Garden Design Interview Template

These questions are intended as a starting point for interviewing a client to determine their garden design requirements. You don’t need to ask all of the questions, and equally, you should feel free to ask more questions about points of particular interest.

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| Client’s name: |  | Client ph: |  |
| Clients email: |  |
| Site address: |  |

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| **About the clients** |
| * “How long have you lived here?”
* “Who lives here?”
	+ Ages of children or grandchildren.
	+ Interests.
	+ Access requirements.
* “Do you have extended family or friends that visit frequently?”
	+ Access requirements and ages of kids.
* “Do you live here year-round?”
* “Do you have any pets?”
	+ Species, age, energy levels.
* “How many vehicles do you have?”
	+ Think cars, bikes, ride-on mower, campervan, caravan, boat, etc.
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| **General garden use** |
| * “How do you want to use the garden?”
	+ For each function, try to build a picture of how big it needs to be, how private and intimate or open.
	+ Where appropriate, ask for example, “what’s the typical number of people you’ll have over for a significant birthday? What would that party be like?”
* “Who else will be using the space?”
	+ Neighbours’ kids, mowing contractors or contract gardeners, gas bottle replacement.
* “Do you enjoy gardening?”
* “How much time do you want to spend working in your garden?”
* “Do you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables?”
* “What practical needs do you have for your garden; do you need a washing line, compost heap or a shed?”
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From here on, you might like to conduct the interview outside, in the garden.

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| **Site and environmental features and constraints** |
| * “What are the boundaries we are working within?”
	+ The whole site, or just part(s) of it?
* “Are there any existing features that you definitely want to keep?”
* “Are there any existing features that you definitely want removed?”
* “Are there any views of the surrounding area you want to bring into the garden?”
* “Are there any views you want to block out?”
* “Where does the wind come from most of the time?”
* “Where does the strongest wind come from?”
* “Are there any pet graves that we need to keep in mind?”
* “Are you aware of any restrictions that apply to this site, such as covenants?”
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| **Likes and dislikes** |
| * “Would you like the garden to have native plants?”
* “Are there any plants you are allergic to or thoroughly dislike?”
* “Are there any types of plants you particularly like?”
	+ Colourful flowers or not?
	+ Texture, scent?
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