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The Design Process

"Space, light and order; those are the things that men need just as much as they need bread or a place to sleep."
Le Corbusier

The design phase is vital to getting a project off to the right start and keeping it on track. When done correctly, it saves everyone time, money and frustration and provides the homeowner with more options.

Our Design Services are typically comprised as follows: consultation, discovery, schematic design, design development, construction documents, bidding and construction. Taking the time to progress through each step of the design process will transform very general information into a specific design for your project. It's important to understand each step of the process as each affords its own opportunities and restrictions.

Consultation: Set's the ball into motion. The development of rapport begins. We assess the prospect of working together. The Portfolio of our most recent projects is presented for viewing. Ballpark or rough estimate figures are discussed as well as your project time frame.

Discovery: Discovery is the information gathering and analyzing phase. It encompasses all work or project requirements necessary prior to actually designing your garden. Using your Garden Wish List, we formulate a detailed "program" which defines your wants, needs and objectives. We consider function, character, image, space and a host of other elements that affect how you will use your garden. We analyze your site and determine the best placement of the project requirements to capture views and sunlight. During this stage we establish the budget and construction time frame.

All pertinent information related to the project is collected; we photograph and prepare measured drawings of the existing site and structure referred to as the base plan.

Schematic Design: Schematic Design is the conceptual brainstorming and exploration phase. Your designer develops alternative design solutions that attempt to satisfy your project requirements. Sketches and measured drawings are prepared to help evaluate the ideas and concepts and set the final direction for refining the design.

Design Development: In the Design Development phase, the size, layout and character of the site and garden are refined. We begin to design feature elements such as the pool, spa and terracing. Plans are developed. At the end of this phase 80-90 percent of the design work will be complete.

Construction Documentation: Construction Documentation is the phase where the design is translated into the technical language of the Landscape contractor. Although this phase is primarily intended for working out the technical aspects of the project, some design work also takes place. In addition, materials are selected.

Bidding: During the Biding phase, competitive bids are solicited from a select list of sub-contractors. We prepare, distribute drawings and answer sub-contractor questions. Once the bids are received then analyzed we prepare the paperwork. Typically, construction begins in 7 to 10 days, once the paperwork has been approved.

Construction: At long last, construction of your new garden begins. The work is reviewed daily for quality of workmanship and attention to detail and to facilitate any changes that may be required. Final selections of finishing touches like furniture and garden ornaments are made. Upon completion of this phase we thoroughly inspect your garden to ensure that it is complete, functioning properly and ready for your use and enjoyment.