown, featuring various plant symbols and a hand pointing to one of them. The plan includes a large green area with many small circles, a blue rectangular area labeled 'SPA', and a yellow rectangular area labeled 'LAWN'. A hand is pointing to a small circle in the green area. The text 'CHECK THE SPREAD' is overlaid on the image.

CHECK THE SPREAD

Check the maximum height and spread of plants and trees you are considering using; roots can wrap around pipes and plants can grow to block views so consider this before planting.

FUNCTIONAL PLANTS

VERSATILE

If you have limited space to work with make sure that your plants all provide a variety of functions.

EDIBLE

Edibles such as lemon trees, artichokes and rosemary not only provide food but look amazing as well!

BIG PICTURE

The key things to aim for are plants that provide year-round colour, establish structure, soften hardscapes and require little maintenance.

THE KEY FEATURES

Have one or two key features that are complemented by the other aspects of your landscape rather than many that are competing with each other.



IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH SPACE, MAKE
SURE TO HIGHLIGHT HOW YOU WANT
TO USE THE SPACE AND PLAN OUT

DIFFERENT AREAS.

You may want a casual lounging space, a summer dining area and a spot to sit with your morning coffee and a good book. This is dependent on how much space you have.



MULTI-PURPOSE

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPACE TO BUILD MULTIPLE AREAS USE SMART DESIGN TRICKS TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR SPACE.

LOOK TO COMBINE STORAGE INTO BUILT-IN SEATS AND BREAK AREAS UP WITH VERTICAL VEGETABLE GARDENS RATHER THAN SCREENS.

BENCHES ARE GREAT AS THEY CAN BE COMBINED WITH A DINING TABLE OR PUT UP AGAINST A WALL TO CREATE A SUNNY READING SPOT.

MIX & MATCH

Don't be afraid to mix colours and textures. Bright pops of colour are a great way to make your space feel fun and vibrant. Can't decide between timber and metal furniture? Combine them to give your classic look a sense of personality.



LIFE CYCLE

MAINTENANCE + LONGEVITY

When choosing materials make sure you consider their life-cycle as this will impact on future maintenance and longevity. Investing in quality materials will cost more in the short-term but may save you more in yearly maintenance costs.

USE THE RIGHT TIMBER

Use the right kind of timber in the right place.

There are various grades of timber all designed for different uses and functions, for example timber that is going to be underground such as fence posts needs to have the right level of treatment in order to be able to perform in underground conditions and not deteriorate over time.



CONSIDER **WEATHERING**

Consider and ask product suppliers how their products will age, weather and change over time so that you know what to expect in the future and can look into what you can do to minimise this. This is especially important with timber and concrete products as they do naturally weather and age.

A photograph of a modern garden at dusk. In the background, a rustic stone wall is partially covered by climbing ivy. To the right, a wooden fence with horizontal slats runs across the frame. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall, thin trees and rounded shrubs. In the foreground, a series of stone steps lead down to a rectangular water feature. The water feature has several small, square basins, each with a small fountain. The overall scene is illuminated by warm, ambient light, creating a serene and modern atmosphere.

LIGHTING FOR LIVING

GARDEN LIGHTING SHOULD
ALLOW YOU TO ENJOY YOUR
OUTDOOR AREA REGARDLESS
OF THE TIME OF DAY. THINK
OF IT AS AN EXTRA

LIVING ROOM

BY TRANSFORMING AN OUTDOOR
AREA WITH GARDEN LIGHTING
YOU MAY FIND THAT YOU END
UP SOCIALISING AND
ENTERTAINING FRIENDS A
WHOLE LOT MORE.



CREATING SHADE

SHADE IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IF YOU PLAN ON MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OUTDOOR AREA.

HOW YOU ARRANGE YOUR SHADE STRUCTURES DEPENDS ON YOUR LIFESTYLE.

IF YOU PLAN ON USING MULTIPLE AREAS, SUCH AS A PATIO TABLE, POOLSIDE LOUNGERS OR A READING NOOK, YOU WILL WANT TO HAVE MOVABLE SHADE RATHER THAN A FIXED OPTION.

A modern outdoor living space at dusk. The room features a large fireplace on the left wall, a built-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances on the right, and a central seating area with a low coffee table. In the foreground, there is a rectangular water feature with a central waterfall and side channels, all illuminated with warm lights. The space is enclosed by a dark wooden pergola structure.

OUTDOOR ROOMS

YOUR GARDEN AND HOUSE ARE NOT SEPARATE
BEINGS. VIEW YOUR GARDEN AS BE AN
EXTENSION OF YOUR HOUSE.
WHEN DESIGNED PROPERLY, YOU CAN CREATE

YEAR-ROUND

OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES. IF YOU ARE
LOOKING TO HAVE AN OUTDOOR KITCHEN
OR FIRE PIT MAKE SURE YOU WEATHER-
PROOF IT SO THAT YOU CAN ENTERTAIN
RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE.

HARDSCAPE VS. SOFTSCAPE

HARDSCAPE

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Paving
Concrete
Pools
Gravel
Fountains

SOFTSCAPE

VEGETATIVE MATERIALS

Shrubs
Trees
Hedges
Vegetables
Grass



SIMPLICITY IS KEY

This is true with all landscaping projects, and absolutely essential in small gardens. Whether you are choosing hardscaping materials or softscaping materials make sure you limit yourself to only a few varieties. This will give a sense of cohesion. Small areas are notoriously unforgiving. The larger the area, the more varieties you can play with.

THINK OF THE KIDS

INVOLVE THE WHOLE FAMILY

If you have kids, have them come up with some ideas and then help them create them. Not only will it allow the kids to have their own fun space, it is also a great way to get them involved in the garden and teach them new skills.