



Residential Landscape Design Part 2: The Design Process

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Basic design goal:

- ▶ Use visual design composition theory with plants and/or hardscape elements to draw eye through landscape
 - ▶ Complement architectural style/period
 - ▶ Work with existing landscape character to create a setting for the home AND
 - ▶ Create a welcoming entry

- ▶ A visually cohesive composition = aesthetically pleasing landscape design



Typical process:

- ▶ Identification of project/project needs
- ▶ Research and analysis
 - ▶ Environmental, built environment and client needs
- ▶ Conceptual design development
 - ▶ Synthesize client needs and apply design theory
- ▶ Final design
 - ▶ Selection and layout of plants, hardscape materials, lighting, etc.
- ▶ Installation
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Self-reflection and evaluation

General considerations: Getting cues from existing features

- ▶ Character of the property
 - ▶ “Genius loci” – *what is that?*
- ▶ House style
 - ▶ Formal or informal
 - ▶ Architectural materials
- ▶ Image based on client
 - ▶ Style/period/theme

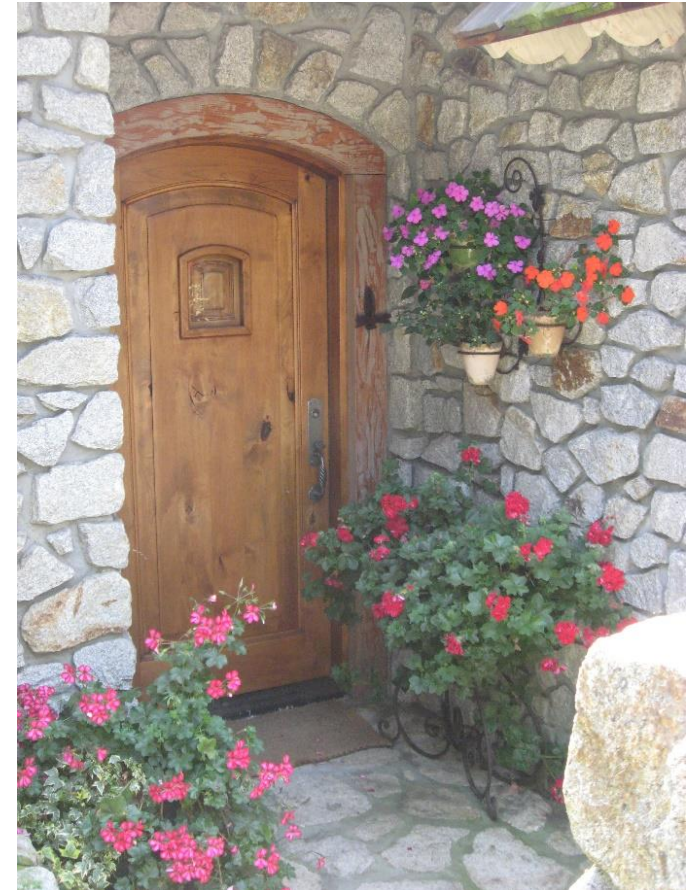


Complementing the house

APPLYING SOME DESIGN THEORY

Landscape Design

- ▶ House and garden should flow together
 - ▶ AKA unity
- ▶ Create unity by applying a few components of design theory can be achieved using:
 - ▶ Simplicity
 - ▶ Balance
 - ▶ Emphasis / variety



Simplicity:
Basic precept

LESS IS MORE?

Simplicity

- ▶ Not having too many disparate ideas
 - ▶ Limit number of colors – flowers, berries, foliage, bark
 - ▶ Limit number of hardscape materials
 - ▶ Limit variety of plant types
 - ▶ Limit variety of plant forms – rounded, spreading, upright, weeping, fastigate, etc.



Example with building materials:



Simplicity: Form

COMPLEMENTING
ARCHITECTURE AND OTHER
PLANTS

Form

- ▶ Use plant forms to work with architectural form and keep similar with those in the planting bed
 - ▶ Use similar form plants with house
 - ▶ Use plant colors to work with house

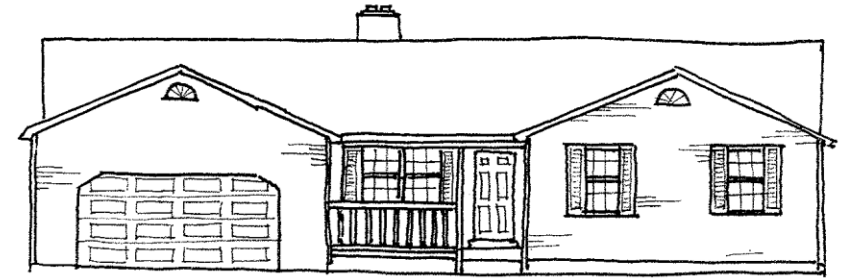


Identify architectural form

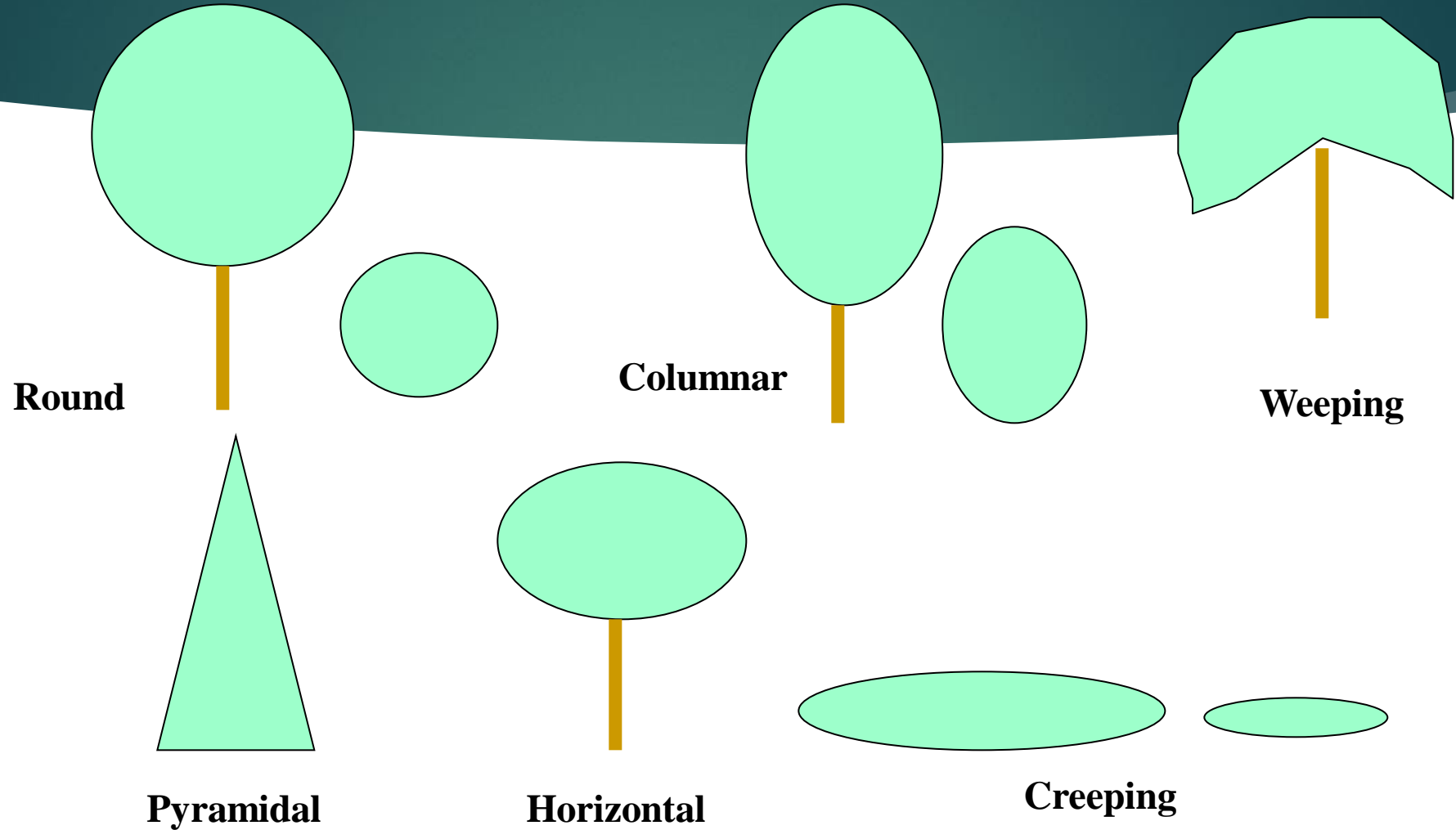
- ▶ Complement architectural form:

- ▶ Horizontal house shape – horizontal plant shapes

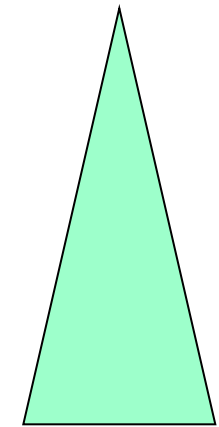
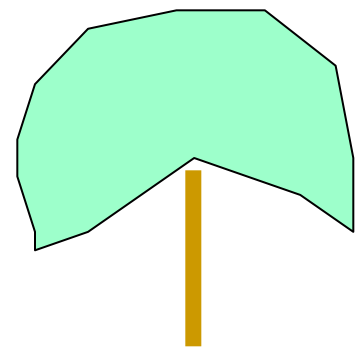
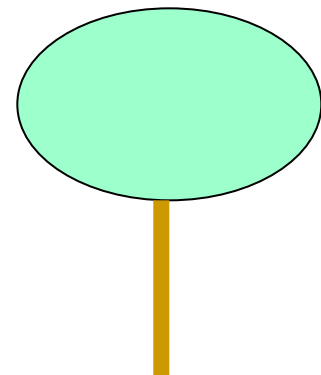
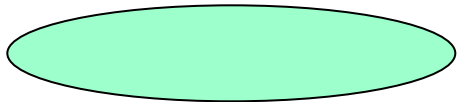
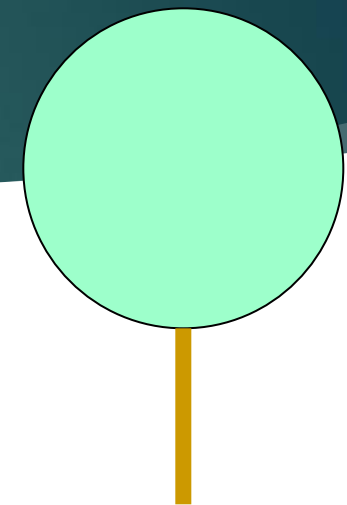
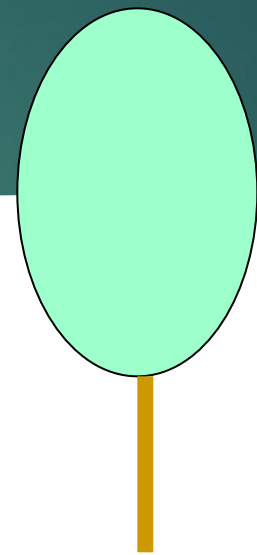
- ▶ Vertical house details – vertical plant shapes



Basic plant forms...



Complementing house form:









Form



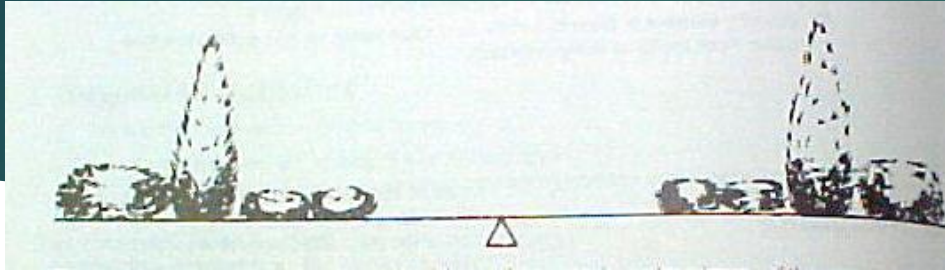


Balance



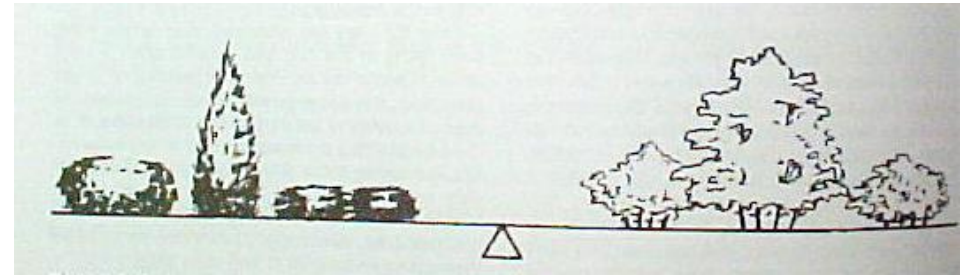
VISUALLY SPEAKING...

Balance



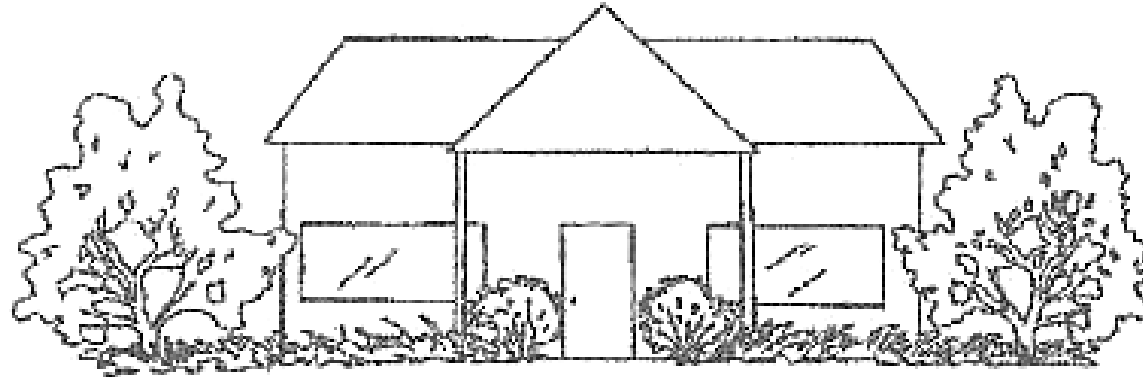
*Symmetrical Balance =
formality*

*Asymmetrical Balance =
informality*

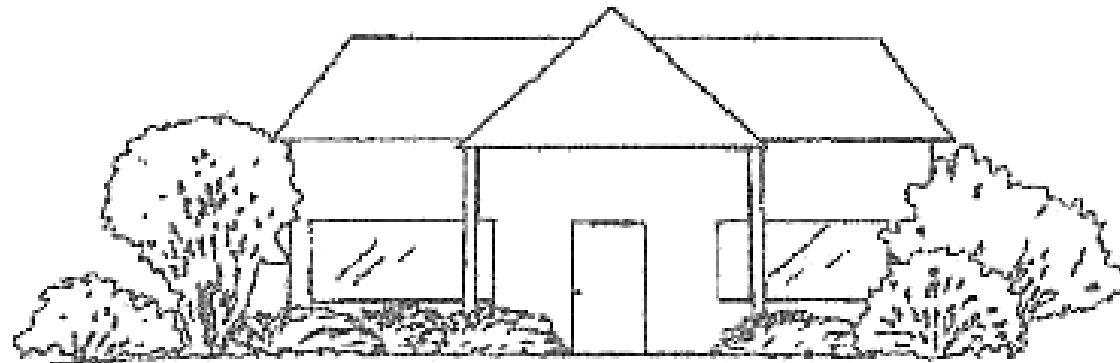


- ▶ Balance = equal visual weight in landscape
- ▶ Balance in the major viewing area
 - ▶ Typically applied to the foundation plantings at the front of the house
 - ▶ Complement architecture or help in providing balance
 - ▶ Consider background view of house as well

Balance with architecture:



Symmetrical = mirror image



Asymmetrical = weighted balance

Balance - Symmetrical



Balance - Asymmetry



Balance

▶ Asymmetry

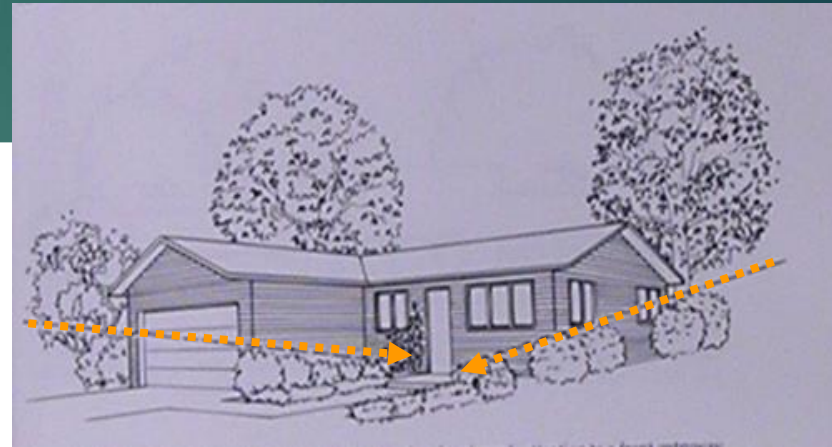
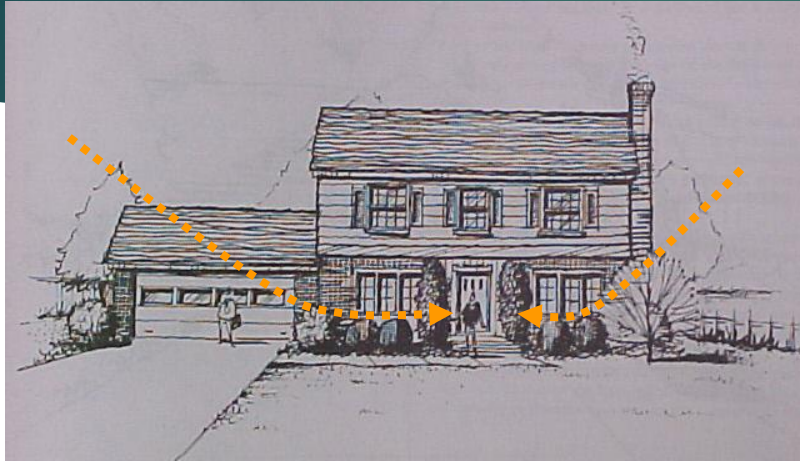


Emphasis

- ▶ Emphasis = drawing attention to something
- ▶ Requires **variety** to capture interest
 - ▶ Significant difference in color, form, texture, etc.
 - ▶ Accent plants hold viewers interest longer (may change with season 😊)



Emphasis



- ▶ In foundation plantings emphasis is used to draw the eye to focal point, typically the front door, by **stepping down** plantings to the front door.

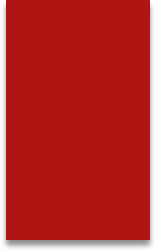


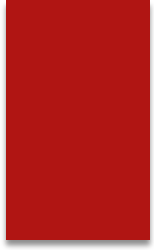
Emphasis to guide

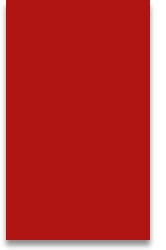
- ▶ To draw visual attention, AKA emphasize, a particular location, draws eye through landscape...
 - ▶ Use different texture
 - ▶ Use different form
 - ▶ Use different color
 - ▶ Difference needs to be significant











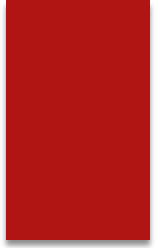
Other general
guidance

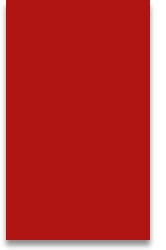
RULES OF THUMB

Layering the landscape



- ▶ Layer plant material from lower to higher from front to back of bed







Layering

- ▶ Visual interest with depth
- ▶ More room for a greater **variety** of plants = greater visual interest or seasonal interest
- ▶ Ability to play with color and or textural combinations = interest
- ▶ Ability to play with forms and heights = interest

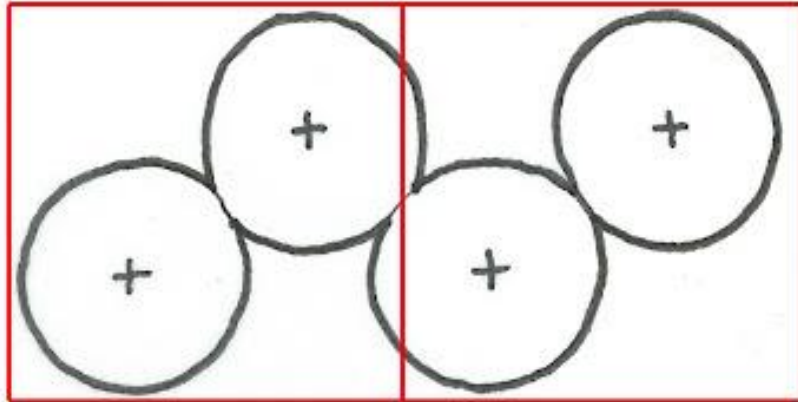


Odd numbers rule

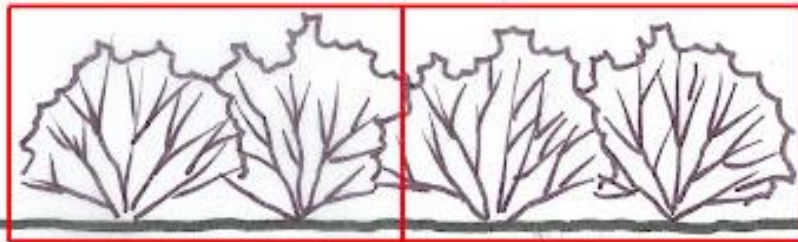


- ▶ Group plants in odd numbers, i.e. 3, 5, 7, etc.
- ▶ For naturalistic appearance
 - ▶ Also do not place in straight lines, stagger in triangulated form

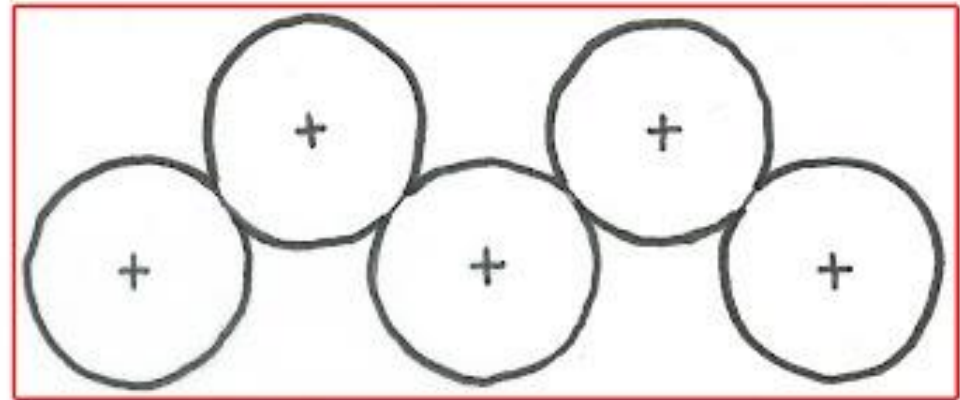
Visual on the rule of odd #'s:



PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION



PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION

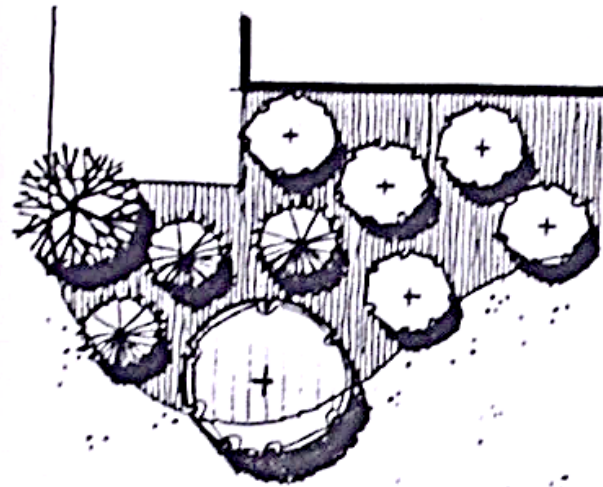
Visual simulation:



Plant in groups for greater visual impact



Plant in groupings in plan view



No! Plants are separated and scattered.

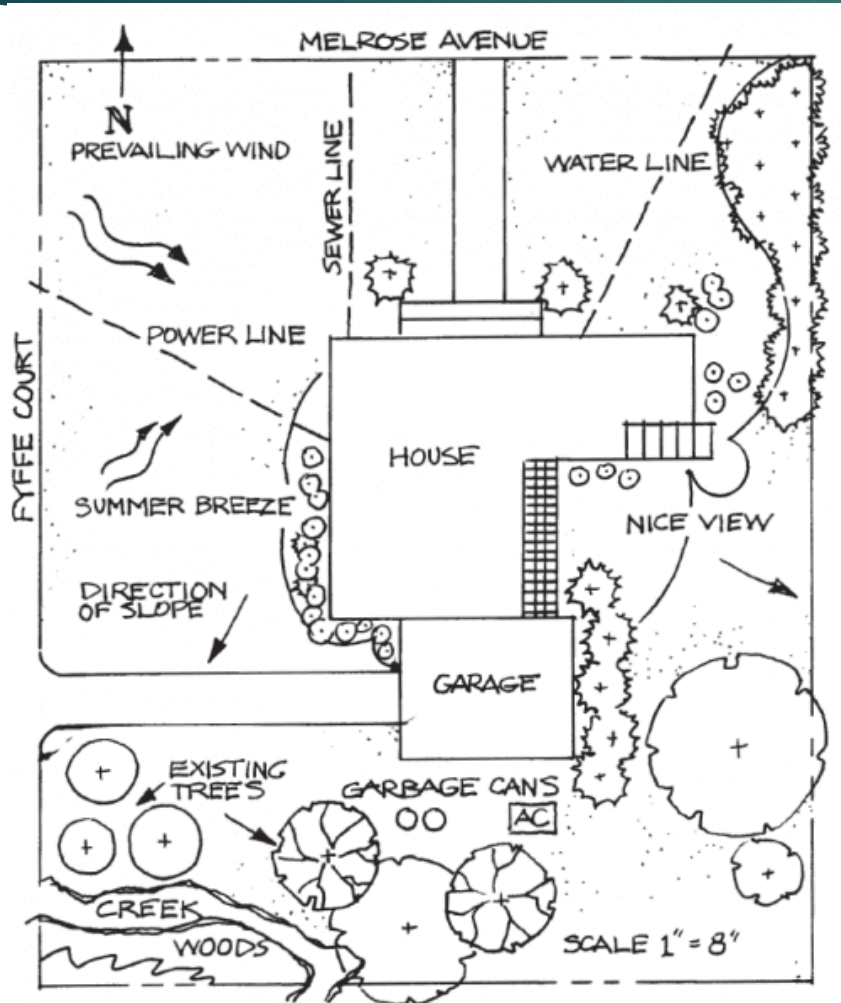


The plan

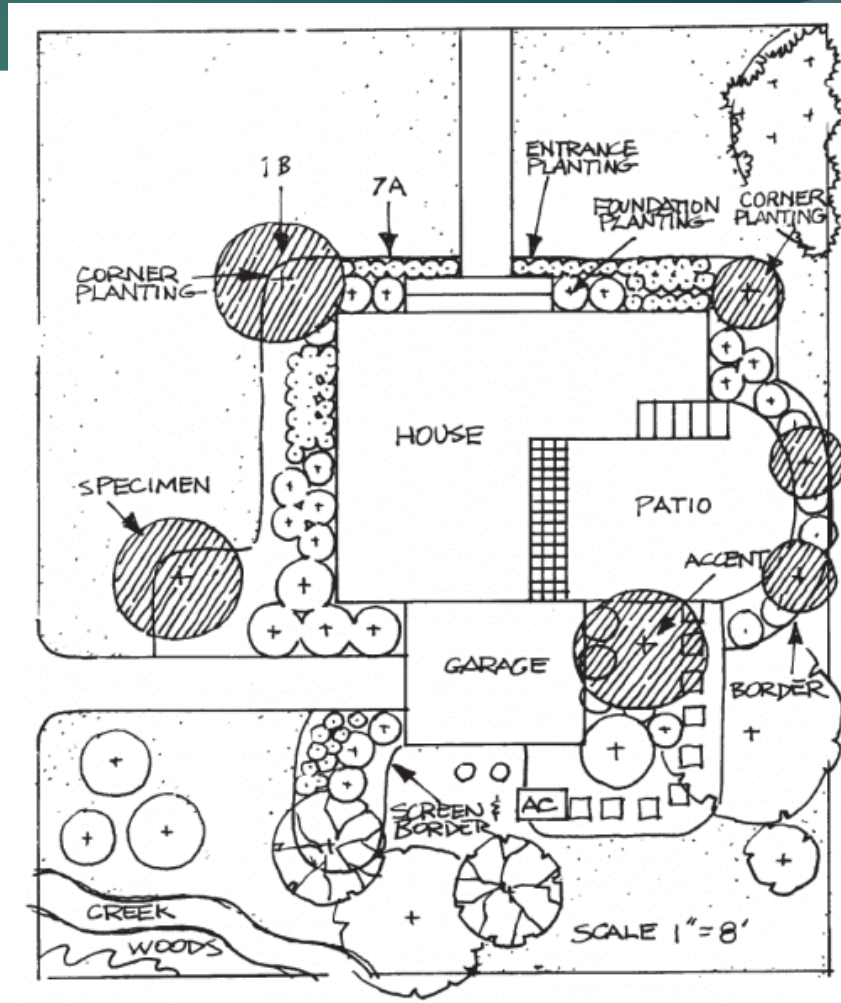
PUTTING THE DESIGN ON
PAPER

Creating the plan:

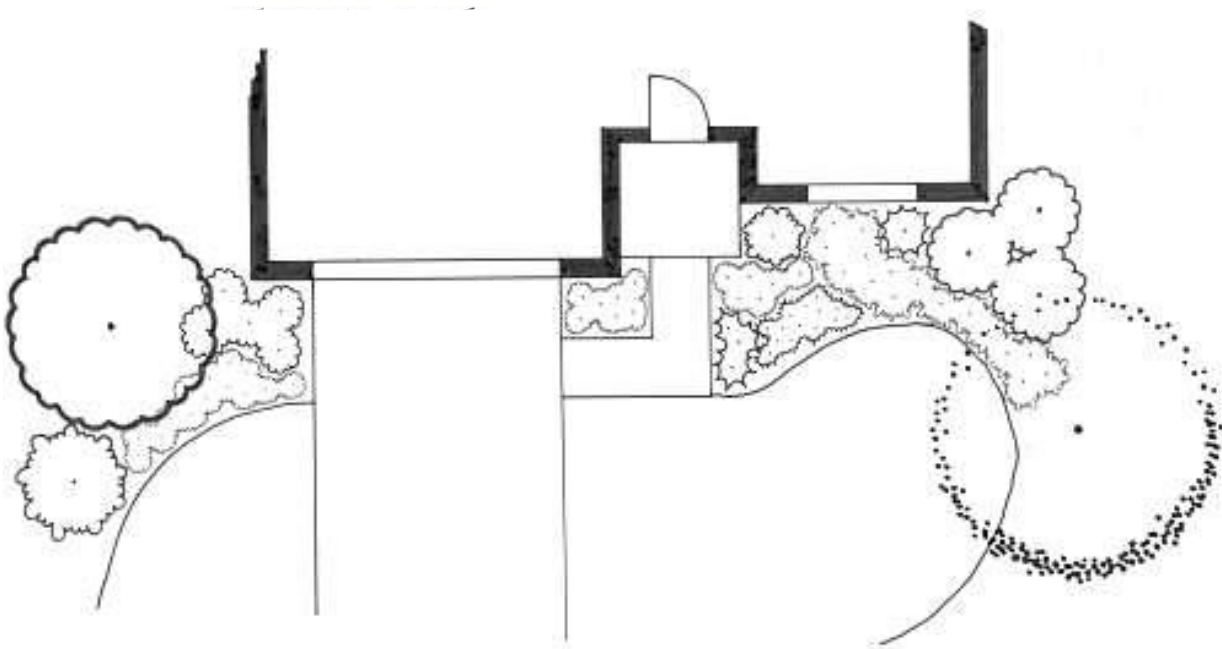
Inventory & analysis



Concept landscape design



The Planting Plan or Concept Plan



- ▶ Draw to a scale
- ▶ Draw plants to their mature, or at least 2/3's their mature width
- ▶ Use simple symbols
- ▶ Provide north arrow and legend

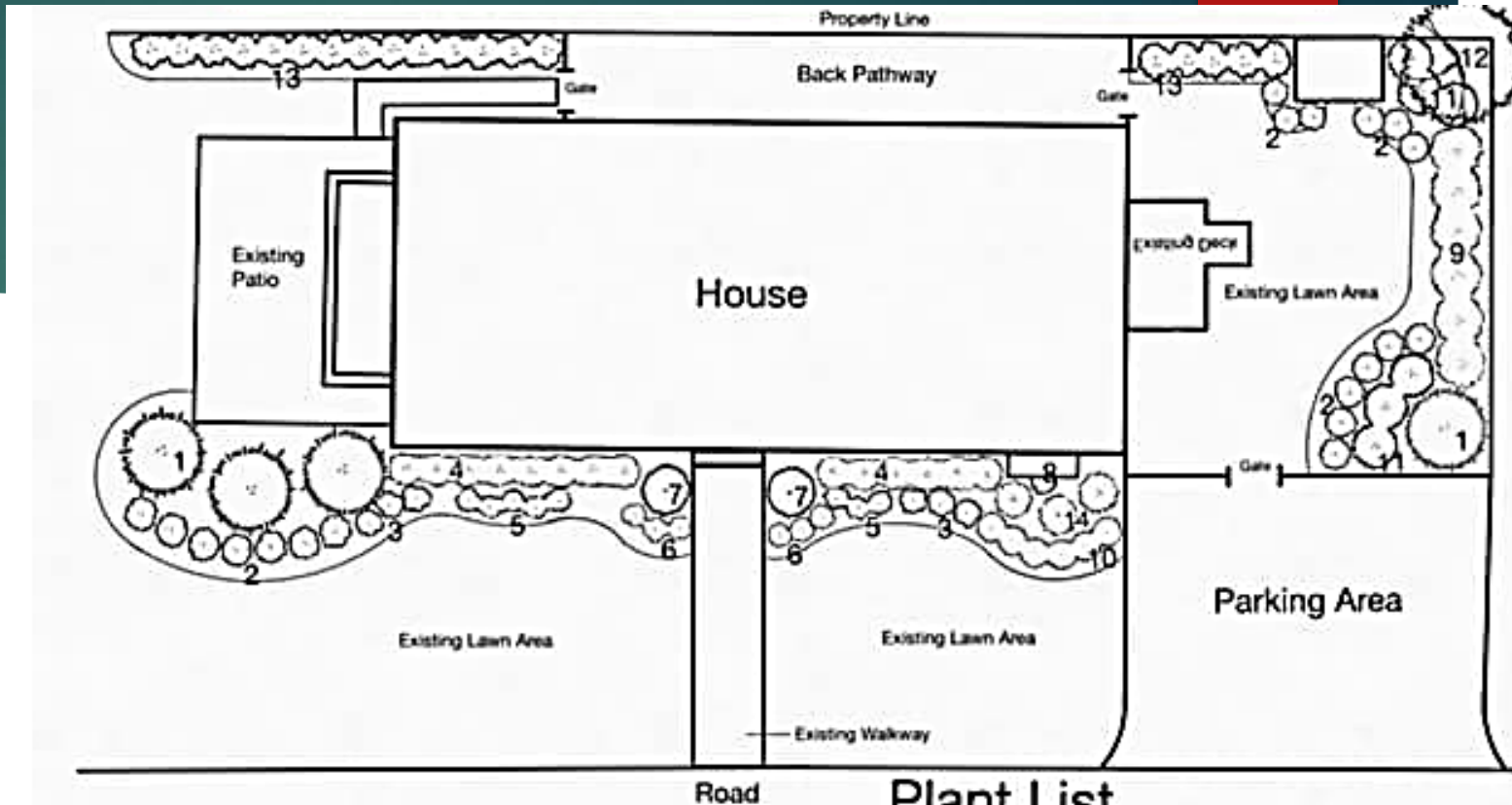
Planting selection goal:

- ▶ Combine plants in the same bed with similar cultural requirements
 - ▶ Acidic soils = Ericaceous plants
 - ▶ Dry soils = Xerophytic plants
 - ▶ Shade tolerant / types of shade
 - ▶ Dry shade or moist shade
 - ▶ Morning sun or afternoon sun?
- ▶ Lots of great resources to guide plant selection!



Plant selection

- ▶ Synthesize
 - ▶ Environmental conditions
 - ▶ Client needs
 - ▶ Utilize design principles
 - ▶ Provide colors/season(s) of interest



- ▶ “Right plant for the right place”

Residence Planting Design

A Plus Ornamental and Turf Specialists LLC

Designed By: Mario Malagisi

Date: 9/29/2020

Plant List

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.) Ornamental Maiden Grass | 8.) Climbing Hydrangea |
| 2.) Nepeta 'Walkers Low' | 9.) Blue Hydrangea |
| 3.) Black Eyed Susan's | 10.) Hamelin Grass |
| 4.) Compact Hollie's | 11.) Purple Knockout Rose's |
| 5.) White Salvia | 12.) River Birch |
| 6.) Purple Salvia | 13.) Green Giant Arborvitae's |
| 7.) Red Beauty Holly | 14.) Cherry Laurels |

Client's considerations: Season(s) of interest

- ▶ Based on client
 - ▶ All year
 - ▶ Holidays or special events
 - ▶ Season(s)



Spring season:



- ▶ Bulbs and early blooming perennials
- ▶ Evergreen plants
 - ▶ Some new growth with contrasting colors
- ▶ Mix of both
 - ▶ Benefit of winter interest too!
 - ▶ Don't be fooled by catalogues!



Summer interest



- ▶ Annuals
- ▶ Perennials
- ▶ Flowering shrubs or with colorful foliage
- ▶ All of the above



Fall interest



- ▶ Hardy annuals
- ▶ Late flowering perennials and woody plants
- ▶ Fall foliage
- ▶ Fruit, seed heads and bark



Winter season



End of Part 2:
Questions?

THANK YOU!