

# **Landscape Design: Elements & Principles to Get You Started:**

## **Real World Applications of Design Elements & Principles**

# Great Design

- ❖ Doesn't happen by accident
- ❖ Doesn't have a one-size-fits-all approach
- ❖ Starts with training your eyes to see the potential in different situations
- ❖ Always considers ease-of-maintenance, future growth, & development of landscape
- ❖ Good design practices will stand the TEST OF TIME

# Bad Design – What House?



# Bad Design – What House? 2.0



# Bad Design – What House? 3.0



# Bad Design – What House? 4.0



# Bad Design – What Business?



# You Missed!





**WHY, oh why?!**



**You're Too Close, Man!**



# Japanese Maple, REALLY?!



# Blue Atlas Issues!



# Mobile Nightmare!



# Poor Tree!



# Bad Pruning!



**Please No!**





# Not the Best Solution!



# Busy, Busy, Busy!



**YES! Perfect!**



# Perfectly Balanced



# Great Use of Space



# Nice Curves



# Landscape Mistakes are totally avoidable and unnecessary!

- ❖ Out-of-Control landscapes are very common, and they began with POOR DESIGN (or no design). Good landscapes get better and better over time, and bad ones only get worse.
- ❖ Low-maintenance landscaping starts with GOOD DESIGN! Developing your “eye” for Line, Form, Color, Texture, and Mass in the landscape ensures success. Proportion, Order, Repetition, and Unity are key to bringing the picture together perfectly.

# Top 10 Landscaping Mistakes:

10. The “toss-up”: Scattering plants around the landscape creates a style-free obstacle course. Maintaining mulch circles around randomly scattered plants rarely happens, so the plants struggle due to damage from equipment or lack of watering.
9. Making a mismatch: Depending on matching pairs or rows of plants to hold the line – one or more will inevitably die or become diseased and ruin the design. A solid row of the same type of plant loses its’ impact when some fail due to mismanagement.



# Top 10 Landscaping Mistakes:

8. Starting too small: Many people don't expect their plants to survive, so they spend as little as possible, and buy plants as small as possible. Frequently, these tiny plants never reach maturity, either from lack of care or from being mowed down.
7. Overgrown landscape: Many plants grow much larger than the space where they are planted, blocking walks, driveways, windows.

# Top 10 Landscaping Mistakes:

6. Stupid grass: Narrow strips and corners where a mower can't reach take more time and effort. Obstacles should be encompassed in landscape beds where possible.
5. Falling for the "Dwarf": Size is relative! The word "dwarf" means different things in different plant varieties. Be sure you are getting the right mature size for the area.

# Top 10 Landscaping Mistakes:

4. Plant collections: Many people bring home odds-and-ends – plants that catch their eye – with no real idea of how to use them in the landscape.
3. Micro-landscapes: Few landscape projects can be completed in a weekend, but many people try. This frequently ends with an assortment of “islands” that have no overall style or continuity. Build an overall plan!

# Top 10 Landscaping Mistakes:

2. Beds too Small: Cut the beds according to mature size of plants, rather than cutting plants to fit the bed. Landscaped areas should always be about  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the face area of the home – a two-story house needs at least a 10' to 12' depth to the beds so the proportions balance. Bigger beds are usually better beds!
1. Doing nothing at all!

# SIZE MATTERS!

River Valley Horticultural Products carries:

- 15 varieties of Boxwood
- 20+ types of Holly
- 10 cultivars of Loropetalum
- 30+ named varieties of Camellia
- 15+ varieties of Maple

There IS a variety to suit almost any landscape need – large or small! If you don't know the best for your project, JUST ASK!

# We are Passionate about Plants!

- ❖ I hope that all of you will consider River Valley to be your best resource to help you complete your projects. We love what we do!
- ❖ It is an honor and privilege to be part of your garden successes – feel free to call, email, or come see us.
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