

MICHAEL JUDE RUSSO – LANDSCAPE GARDEN DESIGN

Design elements that will create an engaging complimentary landscape are:

- 1) Long perspectives with unobstructed views
- 2) Plantings to create the illusion of vegetation that continues beyond the property borders
- 3) Planting according to the sun's direction through the seasons
- 4) Plant combinations and juxtaposition to achieve a balance of texture and color (use of variegated and colored foliage as well as blooming varieties)
- 5) Size control of plants by variety and pruning (this assures that each plant has sufficient light and space yet will intermingle enough to have a naturally grown" look – some specimens may be trimmed as topiaries to act as accents in the garden)
- 6) Include aromatic plants, a few oddities and native varieties as botanical surprises
- 7) The placement of statuary and sculpture can add style and personal taste
- 8) Pathways to give a sense of adventure and exploration – they should have circularity (no "dead ends") and possibly lead to a serene meditative destination (a gazebo or seating)
- 9) Variation in the topography as a path is followed can add a sense of intrigue
- 10) A water feature will add liveliness and tranquility at the same time
- 11) A bridge or a beautiful gate along a path adds interest

All or most of these elements can be included in any garden regardless of size. The views from buildings on the property can be created and appreciated as framed visions of nature. They may offer serenity, discovery and inspiration.