



How to Talk to Your Landscape Designer

1. See items 1-6 for How to Talk to your Landscaper. Speak to clients and visit projects.
2. Do they share a similar level of commitment to environment that you have? IE: are you interested in a major lawn and more manicured effect, or do you prefer an all native lawn alternative approach.
3. Inquire about the budgets they have managed on previous jobs. Is this compatible with what you want to spend? (Disclaimer: it always costs more than you thought.) Are they practical about working with existing conditions?
4. Ask who they use for installing and maintaining their jobs. They should have good relationships with toxin-free providers.
5. Ask about their main interests in the landscape. (Some like plants, some hardscape, etc.) Do they match your needs?
6. What is the first thing they are interested in knowing about a site, what do they feel is most important for starting out? (Good response: Soil and drainage.)
7. Do they seem knowledgeable about grading and drainage? Soils? Local growing conditions? If they are not local and do not have local references to confirm strong knowledge of what will work best in your area, it is good to include a contractor or consultant who can review plant list for appropriateness.
8. Do not be shy about using pictures from magazines to explain what you hope to achieve. It is very difficult to describe a landscape.