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5 must-knows when designing a garden



We asked Lyndall Keating of [Garden Society](#) the best way to start designing your outdoor area.

“I recommend starting your garden design process by asking yourself five key questions. The answers will set you on the right path to the stylish, yet practical, garden that you and your family can enjoy for years to come.

1. What do I need from my garden?

This is the place to start. Like all design projects, you should focus on what your new garden should give you. To help structure your ideas, consider:

- Who will use the garden and what they need? Think about entertaining areas for family and friends and kid-friendly features like a swimming pool or swings. Do you want to grow your own veg? Don't forget areas to relax in too!
- Do you need secure areas for pets or small children? To keep everyone safe, include fencing or hedging in your plan.
- Do you need to create privacy from neighbours or passing traffic? Consider adding hedging or feature screening to create your own space.

whether your property style is cottage, formal, minimalist or has more of a native Australian feel.

3. What do I want from my plants?

Plants can provide practical solutions like screening for privacy or noise reduction. However, plants are the real stars of the garden. They provide beauty through colour, texture and form so think about whether you prefer flowers or bold foliage colour. Some people are drawn to the structure of succulents or to native Australian plants.

Your selection will be affected by whether you need a low-maintenance garden. A garden does not need to be high maintenance to make a statement, but some passionate gardeners love taking care of plants that need a little attention.

4. How exposed is my garden?

5. What would be a great focal point?

A good garden design has a focal point or a series of eye-catching interests. This is the easiest garden design principle to put into place. Try sculpture, feature plants, water features, firepits, garden benches or seating. Incorporate decorative screens or green walls for vertical interest.”

For more garden inspiration, check out these green spaces: