COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

This editor has been deliberating with himself about adding Landscape Design Tips in this Landscape Design Newsletter. He would just not take the “bull by the horns” and move forward. However, getting an email from the Horticulture Newsletter Editor, Gail Berthe, suggesting that he consider a Landscape Design Tips from Concord Garden Club, and receiving the information from her, it was decided that Gail sent the “bull” and this editor took the “horns” and Landscape Design Tips from Concord Garden Club would indeed be included in this edition. So it is hoped that this editor will receive the many positive comments about Landscape Design Newsletter with Landscape Design Tips included. It is also hoped that anyone having similar suggestions and information will email this editor so other tips for landscape can be included in future editions.

Not only are we going to discuss the Landscape Design Tips from Concord Garden Club, we are also going to take a “trip” to Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation Historic Site in Brunswick, Georgia. So, get your gloves and tools handy as you learn about Landscape Design Tips and “pack” your suitcase as we travel to Brunswick, Georgia.

This editor would like to thank Sheryl Beck for bringing to him the idea of “going” to Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation. I hope you enjoy the “trip” as much as I have.

So let’s get going!

Dr. John Barnett, Landscape Design Editor
DECISIONS!

PHASE I: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GOALS: What do you want? Make a list, no matter how outlandish, start with what you WANT. Don’t worry. You will eventually get to what you NEED. A pool? Gazebo? Fish Pond? Fountain? Tennis or badminton court? Do you want to add value to your home in order to sell it at a better price? Maybe you just want something pleasant to look at or you want to quit looking at the trash cans! Make the list. Now, go through this list and prioritize it. Number them according to what you desire most. Assign a guesstimated price to each ‘want’. Add a date by which you think it could be accomplished.

FORM A BUDGET.

Money: How are you going to finance it?
Time: How long to complete the project?
Energy: How much time and energy can you give to maintenance? Swimming pools take maintenance time just like shrubbery does!

Now, go back to the list and re-prioritize the list according to your budgeted: money, time and energy.

PHASE II: DECISIONS

What is your space? Front yard, back yard? Casual? Formal? Compare your available space with your want ‘list’. Revise as needed. Identify any shrubbery, trees, buildings, etc. that are to remain. Know about every tree, shrub and flower in the space and determine its health and usefulness [shade, color, flower, fruit, etc.]

Hardscape go in FIRST. [A backhoe building a fish pond later will ruin your yard!]

All plumbing for sprinklers, electrical lines, ponds, fountains, playgrounds, concrete sidewalks and parking pads need to be put in first. Does drainage need to be corrected? Make sure all water flows away from the foundation of the house and does not pool. No better way to determine this than to be OUTSIDE during a heavy rain watching to see where the water goes. . .sorry. Watch for standing puddles after the rain.

Assign ‘users’ for all land and building to be included. Can any do ‘double duty’? Could a gazebo be turned into an outdoor kitchen or a hot tub space or even a screen house? Can a carport be changed into an occasional party spot? Decide what will be public and what will be private space.

PHASE III: DRAWING AND DREAMING

Now with these DECISIONS made, you may begin with the design phase. PICTURES! PICTURES! PICTURES! Take photographs from every available corner of the space looking toward the house then from the house outward. Go inside the house and take photos from each and every window. This will be your ‘view’! Do you like it? What do
you want to hide? Trashcans, propane tanks? Parking lot? Neighbors?!?!?!?!? Dog pen? Photographs are amazingly brutal! You will see things in photographs that you do not see in person! Why is that?

Draw a rough scale model of the existing area with everything there, marking what needs to be removed and what needs to be screened. Draw a second model with those things removed, mark what additional screening and determine how much space is available for design. Draw in any areas, shrubs

Look at the path of the sun over the course of the day. Consider the seasonal change of the suns path. Determine where there is light to deep shade, and light to full sun. To a large degree this will determine what your plant material will be.

Determine your traffic pattern through the area:

- Make sure you do not have ‘dead ends’ with no purpose to them.
- The front sidewalk leading from the front door to the parking area needs to be five feet wide. This width is visually welcoming and allows two people to walk side by side rather than following like ducks.
- Make sure that all exits from the house have large ‘landing pads’ designed into them. People like to stand and talk a bit as they are leaving your house.
- Consider utility, will it be easy to get the groceries in from the parking area/carport/garage?

Call utility companies and have them come out and mark their lines. This will save a lot of headaches latter by avoiding sliced cable lines, water or GAS leaks, YIKES! ;( This is a free service. Are there any easements on your property? Mark all of these lines on your drawing

Planning a grilling area or an outdoor kitchen? Make sure grills and turkey fryers are NOT designed to set up on wooden decks. Ask any fireman how many houses burn down because of unattended or misattended and miscalculated hot oil turkey fryers catching on fire. Grills belong on dirt, cement or stone, period!

Can you place a roof over your entertainment area? Eventually? It will extend the usefulness of this area in inclement weather such as rain or hot summer sunshine. But make sure the roofline compliments the house and does not obstruct a desirable view.

Make your designs compatible with the house design. Designs need to ‘talk’ to each other. A cactus garden in a Cape Cod style house may look out of place. An English cottage garden might look strange with an ultra-modern house.

Hardscape items in general, need to be simpler than the house design. They should not ‘out design’ the house. Ex. A heavy Victorian ‘gingerbread’ outbuilding does not belong with a simple ranch style house. But rooflines need to match or complement each other.

If fencing attaches to the house offset, it from the corner of the house. Move gates away from the edge of the house. Take more pictures! Pictures! Pictures!
Lighting? Will your landscape be used in the nighttime? You will need lights for safety. Include enough ‘level’ space to meet your entertainment needs. Family picnics, games, etc. And did we mention to TAKE PICTURES!

PHASE IV: PLANTS FINALLY!
Sorry, we do not start with flowers or with shrubbery but with trees. Know every tree in your space and determine its value --- shade, fruit, framing a view etc. Ornamental trees are accents to other elements, they are not to be planted alone but considered along with the entire design.

Now, draw your beds to solve problems. Soften edges, lead the eye to a focal point. Give attractive distraction while screening a problem, house a collection of favored plant material.

Pick your plant material to complete your goals --- beauty, shade, color, privacy, [flower arrangements ;-)]

- Choose and plan for plants at their MATURE size [HEIGHT and WIDTH] NOT the size purchased at the nursery. Know the ‘growth rate’ of the plant. Nothing dates a house like overgrown shrubs. Determine how much time and energy you can give toward maintenance, pruning, watering, weeding, fertilizing, spraying, etc.
- Right plant --- right place! Sun/shade requirements. Afternoon sun? Morning sun? Water requirements, pH requirements, soil conditions such as drainage or lack thereof. Ex. Camellia, rhododendrons, ferns, and azalea like an acidic soil. Lilacs like alkaline soil. KNOW your plant material. READ, READ, READ Ask friends, etc. Cold air drain? Choose your plants carefully and you won’t be wasting your money and time.
- Vary the texture of the plant material for visual interest. Hellebores with aspidistra and impatiens. Ferns with hosta and Lenten roses. Contorted filbert with hawthorn and mahonia.
- Consider the seasons. Deciduous and evergreens need to be combined for seasonal interest. Design your beds for pleasing rhythm of the eye.
- Plan for a few complimentary objects scattered among your plant material but don’t have it look like you made too many trips to Big Lots! Garden Objects should be as complimentary as the plants themselves.

OTHER STUFF:
This principal is used with a grain of salt . . . The more you use a material the stronger your design line becomes. Ex. Similar trees planted along a path or road as a border. This has to be done carefully because it can be as boring as monkey grass bordering a sidewalk.

Try to use no more than three different materials in hardscape. Match them. Use only natural materials for the landscape. Please, no rubber mulch. A garden is never finished, only the gardener.

Take your time and enjoy the journey.

Are YOUR Bags packed?
Let’s go to
Hofwyl – Broadfield Plantation Historic Site
The Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation was a plantation on the Altamaha River, in Glynn County, Georgia. It produced rice from 1800 until 1915, when growing rice became unprofitable. Then it was primarily a dairy farm until 1942.

The property was originally named "Broadface" and marsh land was converted into rice fields. It was purchased in 1806 by William Brailford, who renamed it "Broadfield". After he died, the property passed to his son-in-law, Dr. James M. Troup, brother of Governor George Troup. When Troup died in 1849, the plantation was 7,300 acres in size and utilized 357 slaves. The property passed on to his daughter, Ophilia Troup, and her husband, George Dent. The current main house was built in the early 1850s and they added "Hofwyl" to the name about that time.

With the outbreak of the War Between the States, George Dent and his 15-year-old son James went to serve in the Confederate Army. Ophilia and her children moved to a refugee camp near Waycross, Georgia. After the war, large parts of the land were sold to pay taxes and by the time James Dent took over the property in 1880, the wealth was gone.

When James Dent died in 1913 the family was still in debt. His son, James, and his daughters, Miriam and Ophilia Dent, operated the land as a dairy farm until 1942. At its peak as a dairy farm, it had about 35 cows and produced 100-150 bottles of milk per day. When the dairy was shut down in 1942, the property was finally out of debt. The two sisters (the firth generation of the family to live there) lived at the house until the last survivor, Ophelia, died in 1973. She left the property to the state of Georgia.

The marsh has reclaimed the rice fields. The plantation site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and is operated as a Georgia State Historic Site. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources manages 1,268 acres of land and 696 acres of marsh.
Hofwyl-Broadfield's Old Rice Fields:

What today is seen as marshland was once the highly cultivated basis of a coastal agricultural empire. Learn about how the marshes became some of the most valuable property in Georgia. Learn about the men and women, both slave and free, who transformed the environment and altered the destiny of coastal Georgia. The program will consist of a presentation and then a short hike along one of the old rice dikes to a raised observation deck, from which the old rice fields may be viewed. Saturday, Mar 26, 2016 (1 PM to 2:30 PM) and Saturday, Apr 9, 2016 (1 PM to 2:30 PM). Admission: $8 for adults $7 for seniors (62 and over) $5 for youth (6 to 17).

Landscape, Lost Gardens and forgotten Black Graveyard

Landscape Designs of The Plantation
Almost forgotten Black Cemetery where there is not enough man-power to clean and preserve the gravesites.

It was very interesting to research as many aspects as possible for Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation. It is found that Gullah is a term used to describe a community of people who live in the coastal regions of South Carolina. Geechee is the term used for the same community of people in Georgia. The Gullah-Geechee people were originally slaves brought over from West Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries. Slaves that were brought from Sierra Leone were sold to plantation owners in South Carolina and Georgia since the slaves knew how to farm rice in warm coastal climates. Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation offers educational programs about the history of the plantation, rice fields, lost gardens, forgotten graveyards and the Gullah-Geechee people. If it weren’t for these people, Howfyl-Broadfield Plantation may have never been established.
Objectives of the Landscape Design Study Program

1. Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride, and knowledge about our private and public gardens.

2. Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, and convenient, ecologically sound, and easily maintained.

3. Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning that will affect all of our lives.

4. Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards, and promoting better landscape design.

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May you all have a very Happy Easter!