LANDSCAPE YOUR HOME

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WHERE TO START . . . .

1. Lay out a site plan

- Locate and draw to scale building, walks, drives, poles and any other permanent features. Using ruled paper may help. A good scale is: 1 inch to 8 feet.

![Figure 1.]

2. Outline use areas

- With a bold open curve outline the public or approach area as that area nearest the street, highway or private drive. Take in all the area you can with a sweeping curve.

- Outline the private area with a sweeping closed curve (or curves).

![Figure 2. Urban lot](image1.png)

![Figure 3. Rural lot](image2.png)

- Keep curves large and flowing. These lines will govern much of your future design.
3. Locating trees

Trees are needed for: Framing, background, screening, shade.

- Locate trees to frame a view of the house along the curve outlining the public area.

- Locate trees on or near boundaries of private area for background. Background trees should be relatively large.

1. Framing Trees  3. Screening Trees
2. Background Trees  4. Shade Trees

Figure 4. Urban lot

- Trees between public area and private area may be low branched or weeping to provide screening. Background trees may also screen out unsightly views.

1. Framing Trees  3. Screening Trees
2. Background Trees  4. Shade trees

Figure 5. Rural lot

Figure 6.
• Trees for shade should be located to the west or northwest of patios, play or parking areas for afternoon or early evening shade. Do not overestimate the need for shade — winter is long!

• Use a variety of tree forms and types.
  - Pyramidal evergreens
  - Rounded shade trees
  - Small multiple-trunk
  - Columnar trees
  - Shrubby trees
  - Weeping trees

  ![Figure 7. Pyramidal](image1)
  ![Figure 8. Round](image2)
  ![Figure 9. Multiple stem](image3)
  ![Figure 10. Columnar](image4)
  ![Figure 11. Shrubby](image5)
  ![Figure 12. Weeping](image6)

• Keep tree plantings balanced. Check this by dividing the plan in two. In informal balance, a clump of small trees may balance one large tree.

  ![Figure 13.](image7)
4. Your foundation planting

Designed to soften harsh lines or to emphasize good lines of the house or to direct the viewer's attention. The corners and entrance are the most important areas.

Use tallest shrubs (that may mature at 5 to 8 feet) at the corners. Plant down on either side with lower shrubs. Space them to barely allow for their mature diameter.

![Corner planting and plan](image)

![Entrance planting and plan](image)

- When used together the corner planting and entrance planting may merge along short walls or remain distinct along longer walls. Flowers in season may be desired in the extra space, but are not essential.

![Complete foundation planting and plan](image)
• The entrance near one end. Do not over-emphasize the entrance — it attracts attention even without plantings. Restore balance of interest with a heavier planting at the opposite end.

Figure 17.

Figure 18.

• L-shaped houses. Keep tallest shrubs at ends to emphasize entire length. Intermediate corners deserve medium height shrubs.

• Very long houses. Here you may wish to use tall shrubs at intermediate corners to reduce the apparent length, but use them where the architecture shows vertical lines — or a tree may reduce the apparent length.

Figure 19.
• Rear foundation plantings. These will apply the same principles but are better planned with the private area, after patios and other features are planned.

• Keep plantings simple, especially for a house with a great deal of architectural interest.

Figure 20.

• Use a low and simple planting in front of a planter. The flowers you use in the planter should be the center of interest in that area.

Figure 21.
DON'T ---

• Don't just plant a row of spaced plants (that's just what they will look like!) nor a hedge all around the foundation. Use shrubs in groups.

• Don't plant so far from the foundation that the plants don't seem to belong to the house. Plant shrubs 2 to 3 feet from foundation; this will allow for a 4 to 6 feet spread.

• Don't shear your plants to geometric forms (they no longer look like plants!) Let plants assume soft, natural lines.

• Don't try to completely hide a high foundation. Soft, flowing lines are better.

• Don't over-accent architectural lines, this cuts your house up. Keep tallest shrubs at outside corners to emphasize length.

• Don't overplant. You can smother your house.
5. The private area

For both a pleasant view and a pleasant extension of your living room for summer use.

- First, decide how much privacy you need to establish. On a busy street or highway or if you are the relaxed type outdoors you may want complete privacy — otherwise, some shade and a pleasing view may be sufficient.

★ FOR COMPLETE PRIVACY, CONSIDER:

- Informal shrub borders. Informal groupings of tall, medium and low shrubs, with some shrubby, low branched trees. Greatest height is used in corners or at wide points in the border with lower shrubs used in front. Variety and soft informal lines are the key note. These plantings use too much space for small urban lots.

Figure 28. Shrub border and plan

- Hedges. Rather formal and a lot of work if they are to be trimmed. Soften the boxy effects of corners with small informal clumps of shrubs borrowed from the shrub border plan.

Figure 29. Hedge as a boundary treatment

- Fences or Walls. May be a bit boxy and expensive but they consume the least space and provide privacy the day they are installed. Costs vary with design and material. Emphasize horizontal lines on small properties. Soften boxy effect with shrub clumps borrowed from the border design.

Figure 30. Fences. Compare with the plan for hedges.
WHERE NO PRIVACY IS NEEDED (as on many farms)

- Use shrub clumps to establish boundary lines.

- Use low hedges

- Use open fences

Figure 31.

PATIOS, IF YOU WANT ONE

- Consider a size comparable with your living room.

- A rectangular slab of concrete is the least interesting — it may look like a piece of misplaced driveway! Vary the shape — curves that flow into your yard or angular forms for more formal yards. Texture the surface: Consider brick, patio blocks, stone or concrete with a brushed or pebbled surface.

Figure 32.

Figure 33. Patio shapes can be varied.
- Attach it to the house or work it into a remote corner — or both!

- Bring some plants into the patio area! Leave open areas for shrubs and flowers — or even a small tree for shade. Then it is really part of your yard.

Figure 34. Patios — attached or detached.

Figure 35. A patio should be a part of the yard.
Figure 36. A contemporary urban plan with terracing, walls and angular areas.

Figure 37. A traditional urban plan with flowing curves and partially open boundary treatment.

Figure 38. A traditional rural plan with an open fence. Note parking area within easy access of the entrance.