

LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDES

Winterbloom, Inc.

#(503)598-0219

winterb@ipinc.net

www.winterbloominc.com

I. Describing my piece of real estate for landscape purposes.

a. **Where** are the boundaries of my property exactly? Do I know?

b. **What** is North?

c. What kind of slope does my property have and in **what** direction/s? This will give us the angle of the slope to the sun.

d. And closely related **where** is the sun in relationship to my house, (the cooler sides versus the warmer sides?

e. **Where** are the existing structures located on my property now; my house, driveway, concrete paths, sheds, steps or retaining walls?

f. **What** existing large trees or shrubs you do I want to keep, kill or transplant in this process. **Where** are they located on my property?

g. **Where** are my underground utilities?

h. **What** are my good views that I want to keep on or off of my property and, **what** are the ugly ones that I want to screen out.

❖ REMEMBER, IT IS EASIER, LESS EXPENSIVE, AND USUALLY LOOKS BEST TO WORK WITH THE LAY OF THE LAND, RATHER THAN TO FIGHT IT!

II. Measuring: **find a willing partner, make a quick schematic of the house with measurements. One of you measures, the other writes it down on the sketch. Use the straight lines of the house to locate property lines trees etc. If you cannot locate something in that manner try triangulation. Take two know points on the house and measure the object from both of those points. Use a protractor to pinpoint it on your “to scale” drawing next.**

III. Putting it on a piece of paper so that it is all to scale:

a. **Materials:** 1.(Classic)

- heavy paper for your base plan, (at least 18"x 24")
 - tracing paper for your ideas (to set on top of the base plan)
 - an architect's scale(that has 1/4"and 1/8")
 - a transparent triangle(for a straight edge)
 - a mechanical pencil
 - an eraser
2. (Contemporary)
- use the measurements to make the drawings on your computer.

b. **Make the Base plan on heavy paper, considering all items from I. (a-g above). This plan includes only the items that you will not change.**

c. **Make a Destruction plan on tracing paper. (This plan is optional) It is helpful to do, if you have a lot of material that you want to remove, mixed in with the items that you will not change. Take some tracing paper, place it on top of the base plan, and draw in all of the items that you want to get rid of, e.g., an old ugly carport, or a dead tree.**

d. **Bubble plan.** This is the first step in creating your new design. It is not final plan, but a plan of practical usages. Take a new piece of tracing paper, place it on top of the base plan. This plan will become a set of bubbles with notes, showing functions in the private, public, and service areas. It will include views to block or keep, wind effects, sun effects, drainage problems, etc. **(Do not skip this plan, ever)!**

e. **Finished Plan: Set the bubble plan to the side, place a new tracing paper on top of the base plan and begin making a finished plan. It will include all the proposed structures and structure modifications, the paths, followed by the lawn outlines, the shrub bed limits, and known plant circles. At the very last, label the plant circles. All of this will take time to do.**

Practicality first, then beautification!

Function before Form!!

WE ARE TRYING TO GET PRACTICALITY AND AESTHETICS MARRIED!!

IV. Human Interest Areas: (bubble plan)

A. Public Area (low to medium maintenance)

Items to ponder:

- Overall design: color and style of the house
- Entryway: visibility, welcoming, steps, walkway, color of the door,
- Movement: from where to where, car access, pedestrian access
- Utility: lighting, watering and electrical needs
- Maintenance level: (usually low maintenance)
lawn size, shrubs and trees with few bulbs, annuals or perennials, pots instead
- View access or screening
- Types of trees, shrubs and other plants

B. Service Area (low maintenance)

Items to ponder:

- Walkway/Driveway access and parking, surface materials, gravel, paving brick, concrete
- Drainage concerns
- Garden items, firewood storage or shed
- Garbage cans
- Pet area
- Garage design: numbers; watering, lighting and electrical needs
- View access or screening
- Utility gardens: vegetables, fruits, herbs, or cut flowers and their watering needs, their size, raised or not

C. Private Area (probably the highest maintenance level)

Items to ponder:

- **Hard surface:** pavers, concrete, deck or brick?
- **Cooking:** access to kitchen, barbecue type and location, food prep. table, storage, table and chairs for how many people? Style?
- **Overhead structures:** open trellis, awning or roof
- **Bathing:** hot-tub kind, size, height from floor to lip, proximity to bedroom or bathroom, privacy needs, overhead and sides
- **Swimming:** pool and size, surrounding surface, bathhouse needed? Privacy and fencing
- **Quiet area for reading or meditation:** size, seat location, privacy, access, overhead structure?
- **Play:** lawn or jungle gym/swing set, floor surface, drainage, screening vs. visibility from kitchen, amenability to change when the kids grow out of it, basketball hoop or sport court etc.
- **Walkways and movement between outdoor rooms:** surface, width, materials, edging, stairs/steps
- **View of and between these areas, their connections and screenings using plantings or structures:**
 - *plantings: trees
 - shrubs
 - perennials
 - annuals
 - hedging plants
 - ground covers/lawn
 - *structures: wood or brick screens
 - art
 - pond/waterfall
 - decorative rocks, dry creek, or pond
 - berming
 - retaining walls
- **Utility:** Lighting, watering, hose bibs, electrical outlets