



Harley-Martin. Gardens
garden design and consultancy

Sally Harley-Martin

The Garden Design, Construction and Planting process can be split into stages.

Some clients wish to hand the whole project over to be designed, built and planted.
Some clients wish for a Masterplan to construct themselves.

I am happy to be as involved in the process as each client requires.

The Garden Design is the overall Vision for the Garden, with all of the spaces, features, planting and beds detailed. Some of my clients like to build the whole garden at once, whilst others treat the Garden Design as a route map and we develop the garden over a number of years.

I also prepare plans to accompany Planning submissions, from overall plans to details for swimming pools and tennis court, and Historical Landscape Appraisal.

What is the Process?

Each design is different, and tailored to each garden, but the approach is as follows:

Preparation Stage

1. **Topographical Survey.** This is a measured survey of the site. It is needed to produce an accurate, scaled plan for the garden from which all dimensions, levels and thus costings, can be taken. I survey small plots. I use independent surveyors for large gardens.
2. **Site Appraisal.** I visit the garden, taking photos and assessing the garden for aspect, wind, frost pockets and shadows, soil conditions (where it's boggy, dry etc), soil tests, key views and so on.
3. **Briefing.** I would normally spend time with clients to discuss detailed likes, dislikes and options from the aesthetic (e.g. colour, lighting) to the practical (e.g. taps, composting) then I write a design brief for my client to agree.

Design Stage

4. **Initial Concept plan.** This is a scaled plan with ideas for all the areas, but not to final finish, so there is room for comment. It would show key features like paths, structures, seating areas, plus structural planting (trees and hedges) and an indication of where there might be beds and the planting style.
5. **Final Master plan.** The final overall plan for the garden, with any of your comments incorporated.
6. **Planting plans.** Once the Master plan is agreed I develop planting plans; bed by bed, to scale, with images for reference.



Preparation for Construction

7. **Setting Out Plan** for contractors. This details all the garden dimensions for the contractor to set out the garden areas and elements in place accurately.
8. **Construction Drawings.** For construction and costings, I prepare construction drawings, for all hard landscaping elements e.g. walls, paths, paving, pergolas

Construction.

9. **Tender Documentation.** For an invitation to tender, I produce specifications to accompany the construction drawings. A specification ensures tenderers work to the required quality and quantities of materials, and working practices.
10. **Project Monitoring** Dependent on your levels of confidence dealing with contractors, I can offer a project monitoring service, which is costed based on the final plan.

Soft Landscaping

11. **Soft Landscaping.** I source trees, hedges, plants and bulbs for the garden, generally well below retail prices.

I can recommend people to plant for you, or advise on planting, soil preparation and maintenance (planting trees, planting hedges, digging beds, preparing soil for planting, tree surgery).

Other Services

I can produce tailored Maintenance Plans for your garden and Gardener's Tutorials.

Where Specialists are required e.g. Tree Surgery, Fruit Pruning, Hedge laying, I can generally point you in the right direction.

Every year, I place wholesale orders for Spring bulbs and bare root Roses for clients.

For Planters, Pots, Furniture, Sculpture, Lighting, Irrigation and a host of other garden items I can usually either source them or suggest a shortlist of suppliers.

Design Fees

I produce a quotation for my fees for each project, agreed in advance.

Aftercare and general consultancy visits for anything from planning Spring bulb planting to pruning advice are charged at an hourly rate.

There is no VAT charged on my Fees.