

Good reasons to work with a professional landscape designer . . .

Designing a home landscape is daunting, especially if you have a challenging site.

As a qualified landscape designer, I can help you come up with fresh ideas that work and are cost effective. I have the experience and know-how to help you solve complex landscaping problems, especially those related to sloping properties.

A good design will ensure that you will get it right the first time, saving yourself time, money and effort.

You will receive a workable plan that meets your landscaping and outdoor living needs. Construction details are laid out clearly, and drawings and plant lists are based on extensive knowledge of site issues. I incorporate the trees, shrubs and perennials that grow best in the tough Calgary and area climate.

I'll help you create a design that works the first time, so you can avoid the common problem of an expensive construction job that doesn't really solve your biggest landscaping problems. The end result: an integrated and harmonious landscape that adds significantly to the value and enjoyment of your home.

Ina Hitchener

Landscape Design & Consultation

Specializing in designing beautiful and functional landscapes no matter what the client's budget, Ina employs her extensive knowledge of plants, site analysis and design principles to create pleasing, practical and ecologically sound landscapes. A well thought-out plan saves you time, cost and effort. It gives you great results quickly, helping you avoid costly mistakes.

Design Services

- 1 Landscape Consultation
- 2 Landscape Construction Design Plan
- 3 Planting Design Plan
- 4 Maintenance Tips, Services & Demonstrations

Education

Landscape Design and Construction Certificate, Chinook College, Calgary, Alberta, 2001

Numerous Landscaping Courses @ Devonian Botanical Gardens, Edmonton, Alberta, 1986-1999

Bachelor of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario, 1982

Schoolyard Naturalization Workshop Series @ The Calgary Zoo, Calgary, Alberta, 2002-2003

Experience

Almost 20 years helping people successfully implement their landscaping ideas. Plans & photos are available for viewing; references upon request.

Winner of the 2003 Calgary Award for Environmental Achievement

Design of the Cornerstone Gardens at Calgary Christian School: A Schoolyard Naturalization Project



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bringing your garden dreams to life



OPTION 1

The Landscape Consultation

How long does a consultation take? We need about two to three hours to access your site and talk to you about your landscaping needs and wants. (A fixed fee is charged within this time frame; additional time is charged at an hourly rate if necessary.)

What do we accomplish at a Consultation?

1. We identify your needs and dreams and budget.
2. Offer general design suggestions and ways to solve site problems.
3. We identify your favourite plants and suggest planting ideas
4. Make rough sketches to outline design elements.
5. Show layout of certain landscape elements on site (if possible based on information available).
6. Provide general cost comparisons for different materials.
7. We discuss your options on how to proceed.
8. Provide resource lists, for example, recommended contractors, sources for landscape materials, maintenance tips, web sites, etc.

Ina's design was exactly what we were looking for. It provided a balance of privacy, ease of maintenance, practicality and was unique to the neighbourhood.

Glenn and Maura Reierson,
Tuscany, Calgary

OPTION 2

The Landscape Construction Plan

This is the kind of plan you should have for accurate cost estimates from landscape contractors. To-scale landscape construction plans include a detailed site plan, layout of all hard (decks, patios, fences, retaining walls) and soft (structural plants) landscape elements. Your plan includes material specifications for all the hardscaping and shows where structural trees and shrubs will be planted.

What steps go into preparing a 'to scale' Landscape Construction Plan?

1. At the initial consultation to find out what you need, will give you an estimate for the construction design.
2. Then I measure and take photographs of your yard.
3. From this information, I draw up a detailed 'to scale' site plan, which shows us all the conditions in your yard that will affect what we design, (drainage, wind, sun, location of views to retain or camouflage; shelter, location of doors, windows & utilities; storage, privacy & access needs, slope, etc.). On a sloped yard an elevation survey is sometimes necessary. (An hourly rate is charged for this.)
4. Using the site plan as a base, I incorporate your ideas and wishes into a concept plan. This shows the layout of the hardscape (patios, walls, steps, paths, fences, gates, dog runs, planting beds, etc.) as well as important structural plants.
5. When the concept design is ready, we meet to identify any changes you require, so that I can complete the final landscape plan.
6. Finishing the final plan: This drawing includes dimensions and material specifications so that costs can be estimated.
7. When you have the final plan, I can help you decide what to contract out. I can recommend reliable contractors who do excellent work. If you have a planting plan done, the cost of the plants and the planting work can be estimated as well.

OPTION 3

The Planting Plan

A detailed to-scale plan showing where your plants will be located, includes a full plant list, trees, shrubs and perennials

What steps go into preparing a detailed Planting Plan?

1. At the initial consultation we choose your favourite trees, shrubs, and perennials, and identify your favourite colours, planting styles, etc. After this consultation to discuss your needs, I will give you an estimate for the design.
2. Using the Construction Plan as a base, I prepare the planting plan. All plants are drawn to scale to their mature size, to avoid future overcrowding, and are identified on a legend.
3. When selecting plants, the following points are considered: 'four season' interest, micro-climates, soil conditions, views, colour, texture, size, shape, contrast, foliage, style, plant arrangements, cost and availability.
4. You also get separate plant lists that you can take to nurseries or contractors for supply and installation estimates.

I hired Ina Kitchener to find a solution to a drainage problem in the front of my home and create some kind of a landscape that would be more appealing. Ina came up with a landscape design that not only solved the problem but also was extremely creative in its design.

Darlene Pasche
Tuscany, Calgary

OPTION 4

Maintenance Tips, Services and Demonstrations:

(charged on an hourly basis)

We provide maintenance tips, services, and demonstrations for:

- Sod edging
- Weed Management
- Pruning
- Planting & Watering

We also discuss the idea of low maintenance and answer your questions:

What are low maintenance conditions?

What low maintenance practices should I follow?

What makes an effective and attractive low maintenance garden layout?

Ina has an exceptional ability to transform our small gardening thoughts into a design that not only encompassed the ideas we had entertained, but also included many things we were not aware of in terms of perennials, shrubs and trees to plant in the Calgary environment. Ina designed a fantastic patio and concrete design as well!

Al and Susan Kinnear
Tussetwood, Calgary