

CAPITAL LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER



J A S O N K Y L E S

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W H Y P A Y F O R L A N D S C A P E D E S I G N ?



Landscape construction is expensive, just like home construction. Most people would never think of remodeling their home without a plan, but when it comes to landscaping the outside of their home, they often view using a landscape architect as an unnecessary extravagance. I can remember one customer saying, "I would rather spend

my money on plants." I can see her logic. Sometimes homeowners come up with landscaping plans that are functional and look great.

A homeowner does have an advantage over the designer since they have spent far more time at the site and have more time to develop a harmonious design. At other times, a yard can fall short of its potential because people feel that the cost of design

is too much. Usually the cost of professional design is recouped over the entirety of the project. The creation process is more precise and swift with the addition of a professional plan. Plants are expensive, when planting a tree that will be in your yard for the next fifty years, it is important to pick the right tree. Having to change even a few key plants and trees can

WHY PAY? - CONTINUED -

easily cost more than the price of basic landscape design. A designer can make easy maintenance suggestions, as well as recommend which plants to use, in order to keep color in your garden all year long!

For a super small project design may not be necessary. However, if you are doing a total renovation I highly recommend consulting a designer. It will usually save you money

rather than break the bank. Be sure when you are looking for a designer to view a sample of their design.

Make sure you are dealing with a real professional and not a beginner with a computer program. One way to screen potential designers is to ensure they produce hand drawn plans and blueprints, not cookie cutter computer printouts.



HOW ARE YOUR SPRINKLERS?

Let's talk about coverage. How well do your sprinklers spray? If you are in an older part of town, like Land Park, your sprinkler heads may hardly spray at all. Land Park is blessed with beautiful trees and horrible water pressure. There's always a trade off!

Most older houses have galvanized sprinkler lines. Galvanized lines are tough, but they collect rust and close up over time. A proper sprinkler system should provide 100% coverage. This means that each sprinkler head should spray to all the heads surrounding it. This provides 100% equal coverage and ensures that you have no dry spots. Many older systems may have trouble meeting this standard because they

were either improperly installed in the first place or because the pressure has gotten worse over time due to rust build-up. These older systems can usually be repaired and perhaps slightly redesigned to continue servicing the yard. Often older established lawns in shady areas can get by with less water than a new sod lawn in full sun.

Depending on what the condition of your old system is, and what you want to achieve, you may be better off abandoning the old system and installing a new PVC system.

A totally new system certainly provides better performance and less repairs in the long run. If repairs are required, they are usually much easier on a modern PVC

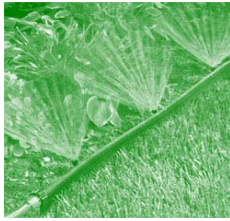
system.

As computer technology has progressed, so has landscaping technology. Today's sprinkler clocks offer simple operation and a vast array of programming choices.

Modern sprinklers have almost endless spray patterns and specialty heads for custom shapes in landscapes. Another advantage to a new sprinkler system and valves is the ability to automate your sprinkler system. It's one less thing



SPRINKLERS - CONTINUED -



to worry about. Older systems can also be converted to be used with a timer.

be. Drip systems reduce watering costs, which is important with the current drought issues and water rationing in the Sacramento area. These systems also reduce the need to weed in planting beds, as water is applied only at the base of each plant. The downside of drip irrigation is that the emitters can become clogged. In addition, flow problems are harder to spot than with traditional irrigation systems. Another issue with drip

irrigation is that some form of mulch is needed (such as decorative bark) to cover unsightly drip lines. This is usually not an issue since most new yards incorporate some kind of bark or ground cover.

Drip irrigation is a popular irrigation method. Some people like it and some don't.

Drip irrigation is nice because it reduces water use and targets the water exactly where it needs to

Whatever you choose, make sure you consult a landscape professional.



CURVE APPEAL

As landscaping materials have changed, so has design. The use of flexible plastic materials has led to a renaissance in curved designs.

Concrete used to be mainly straight lines and squares. Now circles and curves are by far the most popular look in residential landscapes.

Usually curves look nice and flowing. Most people think curves look more natural than straight lines. There are times however when straight lines can actually work better depending on the circumstances and the look that you are trying to achieve. In some yards mixing curves and straight lines works best.

Although curves usually look nice, there can be

some problems as well. All too often "concrete guys" who are installing decorative concrete walkways and patios don't take the time to make sure that all of the curves on a project look coherent and flow well. A common landscaping mistake with the use of curves is using too many curves in a small space. This makes the curves look forced and unnatural.

Other problems with shapes can be the result of poor planning by the "hardscape crew" causing poorly braced forms to shift under the weight of the wet concrete. This can cause flat spots or bulges which can ruin the look of a nice curve.

Having a landscape plan drawn before you start forming is a good way to get the curves you want. However, the plan doesn't matter if the forms are not set properly. Always look over the forms from every angle before you pour and make sure the curves look and feel right!

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VISIT US
www.CapitalLandscapingConstruction.com



For Further Information:
Please contact Jason Kyles

Phone: 916-912-1977

E-mail: Jason@CapitalLandscapingConstruction.com

Quality Service—Guaranteed Price

Capital Quality- At Capital Landscape Construction we pride ourselves with being committed to providing excellent service by knowledgeable informed professionals at a competitive price. Our goal is to work with you to create a design reflecting your personality.

SOLAR LIGHTS — GOOD IDEA? OR, DEADLY EPIDEMIC?!



Solar Nightlights are taking over the neighborhoods of Sacramento at an alarming rate. Night lighting in a residential situation can look great if it is done correctly with quality materials. Solar lights are a great idea, unfortunately, the solar lights available today do not produce adequate light and the design is usually less than classic.

Among professional grade low voltage lighting products there are a world of styles to choose from that can compliment any home. Professional grade nightscaping can provide safety, function and most of all a classic beauty.

The right combination of quality path lights and spot lights can turn even an ordinary yard into something dramatic and interesting. So, when it comes to night lighting don't settle for second best. As with most things, you get what you pay for. Call today for a free estimate.

