

*Welcome to MCS*  
**“Landscapes You’ll Love”**



[www.mcslandscaping.co.uk](http://www.mcslandscaping.co.uk)



# “Creates a Postcard Perfect Garden”

And Transforms a dull,  
uninviting space into Your  
Personal Oasis

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*Don't just take our word for it, here's what a few of our very, happy clients have to say*

“What they created was a masterpiece and we can now watch and enjoy its development over the seasons and years to come.” - Simon and Tracey (Ryton-on-Dunsmore)

“Could you thank your guys for doing such a great job, they really are great, very professional and a credit to your company.” - Peter (Kenilworth)

“James, I wanted to write and say a massive “Thank You” to you and your team for the incredible job you have done in creating what is more than I could ever have imagined or dreamed my garden could ever be.” - Jo (Rugby)

“You took our ideas and managed to make it into something that now looks fantastic. The quality of workmanship is excellent; can't wait for the fine weather now so we can enjoy it.” Richard and Judith (Coventry)

“Was built with care and attention to detail, which is apparent in the finished article, and I would happily recommend James and his team to family and friends”. - Lesley (Coventry)



# “What will your New Garden do for You and your Loved Ones?”

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A new patio or deck can be an area for catching the summer sun, relaxing with a good book or a glass of something cold. Or maybe firing up the BBQ for an impromptu weekend gathering of family or friends.

Or maybe you prefer the whole kitchen outdoors, creating the dish of the day in the fresh air, pizza, pasta, something on the grill.

Outdoor kitchens are a popular addition to a garden, maybe you're not the chef but being able to relax in the sun while someone else does the cooking, the enticing smell of dinner wafting through the garden can be equally rewarding.

How about sitting around a romantically lit fire pit and seating area in the evening with your loved ones, enjoying each other's company and creating new memories of home, family, and friends?

Imagine your garden space being used as an extension of your home, it truly is

like having another room or depending on your design brief, multiple rooms. Extra space for entertaining in the summer, a dining space for those romantic alfresco dining experiences or dinner with friends.

Somewhere for the kids to play that's safe and secure, football, badminton, maybe a den or tree house?

Ever thought about growing your own herbs or veg but didn't know where to start, kitchen gardens don't have to be huge and can be incorporated into any garden space.

Growing your own isn't for everyone but it can be hugely rewarding incorporating your own home grown, organic produce into your daily diet.

Modern, contemporary, country cottage everyone has their own style, what's yours? With your input all your wants will be incorporated into the design in whatever style you want.

How about bringing the Mediterranean to Meriden or the Savanna to Solihull, with the right design anything is possible!

Maybe you like to be beside the water, the sound of a gentle stream in the background helping you drift of anywhere your mind takes you.

Or maybe you want to be in the water cooling off on a hot day, if you can dream it we will make it happen for you.



# Our Five Promises to You

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1 *“We promise to keep you well informed throughout the whole process”*

Because we believe that regular and constructive communication is key to ensuring the process runs smoothly and delivers the best results for you.

3 *“We promise you will have a dedicated build team on site until you are 100% satisfied”*

Because we know that a successful project is delivered by forming good relationships with the client, from the labourer on site through to the project manager and the only way to achieve this is through continuity of staff on site.

2 *“We promise that our proposal is all inclusive and that there are no hidden extras”*

Because we understand that you are committing to what can often be a once in a lifetime investment and you need your chosen landscape professional to be honest and upfront from the start.

4 *“We promise to treat you, your neighbours and your property with respect at all times”*

Because we all have homes, and we expect them to be treated with respect and understand how upsetting it can be to see your property mistreated or damaged through the careless actions of others.

We also understand that after we've gone your neighbours are still your neighbours and we wouldn't want to do anything to damage your relationship with them.

5

*“We promise that six months after completion we will provide a free maintenance visit worth £489”*

Because we feel that six months is enough time for any niggling snagging issues to have shown themselves so we can rectify them while onsite,

six months also covers two seasons so we are either tidying up for you ready for the summer or cleaning down after a summer of use ready for whatever the winter may bring.

Generally, a visit entails tidying up flower beds, adding mulch, cleaning down paving, and decking and generally catching up with you.



## Our Story

James started the business over ten years ago following redundancy from a project management position in another business, at this time he decided that rather than look for another job he would start his own business.

Having been “behind a desk” for around fifteen years he went back to college to brush up on a few trade skills from his earlier career and while doing this started to advertise himself as a landscaper.

Towards the end of a national recession, he thought if he could make it work now it would always work and slowly the phone started ringing and it wasn't long before he had to buy a bigger van and employ a labourer to assist him with the growing workload.

Building gardens was creative and exciting, and seeing the pleasure the clients got from his finished work, along with tales of family parties, BBQ's, using the garden like an extra room of their home and even a wedding reception inspired James to start thinking about the future and building the business into something bigger and even better.

As the business grew a manager was soon needed to look after the operational side of the business and with a background in both soft landscaping, landscape construction and a wealth of experience in natural ponds Karel proved a hit with clients and soon got to grips with his new role in the business.

His creative flair and dedication opened a whole new chapter, and we were ready to take the step into designing our own projects and providing a full design and build service as well as working with independent designers around the Midlands and further afield.

Alongside our garden design and build service, with Karel's previous experience of building both large and small natural ponds and having worked with some big names in that industry it was an obvious move for us to start providing this service alongside the landscaping offering.

For James it's about the people, employees, and clients alike, being able to offer people a career and a place within our close-knit team and being able to offer our clients everything and anything



they could want in and from a garden which has made the journey an enjoyable and creative experience.

Especially when he gets the chance to visit with our happy client and talk to them about how they use their gardens and the benefits their experience with us has made to their everyday lives



## Our Company Ethos

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We put our clients and our staff at the centre of our business and strongly believe that to provide our clients with the best possible experience we must always act with integrity, being fair and honest with clients, staff, and suppliers.

This breeds a culture of trust and accountability within the business which in turn can only enhance the client experience.

It improves communication at all levels which encourages teamwork, trust, and discipline and this shows at all levels in the client's journey with us.

As a business we are always learning and encourage staff development at all levels, this helps us retain staff and provide a place where people enjoy their varied and interesting work life, which in turn leads to a high quality end results.

## Guarantee

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As a business we don't see our client relationships as having a beginning and an end, in our "Five Promises to You" we guarantee to return to site six months after completion of work to provide a free maintenance visit worth £489.

When we do this visit, we will also address any snagging issues that may have cropped up, that weren't obvious when the project was signed off.

We also offer a lengthy guarantee on all workmanship alongside our suppliers' warranties on materials and products.

# Our Guide to Good Garden Design

## What is a Garden Layout Plan?

A garden layout plan is a clear, visual representation of your dream garden that also suggests creative touches to make your garden unique to you.

Drawn to scale, a garden layout plan shows you where each garden feature will be placed and how they will interact with each other. Garden layout plans are created by garden designers and used by landscapers to quote, plan, and project manage your garden makeover in the same way as a builder would use an architect's plan to construct your home.



Example of a garden layout plan

# Why do we need Garden Layout Plans?

## Clarifies your ideas

The garden layout plan amalgamates all your outdoor décor ideas into a workable document and enables your landscaper to produce a comprehensive proposal for the work to be done. When you have a garden layout plan, you can be sure what your landscaper is including for and building the exact garden that you have pictured in your head.

## Ensures your new garden meets your every need, now and always

We will help you to create a comprehensive wish list for your garden (we call it the “client brief”) using a questionnaire that we work through together. The client brief covers everything from the colour of stone you prefer to whether you’d like a washing line in your garden. It’s all too easy to dream of a beautiful outdoor kitchen with porcelain patio and exquisite planting – but where will you hide the wheelie bins?

The client brief is passed to the garden designer along with the results of the site survey. It will be very carefully studied to ensure that, as well as looking beautiful, your new garden will meet your every need.

Our garden designer will also consider the view from the house and from various points in the garden. When creating your garden layout plan, our designer will also bear in mind your privacy, your security, views from within the garden, and the needs of every family member.

Probably one of the most important aspects of garden design is futureproofing your outdoor spaces. We all of us adapt our lifestyles as we age – good garden design ensures that your garden will also adapt to your changing needs.

## Keeps your investment aspirations in mind

The garden layout plan needs to consider your total investment for the build. Our garden designer won’t get carried away and suggest wonderful features that are simply unaffordable.

At this stage of the garden makeover, you may not have a fixed figure in mind, but don’t worry. Just start the process by giving us a price range to work within. Once we have a layout plan, we will present this to you along with the build costs. From there we can discuss changing materials, tweaking the design, or staging the build, to keep within your parameters if required.

## Hidden extras

Once the layout plan and associated build costs have been agreed and provided

there are no later changes to the plan, or unforeseen hitches during the project, you won't be hit with any extra costs.

### Enables seamless project management

For a truly professional finish, a garden layout plan is an essential part of a garden makeover. A clear garden layout plan takes away all those communication blips and allows us to project manage the build seamlessly and effectively.

A garden layout plan is so much more than a pretty picture. When a landscaper is pricing the project, ordering materials, and doing the work, the garden layout plan is key to getting things right.

The garden layout plan doesn't just look at the aesthetics of the finished garden, it considers structural considerations, such as drainage, managing levels and slopes, protecting your property from damp, and ensuring that the space will be fit for purpose for decades.

Our designer is a skilled outdoor architect who has a sound knowledge of construction techniques. For example, whilst you visualise a neatly terraced garden with elegant planting and wide, safe steps – the person who is creating your garden layout plan will be thinking about the construction details for the retaining walls that will prevent a landslide in your garden.

## How do we create garden layout plans?

Each and every garden layout plan is different. It's totally bespoke, both to the garden and the client and can never be recycled to fit another garden.

Creating a garden layout plan starts with the client brief. Normally that starts with an informal chat on site to explain the process. We feel it's important that you get to know your landscape professional as early as possible so that we truly understand what you want from your garden.

We will then arrange an appointment to complete the client brief, and usually at the same time we will carry out a comprehensive site survey so that we can learn more about the dimensions and the character of the site.

All that information is then handed over to our garden designer who will create the garden layout plan.

# What does the garden design fee cover?

## Initial consultation

For the initial consultation we'll chat with you to discover how you want to use your garden, what features you would like and how you'd like it styled. We discuss things like storage, accessibility, lighting, maintenance levels and of course colour schemes.

This relaxed discussion normally takes an hour and gives you the opportunity to brainstorm different ideas and suggestions.

As we chat, we'll complete a questionnaire.

## Site survey

A garden layout plan relies on taking accurate measurements for all dimensions in the garden. The site survey also looks at crucial features such as where you enter/exit the garden, which way doors and gates open, and the view from each of your windows.

From the landscaper's point of view – knowing about site access for machinery and materials is an important part of the quoting process. As you can imagine, it takes far longer to move materials by hand than it does to forklift them into the garden.

We are able to carry out a simple site survey where there are no drainage difficulties, complicated changes in levels, however, for best results in these circumstances it's advisable to organise a professional site survey. The price of a professional site survey is not normally included in the design price. Professional Surveys normally cost from £525 ex vat. depending on the size and complexity of the site and we can arrange if required.



*A 3D garden layout plan makes it easier to imagine how your new garden will look*

### Changes to the design

By asking lots of questions before we start the design, and really getting to understand what you need from your garden, we rarely need to make changes to our finished designs. However, our price does allow for one round of minor tweaks.

### Presenting the design

The design is presented as a scaled, 2D layout plan showing you where features

will be placed in relation to each other. You can opt to upgrade this to include a 3D plan so that you can visualise your new garden.

Many of our clients want to choose and arrange plants for themselves, however, if you need some suggestions, a detailed planting plan and costs to supply and plant can be compiled separately.

## How long does it take to design a garden?

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into designing a garden and making sure that every detail is just right for you. Once all the information has been gathered, it normally takes us 3-4 weeks for our designer to think about your garden design, experiment with different ideas and create the garden layout plan ready for us to present to you along with the associated build costs.

## What does a garden layout plan cost?

The cost of a garden layout plan is a small proportion of the overall makeover cost but, it's probably the most important investment you could make. A well planned and beautifully built garden will enhance your life and increase the value of your property. If you choose to have your garden built in more affordable modules – each section will naturally blend in with the rest.

The cost of our 2 dimensional garden design layout plans is based on the size of your garden and includes the initial consultation, in house survey and a fully costed out proposal when the plan is presented to you. This price does not include a professional topographical survey.

- 0 – 100m<sup>2</sup> - £930.00 plus vat
- 101 – 150m<sup>2</sup> - £955.00 plus vat
- 151 – 200m<sup>2</sup> - £981.00 plus vat
- 201 – 300m<sup>2</sup> - £1370.00 plus vat
- 301 – 400m<sup>2</sup> - £1425.00 plus vat

Anything over 400m<sup>2</sup> we need to commission a professional topographical survey which will come with a detailed drawing showing the area as it is now showing boundaries, existing features, trees, manholes etc. along with accurate measurements and details of any level changes, we will arrange this for you and will make you aware of the cost before arranging the survey. The process from here is slightly different than the smaller gardens 400m<sup>2</sup> and under in that we first need to carry out a in depth consultation meeting with you and the designer to establish the full scope of the design, from that meeting we will produce a detailed project brief and cost to deliver an overall concept design package. From this, depending on the level of detail required further more detailed designs can be commissioned for individual elements of the garden, such as structures, sunken patios etc. to ensure that the finished build of these elements is fully understood by both parties before any work commences on site.

3D visualisations are also available starting at £545.00 plus vat.

When you're ready to go ahead and get your garden makeover project underway, please complete and sign the attached purchase order and we will make an appointment to visit you to go through the consultation document and get the survey completed so our designer can get cracking on your plans and we can start looking at our diary to get the build work booked in for you.



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## **We are Proud to be a Registered Members of BALI** **(The British Institute of Landscape Industries)**

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All BALI members have been vetted to ensure the highest standards of workmanship, skill and Health and Safety practises to give you peace of mind when selecting your landscape professional.

As part of our membership, we agree to abide by the BALI Terms and Conditions of Membership and strict code of conduct. Our membership also gives you the client access to BALI's complementary Dispute resolution service which provides an easy to use, accessible mediation platform in the unlikely event that that things don't go as planned.

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