

## Barbie Tafel Landscape/Exterior Design principles

I have been designing and installing exteriors for 40 years. I am passionate about my work and observe something different each day as nature teaches us that nothing in life is STATIC... it is constantly changing. What a blessing it is to become aware of small details whether it be a bird chirping, or the wind rustling through pine trees or water lapping on the shore. Or smells, that of fresh rain on the pavement, fresh cut grass, autumn leaves, lilacs and flowering shrubs in the spring.

Landscape design is one science , much like art, that cannot be taught by books and paper alone. There is so much more that you cannot capture on a paper plan.

- \* The orientation which determines if your area is sunny or shady
- \* The views beyond your house... open up pretty views and screen not so pretty ones .
- \* The height of the windows on the house. This is vital in the proper selection of plant material
- \* The soil condition
- \* The elements- wind or protected
- \* The contours of the land

I study all of these before I make my plant recommendations  
My 40 years of knowledge can be paired down to 5 principles that I use on every single job.

1. I strive to decrease maintenance . There is a severe lack of skilled workers who know the difference between and weed

and a seedling . My motto is “Do Not Create something that you cannot maintain”. I say it every day , on every job!

2. I design for 365 days a year appeal. In Louisville Ky our deciduous plants, flowering shrubs, annuals and perennials are only in leaf April through September... that is 6 out of 12 when these plants are BROWN. I am a huge believer that EVERGREENS are the anchor of your design.
3. This is probably the most important observation is that when we look around our exterior, ANYTHING GREEN is more pleasing than BROWN . My job as a designer is to create as much green as possible
4. When you create a BED it is brown. It becomes a commitment in that you have to FILL IT , WEED IT , MULCH IT AND MAINTAIN IT
5. PRIVACY- open up the good views and screen the bad views. I design my clients' exteriors in the same fashion as the interior of your home. A living area ( terrace) , a cooking area, a play area for kids and a service area ( garage , driveway , trash). Paths become connectors or hallways and the walls become hedges