



*Want to have the best landscaping on the block that's both functional and fashionable? Here's how:*

1. "Soften" the sides of a building or a blank wall with an Alaskan cedar, Arborvitae or other larger shrub. Ornamental grasses are another good option such as Miscanthus. Keep in mind mature size as well as what might end up in the gutter when making your selection keeping a 2-4' clearance from buildings.
2. Use large boulders to "anchor" certain areas. The forefront of a planting bed, near trees or the junction of a pathway are some examples of areas in need of some anchoring. Use multiple sizes ranging from 1 man to 4-5 man to keep a natural look. Boulders can also help "break grade" and anchor a hill side to prevent erosion. Sometimes natural dishes in the rock hold water and can be strategically positioned for bird baths and other wildlife.
3. Think in terms of overall scale by keeping your plant design, boulders and other elements in complimenting scale with the home or work area. A huge boulder in a small planting bed or a small planting bed next to a large house is not in balance.
4. Use seasonal color in curb appeal or high traffic areas. Your front entrance is an opportunity for a seasonal change out bed or planter pot arrangement, or perhaps a bright flowering hanging basket. In Fall and Winter, you can use ornamental cabbage, kale and peppers for color. Don't forget the areas you like to hang out at: decks, patios or views from a window.

5. Define lawn from planting beds or aggregates with metal edging, landscape timbers, or rock walls. This will ensure easier maintenance while providing an aesthetically pleasing and organized look.
6. Install a border around your building. This can be concrete or gravel walkways, or simply a strip of rock. This serves as the “buffer” zone to keep things that grow and crawl at bay, and will also allow for easier maintenance of the building.
7. To truly mimic nature, use less plant varieties and more plants. Think large drifts rather than a “hodge podge” of multiple varieties in a small space. This will create a more impactful and soothing landscape.
8. The goal of a planting bed is to cover the ground. Bark and mulch are temporary, this must be accomplished slowly and to scale, don’t over plant. Expect a 3-8-year timeline depending on the plants. Every year your job will get easier.
9. Planting beds should be “layered” and also have contrasting colors and textures. Try to have something blooming or some type of interest year-round.
10. Focal point elements like a specimen tree or even an art work piece can be used to add interest in key areas. This always works well at the front entrance or near your outdoor living space.

There are many elements to think through when designing a landscape, always start with the end in mind. You can sketch this out on a piece of paper, use photo image editing software, CAD design software or even hand draw a design. If working on a large project, it is very useful to use drone photography and/or a surveyor.

If you need any design help or have any design questions feel free to get ahold of me at 360-683-5741 or [onalandscaping@gmail.com](mailto:onalandscaping@gmail.com)

For more helpful information on landscaping, please visit our website at [www.onalandscaping.com](http://www.onalandscaping.com) and click on “what we do” “Info for New Clients-PDFs”



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