

A

Create an inviting entrance.

A paved surface that is wide enough to accommodate a baby stroller without blocking the way, a sidewalk with lines of coloured pavers, a low wall with flowerpots sitting on top, and steps that are properly positioned and defined are all ways to create an inviting entrance.

B

Differentiate the functions of various areas.

Each space should be defined according to how it will be used with the help of walls, a line of colour in pavers, or a different pattern or texture. You should choose more understated, detailed designs for quiet areas and walkways, bigger and simpler looks in spaces reserved for cars, and more subdued solutions for service areas.

C

Create a multipurpose space.

Are you missing place for different spaces? Multi purpose spaces are the solution. All you have to do is adapt the function of an element of your design in an imaginative and safe manner, according to the occasion.

For example, a wall can be used as a bar at cocktail hour, or a row of pavers located a safe distance from the barbecue can mark out a dance floor.

LANDSCAPING FUNDAMENTALS

**N**

Define surface borders.

Be a complete perfectionist. Finishing touches such as an invisible or concrete border, a wall capping or a harmonious link between two surfaces will enhance the overall result of your outdoor design project.

M

Choose materials designed for specific uses.

For an attractive, comfortable and safe landscape design, choose the right material for the specific location: a rounded, anti-slip capping that is easy to grab onto at the edge of the pool, smaller and smoother pavers for pedestrian walkways, pavers with more rugged textures for cars and so on.

L

Create a transition between two spaces.

Indicate changes in space in a striking manner by using steps or walls, or do it more subtly through a line on the ground or a different material on a continuous surface. When two spaces are very different, a distinctive pattern employing features of both spaces will soften the transition by lending it a special look.

D

Seek consistency between colours and textures.

Opt for harmonious colour schemes rather than a single colour. Take into consideration the various elements of your environment—textures, colours, shapes, walls and plants—and use the suggestions in the table created by our experts to obtain a monochromatic, contrasting or innovating look (p. 95).

**E**

Make sure that any changes in level are comfortable and safe.

Shapes and colours that help you remember your way, steps of equal height and depth, the beginning and end of stairways that are properly marked out by changes in paver colour, the direction in which pavers are laid or a supporting wall—these are all ways to ensure the comfort and safety of your every step.

**F**

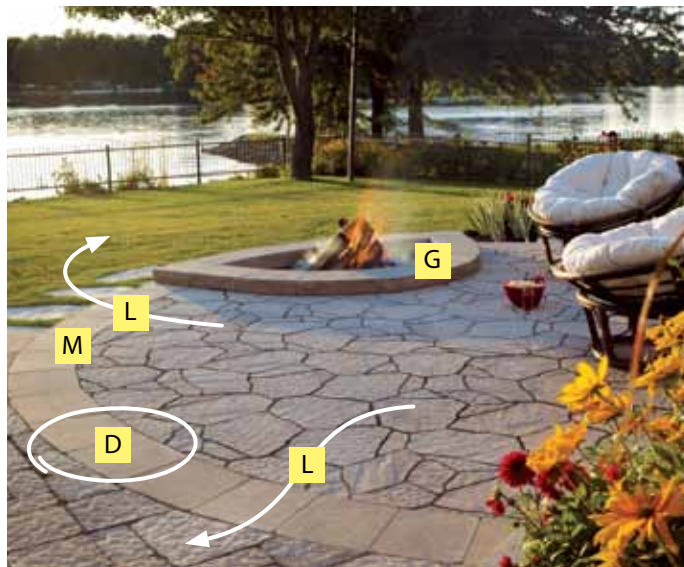
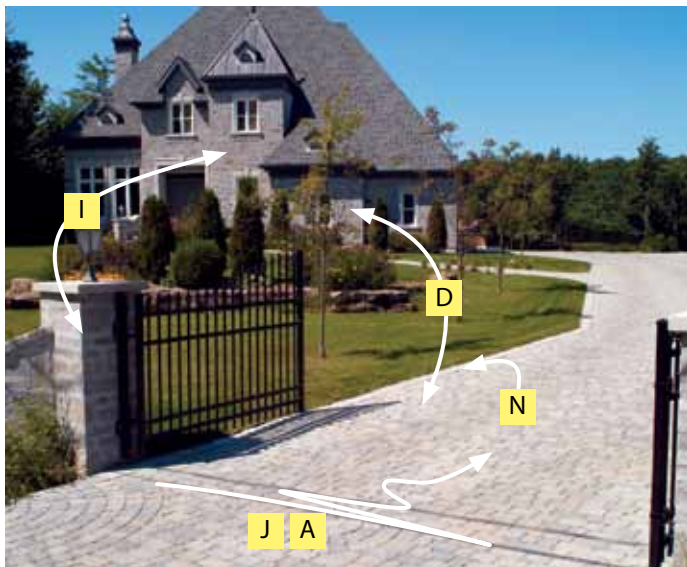
Provide good drainage for your projects.

A slight 1% to 2% slope is necessary to ensure quick drainage of surface water and prevent puddling or the build-up of ice. Just as important, proper drainage will maintain these gradients and prevent surfaces from buckling.

G

Give some consideration to utility areas.

Don't neglect these spaces. Include them in your design by harmonizing the choice of surface materials at ground level and by concealing them behind visual screens. You could have, for example, a space hidden behind a wall for your supply of firewood or your garbage and recycling bins.

**H**

Design functional and comfortable doorsteps.

Make sure that the width and height of the doorstep are adequate; that you will have sufficient space for welcoming visitors and that you will be able to easily walk over the doorstep without rain or water from the garden getting into your home.

K

Take advantage of the site's topography or create a natural looking one of your own.

In order to create transitions between the home and the levels of a sloping property, blend steps and walls together. On a flat piece of property, shape the surface to create small mounds of earth that can be used to support certain elements of your design—the wall of a belvedere terrace, for example.

J

Mark off your entrance.

Clearly indicate the division between your private space and public property with columns, the use of texture, pattern and colour or the width of the paved surface that will designate your entrance. This will give the impression of a larger property and increase its value.

I

Create links between the building and the landscape design.

Preserve the unique atmosphere of your design by repeating elements of shapes, colours or textures found in an architectural detail from the home's exterior.