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## Inspired Garden Design Lessons from Magnificent Gardens and Gardeners

Sponsored by Garden Design, Espoma Organic Fertilizers and Soil Mixes, Plantskydd Organic Animal Repellants and Proven Winners

N = Native or nativar to North America

**\*Design Concepts to be discussed:** \*Movement in the Garden \*Color Considerations\*Garden Up! \*Dazzling Foliage Rules \*Less-More-Less \*Focal Points \*Mirror, Mirror on the Wall \*Ax the Annuals in Containers

### Design Concept #1 Magical Movement in the Garden

\*When designing with ornamental grasses consider if they are a cool or warm season grass

\*Cool Season Grasses: These break dormancy in early spring, quickly providing volume and impact. Some are semi-evergreen in winter. These make great 'foils' for the dying foliage of spring blooming bulbs. Most cool season grasses are 3' or shorter (Feather Reed Grass is one exception). They also flower earlier- late spring-early summer

Warm Season Grasses: These are slow to break dormancy and grow very slowly until early-mid summer when heat soars. These are the grasses that are prized for fall and winter interest in the landscape. Flower later – summer-fall. Some get very tall (e.g. Miscanthus). Look especially grand when backlit by the sun.

\*Switch Grass *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' N 5'-6' Warm season grass

\*Feather Reed Grass *Calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster' Cool season grass N 5' tall with Mexican Bush Sage

\*Prairie Dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis* N Sun 2'-3' tall Warm season Zones 3 – 9. Rotary Botanical Gardens. **Design idea:** Plant cool season annuals around charred clumps as a distraction (Snapdragons, Pansies, *Osteospermum*)

### Design Theme #2: Repetition in the Garden

You can repeat the 1) same plant or 2) a color from plants or objects in a bed and in neighboring beds.

\*Repeating a color with plants \*Repeating a color with objects

### Design Theme #3: Color Considerations

\*Hot versus cool colors\*most gardens are a mix of both BUT **there are some locations that call for more hot colors**

\*Cool colors are difficult to see in low light – especially from a distance. Hot colors – including white – are easily seen in shade

\*Full Sun Gardens benefit from hot colors - Pastel colors can 'bleach out' in intense sunlight

### Design Theme #4 Go vertical to add additional color & interest

\*'Rambling Red' climbing rose 6'-10'+ Early summer – fall Z 3 – 8 My garden

\*Clematis. Advantages of working with Group 3 Clematis. \*Can cut back to within 12" of the ground every fall for a neater winter landscape \*less prone to Clematis wilt. 'Polish Spirit' (10'13') and 'Nelly Moser' (6'-10').

\*American Wisteria *frutescens* 'Amethyst Falls' Native Can grow to 20'-30' Z 4 – 9

Blooms in first year versus many Asian Wisteria (invasive) that can take up to 10 years to bloom

**Design Theme #5 Incorporate colorful foliage in gardens for month after month of color.** Tony & Marie Newton's 1/3 Acre Garden in England. The Four Seasons Garden

**Design Theme #6 Less....More....Less...** Designed by Roy Diblik *The Know-Maintenance Perennial Garden*

\*Coneflower, Calamintha *nepeta*, Allium 'Summer Beauty', Autumn Moor Grass

\***Four seasons of interest using only 4 plant varieties** Red-Twig Dogwood (*Cornus a.* 'Aurea'); Common yew (*Taxus baccata*) 'Robusta'; Hakone grass (*Hakonechloa macra*) 'All Gold' and Black Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon p.* 'Nigrescens') Bressingham Gardens **(April 13, 2024 Webinar with Adrian Bloom)**

\*Kerry's Pick 4: Shrub, Perennial, Bulb, Annual. Hydrangea p. 'Bobo', Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush', Species Tulip 'Little Princess', Lantana 'Citrus Blend'

\*Part Shade-Shade. Pieris j. 'Flaming Silver', Heucherella 'Pink Fizz', Browallia 'Endless Illumination', Fritillaria *meleagris* Checkered Lily

**Design Theme #7 Focal Points** \*add a different textural element from foliage and flowers \*draw the eye to an area of interest \*provide a resting place before viewing more plants \*offer winter interest \*distract the eye from unsightly areas. The Runaway Bride by Anna & The Willow <https://www.annaandthewillow.co.uk/>

**Design Theme #8 Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – an interesting spin on focal points!** \*Give the illusion that a space is larger than it really is \*Use mirrors to reflect/direct sunlight into shadier areas

\*Note: Apply decals to keep birds from flying into mirrors & windows

**Design Theme #9 Ax the Annuals in Containers.** \*Grow temperamental plants PR coveted ones that are not hardy for your zone in containers! It's also easier grow plants with special soil preferences in pots \*Replace Many Annuals with Perennials, Shrubs, Vines, & Evergreens for your Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers

**Thank you!**

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