

the cotswold gardening school

A Professional Approach to Planting Design 2017

Week 1	
Topics	Introduction to the course. Discussion on necessary drawing equipment. Finding and channelling inspiration. Creative thinking. Planting Plans - how to draw them. Gossington Hall major project brief. Brief for plant portfolios. How computers can help - Serif's Page Plus.
Students will	Introduce themselves and get to know each other. Undertake exercises in planting plans.
Tutor will	Introduce the course. Show examples of sketchbooks. Introduce topic of creative awareness and observation. Explain and illustrate planting theory and graphics. Right plant right place. Planting for every season – thinking in four dimensions. Set exercise in planting a border. Set homework for major project. Distribute hand outs.
Homework	Sketchbook of ideas. Research project. First 6 plants of plant portfolio. Download Sketchup & Page Plus.
Handouts	Notes on visual research & planting plans. Client brief for project. Equipment list. Plant portfolios. Page Plus.
Students bring.	Notebooks and any preparatory sketch book work. Laptops.
Course will provide.	A2 Paper. Examples of sketchbooks. Examples of planting plans. Equipment to demonstrate. Plant portfolios.

Week 2	
Topics	Surveying planting areas. Working to scale. Planning a design. Working around existing plants. Garden visit.
Students will	Practice measuring up a survey. Begin to draw up the survey.
Tutor will	Describe process of garden and planting design. Explain working to scale. Put survey and site appraisal into context. Present survey theory. triangulation, base lines, off sets, levels, north point, etc. Describe and exemplify survey process. Offer one to one tuition on sketchbook work and visual research. Set homework. Distribute hand outs. Feedback on plant portfolios. Set scale drawing exercise
Homework	Sketch book of ideas. Gather research for major project. Draw up site survey and consider areas for planting development. Purchase equipment if not already done so (list sent out with confirmation of place on course) Collate 'images of interest'. First 6 plants of plant portfolio - to be assessed next week.
Handouts	Notes on aspects of surveys and site appraisal. Scale drawing. Project brief.
Students bring	Tape measures. Notebooks. Cameras. Writing materials/pencils Rainy day clothing if necessary. Sketch book work/images of interest. Plant portfolio work so far.
Course will provide.	Long tape measures. A2 Paper. Project brief.

Week 3	
Topics	Plant portfolio assessment so far (6 plants). Understanding plant categories. Latin names: how do they work? Mood boards and client communication. 100 recommended plants by season. Group planting exercise
Students will	Undertake group planting project. Practice using their technical drawing equipment via exercise.
Tutor will	Feedback on survey homework. Feedback on creative images collated and sketch book work. Feedback on ideas for potential development. Show examples of professional standard planting plans- what to aim for. Set homework. Describe professional methods of presentation. Consider page set up and information panels. Set and monitor group planting and individual technical drawing exercises. Introduce the use and value of mood boards. Distribute hand outs. Feedback on plant portfolios.
Homework	Exercise in the practice of technical drawings. Further collation of 'images of interest'. Compile a mood board for project. Plant portfolio.
Handouts	Planting plan layout notes. Plant classification. Notes on mood boards. Examples of design drawings. 100 recommended plants by season
Students bring.	Sketch book work/ inspirational images of interest. Plant portfolio. Notebook.
Course will provide.	Examples of professional drawings and mood boards. A2 Drawing boards. Spare A2 tracing paper.

Week 4	
Topics	Design Theory, colour, form and texture. Trade suppliers, marking up and planting. Ground preparation and irrigation. Costing taking delivery and invoicing. Plant portfolio assessment so far (9 plants). Case study.
Students will	Explore the aspects of professional planting design. Practice marking up.
Tutor will	Present ideas on design theory. Explain what happens after the design is accepted by the client. Feed back on mood board homework. Feed back on technical drawing practice. Feed back on sketch book work. Monitor marking up exercise. Set homework. Distribute hand outs. Feedback on plant portfolios. Set homework for rough planting plan.
Homework	Continue to compile sketch book of ideas and resources. Order wholesale catalogues and research local suppliers. Plant portfolio. First rough attempt at planting plan for major project.
Handouts	Design theory. Notes on the value of the grid. Example of client Questionnaire.
Students bring.	Exercises in the practice of technical drawings. Completed mood board. Sketch book work/images of interest. Technical drawing equipment Sketching pencils. A2 Paper. Sketch books. Notebooks. Work on plant portfolio.
Course will provide.	Landmark spray and surveying equipment.

Week 5	
Topics	Trees, shrubs and hedging - deciduous and evergreen. Planting for structure and emphasis. Plant portfolio assessment so far (12 plants). Sketchup - three dimensional computer graphics.
Students will	Explore structural planting via a group exercise.
Tutor will	Feedback on rough attempt at planting plan for final project. Describe planting for structural impact. Monitor group exercise and presentation. Demonstrate Sketchup. Feedback on plant portfolios. Sign off rough planting plan for major project.
Homework	Continue to compile sketch book of ideas and resources. Plant portfolio. Refine planting plan for final project in rough. Practice with Sketchup. Any thoughts about your business branding.
Handouts	Examples of professional planting presentation. Reprographic centre information. Examples of Sketchup.
Students bring.	Sketch book work/images of interest. Final version rough planting plan for major project. Work on plant portfolio. Laptops.
Course will provide.	Examples of professional standard planting design work. Spare A2 tracing paper. A2 Drawing boards.

Week 6	
Topics	Perennials and sustainable planting. Contemporary planting. Low maintenance planting. Annuals and biennials. Matrix, prairie and meadow planting. The Olympic stadium. Plant communities. Discussion on marketing your planting design practice.
Students will	Explore different planting styles of planting via group exercise.
Tutor will	Comment on sketchbook work. Feedback on plant portfolios. Set homework. Distribute hand outs. Facilitate group planting exercise - describe / illustrate the different planting styles. Final sign off, rough pencil design.
Homework	Ideas for an alternative planting style in sketch book. Ink up major project design. Plant portfolio work.
Handouts	Contemporary planting styles.
Students bring.	Any thoughts on marketing your business. Notebooks. Sketch book work/images of interest. Work on plant portfolio.
Course will provide.	Handouts. A2 Drawing boards. Spare A2 tracing paper. Examples of marketing for a garden design business.

Week 7	
Topics	Plant portfolio assessment so far (18 plants). Recap on Pages /Page Plus for labelling. Biodynamic principles and planting. Feedback on inked up major project. Feedback on alternative planting exercise.
Students will	
Tutor will	Comment on sketchbook work. Feedback on plant portfolios and inked design. Distribute hand outs. Demonstrate Pages /Page Plus.
Homework	Label up major project design and get printed. Plant portfolio.
Handouts	Alternative planting styles.
Students bring.	Final inked up design for major project on tracing paper. Sketch book work. Work on plant portfolio. Laptops.
Course will provide.	Handouts. Examples of labelled planting plans. A2 Drawing boards. Spare A2 tracing paper.

Week 8	
Topics	Planting kitchen and cutting gardens. Container, wildlife and year-round planting. Plant portfolio assessment so far (21 plants). Recap on Sketch up. Elevation drawings and overlays. Costing planting plans.
Students will	Practice Sketchup and elevation drawing.
Tutor will	Feed back on final design for major project. Set homework. Distribute hand outs. Feedback on plant portfolios. Demonstrate elevation drawing and overlays & recap on Sketchup.
Homework	Sketch up model, overlay or elevation if preferred. Finish plant portfolio. Cost for major project.
Handouts	Notes on elevation drawing. Examples of planting costings.
Students bring.	Final inked up, labelled and printed major project. Mood board from week 3. Sketch book work/images of interest. Work on plant portfolio.
Course will provide.	Examples of planting plans. A2 Drawing boards. Spare A2 tracing paper.

Week 9	
Topics	Planting a show garden. Plant portfolio final hand in of all 25 plants. Presentation of finished project. Maintenance schedules, legal issues, insurance, client agreements T&Cs etc.
Students will	Present their final design. Group discussions.
Tutor will	Facilitate group discussions. Feedback on major project, discuss one to one if required. Set homework. Feedback on 3D visuals.
Homework	Create maintenance schedule and plan of action for your planting plan. Costings and prices. Business cards.
Handouts	Maintenance schedules, legal issues, insurance, client agreements T&Cs etc.
Students bring.	3Dimensional visualisation of their design homework. Sketch book work/images of interest. Notebooks. Finished plant portfolio.
Course will provide.	Layout plans to practice on. A2 Drawing boards. Spare A2 tracing paper.

Week 10	
Topics	History of styles of planting. Working with wildflower meadow turf. Art and Planting exploring Prospect House. Game changing gardens. Diplomas awarded. Last chance to recap any aspect agreed with the group.
Students will	Hand in business cards for the setting up of trade accounts. Think about anything they may wish to recap.
Tutor will	Feedback on finished plant portfolios. Return major project with written feedback.
Handouts	Certificates and feedback forms.
Students bring.	Any business cards they may have had printed - if they wish to set up trade accounts.
Course will provide.	Any further information requested by students. Diploma certificates.