



Garden design process

I provide a six-step garden design process. We can go through the steps one at time until your scheme is finished or if your needs are different you can choose just the steps you need. If you are looking for outline advice or can do some of the work yourself, you will need fewer steps.

Where do you want to get to with your garden?



I want **advice** on a specific issue or how to develop my garden.

I want you to help develop my **ideas** - so I can do the work myself.

I need **plans** drawing up with enough detail - so a contractor will build my garden.

I want help getting **quotes** from good contractors – I can manage the contract myself.

I will need you to monitor the contract – to ensure it is **built** properly.

I want help **caring** for my garden - can you advise me?

1 Give you advice	2 Create your ideas	3 Finish your plans	4 Get your quotes	5 Build your garden	6 Care for your garden
✓					
✓	✓				
✓	✓	✓			
✓	✓	✓	✓		
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

See what happens in each of the steps and what you receive at the end of each on the next pages.

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1. **Give you advice ...** when I visit you to discuss any specific issues you have with your garden and to give you some options to consider.



This includes a **site visit** to:

- ★ Give advice about **specific issues** – e.g. trees or drainage.
- ★ Discuss your garden's **needs**.
- ★ Make an **initial assessment** of your garden.
- ★ Discuss a number of ways I can help you achieve the transformation.
- ★ Help you consider the **next steps** in the process.

I may be able to discuss budgets and give you preliminary costs for design.

After the **site visit** I will write to confirm the next step in the process, giving you the **client's brief** and a quotation for further work.

"Client's brief" lists the requirements you want the design to achieve and key points about the service. This helps you move to the next phase.

Example client's brief

1. Create an outdoor extension of house, for seating, reading, summer evening meals and homework.
2. Create 'a togetherness', through the design of the three areas with the choice and laying styles of the materials. Ensure all the surfaces are continuous, i.e. with no steps.
3. Design and materials must complement the age and style of the house.
4. The existing planting is to be retained where possible and new planting not confined to borders.
5. The planting to reflect the family's need to have contact with the natural world by encouraging birds and invertebrates, growing herbs and some vegetables.
6. The design needs to maximise the available spaces to ensure the garden is used effectively and it looks larger than it is.

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2. Create the ideas ... when I turn your ideas into a **concept sketch** to show how your ideas fit your garden.



This starts by surveying and mapping your garden to produce a **survey map** that:

- ★ accurately records what is there, and
- ★ ensures that proposed schemes will fit into your garden.

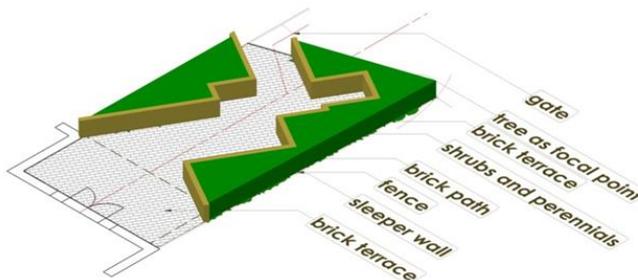
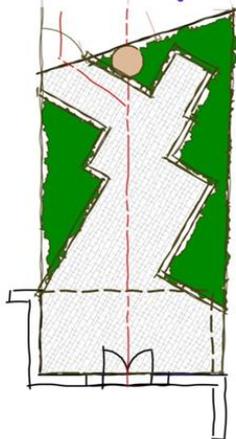
From the **map** I create **concept sketches** based on your ideas and the **client's brief**:

- ★ viewing different options that meet your requirements and experimenting with alterations to produce an additional **concept sketch**
- ★ agreeing the purpose (screening, colour, scent, wildlife or decorative) and style (formal or informal, calming or colourful) of planting.
- ★ getting rough costings (not fixed prices at this stage)

At the end of this stage an agreed **concept** is chosen.

"Concept sketch" is an overview of what the completed garden will look like, defining the shape and position of borders, planting, trees and hedges, but not detailing specific plants or measurements.

Concept sketch



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3. Finish your plans ... when I draw up the plans into detailed drawings to get you fixed prices for your garden.

I produce **layout plans**, adding details to the **concept sketch** to show:

- ★ The finished levels and dimensions
- ★ The materials to be used

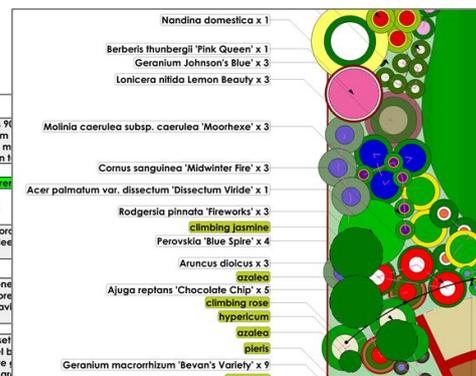


Once you have the structural framework I can create a **planting plan** to

- ★ determine which existing plants in your garden can be retained, re-sited or removed
- ★ select and arrange new plants to create the optimum effect

I select new plants from a very wide list, according to the soil type, climate, shadiness, hardiness and suitability to fit the style and purpose. The chosen plants are listed and priced for quotation purposes.

Layout plan



Planting plan

“Layout plans” are detailed drawings showing all dimensions, levels and materials used for hard landscaping.

“Planting plans” are drawings specifying the number, type and dimensions of plants, including reference to existing planting.

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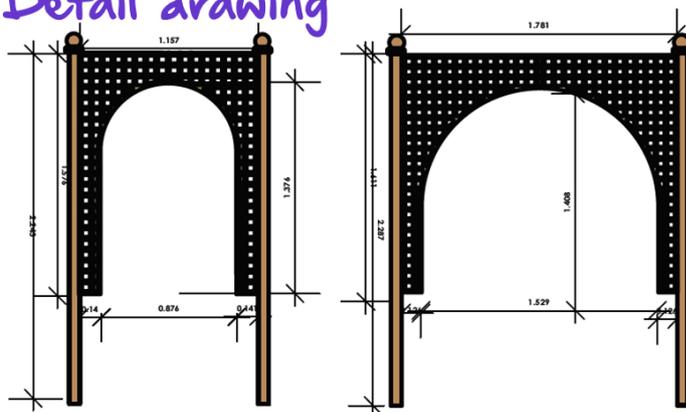
4. **Get your quotes ...** when you get one or more good contractors to give you fixed prices for the work.



Contractors will usually give you **fixed price quotations** based on a **specification of works** that includes:

- ★ **Survey map, layout plan** and **planting Plans**
- ★ Additional sketches and cross sections
- ★ Detail drawing for specialised features and garden objects
- ★ Special instructions, such as access to site; where materials can be stored before use and rubbish stored before disposal; agreed working times etc.

Detail drawing



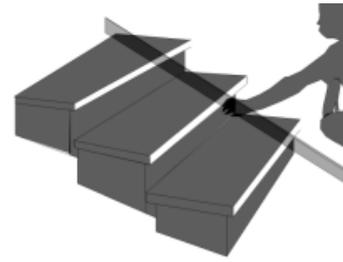
After you have been received the quotations I can check and compare them with you. Here you have a few points to note.

- ★ The **quotation** is usually divided into a 'Shopping List' of items. You can proceed with the majority initially
- ★ The **works** may be **phased** into stages to make the scheme manageable or
- ★ The **design** may have to be modified to help keep within the budget
- ★ The **contractor** should submit a schedule of payment terms and a proposed starting date either with the quotation or before starting work

The **works** will be let to the recommended **contractor** with the **contract** defining **terms and conditions** and the **contract sum**.

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5. Build your Garden ... your contractor transforms the garden based on the detailed drawings including the planting plans.



There are three main routes to getting your garden built and I can help you work out which option will suit you best:

- ① Most common: you sign a contract with the Contractor and pay them directly. The designer can be involved as and when required.
- ② As above, but you ask the designer to monitor the contract to ensure the cost, quality and time of the project is met.
- ③ You pay the designer to manage the contractor and deliver the project.

If you want me to **monitor** the **Contract** (option 2) I will:

- ★ Visit your garden at predetermined intervals during contract and on practical completion to ensure work is carried out to the design and quality standards.
- ★ Deal with any snagging issues and liaising with you and **Contractor** on any issues about the **Design**.
- ★ Sign off work and agree payments.

This step ends with your garden being built and planted according to your needs, the site constraints and your budget.

6. Care for your garden ... making the most of your investment by giving you guidelines to look after your hard landscapes and plants



When the work is complete you may want advice or written guidance for how to:

- ★ look after the hard landscaping (paving, water features, irrigation, etc.)
- ★ prune your planting scheme for each type of planting, e.g. late flowering shrubs etc.
- ★ deal with pest and diseases, watering, fertilizing the soil, lawn management and rabbit control

I can provide this guidance on a similar basis to the initial site visit.