

THE UNPLUGGED YARD

CREATING YOUR OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE

NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY FROM A BLAND UNUSED YARD...

TO SPACES FOR CONNECTION, MEMORY-MAKING, AND DAILY ENJOYMENT

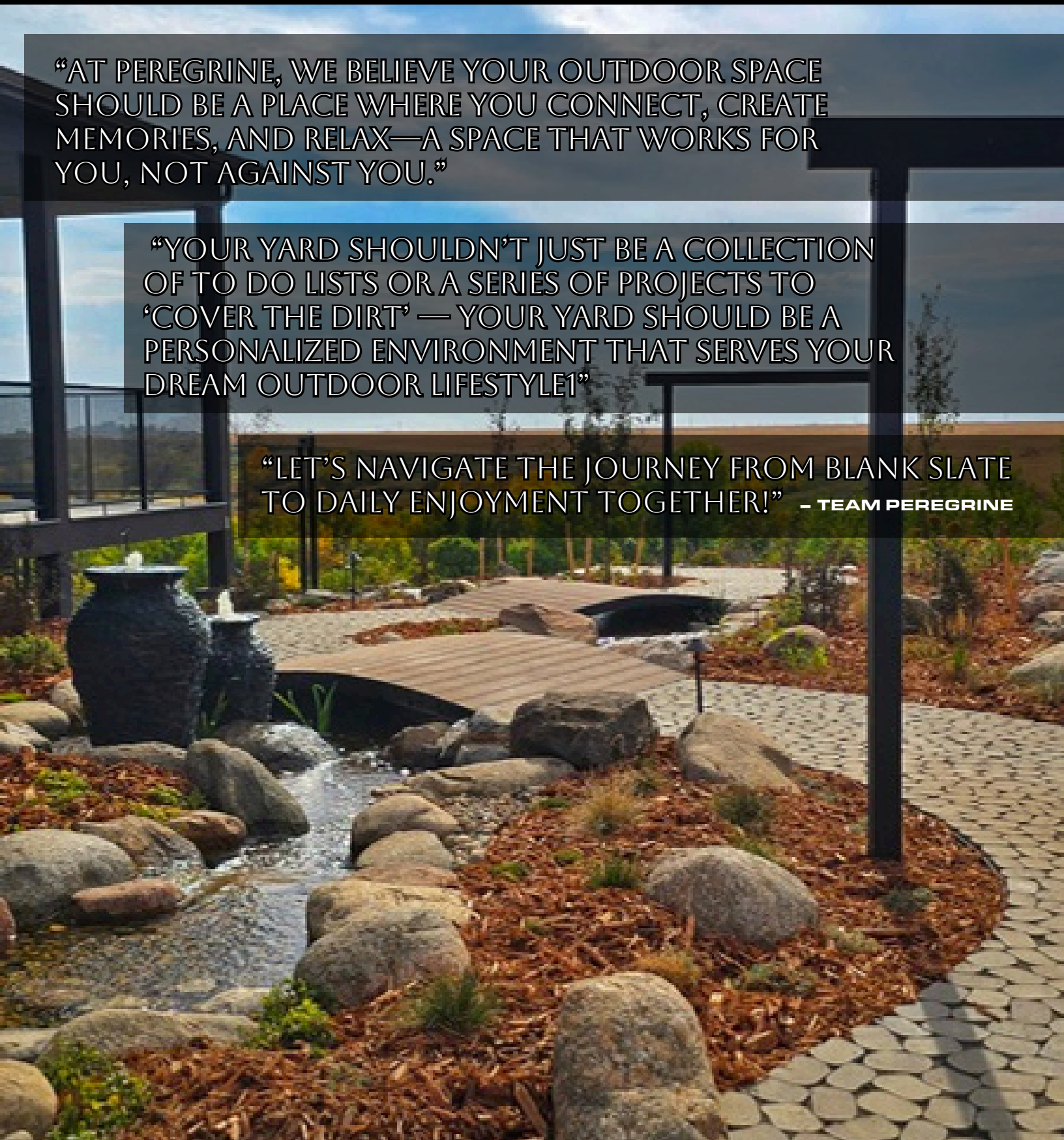
Landscaping Knowledge
For Homeowners

PEREGRINE
LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

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"AT PEREGRINE, WE BELIEVE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE YOU CONNECT, CREATE MEMORIES, AND RELAX—A SPACE THAT WORKS FOR YOU, NOT AGAINST YOU."

"YOUR YARD SHOULDN'T JUST BE A COLLECTION OF TO DO LISTS OR A SERIES OF PROJECTS TO 'COVER THE DIRT' — YOUR YARD SHOULD BE A PERSONALIZED ENVIRONMENT THAT SERVES YOUR DREAM OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE1"

"LET'S NAVIGATE THE JOURNEY FROM BLANK SLATE TO DAILY ENJOYMENT TOGETHER!" – TEAM PEREGRINE

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Our Contributors:

Barclay Krause

Barclay is the owner of Peregrine Landscape Construction and has been in the industry since 2008. In 2018, he established Peregrine Landscape Construction, excited to put his knowledge to use while building a team that would continue to grow, learn, and challenge each other in their craft with the singular focus of changing how homeowners treated landscaping: moving from a necessity to cover the ground to a way of creating outdoor lifestyles that get families together and off their screens - just like his own childhood.

Jesse Matlock

Jesse is a certified landscape designer with honours. He focuses on sustainability, aesthetics, and functionality in all of his designs. Jesse has designed over 1200 projects over the years that are vast & varied in style & purpose. He is known for adding movement to his designs in order to make the landscape feel alive. Jesse is an ICPI certified paver installer, certified water feature installer, certified in segmental retaining walls, and certified in organic horticulture to round out his ability to create both beautiful and fully structurally sound designs.

Jhary Friesen

Jhary first started landscaping in 2019 & has developed a great love for landscape construction while getting to build functional pieces of art. With experience in all areas of construction, his true specialty is in hardscaping. Patios and walls never looked so good. Jhary is an ICPI/CMHA certified concrete paver installer and SRW certified wall builder. He is a true master craftsman.



Tony Brigham

Tony has been in the green industry for over 15 years dealing with all aspects of landscape construction. Tony's specialty is focused on irrigation, water features, and structural elements from decks to pergolas. If you asked him, bringing the sights and sounds of moving water into the landscape is truly his biggest passion. Tony is a certified irrigation designer, ICPI certified paver installer, and a certified water feature installer.

Tristan Barry

Tristan has been landscaping since 2018, when he began in the industry as Peregrine's first employee. His dedication to his craft as a hardscape artist is on display in every project as he combines skill, artistry and a motivated approach to build one-of-a-kind landscapes. His years of on-the-job experience and a commitment to continual learning fuel Tristan's passion for transforming spaces from beginning to stunning completion. Tristan has spearheaded numerous remarkable hardscape projects, installing over 10,000 square feet of paving stone along the way.



FROM THE TEAM

Thank you for picking up The Unplugged Yard.

If you are like most homeowners, you look out your window and see not an extension of your life, but a duty. You see grass that needs cutting, weeds that need pulling, and a space that promises enjoyment but delivers a knot of stress and guilt. We call this feeling "The Silent Ache," and it's the reason this magazine exists.

At Peregrine, we believe your outdoor space should be a place where you connect, create memories, and relax—a space that works for you, not against you. This magazine isn't a sales brochure full of glossy photos; it is a guide for the educated homeowner. Yes, it does contain references to our processes and experiences...but what better way to educate than utilizing the knowledge of passionate people in the field everyday rather than a writer on a blog.

We wrote this guide because the landscape industry is full of shortcuts—in sub-bases, in designs, and in process. These shortcuts always, without fail, cost the homeowner more in the long run.

Our goal here is simple: to demystify the process and empower you to demand the highest standard of quality and to create not just a landscape, but your own outdoor lifestyle...regardless of if you DIY or work with a contractor.

When you're ready to move Beyond Flowers & Lawn and truly define your outdoor lifestyle, we hope you feel equipped to navigate the journey.

Enjoy the read, and let's start designing the life you deserve outside.
Sincerely,



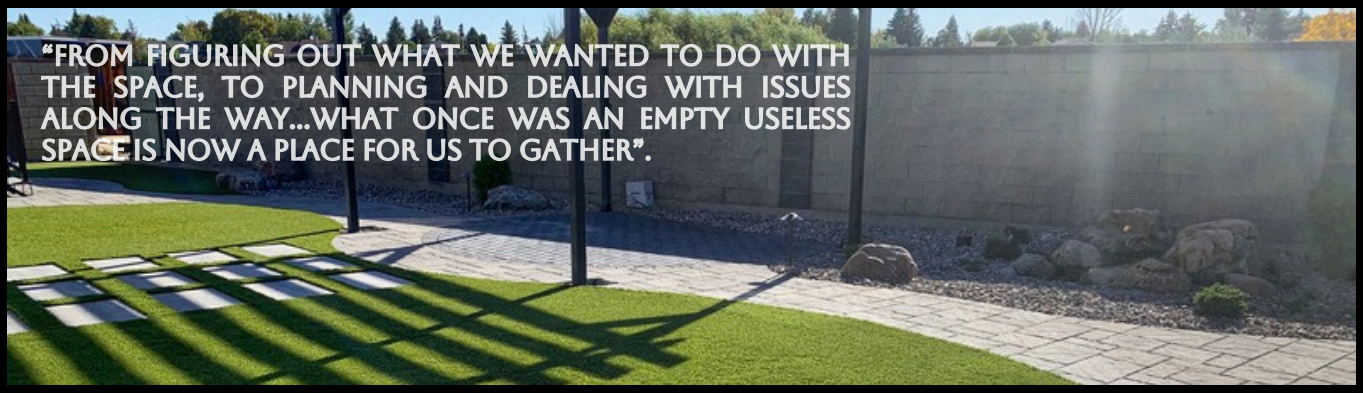
Barclay Krause (Owner)
& The Peregrine Landscape Construction Team

Where Landscaping Is An Art Form



THE SILENT ACHE:

WHY YOUR YARD IS A SOURCE OF STRESS (AND HOW TO FIX IT)



The Cost of "Just Good Enough”: You walk past the sliding door and sigh. You have a yard—a big one, maybe. But when do you ever truly use it? You look out those windows and feel a knot of stress & guilt instead of excitement, you see a space you feel obligated to maintain but you rarely feel motivated to use. This is the Silent Ache—the functional gap between the life you want to live outside and the landscape you currently own. For many, the yard is a source of stress: the dead patch of grass, the wobbly steps, the patio that gets too hot by noon, and the fire pit made from anything you have laying around—thanks for your efforts old washing machine drum! You may have invested time and money, only to find the space is boring, unused, or constantly demanding maintenance. The initial landscape was likely done to just cover the ground as cost-effectively as possible...and that's OK, because things cost money and having a lawn was the only original goal. However, the result is now a low-function, low-aesthetic, low-value, high-effort property. A property that gives you nothing in return but the time and cost you are currently paying to maintain it—mowing, weeding, and watering—and that you never actually use.

“YOU WANT A LIFE FULL OF CONNECTION, RELAXATION, AND FUN, BUT YOUR LANDSCAPE DIDN'T GET THE MEMO”

The Functional Disconnect: The Power of Purposeful Design. The fundamental revelation here is that your current landscape has a functional failure. It wasn't designed to support your lifestyle goals. You want a life full of connection, relaxation, and fun, but your landscape didn't get the memo. It’s not about the presence of grass or rock, but the absence of functional zones designed for connection and memory-making. A beautiful landscape should act as an outdoor extension of your home, not just a border around it. If your current space discourages relaxation, prevents connection, or complicates daily life (like carrying groceries around a poorly placed shrub and avoiding that hole in the deck board), it needs an overhaul. This is where the Design-to-Build philosophy starts: recognizing the need to move from an asset you service to an asset that serves you. The goal is to transform what is extra work and empty useless space into a place where your family gathers...where landscape elements like water features, patios, and fire pits are placed perfectly to enhance your outdoor lifestyle.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN PACKAGES



"A PROPERLY DESIGNED, FUNCTIONAL, AND ARTISTIC LANDSCAPE, IS ENGINEERED TO COMPEL YOU TO GO OUTSIDE"



Redefining the Backyard Investment: Exchanging Duty for Delight. The true investment in landscaping isn't in square footage of concrete; it's in the quality of life it enables. A poorly designed yard actively depreciates your time and energy. A properly designed, functional, and artistic landscape is engineered to compel you to go outside...to put down the phone and stop your doom scroll. How? Begin by addressing the pain points—the excess maintenance, the lack of privacy, the poor drainage—and work towards a transformation that exchanges duty for delight. These pain points are underlying your own Silent Ache, and without resolution, will continue to haunt your enjoyment. At Peregrine this journey begins with the Free Video Discovery Call to start the meticulous 4-Phase design process. But wherever you start, ensure you know what your **Functional Disconnect** and **Pain Points** are so you can overcome the Silent Ache.

BOOK A FREE VIDEO DISCOVERY CALL

DEFINING YOUR SILENT ACHE

WHAT IS YOUR SILENT ACHE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN FUNCTIONAL DISCONNECTS?

WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST PAIN POINTS?



BEYOND FLOWERS & LAWN:

DEFINING YOUR TRUE LANDSCAPE LIFESTYLE BLUEPRINT

When imagining what your outdoor lifestyle looks like you need to move Beyond Flowers & Lawn if you want to create something meant to live in rather than look at and maintain. Too often we see homeowner's unable to see past convention or history to what is truly possible. When you can finally see your yard as a space that is meant to be one of life's pleasures you see the opportunities everywhere. Yes, flowers and lawn are components of the yard, but why are they THE components?

Originally they marked a sign of aristocratic wealth in Europe as only those of means could afford to plant, water, and have staff maintain them. They were meant to look at and maintain as a sign of beauty and status. Then through adoption into American culture as part of the "American Dream" and as a show of wealth like their European counterparts, people all over North America adopted them as cultural mainstays and status symbols of "making it". But through all of this, the core of flowers and lawns remains true...they were meant to look at and maintain, not to be the fnctional centerpieces we designate the most space and energy to.

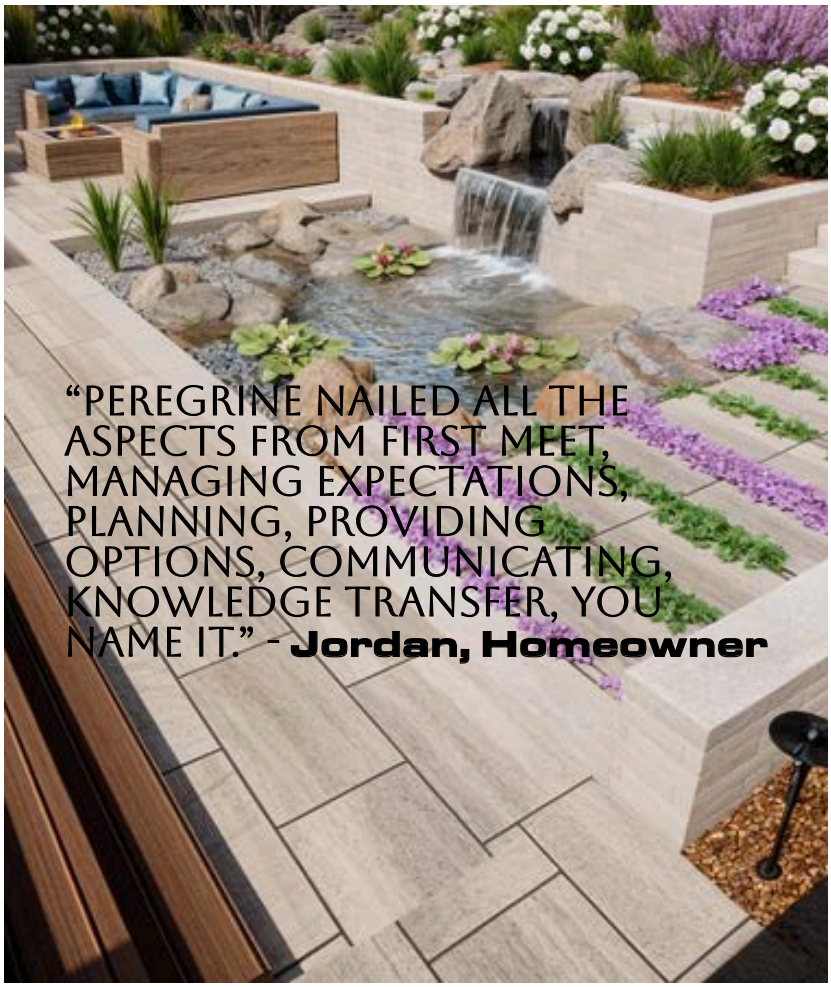
Now more than ever, in continually smaller lots and congested settings, it is pivotal to ignore convention and what we have been told we should have. Reverse the ratio and view your yard as space to use, interact with, enjoy, and live in. It is time for the patio, the deck, the fire pit, the fountain, the kitchen and life enhancing landscaping to take center stage and the status symbols of a bygone aristocratic era have the leftover space. Unlocking this new found square footage and mindset to maximize you outdoor space is a key step to moving Beyond Flowers & Lawn to your unique Landscape Lifestyle Bluepeint. The next step is to avoid the pitfalls of wasting that space by falling I to the wish list trap.

The Wish List Trap: Focusing on Features, Not Function. Most people’s journeys begin with a list of features: "I want a patio," "I need a shed," "Some nice flowers." This is the Wish List Trap. Focusing solely on features is like building a house by only ordering windows and doors—you miss the structure and purpose. You might be considering a water feature or a modern, custom patio, but without purpose, they risk being expensive, disconnected ideas...cue The Silent Ache! A true outdoor lifestyle landscape is designed around the emotional and experiential outcomes you desire. Landscaping Is Truly An Art Form, and the goal is to deeply personalize your yard to fit YOUR aesthetics, YOUR functionality, and YOUR maintenance goals.



The Three Pillars of Lifestyle Design: To move past the feature list, start by gathering information to define your True Landscape Lifestyle Blueprint across three pillars:

1. **Connection:** How do you want to interact with others? (e.g., hosting large dinner parties, intimate family gatherings, or just private relaxation?) This dictates the size and placement of gathering zones, and involves defining the general vibe or specific features you desire.
2. **Activity:** What will you do outside? (e.g., Cooking and dining, quiet reading, exercising, or playing sports/games?) This determines the need for specialized areas like outdoor kitchens, yoga decks, or artificial turf installations for kids and pets.
3. **Feel:** How do you want the space to feel? (like an all-inclusive resort, like a personal park, like a camping getaway, like a rustic European villa, like a restaurant patio, etc.). This guides the material palette and overall feel of the space.



Translating Dreams into Technical Specifications: Leverage the expertise of certified designers like our in-house designer, Jesse Matlock with over 1200+ unique designs of experience, certifications in sustainable landscape design, horticulture, and certifications in all major landscape construction methods. He would tell you that, “a good design translates the abstract goals of your outdoor lifestyle into precise technical plans, ensuring the material selections, layout, and features are right both aesthetically and structurally for your job.” He would also tell you that a good design should be priced out at every stage so you “don’t just create a pretty picture and a pipe dream.”

For example, if your goal is the "Stress-Free Hosting Hub," your blueprint should prioritize durable hardscaping, low-maintenance plantings, features that amplify & ease your hosting style like you have your own restaurant patio—counter space for consumables, an easy ignite gas fire pit—and sacrifices on the plant sizes or delaying that pergola build to make the budget work. This ensures the final result aligns perfectly with the life you aspire to live and that aligns with your goals for **Connection, Activity, and Feel**...and don’t forget that budget!

DEFINING YOUR LANDSCAPE LIFESTYLE BLUEPRINT

WHAT DOES CONNECTION LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

WHAT DOES ACTIVITY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

WHAT DOES AESTHETICS/MOOD FEEL LIKE FOR YOU?

LANDSCAPE DESIGN STYLE GUIDE

OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE GUIDE



SITE AUDIT SECRETS:
THE CRITICAL DATA TO COLLECT BEFORE THE FIRST SHOVEL

"SUCCESSFUL LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IS A SCIENCE ROOTED IN SITE AUDITING AND DATA COLLECTION"

The Invisible Forces that Destroy Projects: Many homeowners and inexperienced contractors rush into projects based only on property lines and aesthetic ideas. They ignore the invisible forces acting on the site or fail to properly measure and map out the canvas for your transformation. You should dread the contractor who gives a quote without ever visiting the job site. Successful landscape design and construction is a science rooted in Site Auditing and Data Collection. Failing to account for these environmental and structural factors is the number one reason patios crack, plants die, and water leaks into basements.



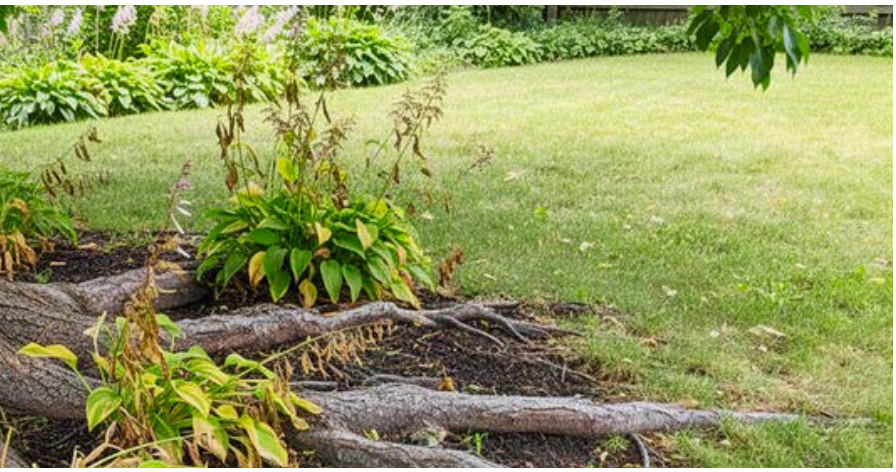


Use Our Peregrine Data Collection Checklist: Your Insurance Policy. Our process is built on meticulous data collection, which involves a detailed site analysis through a physical site visit. Use the same steps the Pros use:

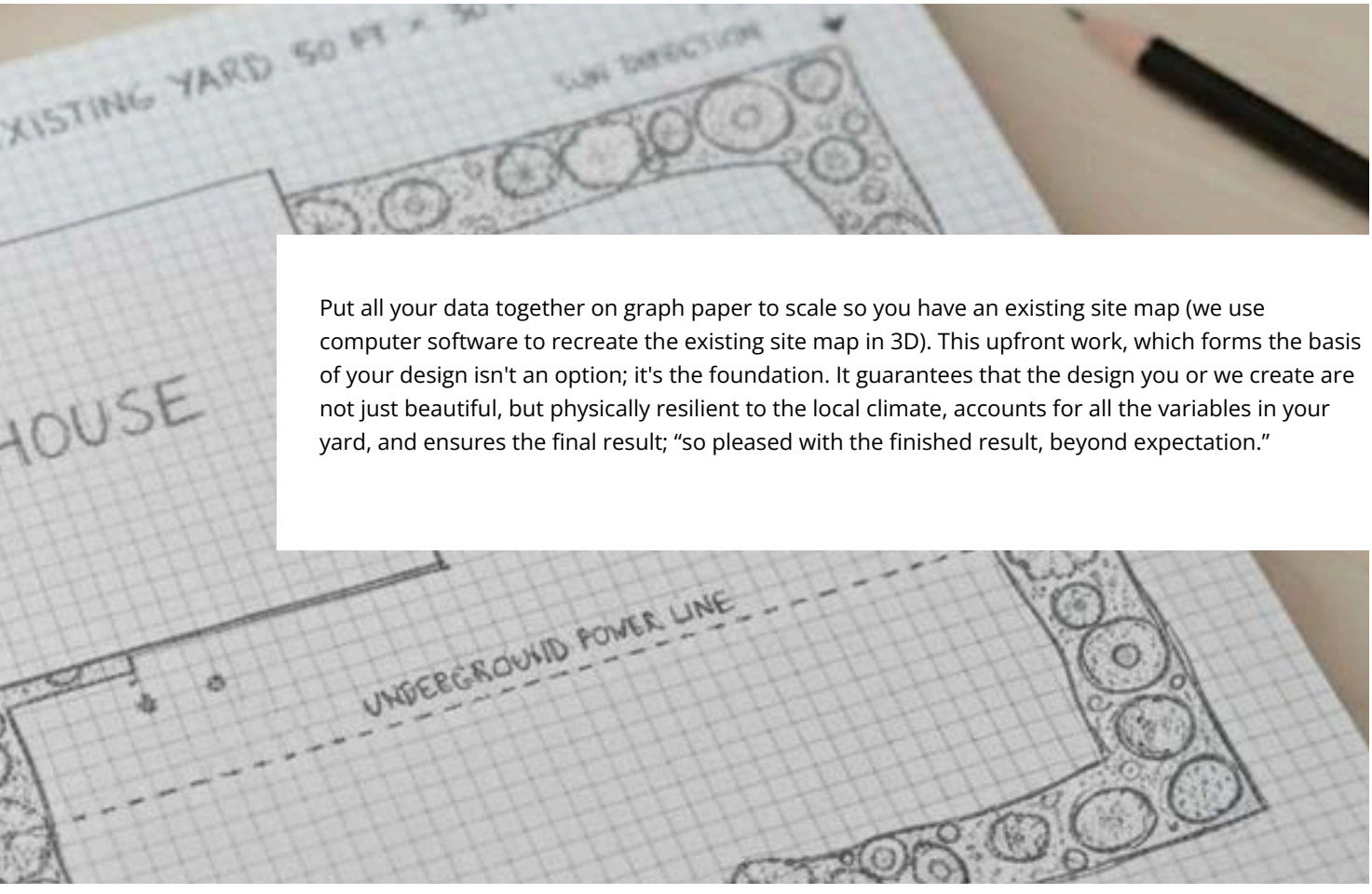
- **Utility Mapping**: Ensure safety and legal compliance by getting underground utilities flagged (gas, electrical, telecom) before any design or excavation. You cannot rely on vague historical records alone; this step prevents catastrophic construction accidents.
- **Drainage and Grading:** Using topographic tools like laser levels or a good old fashioned string and line level, map the grade (slope) of your yard to ensure proper water runoff and identify areas that need retention. This is absolutely critical; your paved areas and lawn areas must be sloped at a minimum grade of 1% away from your home to protect your foundation and prevent water pooling on your hardscapes.
- **Site Mapping:** Using tape measures & reel measuring tapes—measure the entire property including the home, fences or property lines, any structures like sheds and decks, and then locate trees and features you are keeping.
- **Subsurface Conditions:** Assess the soil type and condition (sand, clay, always wet)—essential for determining the correct foundation depth for large hardscapes, walls, decks, or features. Especially important in climates with significant frost heave risk like Regina to identify the necessary base materials and soil amendments for hardscapes or soil quality for healthy, locally zone hardy plant choices.
- **Microclimate Analysis:** Note sun paths, shade patterns, and prevailing wind corridors. This is crucial for selecting appropriate materials and orienting features like gazebos or fire pits for maximum comfort. It's wise to also check for machine access and delivery logistics, ensuring the quote and/or work you do is accurate by knowing all the variables.



"A WELL-DETAILED SITE MAP OF YOUR EXISTING YARD ISN'T JUST A DRAWING...IT'S THE BEDROCK UPON WHICH EVERY SUCCESSFUL LANDSCAPE DESIGN IS BUILT"







Put all your data together on graph paper to scale so you have an existing site map (we use computer software to recreate the existing site map in 3D). This upfront work, which forms the basis of your design isn't an option; it's the foundation. It guarantees that the design you or we create are not just beautiful, but physically resilient to the local climate, accounts for all the variables in your yard, and ensures the final result; “so pleased with the finished result, beyond expectation.”

THE HIDDEN PRICE OF SHORTCUTS:

WHY SKIPPING STEPS ALWAYS COSTS YOU MORE

The Pain of Traditional Construction: The traditional model of landscape construction is inherently risky. You hire a contractor (or go the DIY route) and go straight to the build with the assurance that "we can plan it out as we build." This always creates problems down the line. The lure of saving money by piecing a project together is powerful because you want the yard NOW and "the design feels like an unnecessary cost"...but the perceived savings are paid for twice over in costly change orders, project delays, and long-term failure.



"THE LURE OF SAVING MONEY BY PIECING A PROJECT TOGETHER IS POWERFUL BECAUSE YOU WANT THE YARD NOW AND 'THE DESIGN FEELS LIKE AN UNNECESSARY COST'"

When you don't have a single, meticulous plan, nothing is guaranteed...and worst of all you don't know you made a wrong choice until the project is complete—terrifying! The materials don't blend how you envisioned, the BBQ is too far away, you hate the red flowers, and the deck rail blocks your view from the living room window...oh well, you'll get it right next time (be honest, we all know there won't be a next time). So you live with it and the Silent Ache you sought to overcome is back but with a different view out the window! Investing in a detailed, professional plan saves you money by eliminating surprises, ensuring the project is built right, and deeply personalized for your outdoor lifestyle. As with everything in life, the cheapest initial approach almost always carries the highest long-term risk and cost.



The True Expense: Skipping the design isn't just a financial issue. The Time & Stress, Disappointment, and Rework from Structural Mistakes hurt just as much while also increasing the financial fallout:

- **Time & Stress:** Weeks or months wasted dealing with layout adjustments & scheduling gaps because changes mean new or more materials to wait on, undoing and redoing work, and you left managing more than you signed up for—say hello to your new role as the sub-trade handler for that electrical outlet you need to plug in your electric smoker.
- **Disappointment:** That quote given without design and sometimes even a site visit doesn't look so good anymore (it was a guess...let's be honest with each other). If you have ever played Pictionary you know what you think you are saying and what someone else interprets it to be are often very different. Nothing kills your excitement for a new yard faster that finding out the table you want doesn't fit on the deck, the patio is in the windiest spot in the yard, and your water feature has the flow of a kinked garden hose.
- **Rework & Structural Risk:** Ripping out failed patios, improperly installed features, and forgotten variables restarts the cycle of financial and emotional pain—doubling your material and labor costs. That doodle on a piece of looseleaf or painted line on the ground unsurprisingly didn't factor everything in and missed critical variables like elevations, drainage, build specifications, and utility locations. These "forgotten" elements undermine the structure of everything built. Now the patio is heaving and the wall is tipping because the downspouts weren't diverted and that crusher dust base is swelling and shrinking with every freeze thaw cycle. If only someone could have foreseen that the downspout was an issue and that crusher dust is just about the worst thing you can use as base material with all of those fine particles holding in moisture like a wet sponge wearing a raincoat.





The Solution: Using a company with an integrated Design-to-Build model acts as an insurance policy. Since the entire project—from the initial ideas, to detailed design, to the final planting—is under one roof and fully planned out for everyone to see you eliminate these **Hidden Costs**. At Peregrine we know this and won't build anything that skips a step. When you choose certified Design-To-Build teams the experience should give absolute peace of mind.

FLOW LIKE A RIVER

DESIGNING FOR CONNECTION, MOVEMENT, AND FUNCTION



The Difference Between Paving and Pathing: Engineering the Experience. Anyone can lay pavers and call it a patio. But a masterful design integrates the space so seamlessly that you don't even have to think about where to go—you are naturally guided. You need a landscape that feels like an extension of your home and naturally invites you to move, ignoring your screen and connecting with family. Flow is the invisible architecture of your yard. It's about how people move, where their eyes rest, that inexplicable feeling of connected spaces, and how the space transitions from the interior of your home.



The Three Principles of Landscape Flow: Use the same principles as our certified designer and draw on his expertise in meshing aesthetics with functionality to create your own FLOW:

1. **Interior-Exterior Connection:** The outdoor space must feel like a true extension of your indoor rooms and be in visual alignment with the home’s architecture. Patios should be aligned with doors; flooring materials should transition visually with complementary forms. Use elements like decks, stone steps, and walls to create comfortable grade changes that ease movement from inside to outside (avoid those 10 tread staircases when you can).
2. **Zoning and Separation:** A functional yard needs distinct zones for relaxation, dining, and play. Good designs use walls, planting beds, or grade changes to subtly separate these areas. Patios themselves can be more than one level, one material, one colour, and one texture to define different zones for, say, cooking versus sitting.
3. **Visual Sightlines & Softscape Integration: I**ntentionally design features—like a striking water feature or a fireplace—to be visible from key interior windows, making the yard beautiful to look at even when you are inside. This is balanced by softscapes, using mass planting with rows of grasses, shrubs, and perennials to soften the formal look of hardscapes, ensuring a cohesive aesthetic artistry is applied to all elements of the design.







LANDSCAPE FLOW ANALYSIS



"CERTIFIED DESIGNERS ENSURE EVERY ELEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO A COHESIVE AND INTUITIVE USER EXPERIENCE. THEIR DEEP COMMITMENT TO BRINGING A VISION FROM THE ABSTRACT TO REALITY BUILDS PROFOUND TRUST AND ELEVATED SPACES."

1. **Interior-Exterior Connection:** Open seating space right off the patio doors creates direct connection to the home and invites you out into the outdoor space while subtle stepping stones and stone stairs lead the eye to a sunken fire pit urging you to explore the yard and get cozy around the fire. Keeping the materials as grey's and blacks plays off the homes slate blue siding and black trim while the cobbled and natural edges of stone creates a more informal and welcoming feel to the space.
2. **Zoning and Separation:** There are distinct lounging, fire pit, and sitting zones spread throughout the yard to create purpose, while also maintaining connection through sightlines. By sinking the fire pit, the area is given a more intimate feeling with the subtle grade change and keeping the planting between the fire pit and house as lower growth ensures the patio not closed off completely. Moreover, the stone inlay around the fire pit area gives the patio zoning for seating and feature placement. Privacy is created with the addition of trees while more intimacy is created by heightening the plants on the backside of the fire pit area and between the seating bench and shop...subtly removing the feeling of being in a fishbowl for all to see.
3. **Visual Sightlines & Softscape Integration:** The central water feature winds through the property with waterfalls positioned to be seen from both inside the home and all seating areas. By adding a fountain element in the middle of the stream a strong focal anchor is created in the center of the yard for 360 degree views. The fire pit itself draws the eye deeper into the yard and strategic planting heights create layers, interest, and depth to the landscape. Finally, by using repeated plant forms rather than the "a bit of everything" approach the sightlines don't get overloaded with busyness and the mulch pulls the wood tones from the house into the yard for a cohesive look.

DEFINING YOUR LANDSCAPE FLOW

WHERE ARE YOUR KEY INTERIOR/EXTERIOR CONNECTIONS?

WHERE ARE YOUR ZONES AND HOW CAN THEY BE SEPARATED?

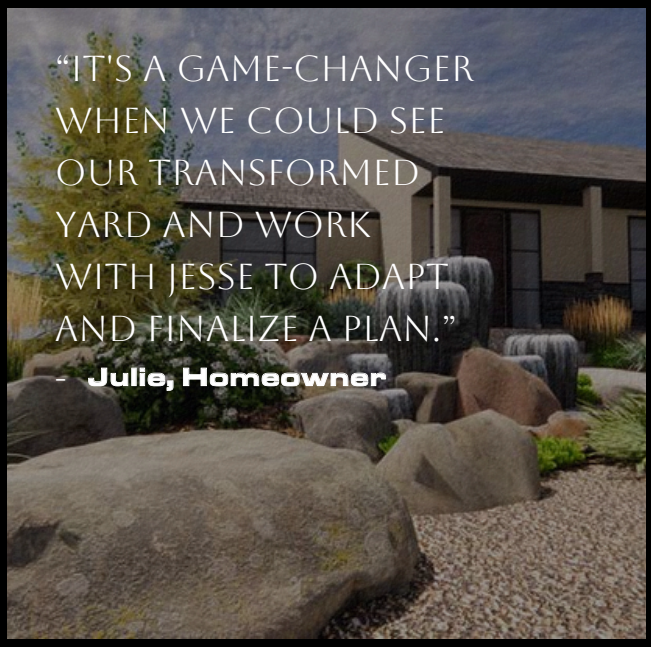
WHERE ARE KEY SIGHTLINES AND HOW CAN SOFTSCAPES ENHANCE THEM?

THE LANDSCAPE FLOW STYLE GUIDE



3D VISION, ZERO SURPRISES

THE PROCESS & ANSWER FOR "FLOW" & BUDGET CLARITY





The Problem with Paper Plans and Estimates: The Anxiety of the Unknown. Let's say you haven't skipped a step and have identified the **Functional Disconnect** and **Pain Points, Defined Your True Landscape Lifestyle Blueprint,** done a **Site Audit** and drafted a **Site Map,** then even created a design or paid for one...Well Done! Here is the most common issue we see: traditional landscape design often leaves clients with just 2D blueprints and an estimated cost that feels like a finger in the wind. Your anxiety comes from not knowing what the final product will look like or how much the final build bill cost because the design wasn't priced out during the drafting phases. You fear what the materials will actually look like in your space, how big the plants will get, and how all the different elements will feel once you're in your new space. Unless you read blueprints for a living you just can't feel the **Flow** from a top down line drawing. All that work and you still have to guess if the patio will feel intimate or like an empty arena, if the placement of that fountain can actually be seen from your window. The good news is, you can feel the **Flow** before the build is done. Certainty and Visualization are key to budget comfort, and 3D vision is a contractual tool for end to end aesthetic and financial control.

The Visualization & Accountability Toolkit: True commitment to a "Zero Surprises" yard is built on technical detail and transparent communication through a detailed design process (like our own 4-Phase design process) that gives you and the build team all the costs, 3D imagery, construction plans, & technical information you need: **Full 3D Renderings, 2D Construction Drawings & Budget-Proofing, Permits & Change Orders**



- **Full 3D Renderings:** Bring the design to life with high-fidelity 3D models. Top-Tier designs include full 3D renderings and 2D construction plans. You can virtually walk through your future space, seeing exact specified materials, day and nighttime lighting effects, and in a scale that is exact to what will be built. This eliminates guesswork and ensures you and the build team are 100% aligned on the final aesthetic and feel.

- **2D Construction Drawings & Budget-Proofing:** Good designers produce detailed, to-scale construction plans (like architectural blueprints). But top designers specify every dimension, material, and installation method. Crucially, they also take the time to ensure the plan is Budget-Proofed for each design iteration—not just a cost based on their feeling, a cost that is calculated using ACTUAL installation & material costs at the time of the design. The time to change the design for budget isn't after the design is completed and you get a final quote…it's during the design process so you can actually get the vision installed.

- **Permits & Change Orders:** The delivery of a blueprint or even a blueprint and 3D renderings shouldn't be the "kiss goodbye" for a designer. The best designers know that creating a pretty plan isn't the purpose of what they do—the purpose is getting their client into a fully realized outdoor lifestyle. Sometimes that means creating additional permit and bylaw documents for the build, or verifying change orders with new visuals. If a client requests changes after the final plan is approved it shouldn't mean you now have to guess what it will look like…you should be able to see the change with 3D renderings for all the same reasons you got the design in the first place!

At Peregrine we include all of this in every design package as part of the Deign-To-Build process. Creating an outdoor lifestyle that you are investing significant money in should never be a guessing game or a "deliverable" reduced to a drawing.



BUILT TO LAST:

THE NON-NEGOTIABLE GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE LONGEVITY



The structure of your outdoor space is not just a collection of separate projects, it is an interconnected system of unseen build methods that tie into one another to create stability and longevity. Just as the health of a tree depends on the soil it grows in, your entire yard depends on the Integrity In The Invisible, the foundation beneath every feature. Built to Last is not then just a catch phrase; it's a commitment to certified, rigorous standards across every element. You shouldn't have to worry about what's hidden; you should only enjoy the result.

The ability for a landscape to be truly Built to Last hinges on the seamless connection between the design phase and the construction phase. Designs that are physically disconnected from the build process may create beautiful concepts, but they often lack the knowledge of soil mechanics, frost lines, and structural loads required to specify and account for the proper foundation and material needs for features like patios, walls, decks, water features, etc. In a Design-To-Build model, the designer's training is for aesthetics and creating an outdoor lifestyle, but rooted in construction science; they specify for structural necessities and materials to create the integrity for the outdoor lifestyle. When in doubt, a proper design that is Built to Last will even use a feedback loop with their build team to verify a concept's foundation and buildability before creating the "pretty picture".



It's not enough to draw a deck, patio, or retaining wall because it looks good if the design doesn't account for a deck footing needing to be through an underground utility, a wall being to close to a tree's roots with a material that is "pretty" but only structural up to 2' high, or a patio in a low spot where water drains causing soil conditions unsuitable to build on. The vital feedback loop between design and build ensures that the artistic vision you see on paper is structurally sound, and fully accounted for in the budget and plan before the first shovel.

Integrity In The Invisible: The invisible foundations you need to have a handle on from the design through to the build to ensure everything is Built To Last are many and varied but can be summarized into 3 key rule sets—The Ground Rules, The Feature Rules, and the Living Rules.

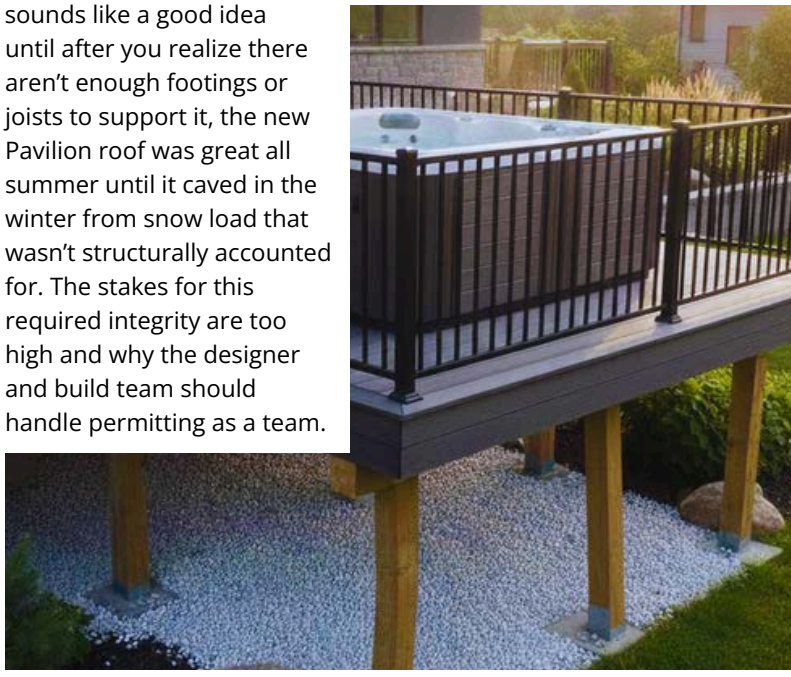


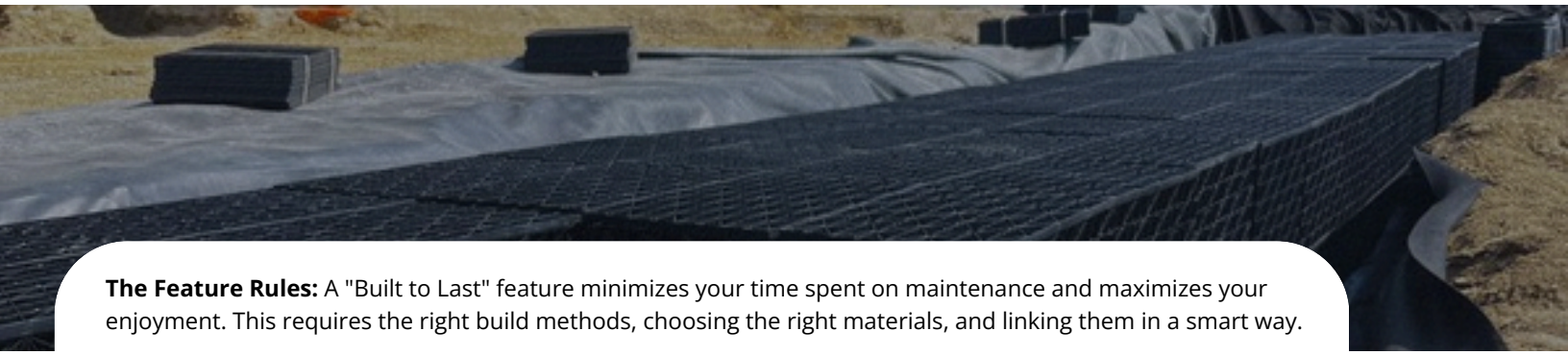
The Ground Rules: Any element that carries weight or defines a boundary must resist the forces of nature—especially our local frost heave and powerful winds.

- **Hardscapes (Patios, Driveways, Walkways, Walls, Stone Stairs, Artificial Turf):** The failure of these hardscapes starts not with the stones, but with the base. Shortcuts come in all styles but some of the most common are things like: crusher dust base base material (which acts like a sponge expanding and contracting with every downpour, dry out, and freeze-thaw cycle), failure to compact and amend the native soil, and skipping the use of geo-textiles (specialty landscape fabrics) to separate the new base material from the clay underneath or reinforce the base materials at strategic layering points. You should only use clean, structural aggregates (3/4" clear/crush, 1/4" chip stone) and proper geo-textiles fabrics, These ensure proper drainage and stability so your hardscapes remain level and true for decades.



- **Vertical Structures (Decks, Pergolas, Pavilions):** These elements must withstand strong winds, snow loads, frost heave, and up-lift. These factors start in the footings—concrete piers or helical piles —that anchor the structures permanently to the ground in engineered locations preventing both uplift and sinking. After footings, they need the proper design of beams, posts, joists, and hardware to solidify the structure for the intended use case: should the pergola framing use steel instead of wood so it is strong enough to remove that middle post interrupting the seating area, that hot tub on the deck sounds like a good idea until after you realize there aren't enough footings or joists to support it, the new Pavilion roof was great all summer until it caved in the winter from snow load that wasn't structurally accounted for. The stakes for this required integrity are too high and why the designer and build team should handle permitting as a team.





The Feature Rules: A "Built to Last" feature minimizes your time spent on maintenance and maximizes your enjoyment. This requires the right build methods, choosing the right materials, and linking them in a smart way.

- **Water Features (Ponds, Waterfalls, Fountainscapes):** These features most often fail because of leaks, poor water quality full of algae, and maintenance requirements. The reality is these aren't actually the failure, they are just a symptom of failure on the front end with the design and install of improper materials, systems sizing, and build practices. Without the correct materials and sizing of the filtration system, pumping system, pipe system, water reservoir, aeration system, treatment system, and liner the feature will leak, have poor water quality, and be a maintenance nightmare. If full honesty is the theme, water features are COMPLEX systems that should only be designed and installed by Certified Aquascape Contractors (the water feature industries leading certification). There are too many variables that need to be designed, interconnected and built so that you the homeowner have simple maintenance and automated systems that ensure an ecosystem of balance removing those symptoms masquerading as failure points.





- **Lighting Features (Hardwired Systems):** Solar lights are just decorations with an expiry date. Read that again! In our harsh Saskatchewan climate these usually last maybe 1 to 2 seasons—the opposite of Built to Last. Hardwired LED systems are the answer to decades of of enjoyment. All hardwired lighting should use water proof connections, direct burial wire rated for the outdoors, and fixtures that are made of appropriate metals (solid brass, copper, marine-grade aluminum, stainless steel). They should also run on controllers that are sized accordingly for the total electrical load of the system and can be either set for specific run times or controlled from your phone. These elements protect the system from moisture & overload ensuring your lighting is automated, maintenance-free, and permanent unlike those solar lights that fail after one season.

- **Fire Features (Gas & Wood Burning):** Whether it's a wood burning fire pit, gas fire-table, or a stone fireplace, the materials must withstand extreme, repeated thermal stress. Always use fire-rated materials and proper ventilation to ensure safety and prevent cracking or crumbling, guaranteeing the feature remains a safe, beautiful centerpiece for years of use. Additionally, you should plan for your fuel type whether wood, natural gas, or propane as these require special considerations: build drainage under your wood fire pit so you can hose it down after a fire and let the water dissipate without affecting the patio base, trench and run gas lines under the base so you don't have hoses running over walking surfaces to get to the fire feature, and plan for where the propane tank sits hidden from sight—nothing quite breaks the immersion like a tank sitting in the middle of your patio. Account for how much heat you want as this will dictate the BTU requirements and sizing for the intended use. Lastly, fire cannot just go anywhere as there are bylaws that must be accounted for in the design and placement phase to ensure you are allowed to actually have it where you want it.



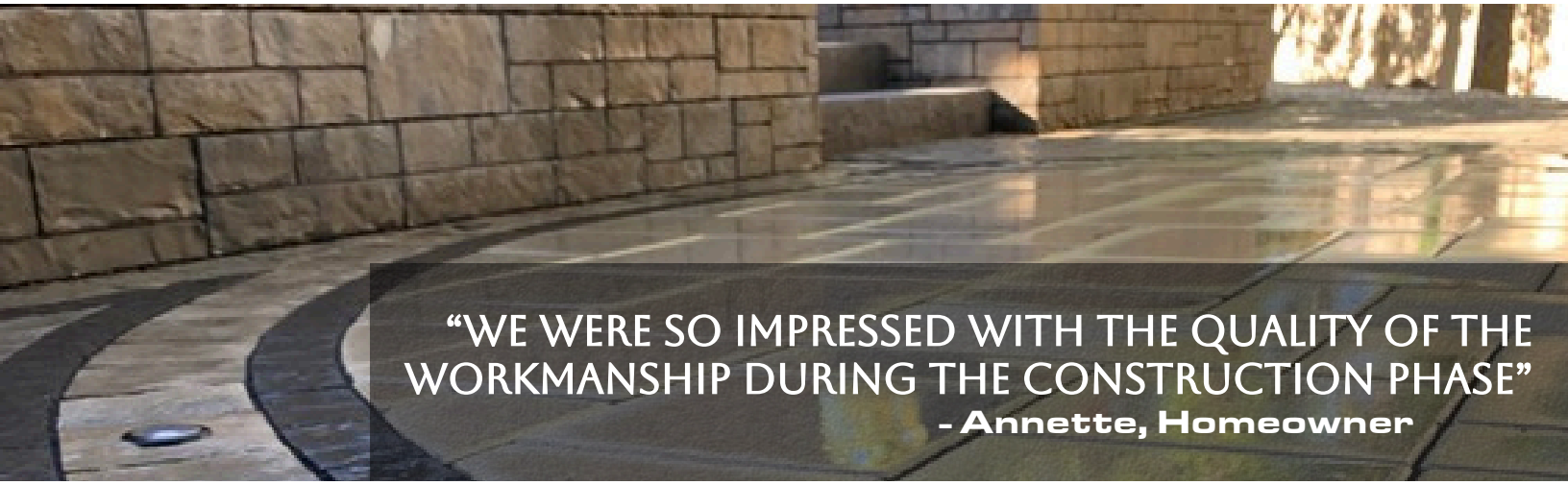


The Living Rules: Greenery that you don't have to think about is Built to Last through the soil, the systems, and the site conditions.

- **Planting Beds:** It starts with the soil. Amend the native clay with high quality composted or manure enhanced soil to ensure good drainage and nutrient content, giving the plants the best possible foundation to establish roots and thrive in the Zone 3b climate with minimal care. You should also add root boosters to the planting holes to encourage growth. Then, make sure those plants are suited for their site conditions with sun vs. shade and wet vs. dry areas. Or, don't do any of this and constantly replace dead plants or try to become a horticulturalist so you can identify and waste time and money treating symptoms of a larger foundational mistake.
- **The Drip Difference:** Drip irrigation for planting beds is non-negotiable for the low maintenance yard. It targets the plant's root zone, saving water and preventing disease caused by overhead watering seen with spray heads in gardens…you have seen that sprinkler that shoots into the base of one plant saturating the soil and barely touches the rest. Even better, drip irrigation systems can be automated and controlled from your phone so you can water your plants from the lake house and quit asking your family to water everything when you want to get away for the weekend. Take it one step further and run drip irrigation to all of your pots and you will never replace your annuals 3 times a season again.
- **Lawn and Irrigation:** For natural grass, the right foundation prevents dry spots. A high quality topsoil no less than 6" thick is the non-negotiable base for a healthy lawn. The irrigation system of a Built To Last lawn isn't a garden hose and rotating fan head you move around for 3 hours to get everything wet…I bet you listed this as part of your Silent Ache. Instead, smart irrigation systems use a combination of sprinkler head styles zoned into different areas for proper coverage. Have you had a shower only to lose water pressure and have it run cold because the dishwasher, and washing machine are running at the same time. The same problem applies to irrigation! You only have so much water flow and pressure and if you have all of your sprinklers on one zone there isn't enough water available to have them all operate. The network of properly sized underground irrigation zones should be automated and linked to a smart controller so you can program the run times and adjust things from your phone just like the drip irrigation for your plants.
- **Ground Covers (Rock and Mulch):** Even simple ground covers have a proper technique and application. We recommend natural mulches that don't fade and leak their dyes into the soil. Mulches SHOULDN'T have a fabric underlay because they decompose and become part of the soil over time. When you use fabric you create a barrier that stops the mulch from becoming part of the soil and create a new soil layer instead while also choking the ground and plants out over time by trapping moisture and preventing airflow. Rock on the other hand doesn't decompose so the landscape fabric provides a helpful barrier to slow weeds down from reaching the soil…but make sure your holes in the fabric for plants are at 2 times the size of the root ball so your plants can breathe and exchange water to prevent them from drowning.



You don't need to memorize all of the technical specifications—you can always work with a Design-To-Build company who plans for all of these elements and whose quality is verified by external experts certifications. Some of the important technical specifications and certifications can be seen on our website so you know what to look for when you are Investing In The Integrity of an Unplugged Yard that is Built To Last because **Build Specs & Certifications = Build Certainty.**



BUILD SPECS

KEY CERTIFICATIONS



DEFINING YOUR BUILT TO LAST IDENTIFIERS

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAILING BUILD ITEMS CURRENTLY?

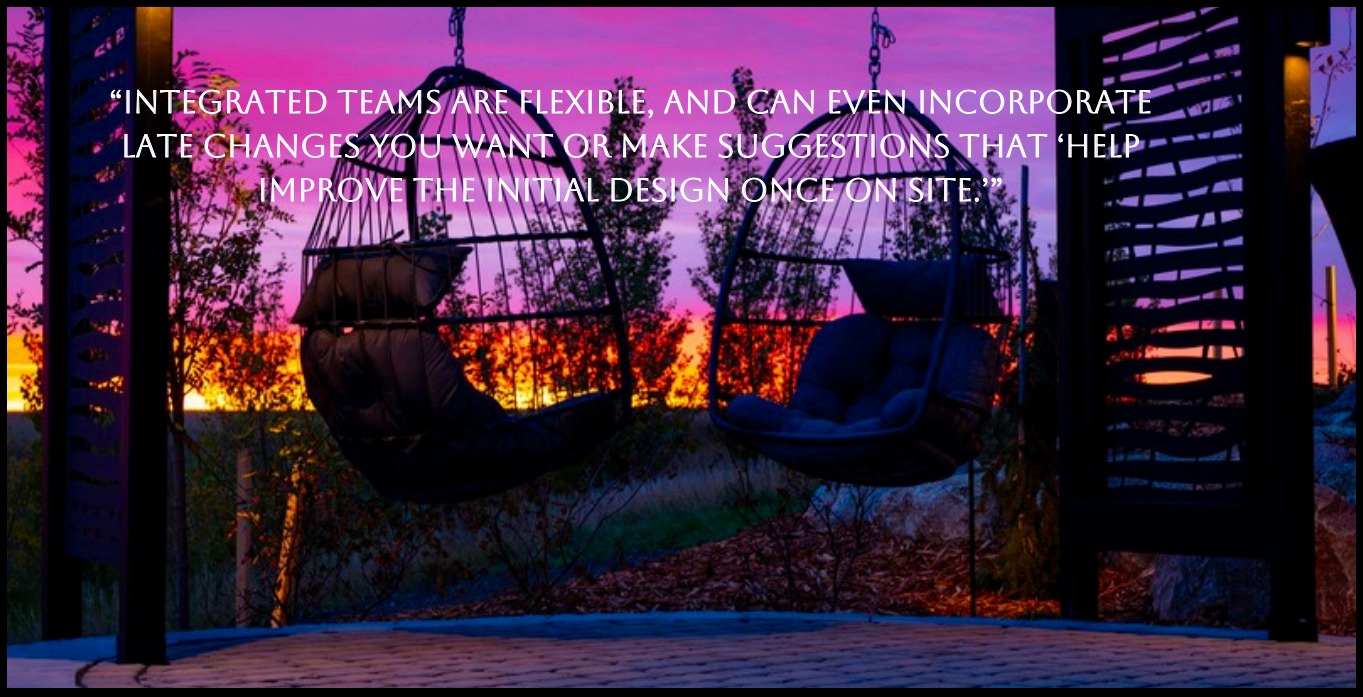
WHICH BUILD SPECS WILL YOU WANT TO SEE?

WHICH CERTIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR YOUR PROJECT?

THE POWER OF ONE:

WHY DESIGN-TO-BUILD IS YOUR SAFEST LANDSCAPE INVESTMENT

The Inefficiency of Fragmentation and the Blame Game: By now you have realized that a major landscape renovation is complex and should have 3 groups involved: the client, the designer, and the contractor…or worse, just the client and a contractor moonlighting as a designer with no real training or design knowledge. This 3 group separation creates a triangle of conflicting interests, unclear responsibilities, communication breakdowns, delays, and friction. This usually means the build and vision are compromised because the project is "handed-off" to the next person, where the next person is left to interpret the plan. Once the designer is done who is responsible for ensuring the soul, feel, and **Flow** are maintained and translated to the build throughout the entire process: No-One!



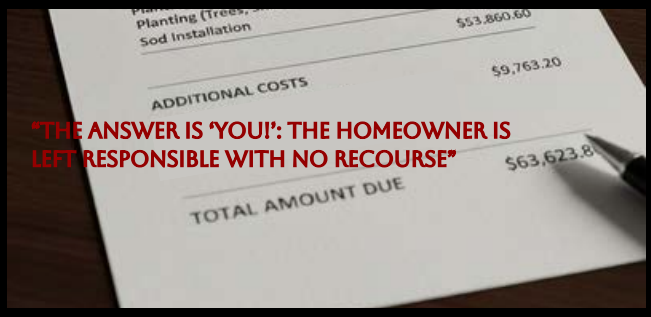
The build hums along and now the contractor is increasing the price, omitting items you thought were included, or the build looks different than you think it should…so you ask everyone to hit pause so you can figure out how you got here. Now you are trying to bring all 3 parties together and get to the bottom of it. **Enter the Blame Game**—the designer blames the contractor, the contractor blames the designer, you blame them both, they both blame you for being unrealistic: "we can't build it like that, it's not to code the way it's drawn", "I'm not a builder, I'm a designer…it's your job to make it buildable", "we had to make that change because the materials on the plan can't be installed on a curve", "the designer said the electrical was included…why isn't done?", "I didn't quote for that and it's not on the plan, if the designer thinks it was included, they should pay for it", "you asked for a change, you should have known it would cost more", "I can come take a look but I charge additional design fees for site visits or any management", "**who do I hold responsible?**"

The answer is "You!": The homeowner is left responsible with no recourse because no-one is actually wrong in this situation. The designer delivered a drawing just like you paid them to, the contractor installed it the best they could with changes they had to make for it to work, you and the contractor did your best to interpret the drawing and make it the best you could. Sorry...it is what it is and now the only fix is for you to pay more to get what you already thought you were getting.

The Power of One—the integrated design-to-build model—is your safest investment. When your designer and builder are one in the same you have a single source of truth, accountability, and artistic vision that remains engaged in every detail of the project until completion. This doesn't mean you get a contractor who just says they design, because these companies exist everywhere. You need a builder who has a dedicated and certified designer whose sole job is to focus on creating your outdoor lifestyle: the opposite of a contractor whose sole job is to fill the calendar with things they know they can build for a profit.

Option 2 means the design is a secondary part of the business that gets attention when the contractor isn't building something - so the design needs to be fast, efficient, and profitable at the sacrifice of detail, artistry, and thoroughness: and you shouldn't blame them, they have families too and they are trying to design things after hours once they finish on the the job-site.







Option 1 means the design is the full-time focus of a trained professional who takes the time to create detailed, artistic, personalized plans and see them through to the end in unison with their own build teams. Clarity, vision, simplicity...pick an adjective...they all equal "better". Once the design is done and mobilized to the build those change orders happen in house. Those permit documents happen in house. The designer isn't charging fees to visit the site and monitor progress or make adjustments, and the build team and designer are always in sync for every decision. This ensures a seamless build because every key member is integrated through the entire project from concept to completion: no hidden costs or oversights at project end.



The One Company Design-to-Build Advantage - What to Look For: It took leveraging over 75 years of combined construction experience across our team, lead by Owner Barclay Krause, for us to refine and create a streamlined process that revolved around **The Power of One.** Those bad examples we use feel real because they are. We have seen the good and bad...and the bad isn't an option when you, the homeowner, should be the priority!

In any landscape construction project we always suggest a homeowner looks for a defined process with some key phases to layout the journey:

PHASE 1: DATA COLLECTION

Submit information about your landscape and have a free initial meeting to learn about each other to confirm you are a mutual fit. Once the fit is confirmed, you should select a design package and the builder will schedule a site visit to perform a site audit and have utilities mapped, before moving into your design phase.

PHASE 2: DESIGN

Meet with the designer to define your outdoor lifestyle and deep dive into the details. Your designer will create an initial 3D concept and give you a budget to bring the concept to life. Revision time with back and forth 3D concepts and meetings to finalize the layout, materials, and final build costs before approving the final design. The final detailed 2D construction plans and 3D day/night images are created with all those final decisions and nuanced build details for the build team. Sign off on the final plan, quote, build schedule, and payment terms.

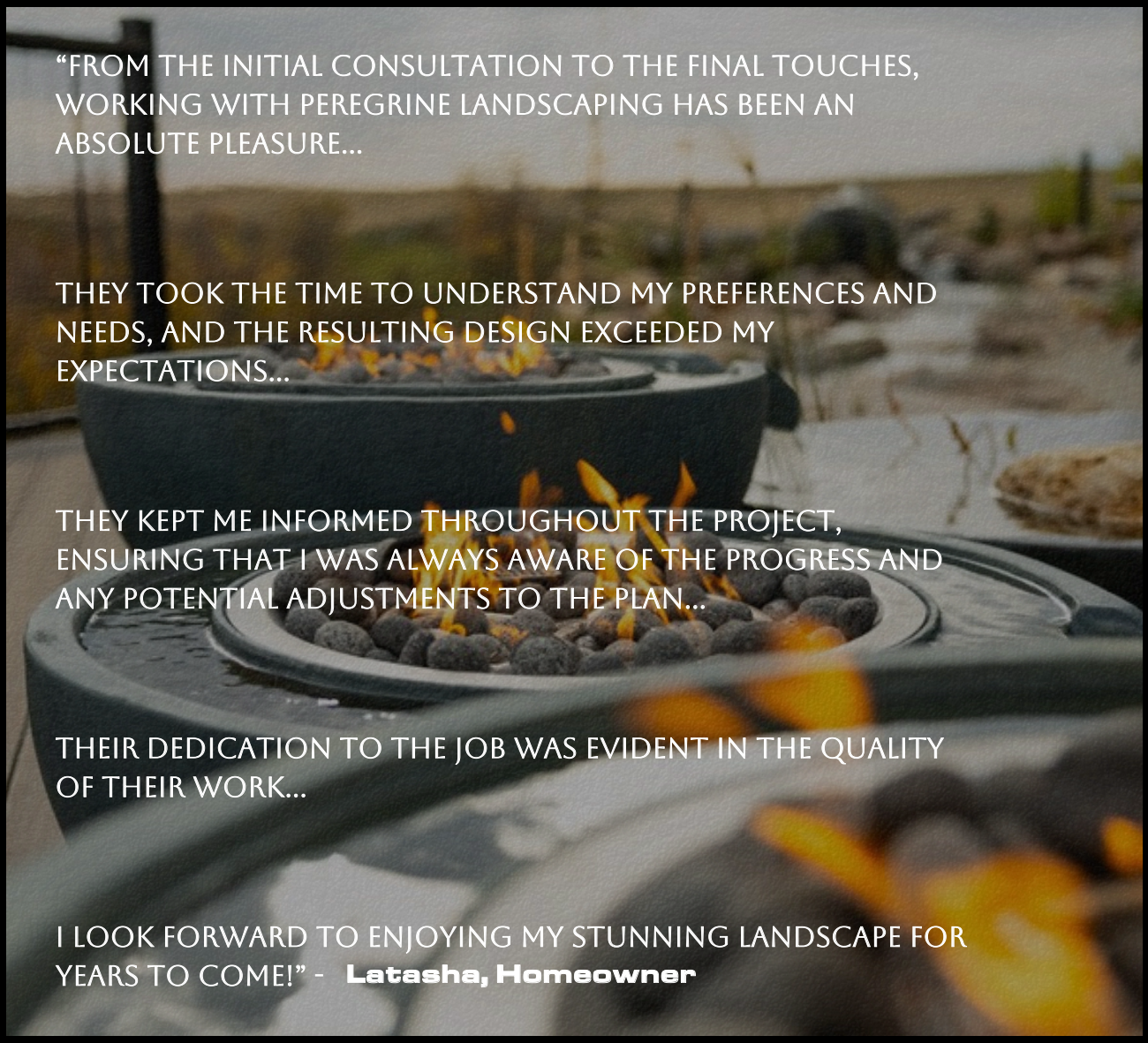


PHASE 3: BUILD

Your designer and build team meet to go over all the details and explain the vision. The designer creates any permit or bylaw visuals for the build before your build team arrives to begin the transformation. During the build your team executes the plan, organizes sub-trades, and has scheduled check-ins with the designer to maintain the vision. Any change orders are priced out and signed off before implementation with new 3D visuals from the designer for you to verify the change. The designer performs site visits to assist with the build decisions and tweak layouts or placements (plants, light fixtures, boulders, etc.). The build team finishes the build while having the designer on-call for any problem solving until the final plant is in the ground.

PHASE 4: HANDOFF

Your build team performs final walkthroughs and explanations for your new landscape and all the systems. Some supporting items like app set ups, maintenance guides, warranty info, and service request processes are handed off. You take ownership of the yard and begin to enjoy your outdoor lifestyle



THE TRUE POWER OF ONE: SINGLE SOURCE ACCOUNTABILITY

By working with an all inclusive Design-To-Build team you have removed the issues of fragmentation, the blame game, vision interpretation, budget creep, managing sub-trades yourself, and a design that is created for a sale rather than your outdoor lifestyle. This is Single-Source Accountability: woven into the entire process and integrated through the entire team under one roof to ensure every potential construction pitfall is avoided. A consistent and unbroken thread of oversight is accountable for every piece of the build so you can enjoy the process with confidence and clarity.



DESIGNED FOR TOMORROW:

LOW-MAINTENANCE SECRETS OF A LIVING LANDSCAPE



The Myth of the Perfect Landscape and the Fear of Future Upkeep:

The idea that a stunning yard requires daily, backbreaking labour is a myth rooted in poor design. You fear the unknown cost and time commitment of long-term maintenance that could turn your artistic space back into a source of stress. A truly beautiful landscape is engineered for minimal upkeep. The goal is to maximize your enjoyment and minimize your chore list. To do this, you have to plan for and strategize accordingly for your level of preferred maintenance. It might mean upgrading your decking to composite or your lawn to artificial turf if you want to reduce the year over year maintenance. It could also mean omitting a feature you love because you know you won't have the time...and the secret is, "this is Ok". The perfect landscape for one person doesn't need to be the perfect landscape for the next person. Are you willing to do small amounts of daily maintenance, only a few hours on the weekends, once every couple weeks, or only a quick monthly tidy? These questions matter so you aren't left with something you love to look at and experience for the first month only to watch things erode back into a "Silent Ache" because you don't have the time or want to upkeep it.

The nuanced details and decisions that go into designing and building your dream outdoor lifestyle come with ripple effect that determine your level of input. So, while you need to root your landscape in your vision for your outdoor lifestyle when you enjoy your yard...you also need to add in the lens of maintenance to truly conquer your "Silent Ache".

Even though every landscape should be designed and built with personalized decisions and details that take these elements into account there are a few non-negotiables that start as the basis for every low-maintenance landscape.

The Three Pillars of Low-Maintenance Landscapes:



1. Water Management: Cover your bases when it comes to controlling run-off, rain, and moisture while also implementing smart low-maintenance systems for irrigation and water features. Start by planning for and managing downspout run-off, drainage swales, grading for water control, and sub-surface soil/water conditions to prevent failure of the things you build, constant worrying every time it rains, and costly re-work and repairs. Next, utilize smart, automated irrigation systems with precise zoning and rain sensing for lawns and plants like we discussed in "Built-To-Last". Lawn irrigation and drip/plant irrigation are specialized water applications that are meant to properly and efficiently keep the living things alive with as little water consumption as possible…and they can all be controlled from your phone so you never miss a watering. Whereas water features can be programmed with an autofill that checks the water level daily and automatically tops the system up when the heat causes water loss from evaporation and splash. This means your feature always has the optimal level of water and never runs low causing algae blooms or damage to the pumps. At Peregrine we have a Certified Irrigation Designer on staff to design and plan for these systems. He would say that lawn Irrigation should be set to run 3 times a week for a total weekly water coverage of 1″ of moisture after the lawn is established and don't forget to blow out your irrigation systems in the fall to prevent broken underground lines.

2. Planting for Success: Select locally zone hardy plant choices that are set up for success in your specific microclimates (Zone 3A & 3B, although we can get away with some Zone 2 and Zone 4 plants). Once you have your plant list narrowed done take a look at the maintenance requirements. You may love some Roses and Peonies, but only have the maintenance wants of perennial grasses so you need to match those plant selections to your maintenance. With the plants narrowed down for zone and maintenance the last factor is to consider the final size of the plant…not the small version you put in the ground. Make sure to leave room for your plants to reach their full potential and not choke each other out or require removal and throw away which costs you money! Plants are best when placed in structured patterns and groupings that will fill out to engulf the planting spaces, minimizing weeding and constant fussing. Our certified designer and horticulturalist would tell you that "plants create the most problems and work when chosen and placed without considering zone, maintenance, and final size".



3. Durable Materials and Maintenance Protocols: Just because it is composite doesn't mean it's good composite…the same goes for your paving stone, wall block, turf, lights and every other piece of your yard. Compromised quality is an initial saving on money but in the end it is a compromise on your time and future costs. Even if you upgrade to top quality materials it doesn't mean no maintenance…just lower maintenance. Your lawn still needs to be cut, your patio swept, your deck cleaned, and your plants trimmed. By creating a seasonal maintenance list you will reduce your in season tasks and maximize the lifespan of those 30+ year materials you are investing in.

By viewing the landscape as a connected system that needs to be set up for success on the front end, we guarantee that more of your time is spent relaxing, not working.

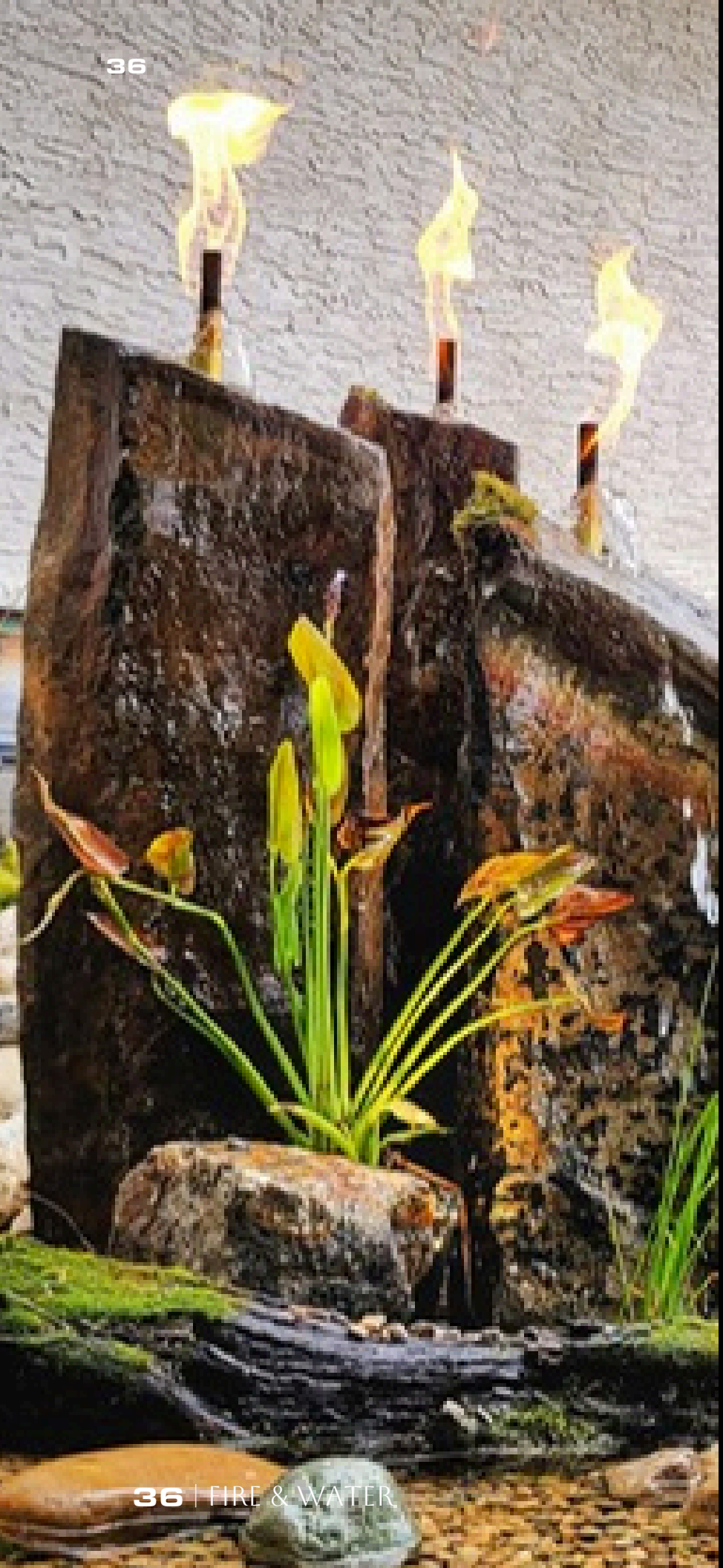
DEFINING YOUR MAINTENANCE GOALS

HOW MUCH MAINTENANCE ARE YOU OK WITH?

(DAILY, WEEKLY, MOTNHLY, ?)

WHERE ARE YOUR WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES?

WHICH PLANTS AND MATERIALS ARE A FIT?



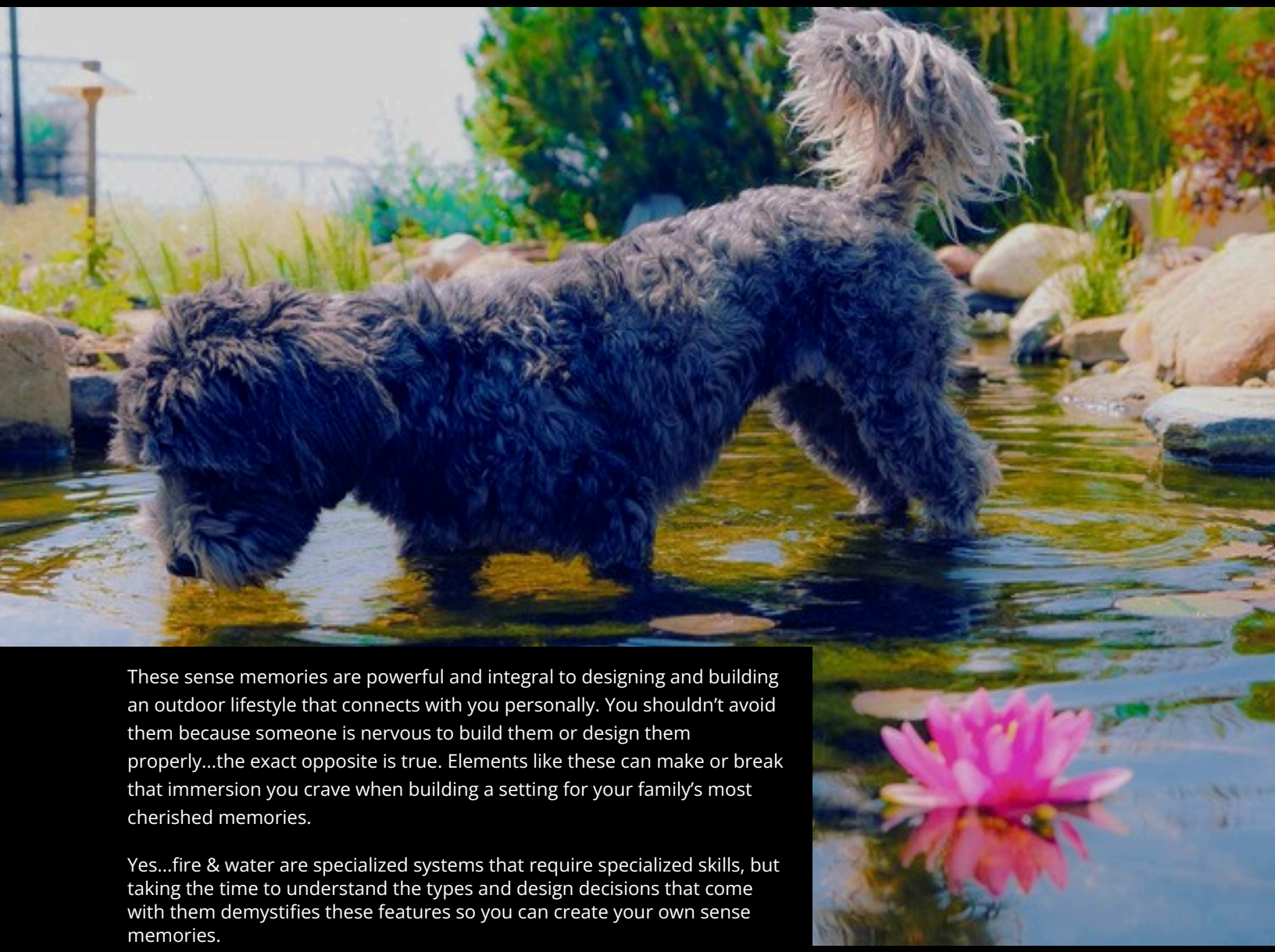
FIRE & WATER:

CRAFTING THE ALL-SEASON SENSORY EXPERIENCE

"There is an art to water features and these guys have nailed it!" - Steve, Homeowner

The Power of Sensory Design: More Than Just Sight. A truly inspiring landscape appeals to more than just sight. It must also engage sound, smell, and touch. You dream of the resort like feel a well lit water feature provides and the social atmosphere a fire feature creates, but you worry about the complexity of these specialized systems.

Fire and Water are the soul of the year-round yard. These elements are complex specialties that demand certified expertise to implement safely, artistically, and functionally, transforming your yard from a summertime feature into an immersive sensory outdoor lifestyle. We all have sense memories that we tap into—the smell and sound of fire crackling as you visit into the evening camping as a kid, the way the fire casts everchanging shadows and light to set a mood, the sound of water rushing over a fall or babbling through a stream that seemed to make the outside world melt away on a trip, or the feel of dangling your feet in the warm summer water while sitting on the dock and being completely care free for even just a moment.



These sense memories are powerful and integral to designing and building an outdoor lifestyle that connects with you personally. You shouldn't avoid them because someone is nervous to build them or design them properly...the exact opposite is true. Elements like these can make or break that immersion you crave when building a setting for your family's most cherished memories.

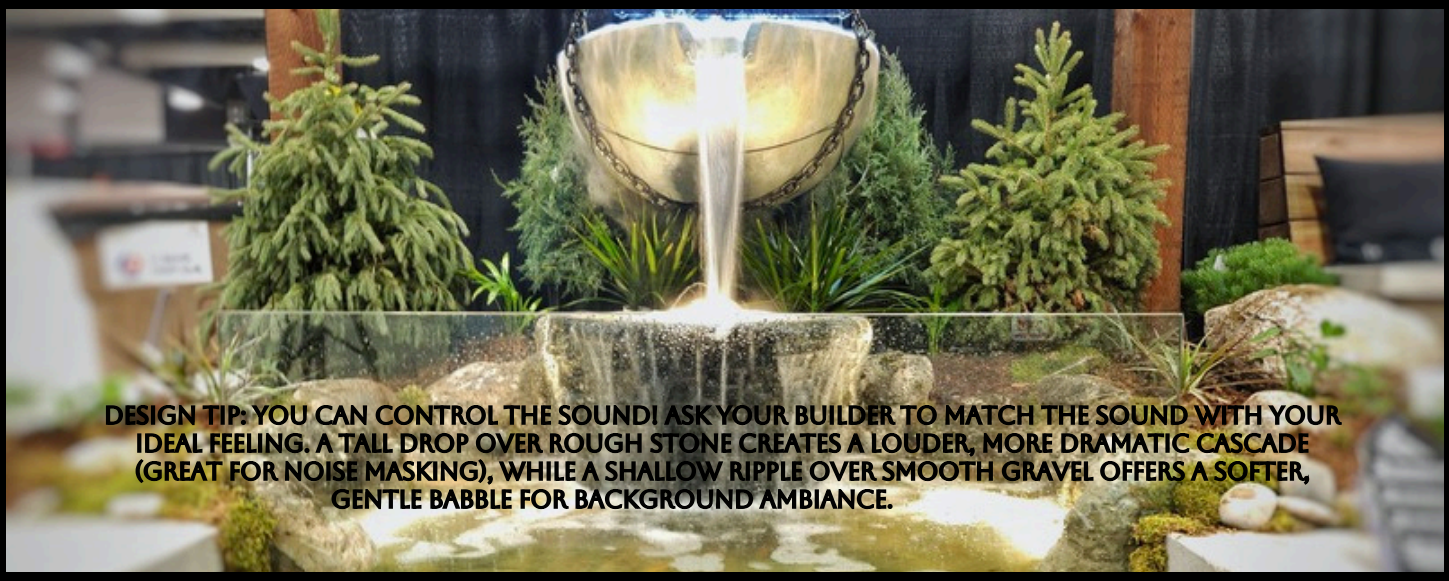
Yes...fire & water are specialized systems that require specialized skills, but taking the time to understand the types and design decisions that come with them demystifies these features so you can create your own sense memories.

Water Features—The Sensory Element (Sight, Sound, Smell, Touch):
This is the real heart of the decision—the healing power that water brings into your life. Water features aren't just decorations; they are active elements that appeal to all your senses and literally change your brain chemistry while unlocking sense memories. The presence of water is scientifically linked to feelings of joy, relaxation, and inspiration, helping to lift low moods and counter irritability. On top of this they are interactive magnets for kids, dogs, and adults to be outside, unplugged, enjoying an outdoor lifestyle. Water features are also enjoyed from both an interior window view and outside view as you sip your morning coffee waterside.



1. Sight - Life & Movement
The simple act of watching water—the shimmering ripples, the dance of sunlight on the surface, or the continuous flow over waterfalls and fountainscapes—is deeply meditative. Water provides a visual focal point that draws your eye away from anxious thoughts creating dynamic, living works of art that change with the seasons. The magic of implementing lighting into a water feature is indescribable until that first night you look out and see the water casting rippled light and shadows onto trees and stonework; creating a setting for immersion so deep you are fully present in that time and space.

2. Sound - Stress to Serenity
The gentle, consistent sound of flowing water mimics the natural rhythms we instinctively find soothing. This ambient noise acts as natural white noise, effectively masking the frustrating sounds of traffic, construction, or noisy neighbors, making your backyard a private haven. Studies show that listening to flowing water lowers stress and cortisol levels, helping your brain clear, unwind, and boost focus. Open a window in the morning or at night, turn the electronics off, and enjoy a calming wake up or wind down.

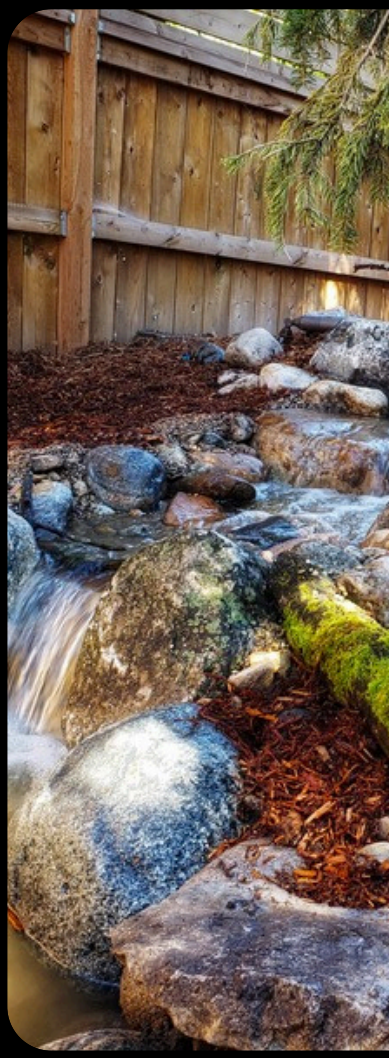


3. Smell - Moisture & Blooms
The extra moisture in the air from water and evaporation starts by creating some humidity in your space to open up your nasal passages and enhance the smells from plants in bloom and that fresh cedar mulch. Likewise, blooming aquatic plants add more layers of soft scents that enhance to the fresh clean aroma the water and humidity provides.

4. Touch - Cooling & Healing
Bring a tactile element to the yard everyone can engage with. Being able to touch the flow of water and engage with the landscape offers a grounding experience that promotes relaxation, encourages mindfulness, and invites people to explore. The dog takes a drink on a hot summer day while kids release their inner Huck Finn and adults swish their feet on the water's edge. The evaporation of water naturally cools the surrounding air, making your patio more comfortable during hot summer months. Or take the cooling effect further with a recreation pond (natural style pool) that can be created any size to allow you to casually sit in a shallow or jump off rocks in your own personal oasis.







Water Features—The Design Elements (Use, Type, Placement):
The key to successful design & implementation is matching the feature to your home, lifestyle, and senses. It's not only about wanting a pond, waterfall or fountainscape...it's about personalizing them with design details that integrate the water into your sitting areas, sight lines, and setting. With an idea on the sensory elements that are most important you can then explore the design elements.

1. Use - Swimming With The Fishes
How do you dream of using your water feature? Do you want to be able to swim or float, just wade in a deeper spot so you can cool down, dangle your feet in the water, enjoy all of the waterfalls and streams but don't want open water, create an eye-catching centerpiece that can draw attention from 360 degrees, a slow stream for kids to play, have fish to feed and name? There is a water feature type for all of these and more.

2. Type - Open Water or Closed System
There are 3 main types of water features. Ponds which have an open body of water and a waterfall, pondless waterfalls which store the water underground and recirculate the water over the waterfall and stream sections, and fountainscapes which store the water underground and recirculate the water through decorative fountain elements like bowls, walls, spheres, and urns. You can also combine fountainscape elements into your pond or pondless waterfall to create extra impact in those features.

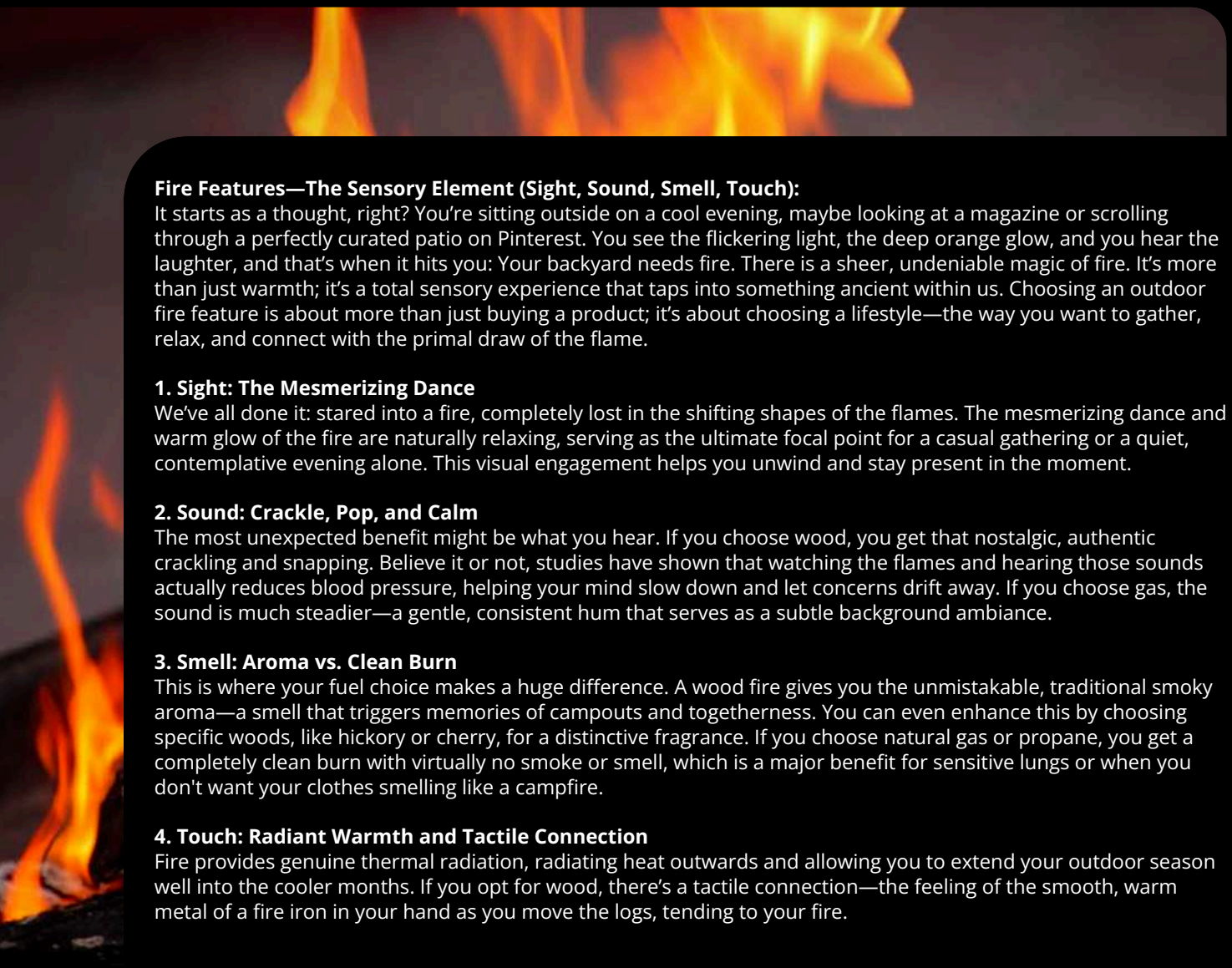


3. Placement - Nobody Puts Baby In A Corner
Too often we see water features tucked in a corner where they can only be experienced visually from a few chairs in 1 spot in the yard. Place your water feature where it can be seen, felt, and heard from your deck, patio, or even through your favorite window inside the home. The joy of a water isn't fully realized until it is part of the setting with water right up to the patio's edge, babbling beside the outdoor dining room, or framed through the picture window. A front yard feature even adds curb appeal and creates a welcoming entrance like pulling up to your own personal resort to set the mood the second you hit your property. A waterfall might look good on paper at 3' high in the corner of the yard - but if that corner is an intersection of buried utility lines the reservoir can't go there, the 3' high waterfall will look like an unnatural volcano if it's a flat yard, and if that corner is already a low spot the water ecology will be a maintenance nightmare with constant rains and snow runoffs adding nutrients for algae bloom.

Water Features: The Professional Difference - The Hands Of The Artist
Water features are both the most complex and difficult landscape element to install properly and with the artistic touch that makes them feel both natural and eye-catching. It takes years of training and repetition to master the nuances of design, plumbing, pump sizing, water flow, water ecology, boulder placement, circulation, and filtration to free up the time to spend on the "Art" of water features. Every boulder, waterfall, fountain element, pond ledge, planting pocket and light should be meticulously placed for maximum effect and artistic composition. We strongly suggest that water features should only be built by a Certified Aquascape Contractor (CACs) or it shouldn't be built at all. CAC's perform initial certification and ongoing training to maintain industry leading build methods and artistry to guarantee your Water Feature is beautiful and WORKS! The key to a non-leaking, low-maintenance water feature (like a pond, waterfall, or fountainscape) is a symphony of materials, build method, and automation. The correct materials must be specified to account for the proper sizing and operation of the filtration system, pumping system, pipe system, water reservoir, aeration system, treatment system, liner, and splash radius so the feature has the correct components and sizing to work properly.

CAC's like our team at Peregrine design living, sustainable ecosystems (ponds, streams, pondless waterfalls, and fountainscapes). Our foreman, Tony Brigham and designer Jesse are both certified masters at their craft and ensure time is taken to implement all the sensory elements on your wish list while ensuring your feature filters water naturally with minimal maintenance...saving time spent on chores and more time spent enjoying. We create moving art, like the Pond Oasis Project Showcase.

POND OASIS



Fire Features—The Sensory Element (Sight, Sound, Smell, Touch):
It starts as a thought, right? You're sitting outside on a cool evening, maybe looking at a magazine or scrolling through a perfectly curated patio on Pinterest. You see the flickering light, the deep orange glow, and you hear the laughter, and that's when it hits you: Your backyard needs fire. There is a sheer, undeniable magic of fire. It's more than just warmth; it's a total sensory experience that taps into something ancient within us. Choosing an outdoor fire feature is about more than just buying a product; it's about choosing a lifestyle—the way you want to gather, relax, and connect with the primal draw of the flame.

1. Sight: The Mesmerizing Dance
We've all done it: stared into a fire, completely lost in the shifting shapes of the flames. The mesmerizing dance and warm glow of the fire are naturally relaxing, serving as the ultimate focal point for a casual gathering or a quiet, contemplative evening alone. This visual engagement helps you unwind and stay present in the moment.

2. Sound: Crackle, Pop, and Calm
The most unexpected benefit might be what you hear. If you choose wood, you get that nostalgic, authentic crackling and snapping. Believe it or not, studies have shown that watching the flames and hearing those sounds actually reduces blood pressure, helping your mind slow down and let concerns drift away. If you choose gas, the sound is much steadier—a gentle, consistent hum that serves as a subtle background ambiance.

3. Smell: Aroma vs. Clean Burn
This is where your fuel choice makes a huge difference. A wood fire gives you the unmistakable, traditional smoky aroma—a smell that triggers memories of campouts and togetherness. You can even enhance this by choosing specific woods, like hickory or cherry, for a distinctive fragrance. If you choose natural gas or propane, you get a completely clean burn with virtually no smoke or smell, which is a major benefit for sensitive lungs or when you don't want your clothes smelling like a campfire.

4. Touch: Radiant Warmth and Tactile Connection
Fire provides genuine thermal radiation, radiating heat outwards and allowing you to extend your outdoor season well into the cooler months. If you opt for wood, there's a tactile connection—the feeling of the smooth, warm metal of a fire iron in your hand as you move the logs, tending to your fire.







Fire Features—The Design Elements (Use, Type, Placement):
Once you're sold on the experience, the next step is deciding which type of feature fits your space and entertaining style while placing it in a spot that promotes your outdoor lifestyle and adheres to local bylaws. Design the feature to how you want to use it...not just "where it fits," not with the wrong fuel source if you aren't ready to store and gather wood.

1. Use: Campfires and Cocktails
Fires and backyards are synonymous...but how we each use them isn't. Do you want a classic firepit for everyone to gather around communally, a fireplace to anchor a space and heat an area, a fire table for casual conversation with a place to set your drink down, the ability to cook and roast marshmallows, is the fire pit moveable so you can turn the patio into a dance floor when the mood hits, is your mood more rustic or clean and modern?

2. Type: What Fuels You?
The next important decision is the fuel source as this choice dictates your maintenance and overall experience. Wood burning features put off the most heat, the classic smoky aroma, authentic crackle/pop, and are bet for cooking. However, they are higher maintenance with storing wood, starting the fire, tending the flames, and ash clean up. Natural Gas provides a clean burn, no smoke/smell, instant ignition, moderate heat, and unlimited fuels supply. However, they aren't typically meant for cooking and require professional trenching of new lines and connections to the home's gas supply. Propane also provides a clean burn, no smoke/smell, instant ignition, moderate heat, and don't need professional hookup. However, you have to plan a way to hide the tank and refill or exchange your tanks.

3. Placement: From Burning to Bylaws
Your fire feature should be the heart of its space. A designated fire feature area always gets used more than the one you have to move everywhere. Additionally, it seem like a good idea to put the fire out on the acreage because you want to "use the space up," but the reality is the further away it is the less you will use it! If you like having your fires late into the night while the kids sleep it might make sense to place it away from those bedroom windows to reduce the sound of visiting. Your local bylaws will have rules you should check into as well as most municipalities require wood burning features to be minimum 10' away from any combustible structure in all directions.

Fire Features: The Professional Difference - Sparking Joy
Fire Features are complex in their own way with navigating the use, type, and placement to fit your wish list and bylaws...but they don't have to be! When you enlist a professional team they have the experience and knowledge to walk you through all of these decisions so you can just enjoy. By understanding your requirements and bylaws a professional team can plan for and build in the gas line that feeds your fire table with the appropriate BTU's (heat output) to heat an area, select the proper stone to match your patio and endure those long campfire evenings, choose the height of the fire pit to give off more or less heat it, and make sure the fire feature "flows" with landscape while being bylaw compliant. Yes, building these features properly takes pre-planning and construction knowledge that can sometimes feel overwhelming...and that's when we see homeowners either settle for that old tire rim. Don't cut your sensory element short and create another landscape feature that doesn't get used, take the time to plan it out properly or enlist a professional Design-To-Build team.



DEFINING YOUR SENSORY DESIGN ELEMENTS

DO YOU WANT A WATER FEATURE & HOW DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT?

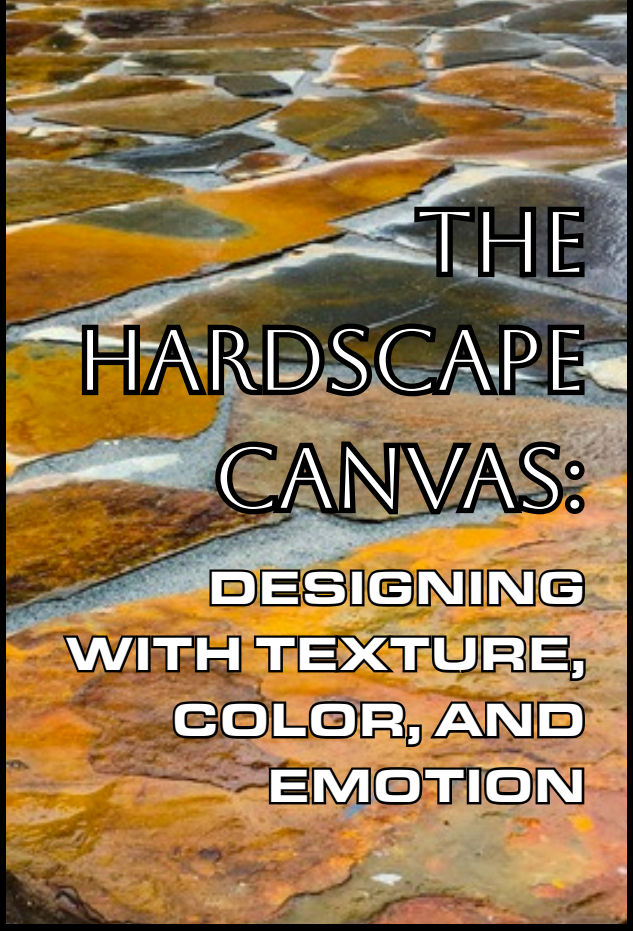
DO YOU WANT A FIRE FEATURE & HOW DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT

WHERE IN YOUR YARD DO YOU SEE THESE ELEMENTS BEING PLACED?

WATER FEATURE STYLE GUIDE

FIRE FEATURE STYLE GUIDE

SENSORY STYLE GUIDE



THE HARDSCAPE CANVAS:

DESIGNING WITH TEXTURE, COLOR, AND EMOTION

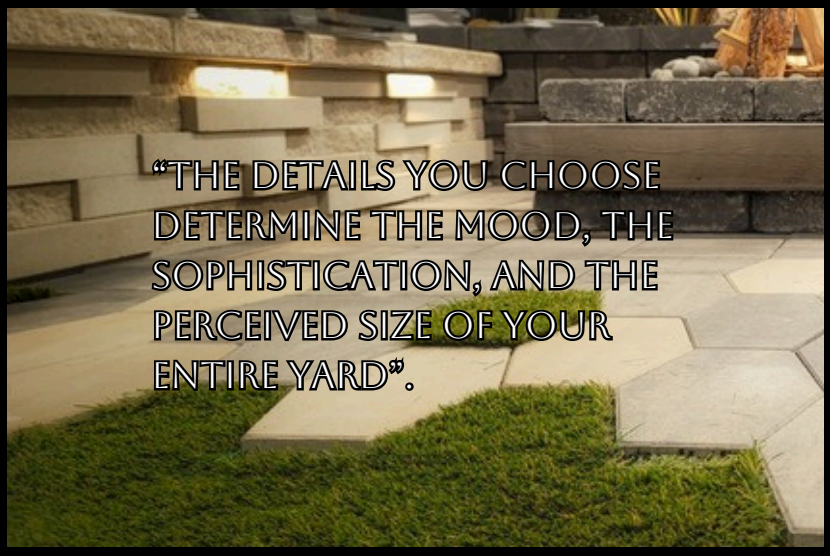
Your patio or retaining wall is much more than a strong foundation; it is the canvas for your outdoor living space. The paving stone is the "floor" and the wall is the "boundary"—and . While the integrity of the base is handled by the Built to Last process, the artistic expression is all about design intent—how you use size, color, and pattern to create a feeling. Let's break it down so you can consider your options.

1. Defining Mood with Color and Texture: The colors and surface texture you choose instantly set the emotional tone for your outdoor room. Consider your outdoor lifestyle goals and moods and map your hardscape choices back to it:

- **The Modern & Calm Mood:** Created by using large format pavers with a smooth texture (oversized squares or rectangles) and a monochromatic or analogous color palette (e.g., varying shades of grey, charcoal, and black). The smooth, simple lines create a sophisticated, restful atmosphere that complements contemporary architecture and enhances the minimalist unplugged lifestyle.
- **The Traditional & Warm Mood:** Achieved using smaller, irregularly shaped stones or pavers with tumbled/textured finishes. The color palette often leans towards natural browns, tans, and reds. This creates a highly inviting, cozy, and classic feeling, making the space feel like a natural extension of the landscape.

2. Creating Definition with Borders and Banding: Borders and banding are the "picture frames" of your hardscape. They are essential for turning a simple area of pavers into a defined, intentional outdoor room, greatly enhancing the "Flow" of a space:

- **Borders (The Frame):** A contrasting color or texture of paver running along the perimeter of the main field. This visually defines the edge of a seating area, separating it from the lawn or garden. It's an essential tool for creating distinct zones within the larger space.
- **Banding (The Inlay Border):** Using a line of contrasting material or a different-sized paver within the main field of the patio. This is high-level artistry—it can be used to divide a dining area from a lounge area, create visual interest, or direct the eye toward a central feature like a fire pit or water feature.
- **Inlays (The Rug):** Creating a pattern or custom feature (like a circle, diamond, rectangle or custom shape) using entirely different colors or stones in the center of the patio. This acts as an "outdoor rug," anchoring a feature like a table or fire pit and adding bespoke luxury. When you combine an inlay with banding around it and borders on the edges of the patio the spaces take shape into settings rather than spots you can sit.







3. Pattern and Size: Guiding the Eye: The way pavers are laid and the size of the pavers themselves dramatically affects the feeling of your space:

- **Large Sizes:** Using oversized pavers minimizes grout lines, creating a sense of expanse and modern simplicity. They make the space feel larger and cleaner.
- **Linear Patterns:** Laying rectangular pavers in long, straight lines (running bond or plank style) can visually stretch the space, making a narrow patio feel deeper.
- **Intricate Patterns:** Patterns like herringbone, 3 piece tiles, or basketweave are more complex and traditional. They create a feeling of stability and high-craftsmanship but can visually compress a space, making it feel more cozy. If you want a modern craftsman feel you can combine a large size paver with an intricate pattern like a herringbone to create a unique space true to your style.





4. Walls: Defining Boundaries and Mood: Retaining walls, sitting walls, and courtyard walls (free standing walls) are the "furniture" of the hardscape. They combine essential functionality (holding back soil) with crucial design elements:

- **Height and Seating:** Low walls create informal seating and define the boundary of the outdoor room without obstructing sightlines. Taller walls create dramatic visual barriers for privacy and scale or doubling as a counter area.
- **Texture:** From smooth, polished units to rough, aged-looking stones—to match the desired mood, ensuring the hardscape complements the style of your home and landscape.
- **Size and Details:** The same as with paving stone you can implement different moods by going with larger stones for your wall or even natural boulders. Likewise, you can create extra artistry by using contrasting cap stone colours and textures, adding in an accent course of a different colour or texture within the wall, or choosing stones that lay in an irregular pattern or long clean rows to further customize the feel.

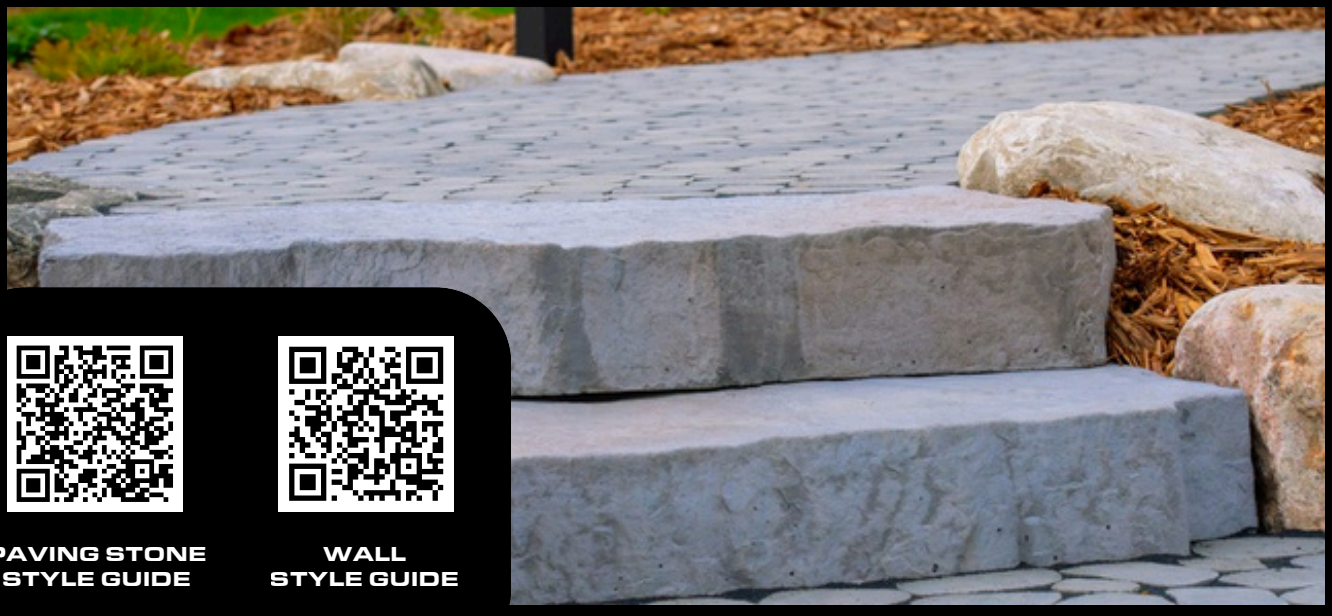
The Technical Underpinning: All of this artistry depends on integrity as you learnt in “Built-To-Last”. Hardscapes should be the permanent canvas that defines your space for creating memories. Beyond the pretty stones and colours you must make sure to Invest in the Integrity of the build.











PAVING STONE STYLE GUIDE

WALL STYLE GUIDE

DEFINING YOUR HARDSCAPE CANVAS

WHAT IS YOUR MOOD, COLOUR, & TEXTURE?

WHAT ARE YOUR STYLES?

(BORDERS, INLAYS, PATTERN, SIZE)

WHERE ARE YOUR STRUCTURAL & ARTISTIC WALLS?



DECKING DEFINED:

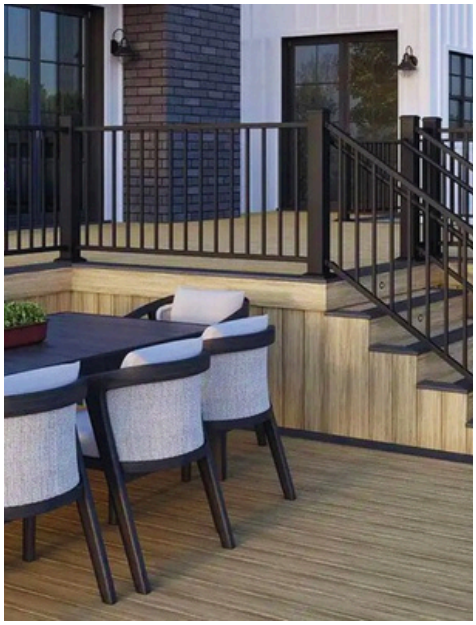
YOUR ELEVATED OUTDOOR VIEWPOINT

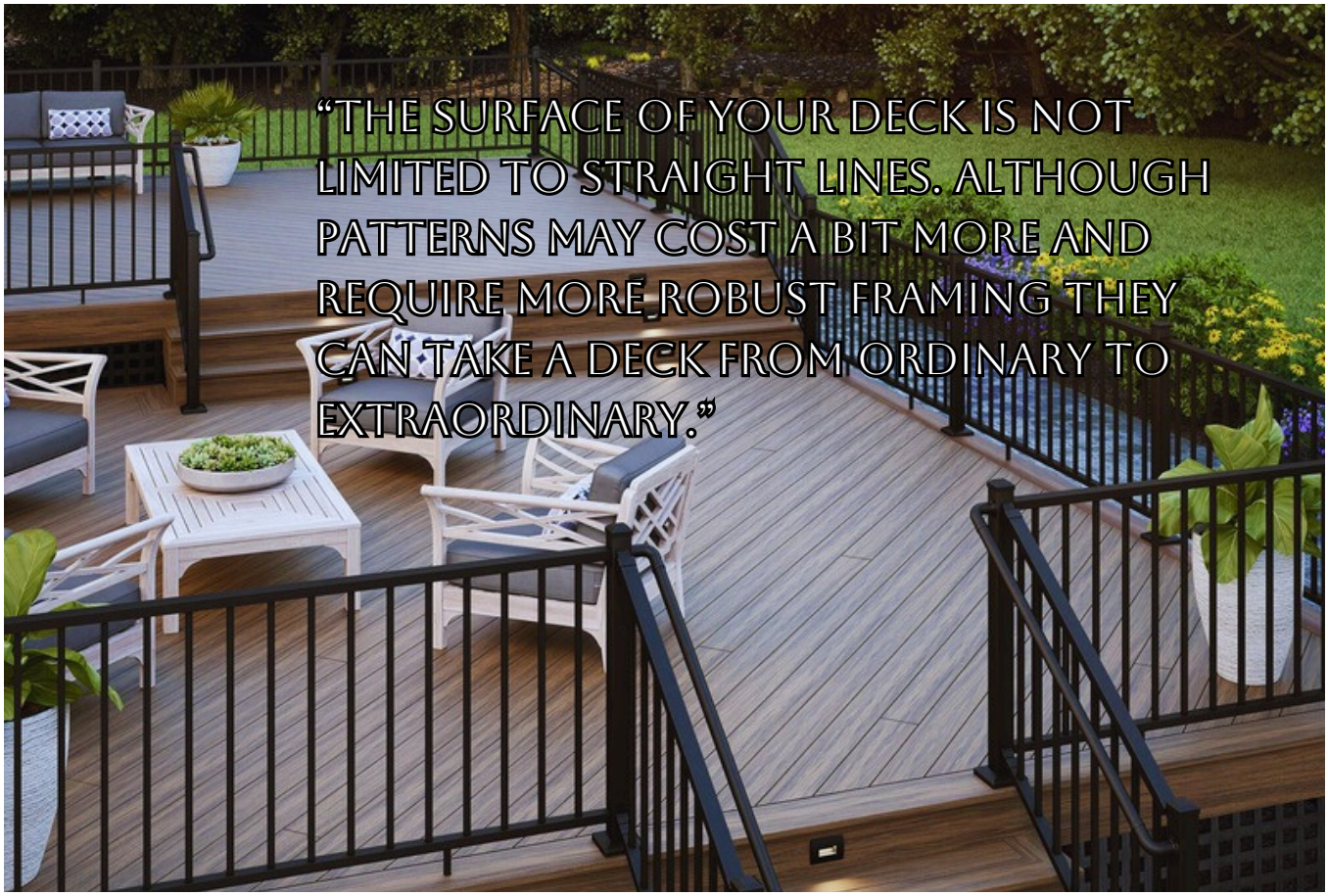
When your yard presents a challenge—a steep slope, a high walk-out basement, or a need to seamlessly transition from your main floor—decking is often the solution. More than just a platform, a deck creates an elevated viewpoint and a distinct outdoor room that feels connected to your home yet commanding of your landscape. Unlike a patio, a deck uses height to its advantage, turning a difficult grade into a beautiful, level living space. It's an architectural decision that brings flow and perspective to your entire property.

Decks aren't just about solving problems they are essential to create the interior to exterior connection that a true outdoor lifestyle capitalizes on to engage you to be in your yard, unplugged! When considering a deck there is lots to account for.

Creating the Feeling: Use Cases and Zones
A well-designed deck is defined by how you intend to live on it. Its elevated nature offers unique opportunities for creating distinct zones and experiences:

- **The Seamless Transition:** A deck perfectly solves the problem of a higher back door. It extends your interior floor space outward, allowing for effortless movement when entertaining, making the line between indoor and outdoor living virtually disappear. Sometimes this transition is just a landing and stairs, or a BBQ perch…but it shouldn't make the design and style of the deck any less important.
- **The Private Vista:** If built on a sloping yard, a deck can act as a perch, giving you elevated views over your landscape or neighborhood. This creates a feeling of sanctuary and privacy, ideal for morning coffee or a quiet reading nook.
- **Multi-Level Flow:** For larger, complex yards, a deck is the key to creating multi-level zones. A top deck might be the outdoor dining area, transitioning via wide, gentle steps down to a lower deck or a hardscaped patio for a lounge or fire pit. This layered approach adds immense visual interest and improves the Flow Like A River design of your yard.





Style and Artistry: Designing the Surface
The deck boards themselves offer a canvas for artistic expression and low-duty living. The decision between wood and high-performance composite decking is one of the key choices on the maintenance spectrum. After this decision there are patterns, inlays, borders, and rails to consider for bringing it all together:

- **The Low-Duty Luxury Choice:** You know from this magazine that we champion the Low-Duty lifestyle. Modern composite and PVC decking offers the rich look of exotic wood without the high-maintenance demands of staining, sealing, and repairing splinters. It's the “Designed for Tomorrow” solution that ensures your deck looks perfect year after year with minimal effort. Higher end composites and PVCs integrate graining, texture to improve traction, colour blends to look real, and improved heat retention so they aren’t hotter than the sun. You can also get any colour to match your style that never requires a new coat.
- **The Unmatched Feel:** Wood decks are unquestionably more work as they require oiling or staining to preserve the investment and keep it looking fresh…take it from us—go for the oil…don’t stain…thank us later! Although they are more work, wood decks are unmatched for that softer feel, natural wood look, and cooler surface temperature. When you think of wood, know that you save money up front and get the warmth only real wood can provide. Consider upgrading your wood to a natural cedar or hardwood to get a more upscale feel, better lifespan, and richer texture.
- **Pattern and Inlay:** Regardless of choosing composite or wood, the surface of your deck is not limited to straight lines. Although patterns may cost a bit more and require more robust framing they can take a deck from ordinary to extraordinary. Should the deck boards be laid on a 45 degree angle to flow into the next seating area or even a herringbone pattern to have a more craftsman appeal…your overall landscape will dictate this and help define the flow of deck boards to the next space.

- **Borders:** Instead of running your deck boards the full length of the deck, consider installing a picture frame or border around the outside of the deck. This will hide any cut ends and make the surface feel custom and PRO! You can even try running a contrasting color or texture of material as the border to make things POP and define the space.
- **Inlays:** Creating diagonal patterns or inlays in the center of the deck floor can define a specific zone, such as marking out where an outdoor rug or dining table should sit, adding custom artistry to the surface. Consider your zones and highlight the key areas—what if under the dining room table the boards were laid in a herringbone pattern and the grilling area matched it so the intricacy was laced throughout the property. You can then use these styles and start mimicking them in the paving stone to create a cohesive feel! These advanced design techniques to define areas and add custom elegance tie the whole landscape together.
- **Railing Styles:** From classic railing pickets to modern horizontal cable lines or glass panels, the railing system acts as the "walls" of your elevated outdoor room, dramatically impacting the view and the overall aesthetic. Railings are essential but don't need to be purely functional. Add that 6' tall section of frosted glass or privacy panels to block the neighbours while you grill in your boxers, but keep the front of the deck open with cable rail or clear glass so the space feels connected and inviting.



DECKING
STYLE GUIDE

Peace of Mind: The Invisible Structure: A stunning deck is only a good investment if it is safe and stable. You learned about "The Hidden Price of Shortcuts" and proper construction in the "Built-To-Last" section. Don't let it fall on deaf ears. Proper planning and construction is the heart of an investment in your Outdoor Lifestyle—deep frost-proof footings, professional framing, proper water protection…these aren't buzzwords…they are essential because these are the invisible structural elements that guarantee your deck won't sag, shift, or compromise your family's safety for the next 30+ years. The Power of One (Design-to-Build) promise is these essentials and design details aren't hidden to reduce costs. Instead they are upfront and part of the conversation so you know your investment is safe. The engineering, the local permitting, and the structural integrity (the footings and framing) before the first board is laid is as important or more important than the board choice. You focus on choosing the beautiful colors and patterns; while your build team guarantees that the structure beneath will be Built to Last with an investment in the invisible.

DEFINING YOUR OUTDOOR VIEWPOINT

WHAT ARE YOUR DECKING ZONES?

WHAT IS YOUR BOARD TYPE AND STYLE?

WHAT ARE YOUR RAILING TYPES?

DEFINING THE VERTICAL:
THE ARCHITECTURE OF FEELING

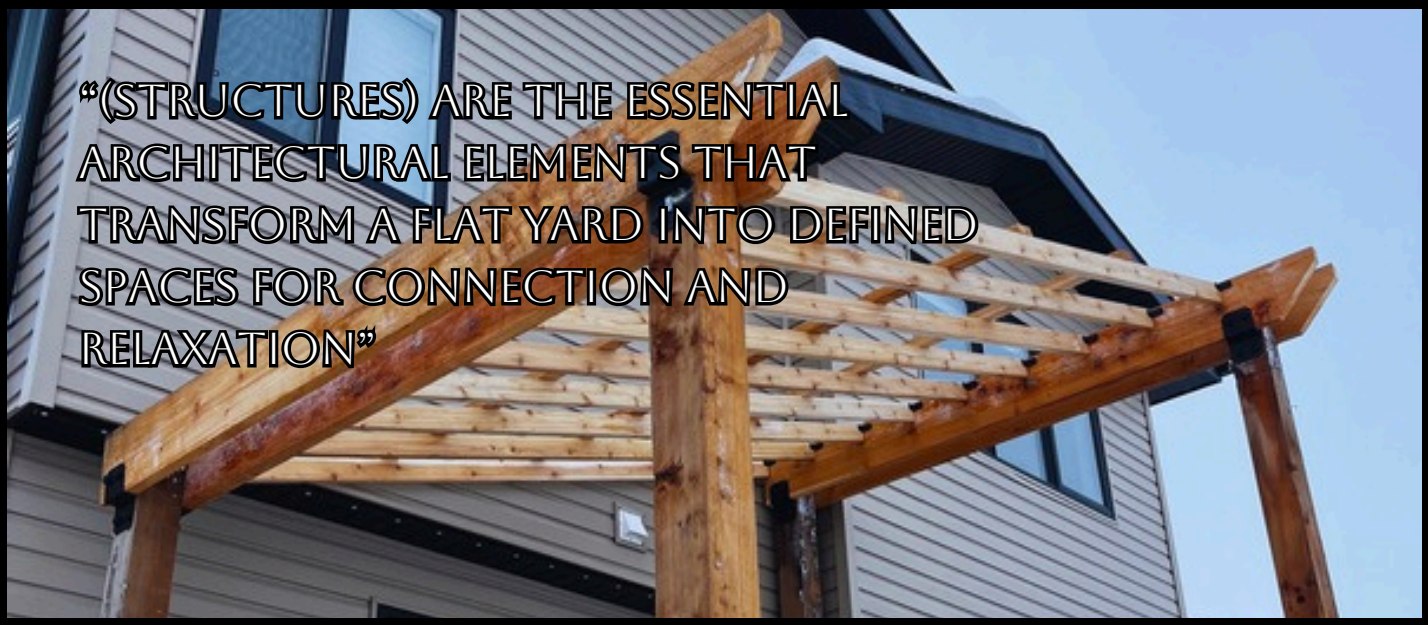
Your patio & decks are the floor, your walls are the borders, your lawn is the carpet, your plants are the decor, and your features are the focal points, but to truly create an "outdoor room," you need walls and a ceiling. Structures—pergolas, pavilions, and arbours—are the essential architectural elements that transform a flat yard into defined spaces for connection and relaxation. Vertical lines are often overlooked when you look at creating the floorplan for your yard...but the vertical lines complete the visual and provide the substance that moves a space from feeling like a fishbowl to cozy connection. When designed correctly, these vertical elements don't just provide shade or visual interest; they change how you feel in your yard. They create intimacy, define scale, and draw your eye up, giving your landscape the grandeur and comfort of a home.

The Psychology of Structures: Different structures are designed to anchor different emotions and activities, much like a good seating wall or retaining wall they instantly provide a sense of safety and comfort. In the design world we call this overcoming “The Restaurant Effect”. Consider when you walk into a restaurant and wait to be seated...for most of us we eye up the open booth and hope we get seated there rather than the table in the middle of the room. Why? Because there is a primal want for safety and comfort that bleeds into our Psychology. We don’t want our backs exposed in the open without a pulse on the rest of the room. Thanks caveman DNA - although we aren’t foraging for berries in the open while a predator stalks, that general undefinable unease is still rooted in us...even if its just not wanting strangers watching us for their own entertainment. Structures tame this Psychology and give us the ease and comfort to completely relax and be present in a space:



1. The Pavilion: Total Sanctuary: A pavilion is a true outdoor room with a solid, weather-proof roof. They can be enhanced with roof lights, heaters, fans, and closing in some of the walls to further that outdoor room feel.

- **What it Creates:** Security and permanence. It’s where you retreat when the rain starts or the sun is too harsh. It’s the ultimate gathering spot, feeling like a cozy extension of your home that is a magnet for those serene moments of complete relaxation or night time gathering with the whole crew.
- **Best Use Cases:** Housing an outdoor kitchen, an all-weather dining area, or a covered lounge space where electronics like outdoor T.V’s and plush furniture need protection. It turns an area into a three-season destination and extends your time outdoors. Add in a gas fire feature or heater and the closed roof helps contain the warmth and create a comfort zone.



2. The Pergola: Filtered Light and Intimacy: A pergola uses rafters or louvers to create an open, airy "ceiling" of light and shadow. You can still stare up at the tree tops and stars while maintaining the mood and aesthetics structures provide. Although you are still open to the elements you are still in a room. You can also enhance them with lights, fans, heaters, or closing in the walls much like a pavilion...or add a retractable screen to the roof for providing optional shade on those scorching Summer days.

- **What it Creates:** Intimacy and subtle definition. The shifting patterns of light and shade are mesmerizing and comforting. It makes a large space feel personal and contained, perfect for conversation.
- **Best Use Cases:** Shading a hot tub, defining a casual seating/dining area on a patio or deck, or providing support for vining plants (like grapes or clematis) that add natural color and scent.



3. The Arbour: The Gateway to Discovery: An arbour is a simple arch or frame, often found where a path begins or a room ends. It leads the eye and begs people to “come walk under me”. Arbours invite exploration while providing subtle vertical structure to anchor key points in the landscape.

- **What it Creates:** Anticipation and transition. Walking through an arbour marks a shift in focus—you're leaving the open lawn and entering a private garden or a quiet retreat. It guides your movement, playing perfectly into the "Flow Like A River" design principle. It creates anchoring vertical focal points for key features, vegetation to grow up, or even small covered spots for shelter.
- **Best Use Cases:** Marking the entrance to a vegetable garden, a fire pit area, or the pathway to a pool or water feature. Arbours can be used to frame the key visual focal points like centering a water feature in the arbour for a dramatic and centered view from your favourite lounging spot. Use an arbour as a mini-pergola or mini-pavilion over a BBQ and cooking station to define the area with a sense of luxury and substance.



4. The Integrated Cabana/Shed: Beauty and Utility: A shed or cabana, when integrated into the landscape design, is elevated from a functional box to an architectural element. Yes, that PVC shed from the box store will absolutely serve its purpose for housing your mower and rakes. But, does it match the finishings on the house and landscape or just stick out like a sore thumb depreciating your overall outdoor vibe?

- **What it Creates:** Harmony and efficiency. By matching the shed's materials and roofline to the home or the pavilion, it ensures that your utility and storage needs are met without cluttering your beautiful view. With custom sheds you aren't limited to a centered door and 1 window...you can integrate their size and features to fit the "flow" of your landscape in perfect harmony to add to the vibe.
- **Best Use Cases:** A poolside cabana bar, a beautiful storage area for your tools and furnishings in the winter, wood storage near your fire pit, or a little micro room getaway for the kids playhouse or Mom's me-time with a good book!



The Power of Engineered Beauty: We believe a structure should bring you joy, not worry. This is where we must briefly mention the foundation: because structures are tall...wind, snow, and our local frost line make them susceptible. The peace of mind that comes with proper construction is paramount. Proper materials and construction methods guarantee that the structure is safe—from plough winds, snow load on the roof, water damage, or pests finding their way through a plastic door. This is The Power of One in action: the engineering, the permits, and the perfect placement are handled for you so you can focus solely on enjoying the beautiful space that results. Don't just build a structure—build a feeling. Build a destination.





STRUCTURE STYLE GUIDE

DEFINING THE VERTICAL

WHERE ARE YOUR STRUCTURE SPOTS?
(DINING AREA, DECK, PATIO)

WHAT ARE YOUR STRUCTURE TYPES?
(PAVILLION, PERGOLA, ARBOUR, SHED)

WHAT ARE YOUR STRUCTURE MATERIALS?
(WOOD, STEEL, FINISHES)

THE LIVING PALETTE:

DESIGNING WITH HEIGHT, COLOUR, AND INTENT

After creating the Built to Last framework of your build, plants are an essential layer. They don't just fill space; they are the artistic tools that create privacy, define depth, and guide your eye throughout your outdoor rooms. A truly sophisticated landscape replaces the Silent Ache of random maintenance with the delight of intentional, functional beauty. This is the art of designing with a low-duty plant palette that supports your Unplugged Yard lifestyle.

Your living palette needs function, style, and colour to truly create the immersive spaces you dream about. What does that look like and what does that mean? We are here to help!

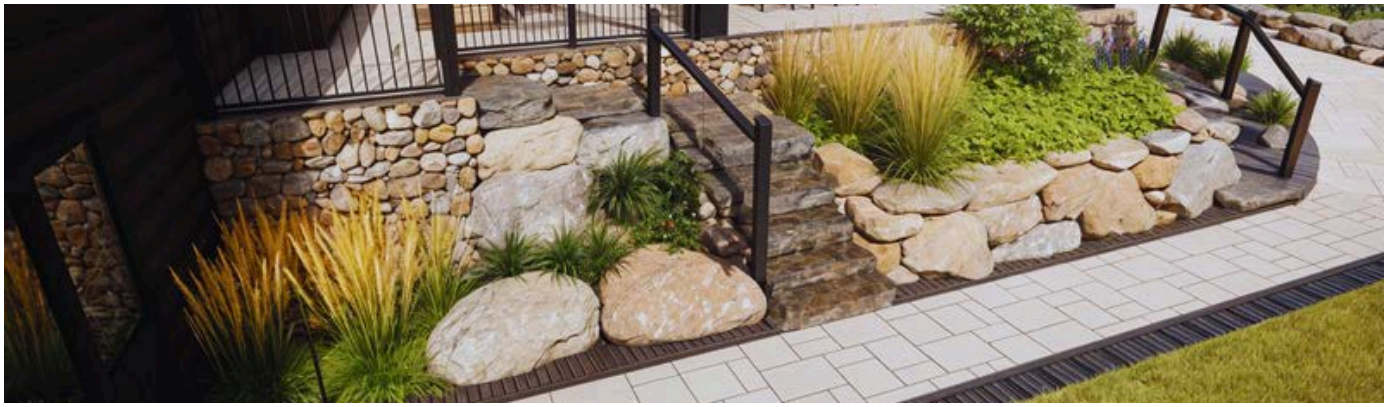
1. Functional Design: Mastering Height and Sightlines: Use plant height as an architectural element, just like the walls and ceilings of your home. The goal is to maximize privacy where you need it and preserve important views where you don't.

- **Creating Privacy (The High Barrier):** Tall, dense shrubs and columnar trees are strategically placed near seating areas or property lines to act as living screens for total seclusion. This is crucial for defining the walls of your outdoor room, making your Structures feel more intimate.
- **Creating Depth and Layers (The Mid-Ground):** Planting in three tiers—tall background, medium mid-ground, and low foreground—adds immense visual depth, making a small yard feel larger and more complex. These middle layers help transition the eye from the flat patio to the dense boundary.
- **Preserving Sightlines (The Low Window):** In areas where you have a beautiful view (e.g., from your deck or a large window to the water feature), plants are kept low and spreading in the foreground. This creates a "low window" that frames the view while maintaining an uninterrupted sightline.

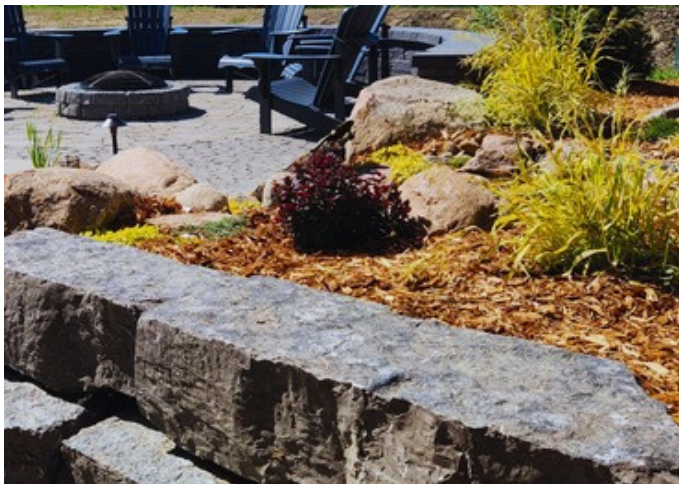


2. Planting Style: Intentional Massing vs. "Pimple Planting": The difference between a high-end landscape and a low-end yard often comes down to how the plants are placed. A random, isolated placement—often called "pimple planting"—creates visual chaos and maintenance headaches.

- **The Intentional Approach (Drifts and Massing):** Professionals plant in odd-numbered groups (3, 5, 7) and use massing (large sweeps of the same plant) or drifting (elongated, organic groups). This creates visual power, allowing the eye to rest on large blocks of color and texture. It also promotes healthier plant growth by eliminating exposed soil and shading out weeds, which supports your Designed for Tomorrow low-duty goals.
- **The Random Approach (Pimple Planting):** Placing single specimens randomly throughout the yard with mashed together colours, textures, and heights leaves the eye no where to pause and admire the landscape. The eye becomes so overwhelmed with trying to make sense of the chaos it in turn makes sense of nothing. This look creates disorganized, visually jarring planting beds and leaves bare soil between plants, inviting weeds and demanding more effort from you.

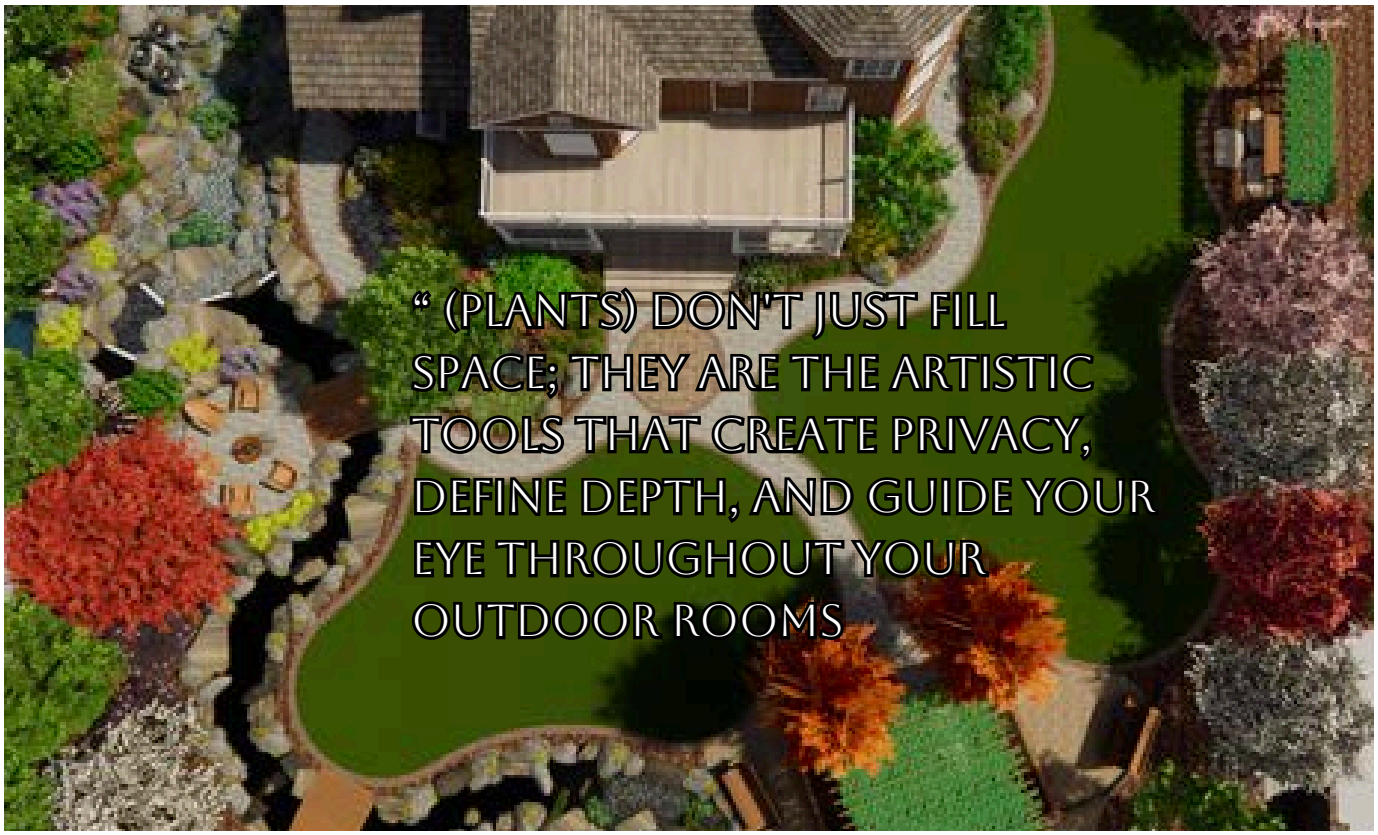


3. The Art of Color: Designing the Mood: Your color choices are the easiest way to define the emotional tone of a space. You don't need every color of the rainbow—you need an intention.



- **The Energetic & Dynamic Palette:** This uses complementary colors (e.g., vibrant yellows placed next to deep purples). This contrast creates visual energy, makes spaces feel dynamic, and is perfect for high-traffic or entertainment areas you want to feel alive.
- **The Calm & Modern Palette:** This uses analogous colors (e.g., blues, lavenders, and soft pinks) or relies entirely on shades of green and silver-grey foliage. This subtle approach creates a restful, sophisticated atmosphere that enhances relaxation and introspection near Structures and lounge areas.





4. Low-Duty Plant Palette Options: Our designer and horticulturalist has a few key species to consider when you define your own living palette in Saskatchewan. These aren’t the only options but are good areas to start.

- **Trees:** Ash, Birch, Maple, Ornamental Crabapple, Spruce, Pine, Juniper
- **Shrubs:** Dogwood, Lilac, Ninebark, Spirea, Hydrangea, Barberry, Elder, Spruce, Pine, Juniper, Yew
- **Sun Perennials:** Daylily, Iris, Artemisia, Aster, Catmint, Sage, Stonecrop
- **Shade Perennials:** Hosta, Fern, Bleeding Heart, Bergenia
- **Groundcovers:** Thyme, Jenny, Phlox, Bugleweed, Woodruff, Juniper
- **Grasses:** Reed, Oat, Fescue, Ribbon

Every plant selection employed must be rooted in our local reality and tied back to your overarching outdoor lifestyle goals. Choose wisely and plant with root boosters and slow release soil amendments to literally watch your landscape and investment in your yard grow!



DEFINING YOUR LIVING PALETTE

WHAT ARE YOUR FUNCTIONAL AREAS?

(SUN, SHADE, HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW ZONES)

WHAT IS YOUR PLANTING STYLE?

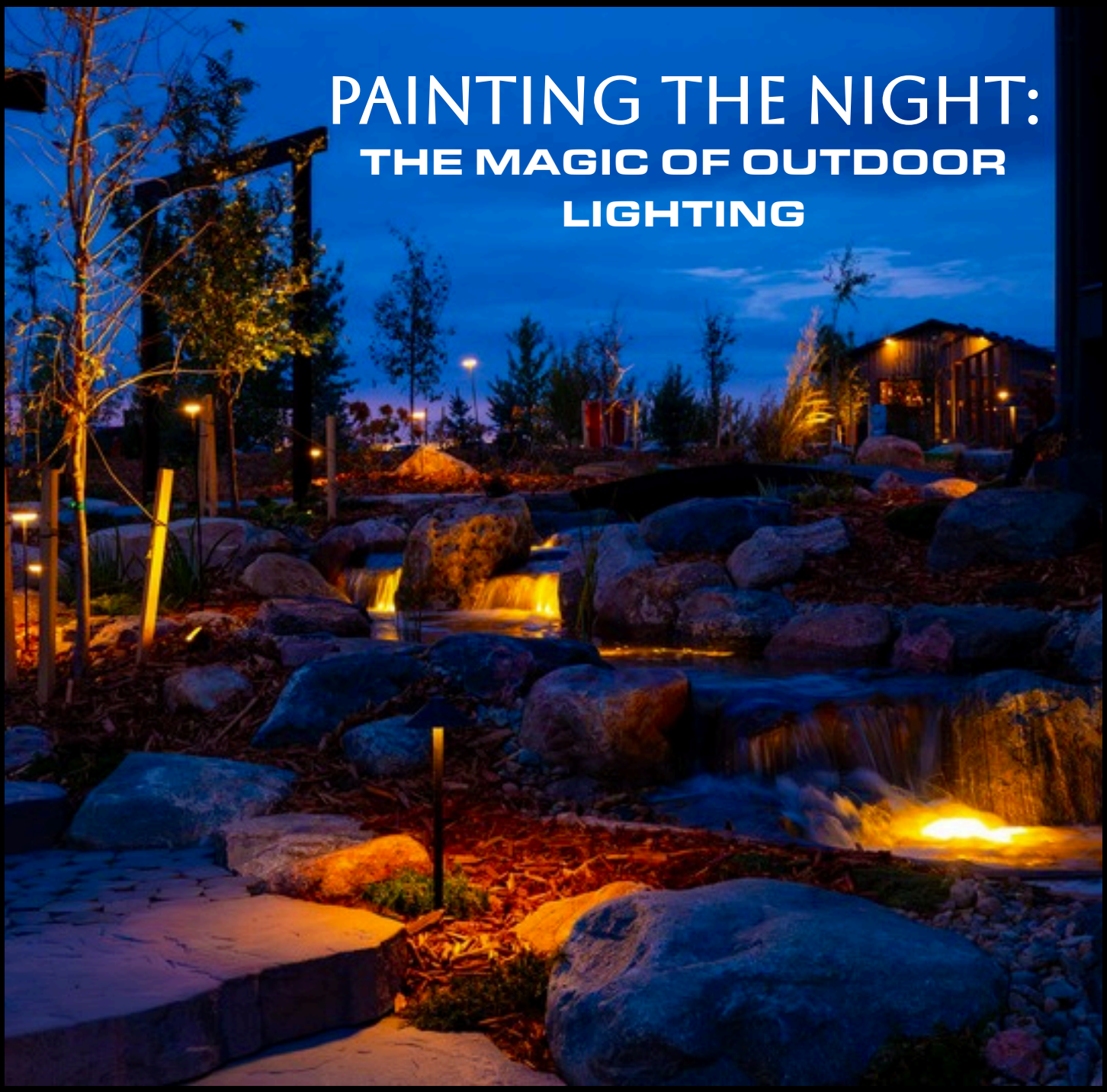
(MASS PLANTINGS, FORMAL PATTERNS, NATURAL BEDS,)

WHAT IS YOUR PLANTING MOOD?

(ENERGETIC, CALM, COLOURFUL)

GROUNDCOVER STYLE GUIDE

PLANTING STYLE GUIDE



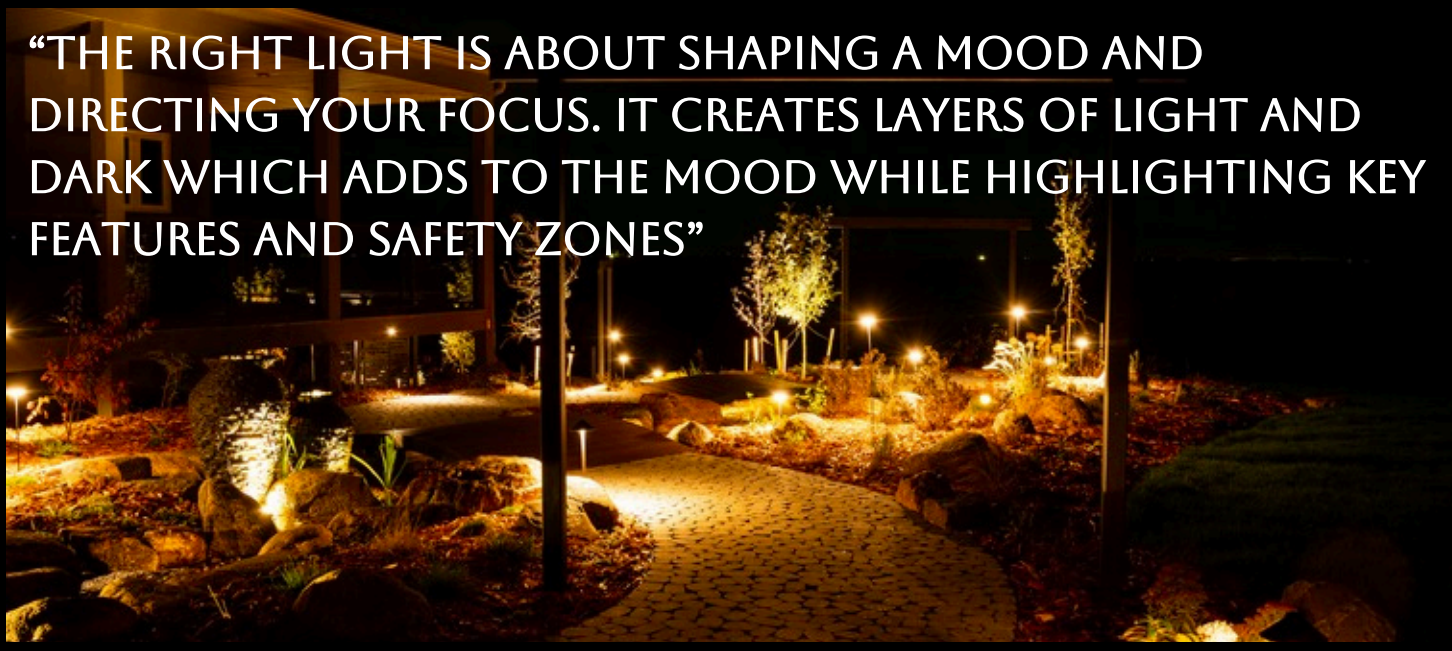
PAINTING THE NIGHT:
THE MAGIC OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING

When the sun dips below the prairie horizon, does your beautiful yard—the patio, the plantings, the carefully chosen features—disappear into a black hole? If so, you are only using half of your investment. Lighting is not an afterthought; it is an essential design element that extends the feeling of home into the night. It is a crucial layer that ensures your new space is safe, functional, and absolutely breathtaking, transforming your landscape into a dramatic, high-end resort you get to enjoy every evening...all year round. No, solar lights cannot do this. Professional grade hard wired LED fixtures are the permanent, dramatic, multi-functional answer to creating evening enjoyment.

When choosing and placing your lighting the devil is in the details...20 path lights isn't the only answer...we promise. The paths do need path lighting, but, the trees need up lighting, the stairs need step lights, the retaining walls need hardscape lights, the structures need down lights, the features need integrated lighting...and they should be placed for maximum effect! There are a few simple principles that can make a lighting plan more clear...and we have them here for you...how about that!

The Feeling Lighting Creates: The right light is about shaping a mood and directing your focus. It creates layers of light and dark which adds to the mood while highlighting key features and safety zones. Your outdoor lifestyle has more depth than staring at the black night out the window. It has a deck in the foreground, a fire pit and patio in the midground, a bubbling water feature shouldering the patio and layers of dramatic planting that SCREAM to be lit up like the resort on your all inclusive vacation...all the while softly lighting the steps and grade transitions in your property to ensure "Grandpa Bill" can find his way to the spare bed after the July Cornhole tournament without breaking a hip. Illuminate your world using feeling as our guide:

1. Security and Peace of Mind: This is the foundational feeling. A dark space invites uncertainty and trip hazards. By seamlessly integrating step lights into your walls and deck stairs you ensure safe "Flow" between zones. Properly lit perimeters also provide a quiet, subconscious sense of security, discouraging unwanted visitors and allowing you to feel relaxed and protected. That burglar or isn't casing your house when it's lit up, they are looking for the easiest target they can use the cloak of night to capitalize on.



2. Drama and Intimacy: Lighting transforms textures. During the day, your beautiful retaining wall or unique tree is static. At night, through simple techniques, it becomes art:

- **Uplighting:** Placing a fixture at the base of an object casts a dramatic light upward, highlighting texture and creating height. This instantly gives trees, pergolas, and stone surfaces a cinematic presence. Ad in a subtle breeze and those leaves make shadows dance in the night sky.
- **Moonlighting (Downlighting):** Placing lights high up in a tree or under a pavilion or pergola roof, aimed down. This casts a soft, dappled wash of light that mimics the subtle glow of the moon, giving the entire area a relaxed, intimate atmosphere. This makes the space feel expansive yet contained, like a cozy, open-air room. As you walk from the firepit to the hot tub the shadows of leaves are cast on the paving stone to create a sensory experience that feels surreal. All for the price of one light!
- **Shadowing:** Lighting objects in front of a flat surface (like a fence or house wall) creates dramatic, oversized shadows. This effect adds depth and mystery where there was once only darkness. The shadow from a 4' tall Cedar shrub can loom 8' tall on the side of your house to create a feeling of expanse and depth that the daylight hides.





3. Colour and Temperature: When it comes to professional grade LED fixtures you don’t only get the various fixture types and lighting effects that solar lights cannot provide, you also get the ability to choose the colour and temperature of the light. Our opinion is that your landscape lighting should be soft and warm. In the lighting world this is referred to as colour temperature and it is measured in Kelvins. The higher the Kelvin rating the brighter and whiter the light is. The goldilocks zone for that warm white glow is between 2700 and 3000 Kelvins. Higher ratings that push into the 4000's and above are too white and lower ratings that dip below 2500 don’t produce enough ambiance. You can also upgrade some lighting systems to be colour changing so you can change things up on your phone for the holiday seasons—green & red for Christmas, purple & orange for Halloween, or your favourite sports team’s colours for gameday.

4. Maximizing Your Investment: The real value of professional lighting is that it turns a "daytime-only" patio into an all-season gathering space. Imagine relaxing by your Fire & Water features in the spring, with light dancing off the water and reflecting the texture of the flames while the canopy of your trees flickers with up lighting and your eye can travel the lights and shadows down a winding path...Heaven. This is the low-duty luxury of an Unplugged Yard—the light works automatically, scheduled by a smart controller to come on the moment you need it, maximizing your enjoyment without any effort from you. With smart outdoor lighting systems you can turn off the perimeter lighting to make that late night dining experience feel even more intimate, or the water water feature even more dramatic. Solar lights can’t and won’t provide this aesthetic.

Why Your Lights Need The Power of One: A lighting system is only as good as its materials and installation. When you take shortcuts on the fixture quality, connection hardware, and transformer/controller you open yourself up to an unreliable system. Flickering, corrosion and loose connections can lead to system failure...and no one wants to dig up the lines and connections to find the failure point. What’s more, the lights could be placed without artistry or purpose and that resort ambiance is “just off” or you end up with hot spots (areas that are over lit) and dead spots (areas that are underlit) that need less or more fixtures. With The Power of One (Design-to-Build), your lighting is engineered alongside your landscape. Fixture placements and types are preplanned so wiring is hidden throughout the build in the correct areas to make the magic of the evening landscape even more magical and seamless. Invest in the night. It is the final, essential step to completing the beautiful, resort like, functional, and safe Unplugged Yard you deserve.

DEFINING YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING

WHERE ARE YOUR SECURITY & SAFETY SPOTS?

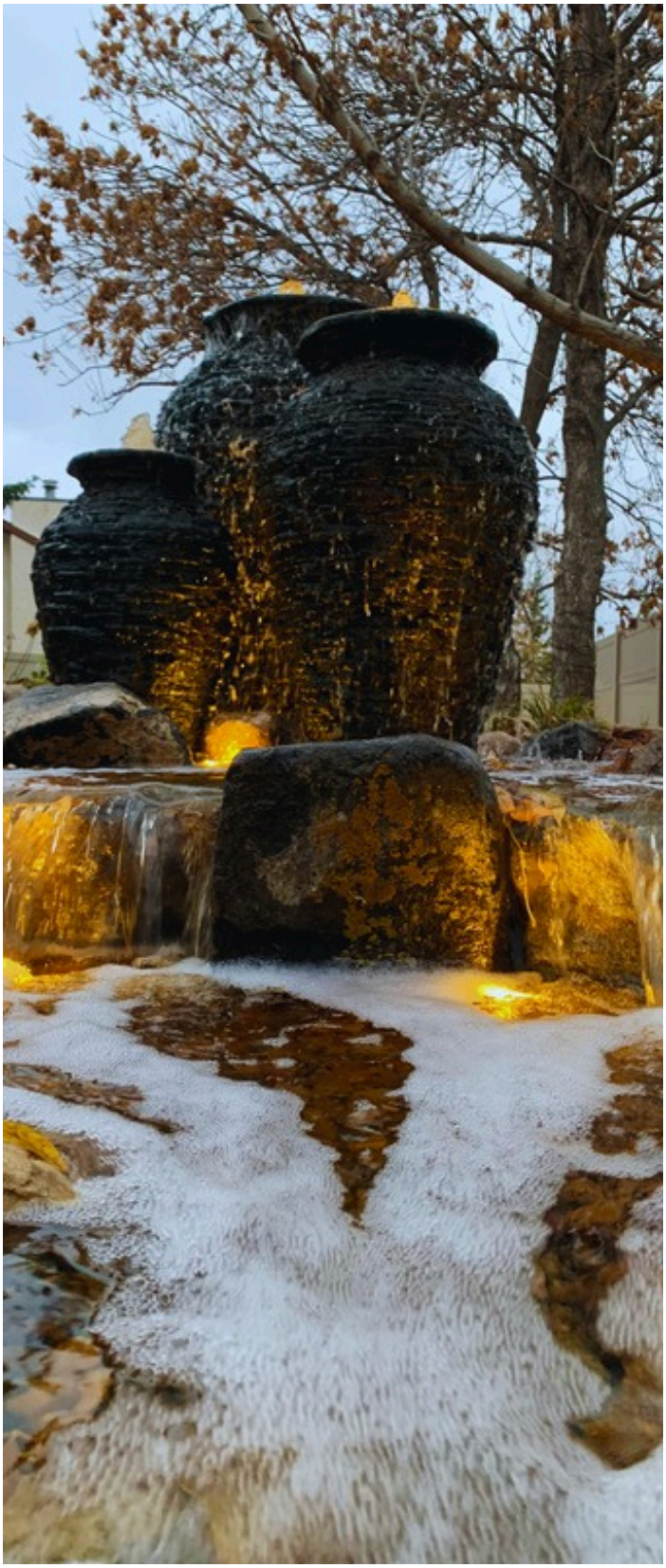
WHAT ARE YOUR KEY FEATURES TO LIGHT UP?

HOW WILL YOU LIGHT YOUR SAFETY AND FEATURE ELEMENTS?

LIGHTING STYLE GUIDE

THE COSTS OF AN UNPLUGGED YARD:

A GUIDE TO BUDGETING FOR THE TRANSFORMATION



The price of a professional landscape transformation is often the last secret barrier to achieving your outdoor lifestyle. The costs for a completely handled Design-To-Build outdoor lifestyle transformation are vast and varied. The range of costs is so widespread and so dependent on the features and finishing materials that most contractors fear giving potential homeowner's a budget range or price. The fear is that they could say something too high and lose a job before it ever starts or say something too low and be stuck completing a job for no profit.

The problem is that the veil of secrecy around landscaping costs then leaves homeowner's completely uneducated and guessing on what things might cost until they receive a formal quote. By waiting and shrouding costs in secrecy until the final quote reveal homeowner's like you end up finding out that their dreams are out of budget, they needed to wait a year to build, phasing the build into stages is the only option, splitting the build into some DIY and some contracted needs to be considered, or you could have even had more room in the budget and upgraded things like the decking material you were worried about blowing the budget on. Imagine if every car dealership hid their pricing until the very last second. What an awful waste of time and frustration for everyone to go through the motions only to find out they are looking at cars either way above or below their budget at the final stage when they go to sign a sales agreement. There would be riots on the car lots!

The question is why is this approach acceptable in construction, why is everything in the construction world a mystery that homeowners need to guess on and wait for a formal quote to see if they can afford it. The answer is in the first paragraph, "fear!" Contractors are just human, the same as you...and most are scared that being up front with costs will affect their ability to "land a job". At Peregrine, we believe the exact opposite is true...lift the veil of secrecy and offer complete transparency of potential costs. Homeowner's like yourselves can then plan for and prepare to make the right investments in their landscaping from the get go.

The best way to come up with a general budget is often tied to thinking of the landscape investment in tiers of spending that are related to the cost of your home. Tier 1 would see your landscaping cost up to 10% of your homes value, Tier 2 would cost up to 20% of your homes value, and Tier 3 would cost up to 30%+ of your homes value. The more that your home costs, the more likely it is you have higher end finishes and build items. Therefore, for the level of detail and finishing on the outside to match the level of detail and finishing on the inside it will usually cost you more. Thus, a Tier 1 landscaping investment on a $400,000 home on a standard residential lot vs a Tier 1 landscape investment on an $800,000 home on a standard residential lot are much different...$40,000 compared to $80,000 different.

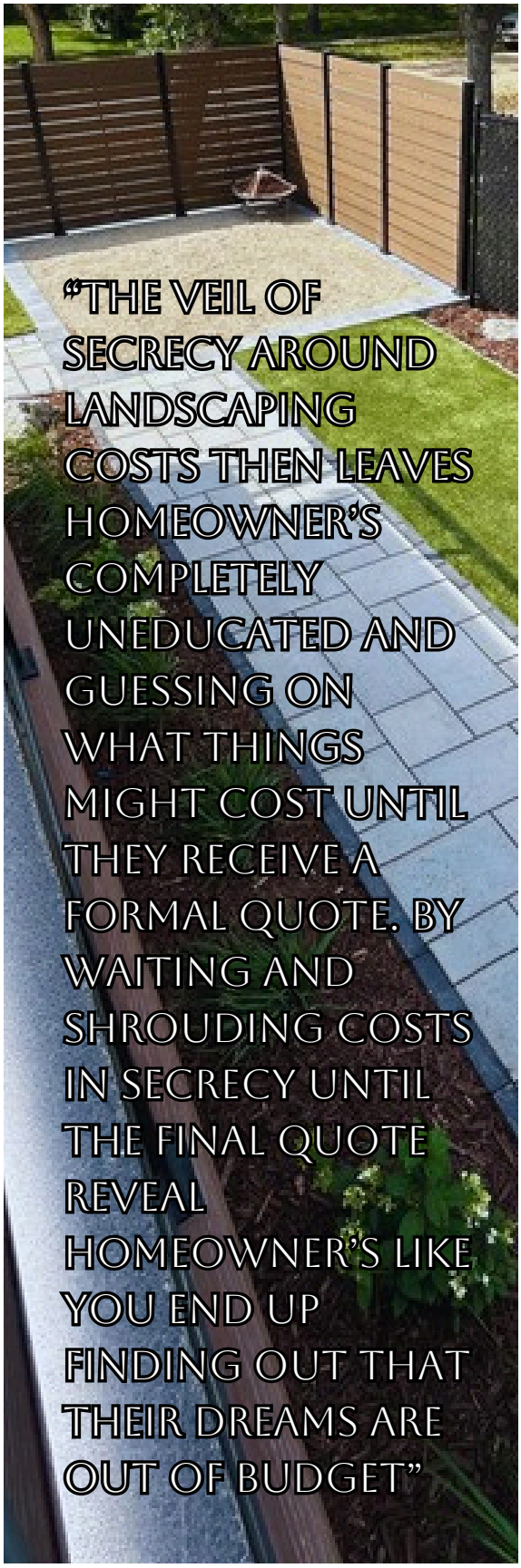
Let's unpack this example further and explain the tier system:

Tier 1: The Foundational Overhaul (10% Of Home Value): This tier focuses on the design and installation of your core seating areas. These main seating areas are the foundation or centers of your landscape. Usually a deck and patio for dining and entertaining so you have the immediate spaces to start enjoying your outdoor lifestyle. If you do just one seating area or shrink your sizing then just half that percentage to 5% of your homes value. If we take the $400,000 home and $800,000 home example further you can start to make more sense of things.

- **$400,000 Home at 10% Tier 1 investment = $40,000 Budget**: At an investment level of $40,000 you can expect to get a deck for dining and cooking that is properly built with high quality wood framing and deck boards for approx. $20,000. Then your ground level patio made with high quality paving stone for lounging and a fire table would cost you another $20,000.
- **$800,000 Home at 10% Tier 1 investment = $80,000 Budget:** At an investment level of $80,000 you can expect to get that same deck for dining and cooking but with solid steel lifetime framing, high end composite deck boards that have an inlaid pattern, and a nice glass rail for $40,000. Then your ground level patio would be made of premium paving stone products with borders and inlays, a built in custom fire pit, and maybe a nice seating wall with built in lights for the other $40,000.

Tier 2: The Lifestyle Starter (20% Of Home Value): This tier keeps those core seating areas outlined in tier 1 and then starts adding in the flourishes, plantings, lighting, and features. Now you have your deck and patio for dining and entertaining along with a pergola over the dining table area, a bubbling water feature off the patio in one of your planting beds, and a new lawn for the kids to play on.

- **$400,000 Home at 20% Tier 2 investment = $80,000 Budget:** With $40,000 spent on the new wooden deck and new patio we can now spend the rest on filling out your spaces and lifestyle. Adding a custom wood pergola over the dining room with downlighting and a closed in privacy wall on one side costs $10,000. The bubbling rock fountain and lights to make the water feature and landscape trees start to come alive at night costs another $10,000. Your new lawn with an automatic irrigation system runs another $10,000. Then you finish out your landscape beds with some new plantings, mulch, and drip irrigation for the final $10,000. You have invested $80,000 but have a full new start on your outdoor lifestyle.
- **$800,000 Home at 20% Tier 2 investment = $160,000 Budget:** With $80,000 spent on your new composite deck and patio with a seating wall and fire pit you now spend the rest on filling out your spaces. Adding a custom steel pergola with down lights, a retractable canopy, and one privacy wall costs $20,000. You add a water feature to the side of the patio that has multiple waterfalls and multiple fountain elements and colour changing lights to catch your eye at a cost of $25,000. Your new artificial turf lawn area with a small putting green for the kids to play costs another $20,000. Your planting beds are densely planted with mulch groundcover and drip irrigation for $15,000. Finally, you can add even more lights to the property with up-lights hitting every tree and path lights defining borders for another $5,000. You have invested $160,000 but have a full new outdoor lifestyle start with premium life long materials and reduced maintenance.





PRICE YOUR PROJECT

Tier 3: The Unplugged Yard (30%+ Of Home Value): This tier keeps those core elements of Tier 1 and Tier 2 and then expands on them more. Your secondary rooms, amenities, storage, and more completely transform your property from a The Silent Ache to the the place you spend all of your time for enjoyment.

- **$400,000 Home at 30% Tier 3 investment = $120,000 Budget:** With $80,000 spent on Tiers 1 and 2 you now move into the fully immersive level of outdoor lifestyle construction. You add in a new shed with matching siding to the home and now your storage solution is no longer an eyesore for a cost of $10,000. You tuck a small patio with a seating wall into a planting bed right where the sun hits in the morning for the perfect coffee spot for another $10,000. You add a wooden arbour down the side path and over top the garden patio for vines to grown and create the mood for another $5,000. A built in counter with composite deck board counter top goes in beside the grilling station so you can cook for the masses and serve everyone in a buffet line for another $5000. You light up the rest of the features on the property for that resort style nighttime experience for another $5,000. And finally you spend another $5,000 to get some power outlets ran to the patio area where you enjoy your new outdoor T.V. and mini fridge. You have invested $120,000 but you now have a fully immersive and Unplugged Yard that is tailored to your exact needs and dream outdoor lifestyle.
- **$800,000 Home at 30% Tier 3 investment = $240,000 Budget:** With $160,000 spent on Tiers 1 and 2 you now move into the fully immersive level of outdoor lifestyle construction. You add in a new shed with matching stucco to the home, a small roof overhang with a coffee deck for the mornings, and electrical run for charging all of your outdoor tools. The new shed costs you $20,000. You add nice patio with a steel arbour and hanging chairs nestled in behind the water feature. The path to the patio is paved and a bridge is built to cross the water feature stream. This patio area costs another $20,000. You add a steel arbour with roof over the cooking area to allow you to grill in the rain or snow in comfort, and then add a matching style pavilion roof over the main patio to trap in heat and make everything cozy. These structures are another investment of $25,000. Finally you, add in a stone counter and countertop with built in mini fridge and bar seating area in the lower patio area where you can entertain all evening and watch movies on the T.V. This costs another $15,000. You have invested another $80,000 for a total of $240,000. You are the proud owner of a new outdoor lifestyle that caters to your every whim and is built from the highest quality materials with the highest quality standards. The outdoors is a place of joy and relaxation you perpetually want to be in. You find yourself hosting more than you ever have and actually enjoying it! Family memories, connections, and being present with one another is now always just a step out the back door.

This scenario gives you an insight into how a homeowner like yourself can start preparing for or considering a budget for your landscape. You can always spend more, you can always spend less, but you should be able to have an idea up front. We have designed and installed $20,000 projects all the way to $1,000,000+, and the budget is always as unique as your outdoor dreams. If you want to have a more detailed and personalized understanding than the general tier system you can use the QR code above. We have a free project pricing tool right on our website that let's homeowner's add items to their wish list and build their dream yard. All the while the budget updates automatically so you can see what YOUR wish list could cost. No need to talk to a sales person or get a quote to find out...just complete open honesty with baseline pricing for the pieces that would create your dream outdoor lifestyle!

DEFINING YOUR BUDGET

HOW MUCH WOULD MY DREAM YARD COST?

HOW MUCH AM I REALISTICALLY WILLING TO INVEST?

WHICH BUDGET TIER DO I FIT IN?

A CASE STUDY OF THE JOURNEY TO AN UNPLUGGED YARD:

HOW ONE FAMILY ACHIEVED THEIR OWN NATURAL RETREAT







The goal of the "Natural Retreat" project was the same as every homeowner who opens this magazine: to move past The Silent Ache of an unused yard and achieve a landscape that invites connection and relaxation. The success of this project hinged entirely on following our certified, Design-to-Build process.
Here is a full yard journey review, analyzed through the lens of integrity and low-duty living:

1. The Design Imperative: Data and Vision: The client's vision for the "Natural Retreat" was clear—to marry hardscaping with a lush, natural aesthetic, centered around a stunning water feature and spaces for family time.

- **The Silent Ache:** The yard was nothing but a chore. A big lawn, endless mowing, and no enjoyment. This family had forgot what it was to spend time outside together unless it was to pick weeds.
- **Beyond Flowers & Lawn:** The mandate was instantly elevated past simple gardening. The goal was an entire outdoor lifestyle—a space for dining, sun lounging, playing, and fire-side conversations—all viewed from multiple sightlines, both inside and outside the home.
- **Site Audit Secrets in Action:** Before design began, a critical Site Audit was performed. This step was crucial for solving existing problems, including saturated soils under the walkout deck that had previously caused concrete failure. The solution involved engineered, free-draining clean stone base preparation for the entire area, protecting the home's foundation and eliminating the risk of heaving—avoiding **The Hidden Price of Shortcuts** entirely.
- **3D Vision, Zero Surprises:** The complex integration of a large pondless water fall, steps, bridge, and multiple surfaces required a digital blueprint. 3D Vision provided the client with complete certainty on the layout and budget, ensuring the intricate design was not only beautiful but also financially predictable.
- **Flow Like A River:** Each space was tailored to naturally lead to the next and invite the family out of the home while ensuring the sight lines created visual connection but intimacy with drifts of planting and elevation change. A rustic timber bridge centers the view and begs everyone to cross it to the other side where nature and connection await.















2. The Unbreakable Foundation: Built to Last: The "Natural Retreat" required the highest construction standards across the entire ecosystem:

- **Hardscape Canvas & Built to Last:** The patios utilized flagstone pavers with custom cobble style accents and short seating walls in textured finishes to pull in the natural feeling the family craved. Large natural stone boulders and retention further enhanced this aesthetic and immersion. This complex design required the certified expertise of a Master Hardscaper. Beneath the pavers, the base was entirely clean stone (no fines) to ensure perfect drainage and permanence, upholding the Built to Last promise.
- **Vertical Integrity**: The walkout deck area was stabilized by ensuring the new hardscape beneath it was structurally sound. Furthermore, the retaining walls used throughout the yard required specialized backfill (clean stone) to resist washout and water force, proving that the structural integrity of the walls is always non-negotiable.
- **Fire & Water:** The central pondless water fall and fire pit were the key features. As a Certified Aquascape Contractor project, the pondless waterfall was engineered with a an automatic treatment system and auto-fill line to ensure little maintenance for the ecosystem (no mosquitoes, no algae). The feature was enhanced for 360 degree views by adding Fountainscape elements that display moving water on all sides while the wood burning fire pit had drainage built underneath it for quick water downs to extinguish flames. Combining the elements of Fire & Water for maximum dramatic effect truly created a natural retreat.



















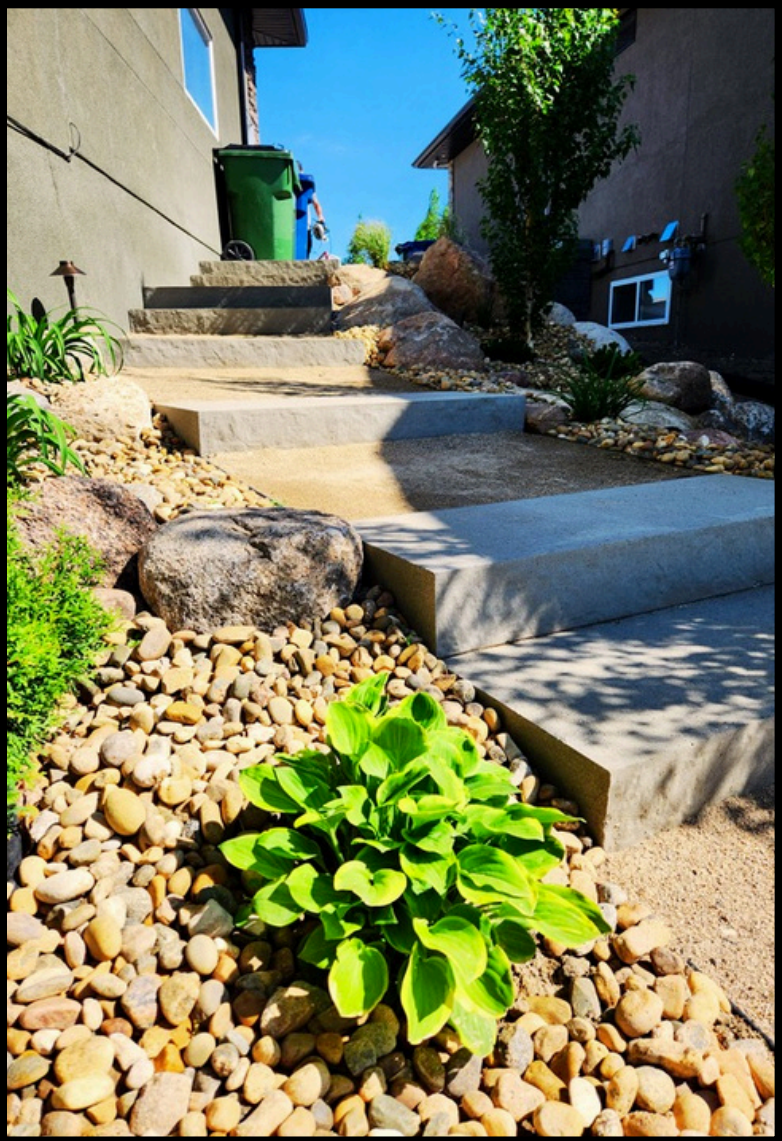


3. The Seamless Ecosystem: The Power of One
The transition between elements—the paver patios, the new lawn with irrigation, the waterfalls, and the plantings—was managed flawlessly thanks to the Power of One process.

- **Planting for Tomorrow:** The planting plan focused on local, hardy, native species (grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees) to ensure a Low-Duty Palette at key heights for creating sight lines and privacy where needed. By including both coniferous and deciduous planting the yard was set for year round interest even through winter. The entire softscape plan including pots, benefit from a drip irrigation system controlled by a smart timer. This is the ultimate Designed for Tomorrow solution: lush aesthetics with minimal effort.
- **Painting the Night:** To ensure the yard was as inviting at night as during the day, a full Master Of Lighting Design plan was implemented. Submersible lights bring the water feature to life, up lighting cascades through the trees, path lights illuminate the walking areas and stairs, and hardscape lights provide ambient glow down the walls ensuring safe Flow and maximizing the aesthetic return on the investment 24/7.
- **Vetting for Trust:** This level of complex integration—marrying specialized water systems, certified hardscape, smart irrigation, and custom lighting—demonstrates why these clients vetted Beyond the Quote. The only way to guarantee their vision was through a single, certified firm with the design and construction knowledge to integrate all these systems seamlessly.

The "Natural Retreat" is the living proof that when these homeowners educated themselves on the landscape journey, invested in a process, and made the decision to conquer their own Silent Ache...that a new outdoor lifestyle is achievable. They got their Final Transformation and have started enjoying their very own Unplugged Yard lifestyle.



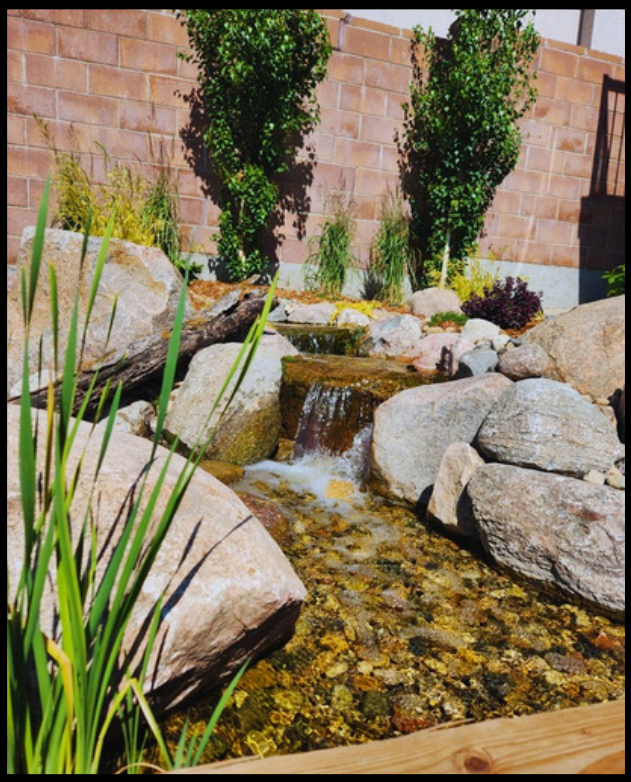
















BEYOND THE QUOTE

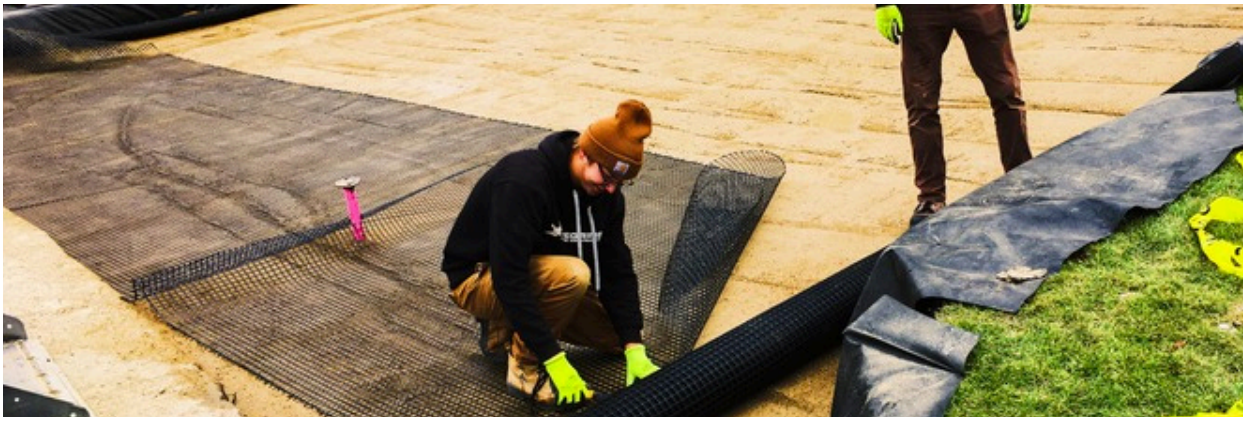
VETTING YOUR LANDSCAPE PARTNER FOR TRUST AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Unseen Quality Assurance and the Challenge of an Unregulated Industry. Any firm can show you a nice photo. But how do you verify the quality behind the finished product? You need to know if the team standing in your yard has the foundational knowledge required for a permanent luxury installation, especially since the landscaping industry in Canada isn't regulated the same as other trades—there is no universally recognized and upheld journeyman ticket for the landscape trade. This means anyone with a pickup truck can start a licensed landscape company. Even more worrying is that a full spectrum landscape contains detailed design (3D, 2D construction plans, permit drawings), hardscaping (stone work), carpentry (decks and structures), softscaping (lawns and plants), plumbing (water features and irrigation), electrical (landscape lighting), machine work (skid steers and excavators), and foundations (concrete and screw piles). That is ALOT of nuanced skill and knowledge for a company to be trusted with that doesn't require regulation and certification.

Although a firm isn't required to have any given certifications to complete your landscaping...wouldn't it feel a lot better if they did. Quality firms that care about their projects and industry don't use the lack of required certification as a "get out of jail free card" to just build as they please. They instead pursue industry certifications and training that elevate their standards and build quality. Even though they aren't required, for the best...they aren't optional. A firm's certifications and training are your quality insurance policy. They demonstrate a voluntary commitment to implementing and exceeding standards others can't be bothered to pursue. Yes, this expertise raises the cost of your project as you are again Investing in the Invisible. But, the alternative is entrusting an expensive, multi-faceted, and complex build with someone who got into landscaping because they had a pick up truck and a pulse.



Professionalism in any industry isn't defined by the bare minimum, it is defined by the pursuit of excellence. We all have an uncle or friend in Saskatchewan who could have made the NHL, but would you put him on the ice in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup because he played hockey…or would you tap Sidney Crosby on the shoulder and put the outcome in the hands of the professional who trained for that moment?



The Vetting Checklist: Keys to Confidence: We ask any homeowner to hold their landscape contractor accountable…including us. In an unregulated industry there are some key items to audit before you commit.

- **Certifications:** Demand certification and manufacturer proof. Landscape Design (University or College Certificate), Horticulture (University or College Certificate), ICPI (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute), CMHA (Concrete Masonry & Hardscape Association), AB Wall (Segmental Retaining Wall Certification), CID (Certified Irrigation Designer), CAC (Certified Aquascape/Water Feature Contractor), SLA Member (Saskatchewan Landscape Association), CNLA Member (Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association), Lighting Design and Installation (In-Lite Master of Lighting Design Certificate), Belgards Master Craftsman (Manufacturer Designated Certification), Techo Pro Contractor (Manufacturer Designated Certification). These are just some of the industry certifications top firms pursue like our team at Peregrine who is Saskatchewan's Only Techo Pro Contractor, Saskatchewan's only CAC, and Regina's only Belgard Master Craftsman in addition to the certifications listed above.
- **Portfolio:** Review past work on their websites and social media channels to confirm they have built the level of yard you are wanting. A picture is often worth a thousand words.
- **Testimonials:** Check out past reviews or ask if you can speak to a past client so you can verify the words a contractor tells you against someone's real world experience with the team you are looking at hiring.





- **Quote Audit:** Your quote shouldn't be emailed and left for you to interpret. Demand a quote presentation so you can work through the questions and details to understand it. You need to verify they are using the correct materials, quantities, and including everything you want in an up front cost. Finding out they quoted a cheaper paving stone or smaller plants to seal the deal isn't OOK.
- **Site Visit:** Never accept a final quote without the contractor visiting the site. It is ok for them to give you rough estimates based on conversation so you can see where they are at...but if the final quote comes without a site visit, run don't walk.
- **Process Integrity:** Do they have a clearly defined process with a step by step journey and communication deliverables attached to them. Everything above might be a bunch of check marks but getting to the final build is a battle of phone tag, delays, unclear next steps, and homeowner confusion. Even worse, you could be agreeing to something that sounds good but you don't know what you are getting and when because they skip the design process and go straight to building on the fly. This is the opposite of delight and is just more duty for the homeowner in a different form.

Vetting a firm means asking not just about their past projects, but about their process integrity, certifications, the ongoing training of their crews, past client testimonials, and transparent fully accounted for quotes. Choose the firm whose commitment to quality is verifiable and non-negotiable.

MORE TIPS TO VET YOUR CONTRACTOR







THE FINAL TRANSFORMATION

ACHIEVING THE UNPLUGGED YARD - FROM DUTY TO DELIGHT

"YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY IS THAT A LUXURY LIFESTYLE DEPENDS ON AN INTEGRITY IN THE INVISIBLE FROM THE DESIGN ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE BUILD"

You started this magazine looking out at your yard, feeling that familiar Silent Ache—the dissonance between the relaxing outdoor life you dream of and the high-duty yard you actually own. Now, having turned the final page, you have gained something invaluable: clarity. You are no longer just a homeowner with a wish list; you are an educated homeowner ready to move Beyond Flowers & Lawn and demand a landscape rooted in your outdoor lifestyle and integrity . This entire magazine has been a guide to replacing risk with certainty, allowing you to achieve the ultimate goal: THE UNPLUGGED YARD.

What You Have Mastered: Integrity in the Invisible: Your biggest takeaway is that a luxury lifestyle depends on an Integrity in the Invisible from the design all the way through to the build. You are now equipped to ask the right questions and navigate the journey to your own Dream Outdoor Lifestyle:

- **Foundational Strength:** You learned in Built to Last and the Design, Site Audit, Fire & Water, Decking, Planting, Hardscape, Structure, and Lighting articles that the longevity of your investment is determined by the foundations of ideas and installation practices. You now know to reject surface-level shortcuts and insist on the details that future proof your landscape and investment.
- **Process Protection:** You uncovered the risks of The Hidden Price of Shortcuts and realized the solutions in The Power of One. By choosing a Design-to-Build partner, you eliminate the "Blame Game" and ensure your entire project is executed under a single, non-negotiable standard.
- **Budget Certainty:** You mastered the process of 3D Vision, Zero Surprises understanding that a responsible budget is created by coupling a design plan with the critical data gathered during the Site Audit Secrets phase. You also have understood the potential costs of landscaping and required investments for your space in The Costs of Landscaping





From Duty to Delight: The Functional Ecosystem: Your education allows you to move past maintenance and focus on memory-making. You now see your yard not as a collection of features, but as a balanced, functional ecosystem:

- **All-Season Flow:** You moved Beyond Flowers & Lawn and discovered how the principles of Flow Like A River that integrate with Fire & Water, Hardscape, Decking. Structures, Planting & Lighting to define outdoor rooms with visual and human flow, allowing your family to connect and gather comfortably, regardless of the season or time of day.
- **Mastering the Night:** Through the Painting the Night article, you realized that professional lighting is essential for safety and extends your usage well past sunset, maximizing your investment 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.
- **Low-Duty Living:** You learned that your landscape can be Designed for Tomorrow. By choosing the right materials and following the advice in The Hidden Price of Shortcuts and Built To Last, your yard becomes a space that manages itself, minimizing the duty and maximizing the delight.

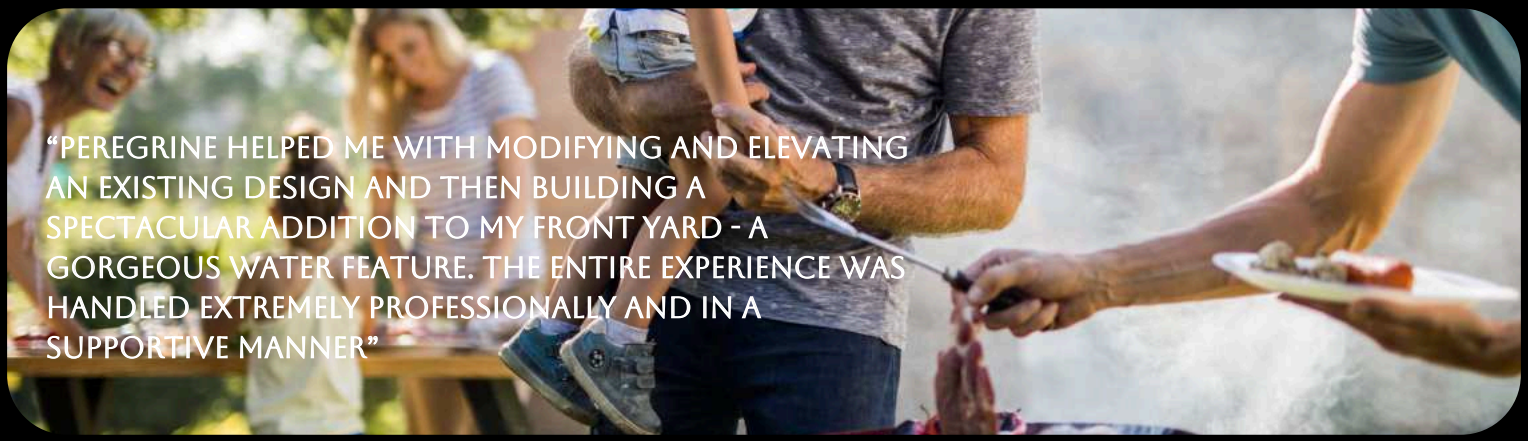


Vetting the Future: Finding A Professional Partner: The journey from a Bland Unused Yard to a destination for enjoyment can be paved with problems. Choose the partner who respects your new knowledge.

- **Demand Integrity In The Invisible From Your Landscape Contractor:** Look Beyond the Quote, demand proof of expertise. Follow your own vetting checklist for guaranteeing the certifications, track record, and process that will protect you from an unregulated industry.

The Final Transformation: The Realized Vision. As you step out onto your finished patio and start your new outdoor lifestyle, built to certified standards, you realize the journey was worth it. You are standing in your legacy space. This transformation is a powerful investment financially and in personal wellbeing. You have realized your vision and come to appreciate that Landscaping is truly an Art Form. You enjoy the dual value of financial and personal Legacy.

- **Financial Legacy:** A landscape, built with certified materials and craftsmanship, is a valuable asset that significantly increases your home's curb appeal and market value, paying dividends when you eventually sell. As your landscape matures and flourishes so to does your investment.
- **Personal Legacy:** More importantly, you've created a functional, artistic retreat—a place engineered for your life. Custom elements, whether it's a custom shed that acts as an impactful focal point instead of an eyesore, or decking that flows seamlessly with the hardscape, enhance the experience. Immersive features like your waterfall and fire pit create the backdrop for key family memories: graduation photos, family holidays, years of play and growth with kids and dogs, wedding vows, gatherings with friends, and decades of intimate moments sharing in the calm and fulfillment your new yard brings. You have a place where you will finally find the time to unplug and reconnect.



The From the Team message promised to empower you, and now you have the tools. You know what to ask for, and why it matters. Your dream outdoor lifestyle is no longer a wish—it is a thoroughly planned, budget-proofed, and professionally executed reality.

Stop worrying about what could go wrong, and start focusing on the memories you're ready to create.
The decision is yours. Your Unplugged Yard awaits.

A FINAL WORD

THANKS FOR INVESTING THE TIME IN YOUR LANDSCAPE JOURNEY

A Final Word: The Promise of the Unplugged Yard: If you've read through this magazine, you've done more than just look at beautiful photos—you've completed the first, most important step toward reclaiming your time and achieving a higher standard of outdoor living...you are equipped to change your life, you are ready to move past the frustration of the Silent Ache. You've learned that the true enemy isn't the cold or the wind; it's the fragmentation, the low bids, the pieces that don't fit together quite right, and the constant stress of maintenance.

We started this journey by asking you to strive for more and take the first steps to move from Duty to Delight: What if your landscape could give you more, while demanding less?

We hope our promise of educating you with the tools that equip you to navigate your own journey has been fulfilled. That where ever you are, whatever your dream landscape is, and whoever you team with to bring it to life is a process filled with joy because you know how to get to the destination.

When your own Final Transformation is complete we hope you feel the satisfaction and comfort of knowing you did it well, you did it right, and you achieved the outdoor lifestyle you set out to create for your family.

If you haven't started your journey yet, the time to start living your outdoor life is now.

We invite you to reach out to our team whenever you are ready, not just for an estimate, but for a conversation about how we can transform your anxiety into assurance, and your yard into a life-affirming space.

Thank you again for picking up The Unplugged Yard.



Sincerely,

Barclay and the Entire Peregrine Landscape Construction Team

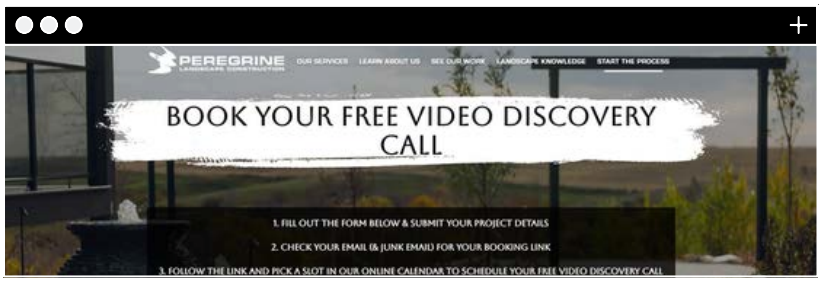
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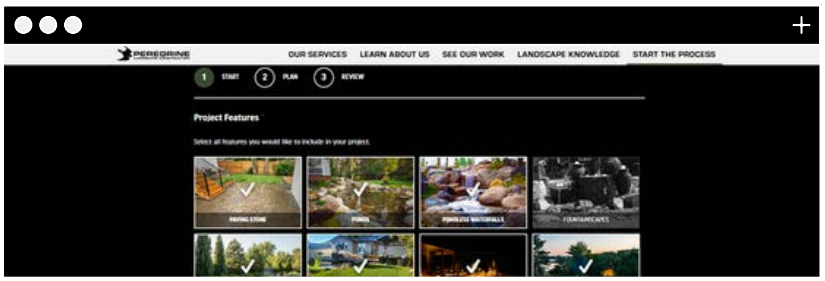
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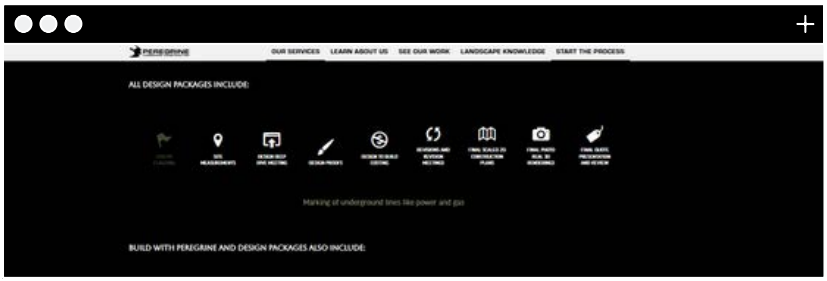
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