



## **Garden consultation - planting plan**

Here's a list of what would typically be discussed during an initial consultation on planting design:

- Are there existing plants you would like to keep or move within the garden?
- Are there problem plants (e.g. spreading bamboos, horsetail, diseased trees...etc)?
- Who uses the garden? (e.g. children, pets, people with specific access needs...etc) and How do you plan to use the gardens (e.g. mainly in the evenings, early morning coffee...etc)
- Do you have preferred season? (e.g. you are away a lot in the Summer, so unlikely to see the planting much then)
- Who will maintain the garden? And how much time will be devoted to maintenance? (e.g. are you planning to use a gardening company? If you are planning to maintain the garden yourself, how much time and knowledge will you have...be honest with yourself)
- Do you favour a particular style? Do you have particular imagery that come to mind when thinking about the garden? Preferred colours? (e.g. collect photos of things you like and that inspire you for the garden, it doesn't have to be garden related, it could be interior design, paintings, holiday photos...etc)
- Are there particular functions that the planting need to address? e.g. improve security, privacy, create shade, bring wildlife into the garden...etc
- Are there plants you would love to have in the garden?
- Are there plants you dislike and never want to see in your garden?
- How long will your stay in your house? Do you require instant impact?
- Do you have a budget in mind for the planting?

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Once a brief has been defined for the planting, other key considerations will come into play when preparing the planting plan:

- The garden's soil, climate, aspects, orientation, nearby structures, existing planting...etc. This will be assessed during a survey of the garden. This is essential to ensure that the plants selected will thrive.
- The design functions of the planting, such as marking spaces, creating focal points, providing transitions within the garden...etc.
- How the planting will work altogether within the garden, creating interest, cohesion and a space you will love.

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