Steps for Landscape Design

1. Goals
2. Budget
3. Site Analysis
4. Base Map
5. Conceptual Diagram
6. Select Plants
Common mistakes

- The collector’s garden (one of everything!)
- Overplanting
- Not enough contrast between plants
- Designing by flower color (needs “bones”)
- Not creating conditions for the plants to thrive
- Mixing different hydrozones
- Not maintaining the garden
Design Concepts

- The rule of odd numbers
- Massing
- Layering
- Repetition
- Contrast
- Function

Design & photo by Pete Veilleux
Leaf texture contrast is important

GOOD CONTRAST

POOR CONTRAST

Drawn by Fran Adams
Texture, massing, repetition
Massing, repetition, layering
Textural contrast & massing
Structure & texture
Hydrozoning
Try to create year-round interest
Spring

Douglas Iris & Alum Root
Summer

Autumn Sage & Beach Aster
CA Fuchsia & Deer Grass

Fall
Winter textures

Cleveland Sage & Deer Grass
BONES:
Hardscape that is attractive, bold and functional
BONES:
Contemporary retaining wall

Native Horsetail (keep contained!)
BONES
can also be plants with good structure

Dr. Hurd Manzanita
GUTS:
Outstanding and hard working perennials

Cedros Island Verbena & Poppies
SKIN:
Ground covers that tie it all together visually

Green Supreme Manzanita & Pt. Sal Spreader Sage
ACCENTS:
Focal points to draw the eye
What do you need for the design?

- Measuring tape(s)
- Ruler (but an architect’s scale is easier)
- Large piece of paper (gridded is easier)
- Compass or another way to find north
Sample Designs from Yerba Buena Nursery

Ground covers & grasses

Meadow with small grasses & colorful perennials

Meadow with ground cover & habitat shrubs

www.yerbabuenanursery.com/lawn_alternatives_article.php
What does professional landscape design cost?

- Typical landscape designer rates are around $75-125/hr
- Landscape architects are higher (usually 10-12% of construction cost)
- Average front yard design costs range from $1000 to $2500
- Average backyard design costs range from $2000 to $4000

Professional Costs: 
http://www.earthcareland.com/what-we-do/installation.html
Example of Goals

- Low maintenance
- Save water
- Bird and pollinator habitat
- Path to back gate
- Screening neighbor’s ugly shed
- Compatible with style of house & neighborhood
- Make entry more welcoming
- Landscape around an existing redwood tree

Then prioritize the list
Begin by measuring

Start by measuring the whole area

- Fit it on your page at 1/8” or 1/4 ” per foot

1. Site the house; show property lines
2. North arrow
3. Driveway and paths, hose bibbs, utilities, downspouts, fence and gates
4. Trees/shrubs that are staying
Base Map Example

- Draw house with windows & doors
- North
- Don’t draw the items you want to get rid of (overgrown bushes, broken hardscape, etc.)
- Make at least 3 copies of the base map, or make use of trace paper on the original for each version

Garage

Driveway

Porch

Path
Sunset climate zone
Look for possible microclimates
Soil testing
Identify plants to remove (be critical here!)
Identify sun/shade patterns
Important views of and from the house
Things you want to hide
Overhead wires, poles, trees (& neighbor’s overhanging tree too)
Logically traveled paths
Site Analysis Example

- Garage
- Driveway
- North
- View window
- Porch
- Very hot afternoon sun on the house
- Poor drainage, slopes to house
- Downspout
- Sewer cleanout
- Need new fence & path to backyard
- Nothing ever grows well here
- Need to screen neighbor’s RV
Conceptual Diagram Example

Garage

Driveway

Divert downspout

Increase path for access to car

5’ tall accent plant

Colorful perennials

Hide sewer cover

North

View window

Path to backyard

Something pretty here

Screening shrub(s)

Possible mound here with deciduous shade tree

Possible mound here with deciduous shade tree
How you create the plan

Go back to the original base map. Start with the fences, paths and hardscape.

Tip: don’t design many narrow planting areas; it’s too hard to keep plants from spilling onto paths.
Then put in the largest and most important items, like mounds, trees and screening.

California Wax Myrtle for screening

Chitalpa, a deciduous shade tree to cool the house
Then put in the largest and most important items, like mounds, trees and screening.
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones

Next add in the medium size shrubs, focal points and accents.

Attractive, evergreen foundation shrubs

One accent Manzanita
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones

Next add in the medium size shrubs, focal points and accents.

Attractive, evergreen foundation shrubs

Arcto

One accent Manzanita

Rhamnus Seaview

Ceanothus ‘Concha’

Rhamnus Seaview

Path

Parking

Driveway

Garage

Porch
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones

Garage

Porch

Path

Grasses for textural contrast

Soft grasses (Berkeley Sedge) to hide the sewer cover

Three (repetition) Deer Grasses
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones

Garage

Porch

Grasses for textural contrast

Path

Soft grasses (Berkeley Sedge) to hide the sewer cover

Muhly

Three (repetition) Deer Grasses

Cactus

Muhly
Now it’s time to add in some perennials.

Iris and Coral Bells for shade, under the tree
Now it’s time to add in some perennials.

Iris and Coral Bells for shade, under the tree.

Chitalpa

Mound
Keep infilling

Don’t get overwhelmed; work at one area at a time, but make it connect to the whole

Sulfur Buckwheat, Calif Fuchsia and Foothill Penstemon perform in hot, dry areas.

Colorful perennials at the street Tip: Keep plants low near walkways
Don’t get overwhelmed; work at one area at a time, but make it connect to the whole.

Sulfur Buckwheat, Calif Fuchsia and Foothill Penstemon perform in hot, dry areas.

Colorful perennials at the street Tip: Keep plants low near walkways.
Groundcovers: The Skin

Low Ceanothus and Buckwheats fill the remaining spaces and tie it together.

Tip: allow enough room for them to grow.
Groundcovers: The Skin

Low Ceanothus and Buckwheats fill the remaining spaces and tie it together.

Tip: allow enough room for them to grow
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Plant Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 x Chitalpa tashkentensis</td>
<td>Chitalpa</td>
<td>Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Arctostaphylos ‘Louis Edmonds’</td>
<td>Manzanita</td>
<td>Specimen Shrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Ceanothus ‘Concha’</td>
<td>California Lilac</td>
<td>Specimen Shrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Myrica californica</td>
<td>Wax Myrtle</td>
<td>Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Rhamnus ‘Seaview’</td>
<td>Dwarf Coffeeberry</td>
<td>Foundation Shrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Penstemon ‘Margarita BOP’</td>
<td>Foothill Penstemon</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Epilobium ‘Select Mattole’</td>
<td>California Fuchsia</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Ceanothus ‘Centennial’</td>
<td>California Lilac</td>
<td>Ground Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Achillea millefolium</td>
<td>Yarrow</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Muhlenbergia rigens</td>
<td>Deer Grass</td>
<td>Architectural Grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Salvia spathacea</td>
<td>Hummingbird Sage</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Eriogonum ‘Warriner Lytle’</td>
<td>California Buckwheat</td>
<td>Ground Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Iris ‘Canyon Snow’</td>
<td>Pacific Coast Iris</td>
<td>Accent Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Heuchera ‘Wendy’</td>
<td>Coral Bells</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Eriogonum ‘Shasta Sulfur’</td>
<td>Sulfur Buckwheat</td>
<td>Perennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Carex tumulicola</td>
<td>Berkeley Sedge</td>
<td>Clumping Grass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eventually, it all comes together!
How to work with a professional and still save money

1. Make a list of goals/desires
2. Take pictures of landscapes you like
3. Create an accurate plot map in ¼” or 1/8” scale
4. Analyse your sun/shade patterns
5. Make a list of plants you like
6. Use a hose and chalk to determine shapes of hardscapes and write down square footages
7. Go to a building supply w/measurements to help establish materials and budget
   - Then bring in a consulting designer to help you pull the elements together.
California plant database search tool

Choose city  Plant search  My plant list

1. A plant’s water needs vary with the climate region where it will live. Choose a city and the tool will place your search in the correct WUCOLS climate region.

2. Proceed to the plant search page, and search to your heart’s content. There are 12 different search criteria you could specify, or just bring up the entire regional list, or the full list showing all plants and all 6 regions. You will be presented with the WUCOLS water-use value for each plant.

3. Create a list of plants for your project. This list can be printed or downloaded to your favorite spreadsheet program. We will save your plant lists for you in our database.
   - You may have one courtesy plant list for each region. To access your existing plant list for any given region, you must first choose a city in that region, and then go to the plant search page. Your list may be accessed from the “Plant Search” page.
   - In order for you to create plant lists, you must register for the site. Signing up is free, quick, and easy to do.

What is WUCOLS?

Water Use Classifications of Landscape Species

Water Use Classifications of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) provides a guide to estimating irrigation water needs of landscape plantings in each of 6 distinct California climate regions. WUCOLS was developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension in cooperation with landscape professionals and funded by the California Department of Water Resources.
Choose City to identify WUCOLS REGION

Find city in WUCOLS REGION

1 North Central Coastal
2 Central Valley
3 South Coastal
4 South Inland Valley
5 High and Intermediate Desert
6 Low Desert

Or find by city name
Begins with

Go to Plant Search
Find city
Search for a category

Example: very low water ground covers
Results for “Very Low Groundcover”
Click on “See it” for a picture!
Teucrium cossoni - Majorcan Germander
Search for a plant and find out its water requirement.
Some examples of

simple front yard installations
Design Sketch with Dry Creek
Installed Front Yard
Design Sketch with Olive Tree
Newly planted Oct. ‘09
Two years after planting
START WITH THE END IN MIND