

Elements of Design for Water-Efficient Yards

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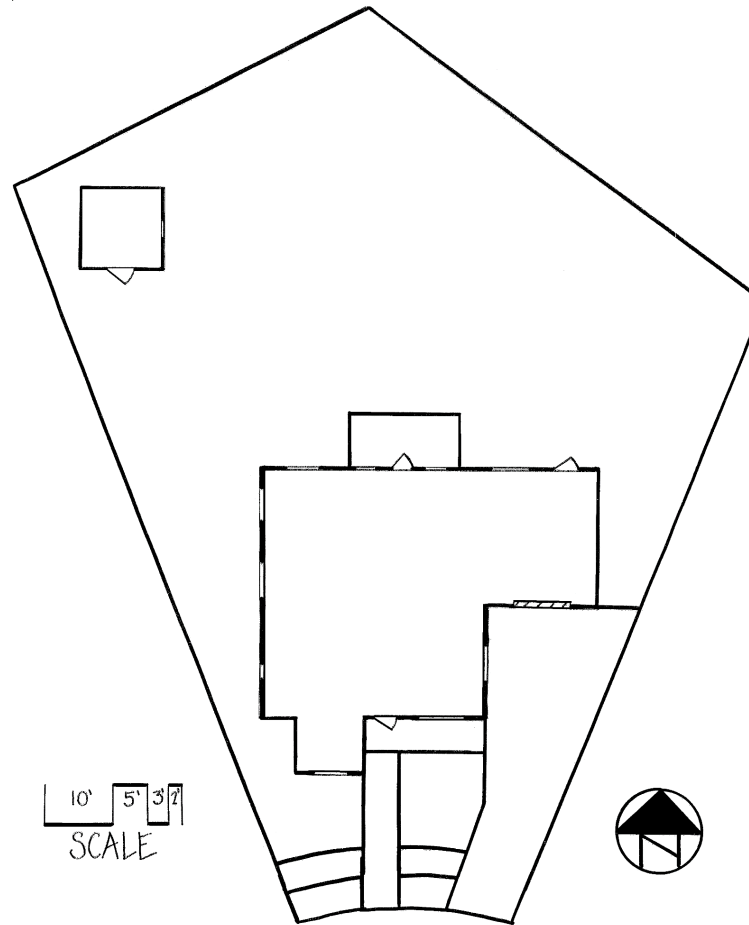
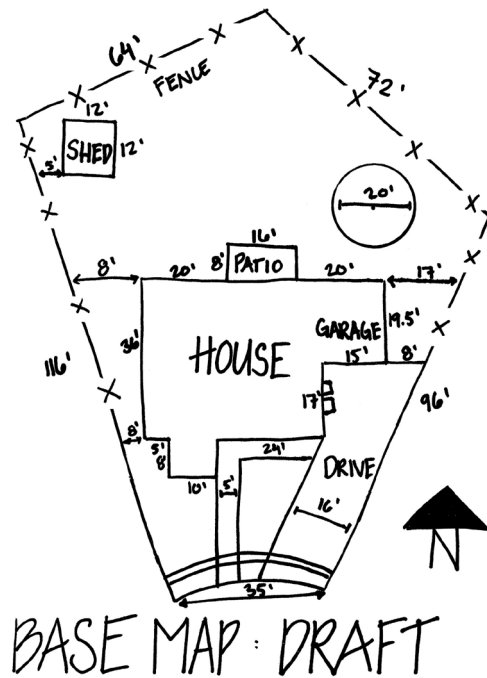
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District



Goal of Today's Class

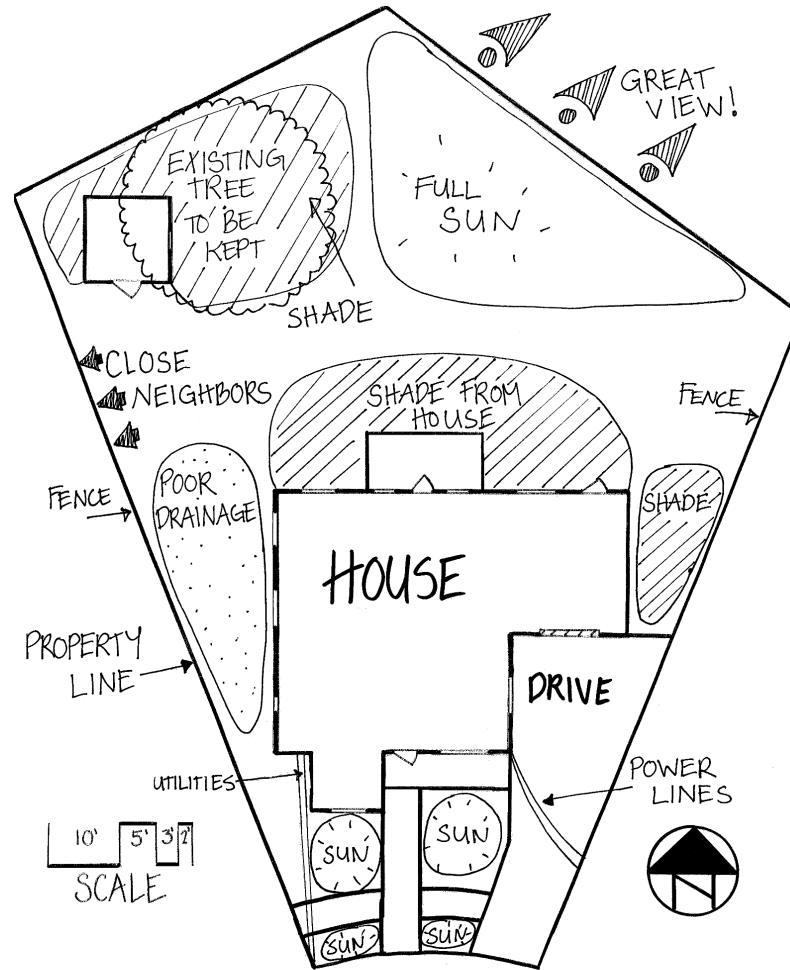
Planning and Design

- ▶ Creating a BASE MAP
 - ▶ Take measurements of your yard and draw it to scale



Planning and Design

- ▶ Do a site inventory/analysis.
Look for:
 - ▶ Slopes
 - ▶ Sun and shade areas
 - ▶ Good and bad views
 - ▶ Soil drainage
 - ▶ Existing plants
 - ▶ UTILITY LINES
 - ▶ Consider where your windows are in your house



What makes a good design?

Elements of Art

- ▶ These are the visual components of the whole landscape.
- ▶ These Elements form a framework for your design.

7 Essential Elements of Art

Line



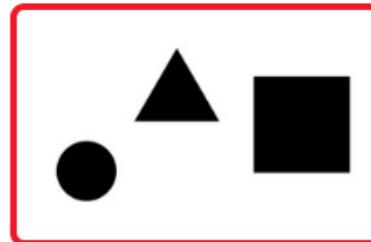
Texture



Tone



Shapes



Colour

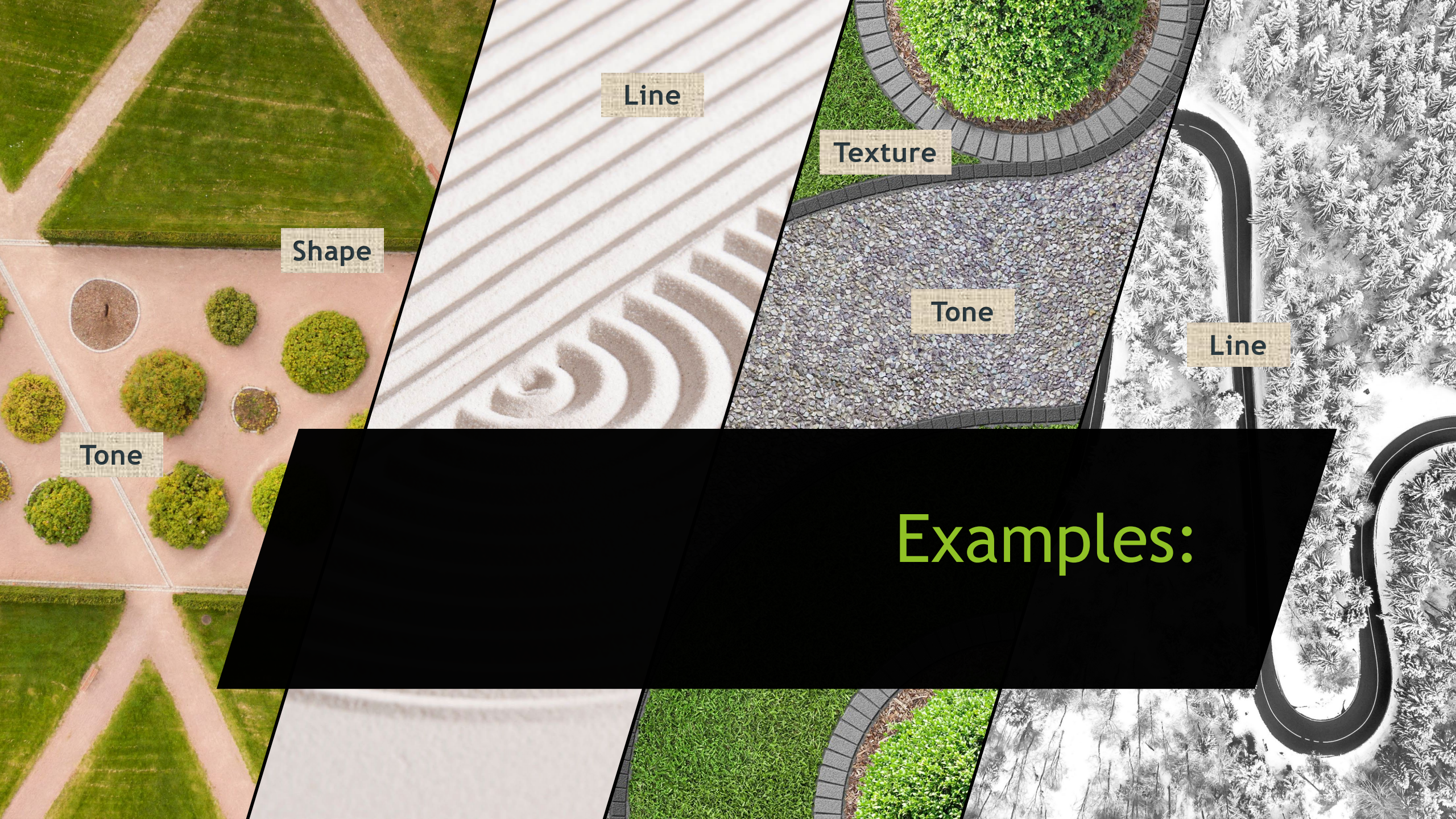


Form



Space





Line

Texture

Tone

Line

Shape








Tone

Examples:

What makes a good design?

Principles of Design

- ▶ How to use the Elements of Art to form a composition
- ▶ These principles create interest and cohesion

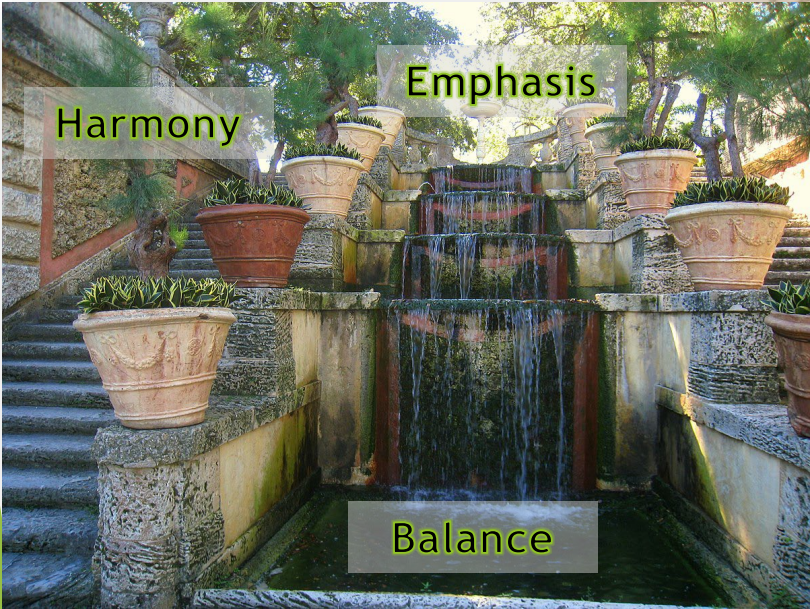
The Principles of Design (how to use the tools to make art)		
Pattern		A regular arrangement of alternated or repeated elements (shapes, lines, colours) or motifs.
Contrast		The juxtaposition of different elements of design (for example: rough and smooth textures, dark and light values) in order to highlight their differences and/or create visual interest, or a focal point.
Emphasis		Special attention/importance given to one part of a work of art (for example, a dark shape in a light composition). Emphasis can be achieved through placement, contrast, colour, size, repetition... Relates to focal point.
Balance		A feeling of balance results when the elements of design are arranged symmetrically or asymmetrically to create the impression of equality in weight or importance.
Proportion/Scale		The relationship between objects with respect to size, number, and so on, including the relation between parts of a whole.
Harmony		The arrangement of elements to give the viewer the feeling that all the parts of the piece form a coherent whole.
Rhythm/Movement		The use of recurring elements to direct the movement of the eye through the artwork. There are five kinds of rhythm: random, regular, alternating, progressive, and flowing. The way the elements are organized to lead the eye to the focal area. Movement can be directed for example, along edges and by means of shape and colour.

Examples:



Pattern

Movement



Harmony

Emphasis

Balance



Contrast

Planning and Design

FIND YOUR STYLE: Figure out what you want

- ▶ Make a list of all your wants and needs!
 - ▶ Kids play area
 - ▶ Vegetable garden
 - ▶ Pollinator flowers
 - ▶ Large shade trees
 - ▶ Lawn to play on
 - ▶ Nice large deck for entertaining
 - ▶ Water-wise of course!



Planning and Design

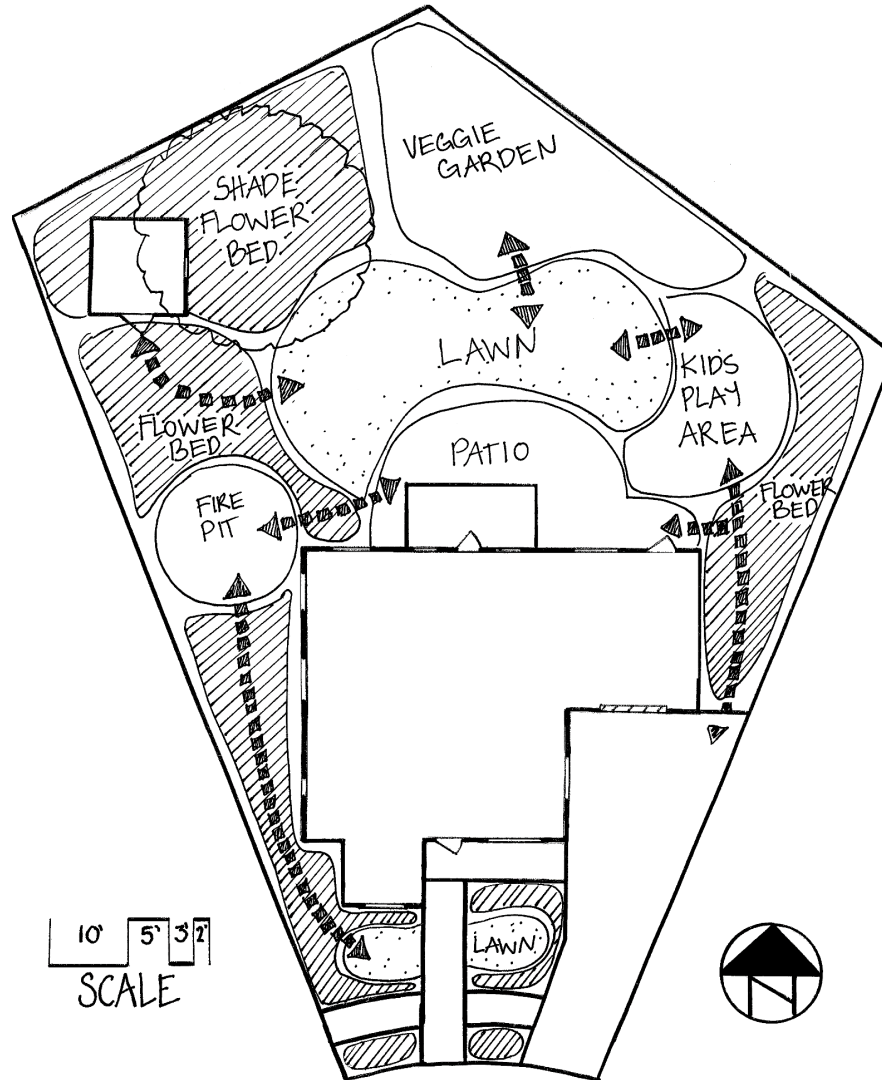
FIND YOUR STYLE: Figure out what you like

- ▶ Seek inspiration!
 - ▶ Organic
 - ▶ Geometric
 - ▶ Eclectic
 - ▶ Formal
 - ▶ Modern
 - ▶ Country Garden
 - ▶ Water-wise of course!



Planning and Design

- ▶ Make a Concept Plan
 - ▶ Take that dream list that you have created and begin plugging the wanted features into your base map.
 - ▶ Fill the rest of the area in with flowerbeds





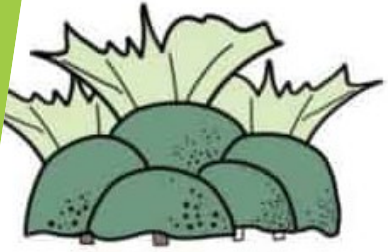
How to use plants in a design

Let's make things interesting...

- ▶ Hydrozone!
 - ▶ Grouping plants with the similar water and light needs in one irrigation zone.
 - ▶ Might end up with several plant lists (Full-sun, part-sun, part-shade, full-shade)
- ▶ Vary plant heights, flower colors, leaf textures, leaf colors, bloom times
- ▶ Group same varieties of plants in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7)



COMBINE PLANTS LIKE A PRO



COLOR CONTRAST

COMBINE PLANTS
WITH DARK COLORS
& LIGHT COLORS



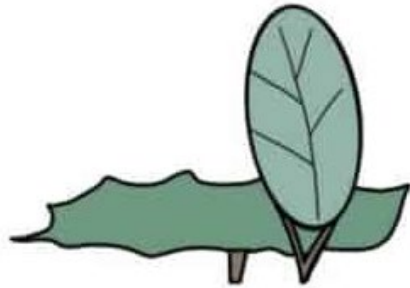
SIZE CONTRAST

PLACE LITTLE
LEAVES NEXT TO
BIG LEAVES



TEXTURE CONTRAST

PAIR PLANTS WITH
FLUFFY FOLIAGE &
SPIKEY FOLIAGE



FORM CONTRAST

PUT A VERTICAL PL
FORM NEXT TO
HORIZONTAL ON

Compare and Contrast

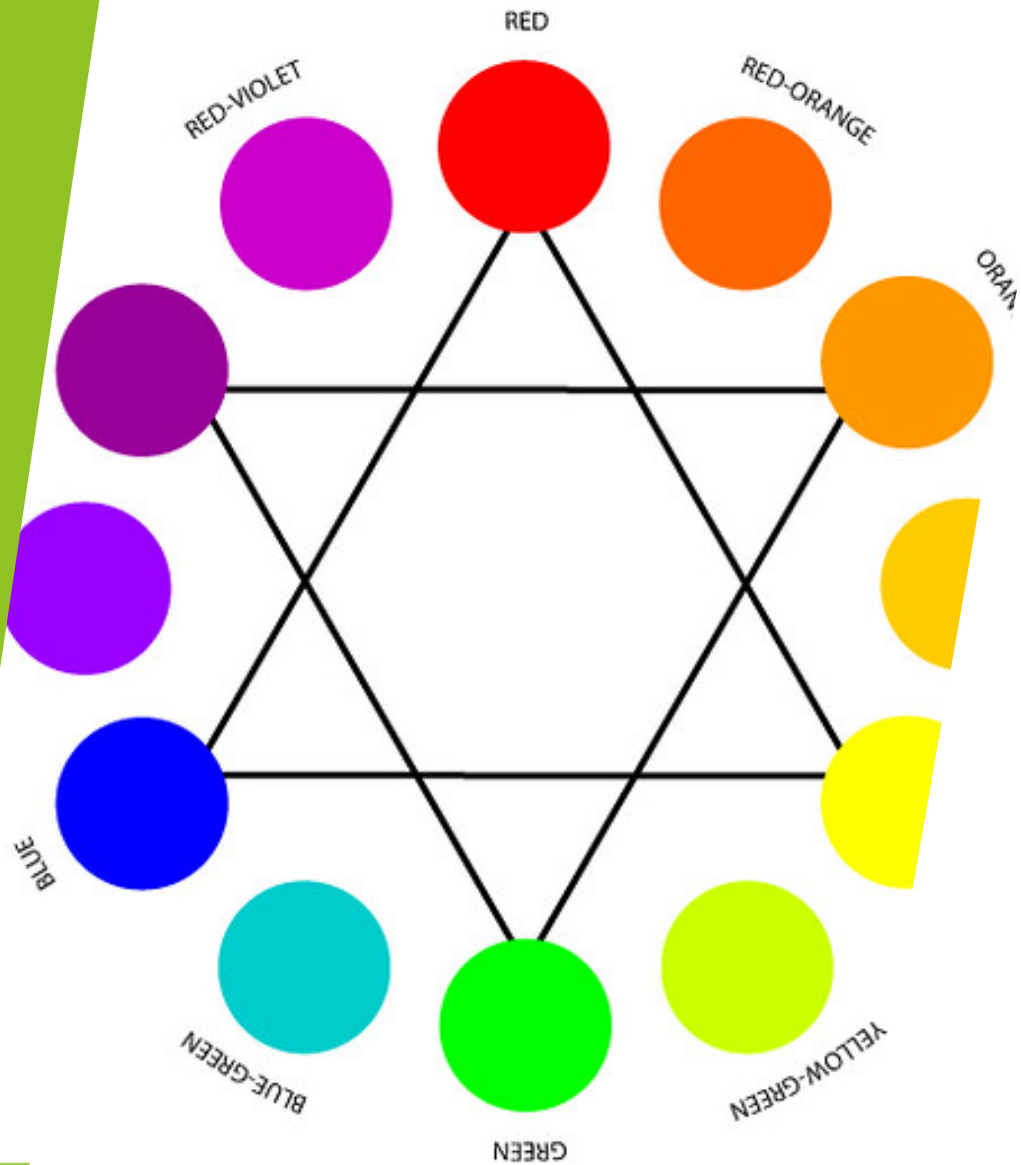
Consider Scale of Plants and Spaces

Too big for small area



- ▶ Look at plant sizes at maturity. Make sure to give room for plants to grow.
- ▶ Yard might look bare initially but give it some time.
- ▶ Plant so shrubs, perennials, and flowers will overlap at maturity.

Let's make things interesting...



- ▶ Plant combinations that add interest (Opposites attract)
 - ▶ Tall-short
 - ▶ Red leaf- green leaf
 - ▶ Color Wheel (color triad)
 - ▶ Large leaf- fine leaf
- ▶ Plant combinations that compliment
 - ▶ Warm colors
 - ▶ Cool colors
- ▶ Accent Colors



Warm Color
Plantings



Form and Structure

► Skeleton

- Main components of the design
- Trees
- Activity zones
- Other focal points



Design by Chad Talton

Form and Structure

▶ Connection

- ▶ Elements of the design that add interest but function to connect skeletal components
- ▶ Smaller Trees and large shrubs
- ▶ Paths and border plantings
- ▶ Repetition of groups important for continuity



Form and Structure

► Fill

- Materials used to contribute to the design, specifically to fill unused space.
- Shrubs, perennials, ground covers, and mulches
- Lawn should be used intentionally and not as a filler
- Sometimes less is more





Great Combinations

Echinops, Echinacea, and Agastache



Plants in this
Combo:

Alabaster Agastache

Pale Purple Coneflower

Veitch's Blue Echinops

Salvia and Penstemon



Plants in this
Combo:

Salvia nemorosa

Penstemon 'Rich Ruby'

Salvia and Grasses



GAP Photos/Elke Borkowski

Plants in this
Combo:

Salvia nemorosa

Green Fountain Grass

Natural Path



Plants in this Combo:

Creeping Thyme

Siberian Iris

Miscanthus grass

Blue Oat Grass

Lavender

Autumn Joy Sedum

Blanket Flower

Mugo Pine