

IS YOUR GARDEN EVER COMPLETE?

Once the plan is executed and the design is now a reality your garden is finally complete...or is it? This question sparks much debate among designers and deserves some discussion.

Suppose the answer is yes. Once the hardscaping and softscaping is installed the garden is finished...nothing to add nor take away. Some of my clients prefer never to change the garden that I design for them. These are the people that are content with how things are.

This group considers their garden to be more like a painting that is perfect in its entirety. Once you complete a painting and frame it then your art work is complete. A similar mentality can be associated with a designed garden. I always admire the people in this group that aim to keep things simple. If you are happy with your garden why does it have to change?

Sometimes after living with the same garden for a number of years, one starts to desire certain modifications. A number of reasons can cause a need for renovation: a plant is not thriving in a certain area, the planting beds are the wrong shape or the pathway no longer serves its original function. Perhaps you should review your garden every five years with a critical eye to assess the space. The garden transformation can be just like an interior makeover of a room. I create necessary changes when I renovate a garden with my clients input highlighting what already works and changing what doesn't. Sometimes when a garden has become overgrown, my goal is to preserve the original theme or intent of the original design. This is both a challenging and rewarding job!

A few of my clients will add different plants every year including annuals and bulbs. Horticultural practices are always changing and growing. New varieties of plant material with different colours or longer blooming times provide a splash of interest. Why not have fun and try a new plant or two once a year? I encourage this flexible outlook because as you change your garden will too. This adaptable group believes that the garden is more whimsical and can transform with new plants and new elements every year.

Your garden changes from day to day whether you are involved or not. A garden will transform naturally from season to season. Certain plants bloom and look marvellous in the spring while others look better in the fall when the foliage changes colour. The transitory nature of a garden amazes me and I look forward to seeing the changes every season.

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