

Create space
for entertaining,
family or relaxation



Ideas for Outdoor Designs

INSPIRATION



A guide to
creating a
useable
outdoor
space

LIFESTYLE

PURPOSE

DESIGN

OBJECTS

SPACE

MORE

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Objects

1 – Shape
3 – Colour
4 – Plants

Objects in Design

When developing a design, it is important to determine the main use of your space. Do you need more space for entertaining friend and family, do you want a space for children to explore nature and play safely or will it be your space to escape, a place to unwind?

You may want to use your space for all of these factors or you may have other thoughts. First consider the size of your space; is it large enough to contain all of these needs?

By focusing on the main use of a space, such as socialising, a clear design can be created. You can then introduce into the design aspects of your other needs and uses.



Purpose

Outdoor spaces have moved on from purely plots of land for practical cultivation to spaces which are designed for wildlife interaction, relaxation and pure enjoyment.

As this relationship between people and their outdoor space develops and evolves so does the purpose and appearance of gardens.

The modern purpose of outdoor spaces is now a fine balancing act between enhancing, protecting and conserving nature as well as contributing to human recreation, culture and family.

A few key human objects within any design include creating shade, acting as visual stimulation and seating. The most effective design created with objects looks at matching their materials, colours and shapes with each other and their surroundings.

This matching process creates a balanced and relaxing space which will be a pleasure to be in.

Design

Once you are clear on the main use of your space your design should try to contain the repetition of a limited palette. Whether this palette is the use of a colour, a certain shape or a repeating object etc, this limited repetition will create a sense of unity and order.

Unity helps to relate different parts of a space together making it feel balanced. This is especially important if you are trying to create different areas for different purposes within the one space.

A good design should also include elements of rhythm and energy by carefully using opposites and contrast to make the space feel comfortable rather than becoming bland.

Objects

Think about objects as the best way of added focus, structure and stimuli to a space. If unity is created with a colour you can use objects for rhythm, for example using lights which follow the movement or path through the overall space.

If entertaining is your main use you can use objects to enhance this, for example using seating which complements the unity (colour) but is positioned in such a way so that it enhances the energy of a space which stimulates conversation.

If unity is shape, for example using curves which already have a natural movement or rhythm then using objects to act as focus. These visual stops in a space help rest the eye.

If relaxing is your main use you can use objects to create cosy pockets of calm such as a seated archway of climbing plants.

Visual interest can be created by using arches, trellis, sculptures or pergolas etc. If however your planting scheme is the focal object, other objects can be used as unity, for example complement your colour scheme.

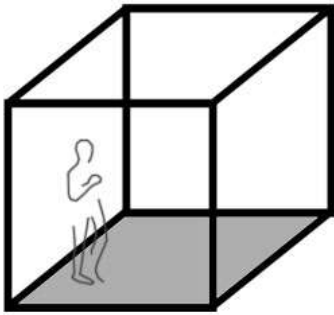
Be careful though not to use too many objects as the more you place in a space the smaller it will feel. Also think about the size and scale of objects as well as where you place them.

If all the objects are at the same level (height) they may become monotonous if at a low level or can overpower a space if they are tall.

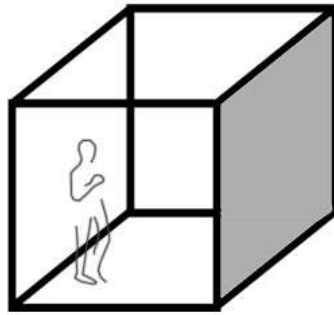
Space

There are three main heights or levels you need to consider when selecting the objects to use in your space,

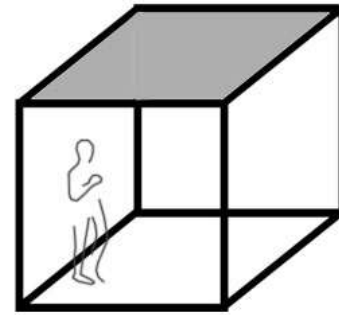
- Ground Level
- Wall (or boundary) Level
- Roof (or sky) Level



Ground Level



Wall Level



Sky Level

The ground level includes paving, gravel, grass, low level planting, etc which creates the horizontal lines.

Wall or boundary level includes house walls, fencing, seating, hedges, mid level planting or other objects that are level with the human eye. These are the vertical lines.

Sky or roof level includes tree canopies, archway and pergolas etc which are overhead. These objects can help combine the lower horizontal lines with the mid vertical lines.

Look around your outdoor space and note down what is currently in the space at the different levels and what materials they are made from. Include into a design what you can see beyond the boundaries.

Is your space already surrounded by harsh man made objects and structures or soft natural materials?

Would you like to contrast soft natural objects by introducing straight lines and hard structure?

Would you like to complement the existing hard landscape with softer plants and natural features?

Ultimately we are back to, what do you want to use your space for and can you include, enhance or minimise the views past your boundaries?

'Objects in Design' has been created as a starting point of information and ideas to help you make the most of your outdoor space.

Gardens123 would like to thank you for your interest in our free guide and would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few more of our products and services.

Free Guides

Please browse all our booklets in this series for more garden design inspiration. We hope you will find these booklets useful as we are looking to increase this inspiration range further so keep checking for the latest booklets.

Concept Consultations – (£45 consultation fee)

If you need design guidance, a little inspiration or a friendly chat about how to use your outdoor space to its advantage, book a visit with our Landscape designer.

By mixing your ideas and enthusiasm with the designer's passion and skills, a concept vision for your garden can be created in an hour's consultation.

Concept Designs – (start at £160) as of Dec09 subject to change see website

These designs are created specifically if you have strong ideas for your space and know the materials you would like to use or you have existing features needing simple makeover revamp.

Layout Designs – (start at £320) as of Dec09 subject to change see website

This design process has been created if you have a small garden and just need a contractor to 'do the tricky bits' e.g. paving.

Further Services

Gardens123 offer a range of different garden design and construction services to suit your needs. We also offer gift vouchers for that unusual gift.

Visit **www.gardens123.co.uk** for more information.

Gardens123 hope you have found this guide interesting. We wish you all the best with your design ideas and look forward to hear from you again soon.