

On the tail end of winter comes a hesitant spring. These seasonal changes encourage us to begin planning ways to enjoy our time in the garden once the snow melts. By taking a few steps back from the way you manage the small tasks of your day-to-day life for both home and garden, you can observe patterns already present in nature and architecture. Recognizing these patterns and connections helps form the backbone of a successful outdoor design that directly responds to the way you live inside your home.

THE BIG PICTURE

The very notion of stepping back and viewing the big picture is one reason it can be hard to implement your own ideas, or replicate ones you find in design magazines. The closer you are to something on a daily basis, the harder it is to see objectively. Life's cadence can cause distraction and sometimes results in the urgent need for change, often sated by a quick colorful purchase or the seduction of a beautiful single plant at the nursery. This design-on-the-fly technique can result in a garden that looks disjointed and cobbled together, lacking connectivity to your house and personal taste. Taking a master plan approach not only allows you to implement your goals in phases, it can also provide a framework to accept fun, spontaneous purchases or experiments with your garden. Let's take a look at some concepts that are explored during this design process:

CREATING CONNECTIONS

A successful landscape design looks at both the present and potential future patterns of use, human movement and relationships to the larger environment. This may include how the home sits on the land as well as its contribution to the fabric

of the neighborhood and larger community. Once these factors are observed and recorded, a design can be created that improves, alters or enhances all of these factors to blur the boundaries between indoors and outdoors as much as possible while creating an end result that appears as though it has always been there. This is the best and most efficient solution to maximizing use and enjoyment of a space.

INTEGRATE INSTEAD OF SEPARATE

Take the idea of a group of people working together to build a trail instead of one person toiling away alone. While everyone has their own role in the project, there is the shared goal of building a trail in a designated location using agreed upon methods. The same concept works when starting a master plan for your garden. Placing the right element in the right place creates supportive relationships threaded throughout the design. In other words, each piece has an important job, no matter how small. Everything is connected.

One example of this is choosing a color for your front door. Instead of stopping there and transitioning to beige walls inside, carry that same color onto an inside wall visible from the entry. You immediately connect the two and create design cohesion.

If your garden is small or even nonexistent, claiming your sidewalk to create temporary chalk or other natural art is a different way to bring your indoor style out the front door while also directly engaging with community.

REPETITION

Using linear or repetitive elements in a garden is often seen as static or dull. But consciously choosing where to place hedges or multiple pieces of pottery in the landscape, you can create outdoor rooms



Use chalk or other art to bring your indoor style out the front door.



Use hedges or pottery in the landscape to create outdoor rooms.

within and around the boundaries. This concept moves beyond traditional foundation plantings and is based on the same idea of rooms within a home. The difference outside is that the boundaries of each space have varying levels of transparency and height, and may be much more subtle. If your living room overlooks a commanding view, creating a long rectilinear patio flanked by bold pots at the corners is one way to frame the view while also introducing approachable, human-scaled elements into the space.

Don't be afraid to experiment. By working within a planned framework, a big picture design will better reflect how you really envision home and garden intertwined. It will also provide a direct connection to the land and exploit your garden's ability to delight on even the coldest early spring days. ☺

Page Huyette owns Vida Flora Design and can be reached at page@vidaflora.net.



Don't be afraid to experiment when creating a design that blurs the boundaries between the indoors and outdoors.

Design by Scatie Cousin



GETTING YOU INTO A NEW HOME IS WHAT MOVES US.

A home you can call your own is one of the true measures of success. That's why First Security Bank offers refinancing options, home equity loans, mortgages, construction loans, lot loans and lines of credit. However you define success, we're committed to helping you get there.

To learn more, call 406.585.3800.

