



Services, Stages of Design, Terms & Conditions

Please note individual projects will vary in complexity and therefore the amount of design input and services required.

Initial Design Consultation

This will be our first meeting, preferably on site, to establish your requirements and aspirations. During which we will talk through your likes, dislikes, ideas, garden styles, themes, practical aspects of the project, budget, and time scales. Based on this meeting you will receive a written Design Brief which establishes the direction of the design and your requirements. Included with this will be a quote for future services that I would recommend. Taking your outdoor space from good intentions to great garden.

I charge a fixed fee of £120 for this initial consultation (plus travel if applicable),

Site Analysis & Site Survey

Site Analysis & Site Survey provide the foundations for informed design. Understanding the conditions of the site, existing planting, soil, aspect etc. Recording accurate dimensions and levels are a fundamental part of the garden design process. You may already have architects drawing with some of this information or for simple small/medium sized plots plot I may be able to conduct the survey. In the case of complex sites, I would recommend that a professional surveyor is engaged.

Concept Plan

Concept plans show the vision for your future garden. Usually presented as a two-dimensional drawing, perhaps with photographic reference, illustrations, mood board or three-dimensional sketches. This helps you to visualise how your garden could look. The final concept plan will be presented as an A3 document showing the garden design that we have agreed. During this creative phase we will have an open dialogue as ideas develop, sharing development sketches to ensure that the concept plan fully represents what you would like for your garden.

Outline/Master Plan

Having agreed on the vision for how your garden could look in the concept plan, the next stage is to produce an outline plan, which will show the broad arrangement of the design to scale. It will include mapping out the hard and soft landscaping elements with the relevant annotations specifying materials and finishes as agreed during our ongoing consultation. Outline plans with specifications are like having a recipe with instructions to make your initial vision a reality. Outline plans also make sourcing comparable quotations from contractors a more straight-forward process.

Detailed Designs

On occasion supplementary construction details will be necessary. For example, in the case of steps, ponds, fences or other built structures. Detail designs clearly illustrate material and construction best practice, providing information on how elements of the design should functionally and safely be made. On occasion it may be necessary to seek the services of a structural engineer should any of the design elements require it.

Planting Plans

Choosing plants that are suitable for your gardens growing conditions and give maximum impact to the design is crucial. Depending on the scale of the garden and your own plant knowledge, planting plans can be a simple diagram showing plants, their location and planting numbers or more detailed, with additional information related to flowering season, plant characteristics, expected growth and spread, soil preparation, nutrition and maintenance.

Laying Out



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Positioning plants takes a particular skill to ensure the best effect and that plants get the best chance of thriving. I am available to do this with you or your gardener at my hourly consultation rate.

Project Monitoring

At key stages of the project, I will come to site during the construction period to ensure the quality and aesthetic of the design.

Consultation

I am also available on a consultation bases should you simply wish to seek advice on your garden or planting at my hourly consultation rate.

Fee Structure Guide

For your guidance, the table below indicates the average design costs through all the main stages of the garden design process. It should be noted that construction costs vary significantly according to the scope of the design brief and the practical requirements of the site. Per square meter this could be from £100/sqm for simple soft and hard landscaping to £300 + where complex levels, difficult site access, high specification materials, waterworks, electrical installations, garden art and complex structures are involved. The budget set is fully under the client’s control, and I will advise accordingly.

Typical Design Costs as percentage of Project Budget	
Project Budget	%
<£10,000	20 - 15%
£10,000 - £20,000	15 - 13%
£20,000 - £50,000	13 - 10%
£50,000 - £100,000	10 - 8%

The total garden design fee can very roughly be broken down into stages.

Concept Plan Approx.	30% of overall design fee	Expenses as incurred	
Outline/Master Plan Approx.	25% of overall design fee	Initial consultation	£120
Detailed Designs Approx.	10% of overall design fee	Site visits/project monitoring	£120
Planting Plans Approx.	15% of overall design fee	Consultancy	£60/hr
Laying Out Approx.	10% of overall design fee	Travel time (over 10mils)	£45/hr
Project Monitoring Approx.	10% of overall design fee	Mileage	£0.50/ml

I will provide an estimate for work for each stage of the design process prior to taking instruction to proceed. Work will be invoiced in two parts: 50% at start and 50% on completion of each stage. Payment terms are 7 days from date of invoice.

Correspondence will be by email unless agreed otherwise.

Upon receipt of full payment, you will be granted non-exclusive, perpetual and personal license to use the design for your own residential purposes. The design is not transferable to any third party to recreate at a different location without prior written permission and remains the intellectual property of Karen Laing @ Laing Landscape Design

