

Beautify Your Yard and Garden

Landscape Architect Tells Important Facts To Consider In Designing Grounds

By EDWARD H. LAIRD (Landscape Architect)

The coming spring weather brings to mind practically every phase of the activity of beautification, whether it be for the small back yard, larger city home, estate of small acreage, or the larger way and industrial beautification enters into the picture as well.

For the landscape architect, beginning to plan these projects, whether it be a new house contemplated on a certain site or whether it be a re-study of existing grounds or park, the basic controlling factors will be the site and its orientation, and elevation studies in relationship to its surroundings. Naturally also soil conditions are an important consideration.

When Space is Limited

On the average city property, space is at a premium. The importance of creating a design in good taste is emphasized more on smaller properties because of the confinement and the closeness of view. The property from the house to the street is usually viewed by the public and enjoyed by neighbors as much as by the owner. The owner is forced to consider this property in the first development if he is not considering the complete project for immediate completion.

The matter of details of variety does not enter into the mind at this stage, but one concentrates on the placing of masses to give a well framed picture of the house. Hit or miss use of materials spotted on the lawn is considered a whole, and usually interpreted as a display that the owner aims to be a plant specialist. The picture of the front lawn is considered first from the street, therefore the composition rather than as specimens placed at formal locations relate to the house.

Consideration must be made in the study of existing street trees, also their future height and expanse of shade and roots. The ambitious house owner, in an effort to release spring energy in a productive way, will often be unimpaired of marring the landscape by placing his choicely purchased specimens in a showy location surrounded by geometric circular beds.

Plan for Driveway

At the present time practically every owner has a car, so that the mention need be made of the necessity of a driveway. Most properties have garages attached, or very close to the house. It is recommended that the minimum amount of space be utilized by drive and turn-around, for this purpose the attached garage is considered the most economical arrangement. When the grounds are being planned it is considered generally advisable to place the drive and garage on the side where most shade exists. It is recommended that the north end of buildings is devoted to the drive inasmuch as dense shade is not conducive to the growth of plant materials in that area.

The property at the rear of the house is considered the living area and near to the service doors is regarded as the area for the service yard. However, the modern machinery for the home duties is rapidly displacing the necessity of an outdoor service yard for drying. Modern play equipment is replacing old fashioned and large sized play equipment.

Consideration for the service and play yards brings the designer to consider this much smaller area thus allowing more freedom in expressing the desires of the owners in their enjoyment of the living area. The design of this area is dependent upon its relation and accessibility to the living section of the house. Too often this consideration has been neglected when the structure was built and doorways have been placed in locations which give the owner and guests some inconvenience in arriving in the garden.

Furnish Informal

Design of the living area will usually follow two general types. One, the geometric relationship to the line of the house, and property, which is considered the formal type of design. The other, the informal, being masses of material placed in such a manner as to produce sweeping effects submerging the identity of the individual plants. The mass effects are emphasized by curves and outlines of natural appearance.

Care must be exercised in selecting the type of design adapted to the grounds, it is important consideration the existence of large trees, shade, root effects and soil conditions. After this study has been made, it is necessary to determine if it is to be formal or informal style. Then care must be used in the arrangement of the material so that its growth will develop into good shape instead of an overcrowding mass. Too often lack of consideration for future expansion exists and unpleasant masses are caused and successful should be considered with caution, and only decided upon after judicious thought has been given as to arrangement of the grounds and the adaptability of the material considered necessary. If not the type suited to the grounds, it is liable to break the serenity and quiet charm of a pleasing picture.

To secure maximum enjoyment of the first plan, then plant, and then care for your grounds or garden.

IT'S PLANTING TIME IN Birmingham

Novel Sorts Fabulous

Amongst the records of the period, housed in Dutch museums, are numerous pamphlets and several satirical paintings depicting the artists' impressions of the Tulipomania, in addition to reproductions of Tulips. From these paintings it is seen that colorings were evidently of little moment and that striped and fancy flowers were the cause of the future. One of the most illuminating relics of the period is a printed price list issued in Haarlem, early in 1637. It reads like a bulb merchant's dream, with prices for single bulbs ranging from a few hundred guilders up to 4,200. Amongst the choicest items in the list are one bulb of Gouda, 1,320 guilders; one bulb of the same variety, slightly heavier, 4,200 guilders, and one bulb of Vice Roy, 3,000 guilders.

Other records extant show the foregoing prices to be fairly moderate. One bulb of Semper Augustus sold for 5,500 guilders, and three bulbs of the same variety together made 30,000 guilders.

Bulb Command Fortune

Attracted by the prices that both the bulbs and the flowers were making, speculators entered the market; values quickly appreciated and the demand exceeded the supply. The lucky possessor of a few bulbs of a rare variety could command a fabulous figure for them, and a new variety was the equivalent of a fortune. The situation became ridiculous; merchants normally sane and successful lost their heads and bought bulbs with reckless abandon. Often they bought bulbs from men who had not yet received them from a previous seller, but that didn't matter a great deal for the buyer had not always sufficient funds to pay for them. Anyhow, he was hoping to make a handsome profit on the resale. Some went so far as to part with all their worldly possessions to augment their insufficient supply of money in order to make up the purchase price, and it was not unusual for a man to exchange his house for a single bulb. Chickens were counted before they were hatched, and many a seller found himself unable to keep his commitments; then the warring market began to crumble. The gamelation Tulip bulb was ripe and at its peak in the following Spring, and then prices came tumbling down from the dizzy heights, leaving a trail of poverty and ruin. The pricked bubble of inflation brought chaos in its wake, and Govern-



GARDEN UNIT ASKS PUBLIC TO SPARE FLOWERS

With the return of spring comes the urge to go out into the woods and gather wild flowers. For the benefit of those who follow this impulse, the Birmingham unit of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association has compiled a few "don'ts" for the protection of Michigan's wild blossoms.

For reasons of conservation, the Association is asking the public to refrain from plucking certain of the blooms. Included in this list are the trailing arbutus, bitter-sweet, blood root, the cardinal-flowering dogwood, fringed gentian, Indian pipe, dwarf iris (Acutus), Jack-in-the-pulpit, lady's slipper, Virginia bluebell, and Trillium.

The white bell-like flowers, much sought by those gathering woodland bouquets, may be picked in such a way that the inflorescence is plucked above the leaves, no damage is done, but broken from the stem below it, two large leaves, it will require seven years to produce another flowering.

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For more than three hundred years, Tulips have continued to increase in favour, and now this native of southern Europe is truly an international flower.

Few flowers can boast such a lengthy period of steady expansion in cultivation, nor such a momentous event connected with their history as the craze, dubbed Tulipomania, which swept Holland after the bulb had been introduced there. This is the centenary of the year when speculation in Tulip bulbs was rife and Tulipomania gripped that part of the Netherlands which has since become the largest bulb-producing centre of the world. By way of

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