28th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference

Gail Hansen, MLA, PhD

Monday, October 20, 2008

Presentation times: 1:30pm and 4:15pm

Session B-1 and B-3- Landscape Design- Learn the Basics of Landscape Design
Landscape Design – Ten Important Things to Consider

Gail Hansen, MLA, PhD
Environmental Horticulture Department
University of Florida, Gainesville
Design Process

- Inventory and Analysis of the site
- Program Development
- Functional Diagram
- Concept Design
- Final Design

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid 1993, pg 128
1. Understand your Site

- Soil type
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Utilities
Understand your Site

- Wind
- Rain
- Sunlight
- Temperature
Inventory

Note:

- Drainage
- Views
- Structures and Utilities
- Circulation
- Noise

Landscape Graphics, Grant Reid, 1987, pg 13
Analysis

■ Opportunities
■ Constraints
2. Remember the User

Users include:
- Family
- Pets
- Visitors

Modern Family Gardens, Tilston, 2006
Program Development

- Desired Activities
- Amenity requirements
- Spatial requirements
- Spatial relationships

Some questions to ask:
1. What activities will you be doing in the yard?
2. What time of day do you use the yard?
3. Who will be using the yard?
4. What types of plants do you like/dislike?
5. Are you allergic to any plant materials?
6. What type of hardscape do you like/dislike?
7. What is the budget?
3. Use a Form and/or Style Theme

Relate to views

Relate to house

“Sense of Place”
Form Theme

- Geometric
- Naturalistic

Pay attention to:

- Architectural style
- Shape of spaces
- Repetition of form creates pattern

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid, 1993, pg 103
Style Theme

- Formal
- Informal

Pay attention to:

- Architectural style
- Tradition, Culture
- Personal style and expression
4. Create and Link Spaces

- Public
- Private
- Service

Step 3 - Functional diagram
Create Outdoor Rooms

Pay attention to:

- Spatial requirements
- Spatial relationships

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid, pg 103
Link the Rooms

- Pathways
- Features

Pay attention to:
- Movement through the spaces

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid, 1993, pg 104
5. Consider the Function of Plants

Function includes:
- Aesthetic
- Utilitarian
- Structural
**Utilitarian**

- Physical comfort
  - Microclimate
- Psychological comfort
  - Enclosure
  - Barriers
6. Structure the Plantings

Structure includes:
- Walls - shrubs, trees, bedlines
- Ceiling - tree branches
- Floor - turf, patio
Masses and Layers

Pay attention to:
- Horizontal layers
- Vertical layers
Conceptual Design- Step 4

The conceptual design considers:

- Form theme
- Style theme
- Function of plants
- Plant structure

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid, 1993, pg 128
7. Highlight Important Points

- Thresholds
- Focal Points

Pay attention to:
- Contrast in form, texture, color, and size
- Viewing perspective
8. Pay Attention to Detail

Details include:
- Materials, plants
- Garden ornaments
- Color schemes
- Scent, sound
- Light

Pay attention to:
- Aesthetics
- Senses
- Personal style
9. Take into Account Time

Changes over time include:
- Plant growth
- Plant behavior

Pay attention to:
- Design intent
- Mature size
- Spacing
10. Protect your Resources

Pay attention to:
- Resource efficient plants
- Manage water
- Environmental Hardscape
Final Design

- Design details:
  - Materials
  - Plants
  - Texture
  - Color

From Concept to Form in Landscape Design, Reid, 1993, pg 130
Summary

1. Understand your site
2. Remember the user
3. Use a theme
4. Create and link spaces
5. Consider function of plants
6. Structure the plantings
7. Highlight important points
8. Pay attention to detail
9. Take time into account
10. Protect your resources