



Luxescapes, LLC

Landscape Creations by Design

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Working With a Designer

Creating the design for your landscape should be a pleasurable experience. It is when you get to make your landscape *yours!* Here are a few tips on how to prepare for working with a Landscape Design Professional:

- ❑ **Qualify your Designer.** If you are a Residential Homeowner, you do not need to hire a Licensed Landscape Architect (according to *Article 45). Landscape Architect Licensure is meant to maintain standards and public safety in commercial settings. However, this does not mean anyone is qualified for residential design. Your designer must be familiar with standards for drainage, safety, functionality, longevity and durability specifically for our region. There are Landscape Design and Landscape Architecture Degrees, as well as certification programs geared specifically for residential landscapes. Ask to see credentials, and work/educational experience.
- ❑ **Discuss your timeframe.** Be realistic. Designing your landscape is a process which may include several revisions. Plan on at least a week or two (depending on the scope of work) in just working with a designer on your design. Then ask how far out crews typically schedule.
- ❑ **Think about how you want to use your outdoor space.** Do you want to use it for entertaining, relaxing, day or evening use?
- ❑ **Consider the different features you would like.** Do you want a large patio, water feature, lighting, grill, or fire feature? Peruse through our portfolio or magazines to get ideas, and start a scrapbook or list.
- ❑ **Take note of what styles draw your attention.** These can be planting styles (i.e. mass plantings, formal, naturalistic, color, etc.) or architectural styles of the hardscape (i.e. curvilinear, straight lines, abstract, organic, etc.), or any other "theme" that you are drawn to. It is important to compliment the architectural features of the house, but sometimes "thinking outside the box" can have a rewarding result as well. A good designer will help you establish your design around a style or theme that suits your lifestyle, but more importantly, they will tell you when these styles will conflict.
- ❑ **Establish your long term and short term budget goals.** A huge part of a designer's job is to help you establish and meet those goals. If you were building a house, you wouldn't hire an architect to design something without giving them an idea of the price you would like to see (unless money is not an issue). In the same respect, if you are not willing to put a limit on the budget for your landscape, then expect to see a design that is well beyond your budget. Contractors know what things cost; this is where a design-build firm has a huge advantage over an independent designer in this step.
- ❑ **Drawings.** You get what you pay for. Professional Designers will charge for a design. Please keep in mind that most of them can give you a pretty good idea of how much it will cost for design as well as ballpark the installation costs prior to the design process. AutoCAD drawings enable your designer to digitally archive designs for future use and historical records.
- ❑ **Choose a Contractor.** Learn more about [Qualifying Your Contractor](#).

*Article 45 of title 12, Colorado Revised Statutes, section 12-45-118. - "Exemptions. (1) (d) RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN, CONSISTING OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES FOR SINGLE- AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES OF FOUR OR FEWER UNITS NOT INCLUDING COMMON AREAS" -- PAGE 21-SENATE BILL 07-107