

Appendix 2

Diploma in Professional Garden Design Skills:

Course Content

Unit 1

Background to Garden Design

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Know about developments in garden design	1.1 Explain how garden design has evolved into its current form 1.2 Explain factors affecting the evolution of garden design
2. Know about the work of different garden designers	2.1 Explain the impact of cultural influences on the work of garden designers 2.2 Compare the work of garden designers from different periods
3. Know about garden design styles	3.1 Describe the fundamental features of different garden design styles

This Unit defines garden design through its history, styles and most influential designers. It explores the concept of a designed garden, from its early origins in the first civilisations, through its continual development over historical periods and between world regions. It then looks at some of the most influential designers of contemporary garden design and at the many garden design styles that are used today.

Unit 2

The Role of the Garden Designer

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Know about the role of a garden designer	1.1 Outline the function of a garden designer 1.2 Explain the role of a garden designer in the design process
2. Understand the stages in a garden design project	2.1 Outline the stages involved in a garden design project 2.2 Analyse the stages involved in a garden design project 2.3 Justify the stages involved in a garden design project
3. Know about design briefs	3.1 Explain the purpose of a design brief 3.2 Explain the significance of a design brief

This Unit introduces the processes required and the realities which make up a garden design project. It details the stages involved, the client, site, contractors and specialist consultants which may be required. The Unit describes how and why a good design brief can be made and used to guide a project towards success, ensuring the ultimate success of a garden design, through detailing the issues and approaches in meeting the requirements of a client and site.

Unit 3

Presenting Techniques

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Know how to measure a site	1.1 Describe the process of measuring a specified site 1.2 Identify the key to be measured
2. Be able to draw scale plans	2.1 Develop scale plans fro identified sites 2.2 Annotate scale plans 2.3 Develop a technical drawing from a site survey
3. Be able to produce industry standard technical plans	3.1 Produce technical plans using recognised drawing conventions 3.2 Apply symbols to technical drawing work
4. Be able to draw sketches for garden design	4.1 Produce sketches reflecting design concepts

Garden designer must understand and communicate the information from survey, analysis and design to clients. This Unit looks at the thought processes and various technical skills which will be required for successful communication of garden design information and ideas. It covers the background to the various drawing types and styles that can be produced, explaining the advantages and disadvantages of each type, indicating their most suitable applications and techniques.

Unit 4

Understanding the Components of Garden Design

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Know about different components that contribute to garden design	1.1 Identify components that make up garden design 1.2 Explain how identified components can be used in garden design
2. Know about the inter-relation of components within garden design	2.1 Identify components in different garden designs 2.2 Explain the relationship between the identified components
3. Understand the use of scale and proportion in garden design	3.1 Analyse the use of scale and proportion within garden design 3.2 Demonstrate the use of scale and proportion when producing initial ideas for a client brief
4. Know about the use of grouping, pattern, mass and void in garden design	4.1 Describe the impact of grouping, pattern, mass and void on garden design 4.2 Use grouping, pattern, mass and void when producing initial ideas for a client brief.

This Unit discusses how the components of garden design; the plants, boundaries, structures, ornaments, landforms and surfaces, can be selected, arranged and combined to make gardens which make more than the sum of their parts. It show how on many levels and for any design, each component should be considered in relation to all the others and to the whole garden design vision. It considers the basic physical functions of allowing movement through the space, to the control of the emotional and intellectual experiences.

Unit 5

Understanding Plants

Learning Outcomes	Assessment criteria
1. Know about common plant types	1.1 Identify common plants types from their biological characteristics 1.2 Explain how plants can be hazardous to health 1.3 Identify plants that could be harmful to garden users
2. Know about industry standard terminology	2.1 Demonstrate use of plants nomenclature
3. Know about the environmental requirements of plants	3.1 Explain the impact of different soil types on plants 3.2 Select plants for different soil types 3.3 Explain the impact of micro-climates on plants 3.4 Select plants to suit different micro-climates

Plants are a key component for the majority of gardens, providing much of the character for a majority of garden. The first of two plants Units look at the physical structure and features of different plants types. It also looks at the garden environment in which plants will be asked to live and reproduce: the light, water, air, nutrients and soil conditions which will effect their chances of success.

Unit 6

Using Hard Landscaping Materials

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand how hard landscaping materials can be used in garden design	1.1 Describe hard landscaping materials which can be used in garden design 1.2 Identify hard landscaping features within a garden 1.3 Describe hard landscaping features which may enhance a garden design 1.4 Define garden terms used in hard landscaping
2. Be able to use hard landscaping materials to meet a design brief	2.1 Select hard landscaping materials to meet a design brief 2.2 Use hard landscaping materials on a given site
3. Be able to specify and source hard landscaping materials	3.1 Specify types of hard landscaping materials to meet a brief 3.2 Specify quantities of hard landscaping materials to meet a brief 3.3 Source suppliers and contractors for hard landscaping materials

This Unit looks at the range of materials which can be used in the garden and the specific uses and applications for which each type is suitable, via their functional and visual qualities. It then considers the many external factors which need to be considered in the appropriate selection of materials such as availability and cost, sustainability and realistic options for construction.

Unit 7

Selecting Plant Types for Garden Design

Learning Outcomes	Assessment criteria
1. Know about the function of plant types within garden design	1.1 Explain the function of plant types within a garden design 1.2 Describe the physical features of different plants 1.3 Identify the visual qualities of different plants
2. Be able to select plants to meet a design brief	2.1 Select plants for a pre-determined brief 2.2 Justify plants selection for a pre-determined brief 2.3 Produce a planting scheme for a client

The second planting Unit expands upon the first, this time concentrating on the benefit that plants bring to a garden design, their visual features, arrangement and functional uses. It looks at how to source, select and design with the unique qualities of plants. It also introduces a range of commonly used plants by different type and by specific species, discussing suitable applications and uses.

Unit 8

Selecting Furniture and Features

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Be able to select furniture for garden use	1.1 Select furniture for different garden styles 1.2 Select furniture for different budgets 1.3 Identify how to position furniture to enhance garden design
2. Know how to use lighting products in garden design	2.1 Describe the purposes of lighting in a garden 2.2 Select lighting products for garden use 2.3 Create a lighting scheme for garden use
3. Know how to select garden accessories to enhance a garden design	3.1 Describe accessories that can be used to enhance a garden design 3.2 Identify how accessories can be used effectively 3.3 Position accessories to enhance a garden design
4. Know about water features	4.1 Describe different types of water features that can be used in a garden 4.2 Explain factors which must be considered when selecting water features

This Unit discusses the types and uses of furniture and features which bring added functionality and experiences to the garden space for your client. It considers the requirements of style, budget and positioning of these additions. It also looks at additional elements such as lighting technologies and applications, The addition of water features and adding the finishing touches to a design which essential accessories and specific garden activities.

Unit 9

Professional Practice for Garden Design

Learning Outcomes	Assessment criteria
1. Be able to produce concept design to meet a brief	1.1 Produce concept design to meet a specific brief
2. Be able to select design from given concept designs	2.1 Evaluate concept designs 2.2 Select a concept design to meet a brief 2.3 Justify the selection of the chosen concept design
3. Create a garden design scheme to meet client requirements	3.1 Develop a final garden design scheme to meet a client brief 3.2 Produce an order of work 3.3 Use rendering techniques in the development of the design 3.4 Provide a rationale for the main aspects of the design

Within this Unit, an understanding of the importance of structuring a business will begin to be developed. Whether working within the creative industries or starting your own interior design studio, the importance of understanding good business practice cannot be overstated. It is possible to be a very creative and inspirational designer but this, on its own, does not mean that an interior design business will be successful. There are a great many skills associated with running an interior design business and this Unit will guide you through the stages of establishing good business practice.

Unit 10

Producing a Garden Design

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand how to set up a garden design service	1.1 Outline the steps that need to be followed to set up own business 1.2 Describe the responsibilities of a sole trader
2. Understand how to cost a garden design service	2.1 Identify the key components to be considered when developing a charging structure for a garden design service 2.2 Develop a sample charging structure for a garden design service
3. Understanding how to market a garden design	3.1 Identify potential customers 3.2 Describe marketing methods that can be used to reach potential customers
4. Understand how to work with suppliers and contractors	4.1 Describe how to source suppliers and contractors 4.2 Describe how to set up a trade account
5. Know about career opportunities within the garden design industry	5.1 Explain career opportunities within the garden design industry 5.2 Analyse progression routes within the garden design industry