



Vivid garden design

stylish exotic natural rustic wild funky mysterious easy calm bold classic reflective

The Design Process

Consultation and proposals

The first step is arranging to meet you and look at your garden so I can understand the size, scope and type of project you have in mind. I take a detailed brief from you that describes your ideas and expectations for the garden including your timescale for the landscaping work and an outline budget. I also bring examples of my work for you to see which helps stimulate ideas and gives me a better idea of the type and style of garden you like. Within a few days of the consultation I send you a copy of the written-up brief, a proposal and a contract for the design commission which clearly sets out my charges, what you get for your money and a proposed timetable.

Site survey

If you wish to go ahead, and once we have agreed the details of the contract, I come to survey the site. This includes taking measurements, photographs and a record of all the relevant level changes. If the site is large then I may recommend you have a full digital survey carried out by a site surveyor. I use this information to draw up a scale plan which forms the template for the design. I also assess and note all the local conditions that affect the garden site like climate, nearby buildings, pipes and services, the type of soil and what you wish to remove or retain, such as trees or garden buildings.

Designing the garden

I usually put together some outline ideas and visuals for you to see before completing the design. This is an important interim stage to make sure that you like what I am suggesting and that any particular issues or problems are taken account of. I then produce a hand drawn and coloured detailed design, to a suitable scale, that reflects the style, features and materials we have agreed. It includes all the hard landscaping, garden structures and the framework planting such as major trees and shrubs that will be used.

Building the garden

Most people employ a contractor to prepare the site, build and plant the garden and I can usually recommend skilled landscape contractors who I have worked with before. A good contractor can build your garden from the design. But If required I can produce construction drawings, technical plans and a detailed specification. I can also oversee the contractor's work on your behalf to ensure it matches the design and is built to the highest standard. Occasionally clients want to either build the garden themselves or spread the work over a period of time or several stages and I can offer the help and advice needed to do this.

Planting the garden

There are three stages to consider. A separate detailed planting plan can be produced after the design if you wish. When the garden has been built, and depending on the season, Vivid Garden Design can source, purchase and deliver the plants to you. We visit a number of specialist trade nurseries across the region to get the best stock and good deals. Then the soil in the beds and borders has its final preparation and the planting and mulching is completed to match the planting plan.