



Channel View Farm, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 2DJ  
e: thegardenarchitect@hotmail.co.uk  
www.gardenlounge.co.uk  
m: 07876715760

## Garden Design Brief

6<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Client:**

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear X and X,

After our meeting the other week I have drawn up the following brief:

**Back Garden**

The back garden, currently divided into 2 separate levels faces due North and is in significant shade for most of the year due to the adjacent tract of mixed woodland, the edge of which includes a number of Sycamores that are within the boundaries of the property along the Cornish hedge wall. The removal of these Sycamores was felt to be beneficial in term of increased light and space in the back garden and we discussed the pros and cons of this. I personally am recommending the removal of these Sycamores together with some hard pruning of the other shrubs along the boundary, including a large Bay tree which would make a good ovoid or perhaps even spherical shape, some gorse, a leggy Hebe bush and others. On this point if you did decide to remove the Sycamores, I could be around with George and all the green waste could be neatly dealt with in his chipping machine, and then reused somewhere more 'wild' (e.g. along the opened up Cornish hedge wall top until bulbs and noteworthy natives re-established in the better light conditions) in the garden as a mulch

It was felt the main 'raison d'etre' for the back garden was to relax and socialize, sometimes with groups larger than 15, and that maintenance is to be kept to a minimum once the landscaping has been completed. With this in mind, more hard surfacing with which to have outdoor chairs, seats, a barbecue and places to sit and relax is a must.

The overall feel of the garden is to be an extension of the indoor spaces with the concept of a garden of rooms being an ideal layout, and that the natural exit point of the conservatory at the raised end of the garden is currently grass and this seems like the ideal place for a patio. The retaining wall and boundary walls are built of dense concrete grey block which is visually unappealing and we spoke of different ways of improving the appearance of these, namely with a light masonry paint to match other hard landscape features.

Continued...

Improving the shape of the retaining wall perhaps with wide sweeping tiers and/or steps was discussed and could be one option but will add significant cost to the project. Having said this if hard landscaping works are to be carried out, it is better to do this sort of big 'capital' work all in one go if possible. An attractive view out towards St Ives can be seen facing west and ideally this might be visually 'framed'. If one of the garden rooms could have an enclosed courtyard feel with planting around the edges rather like some of the garden design pictures we looked at then this would be ideal.

The predominant style of the garden is to be informal, with planting a mixture of Mediterranean type and kitchen 'herb' (will grow better in the front garden) palm and foliage plants, plus natives that might bear fruit, but that overall low maintenance was the key and it is the ornamental aspects of plants that are most desirable. In terms of colour there were some to avoid; namely oranges and purples, nor intense variegated foliage, and that white flowers and plants for foliage and flower arranging were good foundations for the planting plans.

Along the side of the house the existing greenhouse and shed are to be removed and replaced with a larger 10x12 shed creating space for one more car with the careful repositioning of the gate and boundary dividing fence. Adjacent to this area on the lower half of the garden a number of untidy changes in level and random shaped hard standings need resolving but keeping a main lawn, and upon this note the use of gravel is generally disliked. The raised railway sleeper bed is an space currently and does not fit the low maintenance regime. Where possible and funds allow, natural stone that is sympathetic to the house and the overall garden design is preferred, particularly with the currently proposed main patio area near the conservatory. The existing pre cast concrete buff coloured slabs whilst not ideal could be re-used in less high profile areas where a hard standing is required and we discussed the possibility of laying new paving on top of this existing base once the slabs were removed and if we were satisfied the finished surface did not impede the DPC of the conservatory.

### **Front Garden**

This area receives the most sunlight and is currently under used. We spoke about the need to create more privacy, perhaps with the addition of some sort of hedge around the wall perimeter or the addition of a second tier of planting. The view between the 2 houses WSW West Penwith is worthy of enhancing/framing/featuring in any plans for the front garden. Noteworthy plants for inclusion are the 2 Camelias which would respond well to some pruning, the existing Junipers, red Dogwood and some Azaleas. With the existing very steep steps up to the front door, the possibility of a second entrance on gently sloping ground around the wall and perimeter of the lawn and running in front of the lounge window was discussed, necessitating an opening in the wall and a major rethink of the layout, but this of course would escalate costs. Certain plants relating to biblical texts were mentioned in the hope of appropriate inclusion into the garden design plans, namely the 'Instead of the thornbush will grow the Juniper and instead of briers the Myrtle will grow' referenced in Isaiah 55:13. The Juniper could also be translated as Cypress and/or Pine too, and carefully selected species of the above could easily be included into the plans for the front garden.

### **Miscellaneous**

Budget; an initial figure of around £5,000 was mentioned although there was flexibility with this. The birdbath might be relocated. The pond removed ideally. A good position and home for the rotary drier and/or washing line is essential.

Continued...

If this is a fairly accurate idea of the main aims of the gardens and you agree to the design fees outlined below then I will go ahead with the first stage of the design i.e. the thumbnails and initial ideas. After this I will visit and show you the scale plans and a computer 3-d fly around.

### **Design Fees**

As mentioned in previous email communications:

Survey and Existing Site Plans	£X
Thumbnail Visualisations	£X
Meetings	£ -
Final Scale Plans and specifications, hard and soft	£X
<b>Total</b>	<b>£X</b>

I am intending working on your interesting project on Wednesday afternoons since I work half day on the farm that day. After Easter I will become increasingly busy as the final show for my degree approaches and therefore ideally I would like to get moving with the garden, especially now that spring is imminent...

If you think I have left some important things out don't hesitate to contact me...

Kind regards,

Ian Guyver

gardenlounge