

# 3 SECRETS

TO AN

*amazing*

# LANDSCAPE

You do not need to be a professional landscape designer to have a gorgeous home landscape. I am so excited to share with you some simple design principles that will make your landscape look AH-mazing! Are you ready to create a stunning landscape that you want to show off to everyone? Let's get started...



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SECRET NO. 1:

# REPEAT

*repeat*

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I often hear from customers that they aren't happy with their current landscape, but that they can't put their finger on why. They say "it just doesn't feel cohesive" or "organized", or "it needs something". Oftentimes what has been overlooked, is the use of repetition. By repeating plants or colors throughout your garden you create a rhythm and interwoven structure that makes it attractive and inviting to the eye.

Be aware though, there is a fine line to using repetition: While too many unrelated objects can make your garden look cluttered and unplanned, too much of one element can make a landscape feel uninteresting, boring and monotonous. Your goal is to use elements throughout your landscape with similar or identical form, shape, color or texture to enhance the rhythm of your landscape. Just as your favorite song has a consistent, repetitive beat to support the merry melody, your landscape needs repetitive elements to bring it all together.





# *Pick One Thing*

Pick one thing...  
a color, texture, or  
even a favorite  
plant and repeat  
it throughout  
your garden.

Start by picking one thing... a color, texture, or even a favorite plant and repeat it throughout your garden. For example, when you come to the nursery, consider purchasing at least three of the same plant instead of one. If you have a large space, consider purchasing three groups of three of the same plant, instead of just one... for considerably more impact.

Use this plant as an "anchor" plant throughout your landscape to tie it all together.

On the following pages, I've included additional suggestions on how to include repetition in your landscape to help you create a feeling of rhythm and unity.



## *Repetition of Form*

By choosing a variety of strong, bold, vertical plants such as spiky blue delphiniums, verbascums, salvias, foxglove, lupins, red hot pokers and foxtail lilies and planting groups of them at intervals through your beds you will create a striking rhythm that lifts the eye.



Grasses are also great plants to work with to unify your garden space. They easily create a rhythm to your design when repeated. For example, the slim upright grass *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' provides almost year round structure and rhythm in this picture.



## *Repetition of Shape*

Plants with similar shapes mirror each other throughout the garden and create unity in the planting. For example, ball-shaped boxwood, and alliums as shown to the left, or 'Annabelle' hydrangeas and dahlias, all with their ball-shaped form, when sprinkled through the garden create visual unity and rhythm.

# *Repetition of Color*



I personally think the second easiest way to create a cohesive, professional-looking landscape is to repeat plants of the same color throughout your landscape. I say "second easiest" because sometimes limiting yourself to a simple color palette is harder than it might seem because of all the variety available. However, limiting your color palette will draw a visitor's eye smoothly throughout the garden.

In the picture above, the garden has been limited to plantings of purples, white and greens to create a peaceful and restful space.

Salvia, nepeta, boxwood, butterfly bush, geraniums and daisies are planted repetitively against a conifer backdrop

Repetition is key to creating unity in your garden. It helps visually unify all the different elements of a landscape so they are seen together as a whole, instead of each one individually.

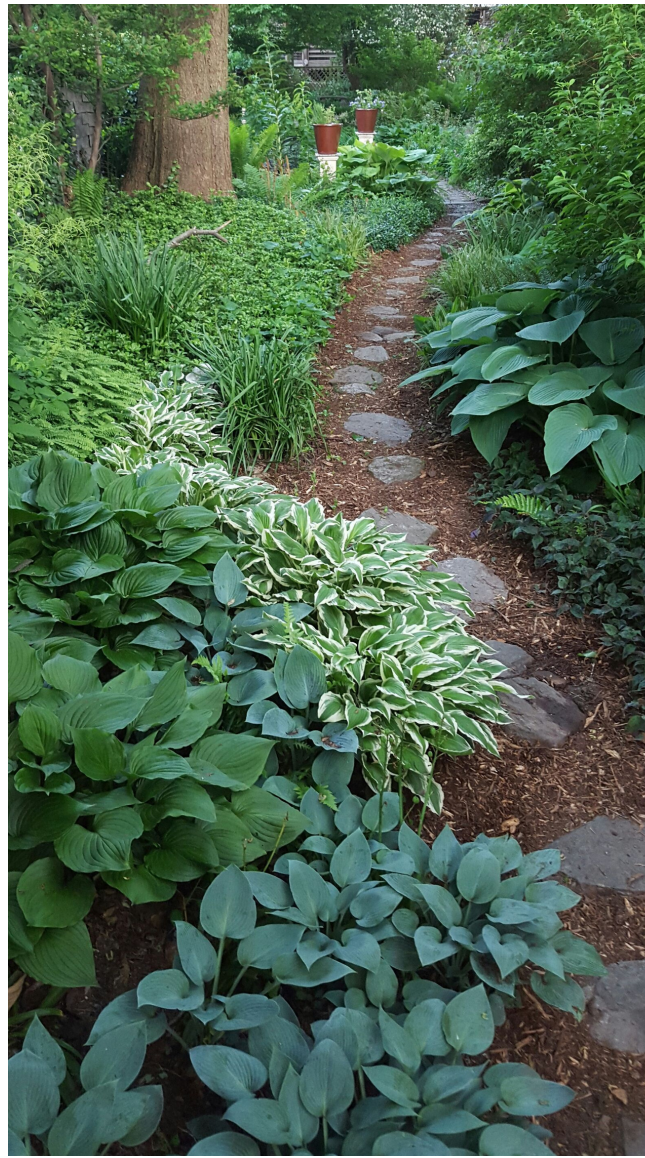
SECRET NO. 2:

# ARRANGE PLANTS IN *groupings* OR DRIFTS

Secret number 2 we can learn from nature. In nature, plants tend to grow in communities that are often characterized by a relatively small number of dominant plant species, with a number of less common species growing alongside them.

By making this a design principle to copy in your own garden, you will draw the eye throughout your landscape instead of creating a feeling of visual dysfunction.

In a large landscape, for example, one small plant is simply not enough to make an impressive display and too many different types of plants in a small space can quickly become overwhelming and chaotic.





By planting your plants in drifts or groupings of 3, 5 or even 7 of the same plant, you can give that plant the visual space it needs in your landscape to stand out and make an impact.

Intermingle larger single "focal" plants with plants in drifts and groupings.

Combine a few massed clumps of flowers amid a backdrop drift of grasses and then repeat that same grouping elsewhere in your landscape on a larger or smaller scale.



If you have a large area, you can do this with bigger plants and more of them; in a small space, choose smaller plants with a more limited species palette.

Planting in this way will not only create a cohesive feel to your garden, it will also be easier to maintain as the whole grouping of plants will require similar care at the same time of the year.



To sum it up:

Rather than using many different types of plants, consider using more of one kind of plant and planting them together in drifts or groupings of 3, 5, or 7+ (any odd number) for maximum impact.

SECRET NO. 3:

# ESTABLISH A focal POINT

A landscaping focal point is a remarkable element that can transform your landscape design - it's like the cherry on top -- it adds an extra layer of visual appeal to your outdoor space and helps draw attention to certain details pulling everything together and bringing harmony to the design. It can take a or "boring" or "uninteresting" garden and make it "exciting".

Whether it's an eye-catching tree, a captivating piece of garden art, or simply a row of cheerful flowers, a focal point works to

unify all the elements in your landscape design by acting as a central point for the eye to focus on. This adds purpose, proportion, movement and drama to your yard. After all, focal points are the stars of the show - they demand your attention! Plus, focal points are pretty low maintenance and can provide continuous interest without needing too much care.





When deciding upon a focal point, use your imagination and get creative. There are endless possibilities - anything that makes you and your visitors pause: a beautiful, unique tree; a meaningful piece of garden art; or a simple planter filled with vibrant flowers.

Choosing a focal point for your landscaping is like choosing the anchor of your outdoor oasis. Regardless of what you choose, let it be something that you'll enjoy looking at every day and has meaning to you.



## *Water Feature*

There's something special about the sound of running water that puts us at ease and having a focal point like a fountain or waterfall in your backyard can create a sense of tranquility. It doesn't have to be big and fancy - there are plenty of ready-made smaller options that will do the trick just as well. Plus, when people come over to visit, they'll be captivated by the calming oasis you've created in your own backyard!

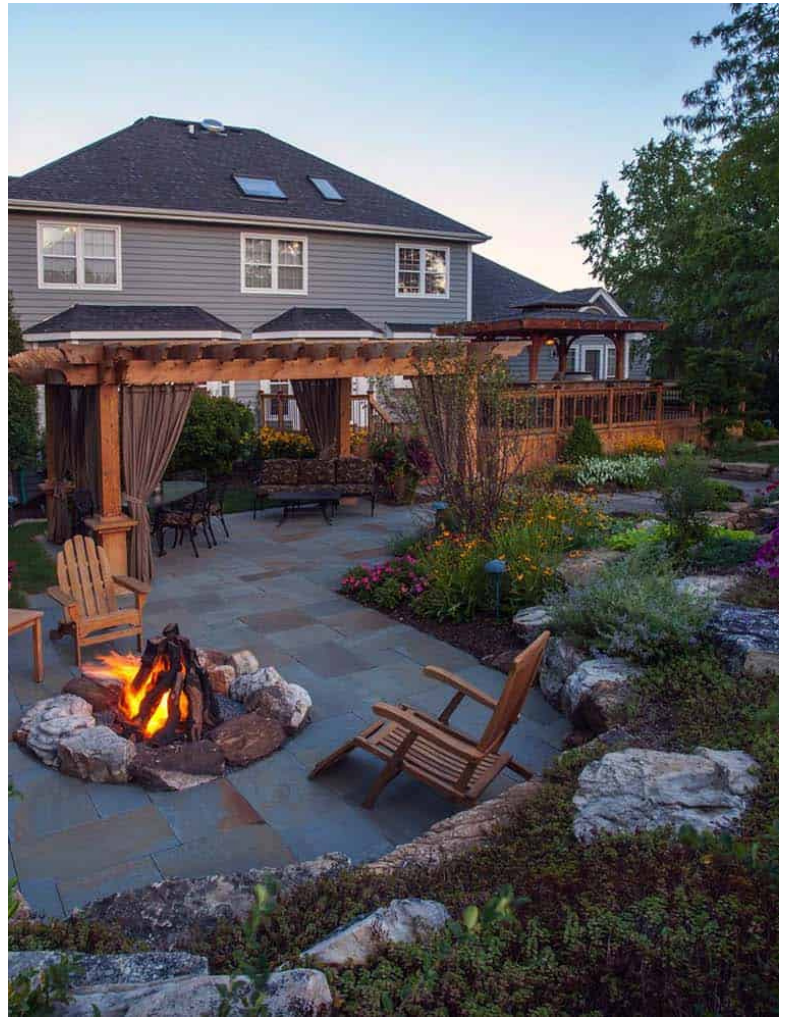


## *Ornamental Tree or Shrub*

Ornamental trees and shrubs are a great way to lend unique beauty and interest to any garden. They can create a focal point that adds an elegant touch to your outdoor area. Be sure to choose one suited to the conditions of your yard; with appropriate sunlight, water, and maintenance it will become a showstopper in no time.

## *Cozy Firepit*

Fire pits have become the focal point of many cozy and inviting backyard setups. Not only will it provide the perfect ambience for a summer night under the stars, but you can also use it to extend backyard gatherings into the cooler months. Gathering around the fire for stories and songs is a surefire way to build memories that last far beyond summertime.



## *Built-In Lighting*

Installing built-in lighting can instantly upgrade the look of your landscape, giving it a focal point that will have all eyes admiring its beauty. Accent lights are perfect for highlighting stunning focal points such as trees, sculptures, or shrubs. Path lights bring in an element of safety during night-time strolls. You could even get creative with string of rope lights to create an enchanting and whimsical atmosphere. Regardless of what type of lighting you decide on, upgrading your landscaping with built-in lighting is the perfect way to infuse both beauty and function into your outdoor spaces.



# *A Welcoming Walkway*



Make your front walkway a focal point to create a truly inviting entrance!

To start, make sure it is in good repair and free of debris and weeds. Then add some pizzazz by using pavers or stones in interesting patterns or plant a few colorful flowers along the side. When visitors come over and walk up to your front door they'll know they've arrived at the right place!

To sum it up, focal points are an important aspect of landscape design. They draw the eye and provide a place around which to design your garden. Focal points such as a large tree, or man-made structures like a large planter, garden sculpture, bench or arbor will make your landscaping more engaging to viewers. So, if you're looking to amp up your landscape design, focal points should be an integral part of your plan!

Focal points can draw the eye and provide a focal point from which to create a design plan.

# IN *Conclusion...*



You don't have to be an expert landscape designer to have a gorgeous landscape around your home.

By following just these three design principles, you can transform a simple garden into something that looks like it was put together by professionals.

Using repetition in your garden, planting in drifts and adding a focal point will go a long ways to creating an attractive and cohesive look.

If you keep these ideas in mind, you'll be sure to create a stunning landscape that will stand out from miles away. And feel free to stop by the nursery if you ever have any questions or need some help or guidance with any of these principles.

Happy Landscaping!  
~*Melissa*