

A program is a written list of everything you want to accomplish on your property. Not just "landscaping" as in plants. You should include everything. Your top two priorities to talk over are: will there be any significant new structures such as a guest house, pool or patio and will the footprint of the house itself change because of plans to add air-conditioned square footage? Making a list gives you or your landscape architect guidelines for a drawing that summarizes your long-term goals.

That drawing is a Master Plan. The advantage of having a Master Plan is that with one vision articulated up front, money that's spent over time will add up to a coherent finished product in the end. Read through the following checklist to remind yourself of things you might have missed. The downside of a list like this? Be careful with all the dessert choices right in front of you. It seems obvious, but the easiest way to save money is to not check the circles.

PLANTS



Desert or not? If you're starting with dirt (i.e. no existing non-desert plants like olive and ash trees) and you're right next to untouched desert consider taking the conceptual high road. For trees plant only native palo verde, mesquite or ironwood. For shrubs plant only creosote, bursage, brittle or turpentine bush. For cactus plant only saguaro, prickly pear, ocotillo or barrel cactus. Plant a minimum of one shrub or cactus per 30 square feet and lots of trees. Bingo! You now have low maintenance, low water and global harmony.

If, like me, you're in an older neighborhood full of oleanders, nothing but desert might be odd.

- Indigenous Desert (boringly beautiful)
- Soft Indigenous (no cactus = more kid safe)
- Xeriscape (tons of choices, common theme is less water, best place to find out more is mswm.com)
- California Lush (lotsa lawn, lotsa green, lots to cover when it's cold)

Discuss specific plant material likes or dislikes.

- annual flowers
- herb garden
- raised planters
- vegetables
- fruit trees
- aloes and agaves
- potting bench
- composting
- tool storage
- pots
- harvesting rain
- fragrance

WATER



Swimming Pools and Spas

- our existing pool must be kept as is
- we would consider removing our existing pool

New Pool

- diving (8' deep minimum)
- play (3' or 4' deep on the ends)
- laps (5' wide minimum)
- fake lake (lagoon shape)
- small, 12x32 = 384 s.f., say \$20,000-\$30,000
- medium, 16x34 = 544 s.f., say \$25,000-\$35,000

- large, 20x40 = 800 s.f., say \$30,000-\$50,000
- larger 24x60 = 1440 s.f., say \$50,000-\$70,000

New Spa

- shotcrete attached to pool (about \$10,000)
- shotcrete detached from pool (about \$15,000)
- acrylic (say \$5,000-\$10,000)

Discuss

1. child drowning barrier
2. solar, gas or propane heat
3. pool covers
4. cleaning systems

5. plaster finish options
6. deck material options
7. changing and restroom
8. toy and chemical storage
9. equipment location
10. eye contact
11. volleyball sleeves
12. benches, and stairs
13. remote switching

Ponds and Fountains

- fish and aquatic plants
- splashing and chlorinated

Discuss where it or they might go.

KIDS



- play equipment
- toy storage
- trampoline
- tetherball
- bike storage
- lawn games
- skating donut
- sand box
- fort

SPORTS



Basketball

- full court
(50' x 84' high school, 94' college)
- half court
(50' x 40' min for a college 3 point line)

Tennis

(best oriented north-south)

- singles (50x120)
- doubles (60x120)

- backboard
(concrete or cmu best)
- night lighting
- sunken
- spectator viewing
- ball machine

Miscellaneous

- table tennis (15x24 best)
- platform tennis (30x80)

- badminton (20x50)
- volleyball (30x60)
- golf (say 10x20 or anything)
- croquet (50x100 or anything)
- bocce ball (12x60 or anything)
- batting cage (say 16x70)
- horse shoes (6x48)
- sport court (variable sizes)

LIFESTYLE



A vague sounding category. Think of it as essentially two things; where does furniture go and where to put things.

Space Planning

- additional parking
- entry courtyard / patio
- rv / boat storage
- fire pit
- fire place
- sunning area
- dining
- detached shade

- expanded patio
- storage building

Bar-B-Que

- fridge
- smoker
- sink
- buffet
- trash
- ice maker
- storage
- rotisserie
- charcoal or gas

Telco-Electric

- phone jacks
- speakers
- security cameras
- outlets
- holiday lights

Miscellaneous

- hose bibs
- sculpture
- drinking fountain
- house address
- mail box

ANIMALS



Dogs

- dog run close to patio
- dog run far from patio
- no dog run
- dog door
- dog house
- kennel

Horses

- riding stable
number of 12x14 stalls
- broodmare barn
number of 12x14 stalls
- stallion barn
number of 16x16 stalls
- foaling stall
- sit up room

- arena
- exercise ring
- tack and equipment
- feed storage
- trailer storage
- washing
- dumpster location

ARCHITECTURAL ISSUES



If you're thinking of remodeling that includes pushing out past the house's current drip line (meaning the edge of the roof) describe what you're thinking.

Refer to the Site Plan to be sure your ideas fall within the building set backs and are out of any easements or HOA restrictions.