



Before



After

Landscape Planning Guide

Use this simple guide to help you and your landscape professional create an attractive, comfortable and valuable landscape that you will enjoy everyday.

Did you know?

"A new kitchen, bathroom, or basement remodel only returns a portion of your investment, but a properly designed landscape will increase your home's value by 7% to 15%. Returning, in some cases, over three times your investment."

- Source: The American Nursery & Landscape Association

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The Real Benefits of Landscaping

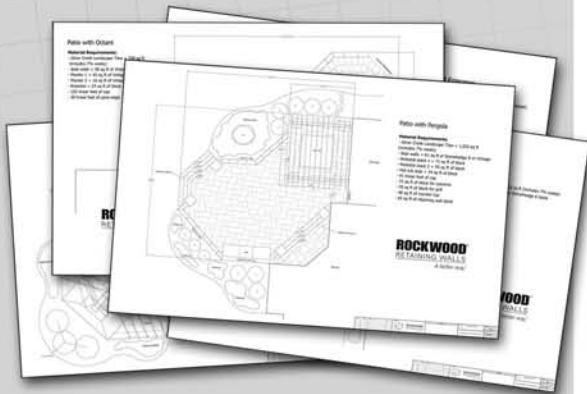
Curb Appeal, it's the best and easiest way to make a good first impression. Most homeowners agree — spending over \$45 billion on professional lawn and landscape services a year. In fact gardening, in recent years, has become America's #1 pastime, with over 80% of all households participating.

What does this mean to you? Simple, a well designed landscape does more than bring increased value to your home, it brings energy savings as well. More importantly, quality landscaping brings you endless days of enjoyment.

So follow the number one trend in the country, and bring the indoors out — by adding a raised patio, fire pit, or an outdoor kitchen. Regardless of what you do, the enjoyment of the outdoors will reduce your stress and add real value to your home.

Just follow these 5 simple steps

- 1) Do your homework
- 2) Make a list
- 3) Make a budget
- 4) Sketch your design
- 5) Hire a qualified Landscape Contractor



1) Do Your Homework!

Visit www.rockwoodwalls.com to see backyard patio plans, photos, ideas and MORE! Stop by your local book store or library for books and magazines on landscape designs. You can get ideas for hardscape materials, plants, accents, furniture — everything to help make your planning complete.

2) Make a List

Make a list of things you like and dislike. For example, if you hate mowing the lawn or weeding a flower garden, make a note of it. Do you prefer rocks and not mulch? Do you love flowers, but dread replanting every year? Use the space below, and be sure to share this with your qualified landscape contractor.

Ideas, Interests, Style and Tastes	Like	Dislike	Maybe
Modern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old World Charm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relaxation/Quite	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance Free	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertaining/Active	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matches Homes Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open & Spacious	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privacy & Shade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Romantic & Tranquil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eco-friendly / Energy Saving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Kitchen / Living Room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accent Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bricks & Pavers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cobblestones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Countertop / Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Pit / Fireplace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flower Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grilling Area / Inset Grill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Feature / Pond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paver Patio & Walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pergola / Arbor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetable Garden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fence / Gates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pillars / Columns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egress Windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sound System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seating Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3) Make a Budget

When budgeting for a landscaping renovation, plan to invest about 10% of your home's value, according to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). A more elaborate backyard sanctuary may require 15 to 20%. Much of what you will spend, however, depends on how long you plan to stay in your home. If you plan to stay in your home for more than 10 years, 15 to 20% will give you the enjoyment you desire for years to come.

Homes Value \$ _____ X _____%

= Your Landscaping Budget



4) Sketch Your Design

Begin by creating a concept in your head, and then put it to paper. A sketch can help clarify your vision, and will keep you within your budget. Today, landscaping means more than just plants. It includes features such as lighting, fences, garden paths, raised patios, fire pits, ponds and streams, fireplaces, outdoor kitchens, and even outdoor living rooms.

A large, empty grid of graph paper, consisting of 30 columns and 30 rows of small squares, intended for sketching a design.

