Planning of Ornamental Gardens

- In planning a garden, several factors like the size of the house, and the space available for gardens, availability of water, cost of laying the garden and its maintenance, have to be taken into consideration.

- A garden is planned primarily to suit the tastes of the people of the house and locality. There is no rigid system in garden planning and each system is open to modification to suit the environment and other factors.
  - Ornamental Home Gardens
  - Ornamental Public Gardens

General assumptions

- East or west home is the best.
- Home ensures security, shelter, rest, peace and enjoyment.
- Man being a civilized animal prefers to live in association of plants.
- Labour and pains taken in developing home and garden later on give immense pleasure, joy and satisfaction.
- Hence, home and home gardens are made on the basis of individual preferences.
General guidelines

- Home garden is made for personnel interest to secure reasonable amount of comfort and convenience.
- Avoid undue complexity and go with simplicity.
- Add variety to an extent that unity is achieved.
- Use long paths as curvaceous or zigzag and different objects according to colour scheme to break monotony.
- Keep natural grade of land and requirement of landscape in mind.
- Incorporate landscape plants including trees as per their landscape value and utility.
- Attempting too much in a small place should be avoided.
- The design allocated to each area should be functional and convenience access.
- Thus, it is of utmost importance to have the knowledge of the principles and elements of landscaping.

Home Landscaping- Principles and Elements

Principles
- Simplicity
- Unity or Harmony
- Balance
- Proportion or Scale
- Accent or Focalization
- Rhythm

Elements
- Line
- Colour
- Texture
- Habit
- Form
- Light
- Space or Volume
- Mobility
- Style
Simplicity

• The landscape designer must develop simplicity in the design, to provide a restful setting for the outdoor living in the property area. Simplicity in design is achieved through several ways:
  • Repetition of same species for similar form (silhouette), habit or colour and construction material.
  • Smooth flowing of silhouette or grouping of plants.
  • Avoid too many species in a small place.

Unity or harmony

• It is an overall effect of various features, styles and colours of total scene. The unity in design is achieved by several ways:
  • In simplest form, unity is expressed by the repetition of identical elements.
  • Plants in the landscape should be limited in kind and variety in order to produce an unified effect as too many divergent shapes, textures or colours generate confusion, thus we can say that unity is achieved through various ways:
    • First, the unity of style, feeling and function between the house and the garden.
    • Second, the different components of the gardens should merge harmoniously with each other.
    • Third, to achieve some harmony between the landscape and the garden, so that train creepers on the porch to bring home close to the nature.
Balance

- Balance influences the eye movement as lines and shapes have visual weight or visual magnetism.
- Equal weights can be balanced only when placed equidistantly from the centre.
- If the weights are unequal, the heavier must move towards the centre for making balance.
- Symmetrical or formal balance is achieved when identical elements are positioned equidistantly from the central axis. In making the balance with the plants, their form, colour and texture are kept in view.
- Asymmetrical or informal balance creates the same amount of interest on both sides of the outdoor room, but does not create an exact duplication of elements. A tree on one side is balanced by planting a group of shrubs on the other side.

Proportion

- It is concerned with the size relationship of the features of the landscape. It is the relation of one thing with the other in magnitude. The space allotted for different features should be in right proportion as under:
- Lawn (25-30%)
- Paths (20%)
- Herbaceous borders (20%)
- Shrubbery (15-20%)
- Trees (15%)
- Buildings (35-40%)
- In stairs the tread and riser should be in right proportion for indoor and outdoor rooms.
- Other features should be in right proportion.
Accent or focalization

- The feature which first attracts the eyes is known as accent or focal point or focalization. That feature may draw attention through its form (shape), habit, colour, size, texture, sound, motion, etc. The hidden focal point is called as vista. This may be created through a specimen plant, flowers, statues or fountains.

Rhythm

- Rhythm is an easy connected path along which the eye will travel in any direction from one point to another without disturbance. The important examples of rhythm are:
  - The action of a dancer in case of Punjabi folk dance in which the eye travels from one dancer to another without disturbance.
  - When a stone is thrown in a water tank, the waves are seen in rhythmic action.
  - The beat of marshal music.
How rhythm is created in a design?

The rhythm is created through three ways as under:

• Through repetition of shapes
• Through progression of sizes
• Through continuous line movement

Through repetition of shapes

• When a shape is regularly repeated at proper interval, a movement is created which carry the eye from one point to another in such a way that one is unconscious about the separate units. Rhythmic advancement makes it possible for the eye to pass it from entire length of space as follows:
  • Rose garden
  • Mountain in the lake
  • Formal avenue planting
Through progression of sizes

- The sequence in the contour either in ascending or descending order and the eye is carried forward along the easy route by this way without disturbance. There is more enjoyment in the garden when larger objects are involved in progression of sizes. The important examples are:
  - Arrangement of landscape sceneries in the room through progression of sizes.
  - Stones placed along the pool or well in descending order.
  - Same forms of the plants in progression of sizes in the garden.

Through continuous line movement

- The rhythm is to be found in the continuous movement of a line, while the undulating lines are moving parallel in the flowing water in canal or river.
How different lines are created in the garden?

- Line may be placed at the junction of two materials such as a border of water and land for grass and walkway.
- It is used to create a control pattern of movement and attention.
- Straight lines denote formality, quality, and solid structure.
- Curved or zigzag lines are less passive, encourage slower movement, and are common in informal gardens.

How colour and tone affect the landscaping?

- It brings the world to the life.
- It creates variety of responses.
- It creates depth (blue colour) or nearness (red colour).
- It gives feeling of warmness or coolness.
How habit and form affect the landscaping?

- Straight growing plants take the eye vertically.
- Horizontally growing plants pull down the eye and are good for planting in small compounds, depicts close intimacy between the plants and earth.
- Columnar canopy shaped plants take the eye vertically while globular plants take the eye horizontally.

Araucaria columnaris
Texture

- It is defined as the representation of the structure of the surface of leaves and bark, and is determined visually.

Types of texture

- Fine
- Medium
- Coarse
Objectives

- To secure attractive ground.
- To provide natural, easy and safe approach.
- To obtain privacy for family.
- To fulfill recreational needs for the family.
- To provide convenient well arranged attractive service area.
- To harmonize home building, various areas, walks, drives, gardens and other utility areas in to one unit.

Functions for home landscaping

- Extends the living area of the home.
- Screening for privacy and protection from wind and sun.
- Outlet for overflowing children energy.
- Minimize noise.
- Absorb and filter summer sun.
- Reduce need for artificial air conditioning.
- Ground covers prevent soil erosion.
- Shield house from heat robbing winds and lessen electricity heating and cooling bills.
- Absorb pollutants.
- Provide shelter for wildlife.
- Source of food.
Site analysis

• Site analysis is the second stage of planning in which an inventory of the existing property items including the architecture of the house, landscape, view points, soil, climate, plot size, etc. are prepared.
• Both good and bad points are mentioned for developing a successful home landscape.

Need analysis

• Need analysis is the compilation of an inventory of what should be accomplished by means of the landscaping and what the landscape will include, based on the preferences and life styles
• To facilitate need analysis, the property area is divided into three areas as under:
  – Public/ Approach/ Front area
  – Family/ Private living area
  – Service/ Utility area
Public area

- Public area is that area of the home garden which is viewable from the street or is seen by any one coming to the home.
- This area conveys the initial impression about the residents of the house. Poorly designed and ill-kept landscape leads to sloppiness, sparsely planted or rigidly pruned leads to austerity and walled as a courtyard projects the sense of seclusion.

Main functions

- To blend the house with its surroundings.
- To provide a pleasant and readily accessible entry to the house.
Features in the public area

- Entry way
- Drive way
- Parking
- Walk way
- Steps
- Entry court
- Front lawn
- Basic planting
- Frame work of the home
- Auxiliary planting
- Small private area
- Terracing for changing levels
- Privacy from street
- Night lighting

General guidelines

- Make the front lawn open and spacious in right proportion.
- Do not try to save every plant in this area.
- Avoid use of garden ornaments.
- Confine shrubs to the borders, corners and to the foundation/ base of the building.
- Balance the planting with trees and shrubs about imaginary line through entrance of the house.
- Use only those plants which complement the house to its best advantage.
- Do not be reluctant to use appealing design.
- Do not use hedges in this area.
- Entrance of the house should have harboring quality.
Family or private area

• This is also known as outdoor living area. The elements and features in this area vary enormously with the family and climate, but must fulfill the needs of the family.

Functions

• Screening neighbors from viewing and hearing.
• Screening from wind and shading from sun.
• To provide comfort to the family members.
• To entertain personnel guests.

General guidelines

• Enclose the area to ensure privacy.
• To provide background for displaying flowering plants including annuals to their best advantage.
• Arrange flower beds, rockery and other features around periphery.
• Allow the centre to remain open, which gives visual impression of more area and allow space for social functions.
• Make this area easily accessible to other parts of the garden.
• Plant small trees for ensuring close intimacy between family members, space, landscape and nature.
Features

- Patio or deck
- Night lighting
- Privacy
- Lawn
- Garden ornaments
- Ornamental or swimming pools
- Plants attractive for birds
- Terracing for changing levels
- Flower display beds
- Wind control
- View emphasis

Service or utility area

- This is that part of the home garden which provides room for necessities
Feature

• Greenhouse
• Cut or loose flower garden
• Vegetable garden
• Orchard
• Garage
• Pet run
• Garbage pit
• Firewood store
• Irrigation system
• Servant house

General guidelines

• Screen this area from public and private area.
• Kitchen door should be open to this area.
Enrichment items

- Enrichment items are elements of the outdoor room which are not essential for making walls, ceiling or floor but, make the place more useable.
- Natural Enrichment Items: These are formed by the nature and are either present at the site or moved to the site by the landscape designer. These may be tangible (touchable) or intangible (not touchable).
- Manmade Enrichment Items: These items are created through a manufacturing process.

Enrichment items cont....

- Tangible Enrichment Items: Stones, specimen plants, water, animals, birds, etc.
- Intangible Enrichment Items: Fragrance, sound of waterfall, view of natural scenery and sound of pods or foliage when gentle wind blows.
Manmade enrichment items

- Outdoor furniture
- Outdoor art and craft
- Pools and fountains
- Lighting.