

1 Analyze Your Garden

Part A. Analysis of existing space

Style of house: _____

Would a casual or formal garden suit the house better? _____

What is the theme of your garden? _____

Size of yard: _____

Part B: Basic sketch of yard

1. Outline the perimeter of the area to be landscaped in the graph paper on the next page (or use your own).
2. Draw the existing bones of your garden into the sketch. The bones of your garden are the most permanent, most enduring features of it. These are things that do not change with the seasons—they are things that may change in regard to how visible they are, but they are always present. Trees, fences, rocks, brick pathways, walls—these are what give the garden shape.
3. Make several photocopies of these framework sketches as they will be the foundation of your design moving forward. If you'd prefer, you can also use tracing paper or parchment paper for the different planting layers you overlay on your skeleton so you can add and remove different options with ease.
4. Look at your sketch. Do you want to adjust the framework of your garden? Add or remove trees? Adjust pathways? If so, draw different variations of the skeleton of your garden.

Part C. Perennial beds, Overall shape

You will likely run through several dozen renditions of this step.

1. Look at your yard sketch and lightly shade in the following:
 - a. Areas with less than 8 hours of direct sunlight (partial shade): blue
 - b. Areas with less than 6 hours of direct sunlight (full shade): grey
2. Draw in your garden musculature: your perennial beds. For now, these can simply be general shapes of the existing flowerbeds or proposed beds. Try different variations, different shapes—don't be afraid to be creative! As you're sketching these outlines, make sure you consider:
 - a. negative space
 - b. straight lines versus curved lines
 - c. keeping bed width greater than 1.5 metres if you can, preferably 30 per cent or more of your yard
 - d. the theme of your garden

