

the cotswold school of garden design

One Year Professional Garden Design

Addendum to prospectus

Term Dates

The course is scheduled to run on **Tuesdays**.

If there are sufficient enrolments, a second group will run on *Wednesdays*. We ask prospective students to indicate on the application form which day would take their preference IF two groups are running.

Autumn term (2024):

Tuesday 17 th Sept		Tuesday 5 th Nov
Tuesday 24 th Sept	<i>half term break</i>	Tuesday 12 th Nov
Tuesday 1 st Oct	<i>private tutorials on</i>	Tuesday 19 th Nov
Tuesday 8 th Oct	<i>Tuesday 22nd Oct</i>	Tuesday 26 th Nov
Tuesday 15 th Oct		Tuesday 3 rd Dec

Spring term (2025):

Tuesday 14 th Jan		Tuesday 4 th March
Tuesday 21 st Jan	<i>half term break</i>	Tuesday 11 th March
Tuesday 28 th Jan	<i>private tutorials on</i>	Tuesday 18 th March
Tuesday 4 th Feb	<i>Tuesday 25th Feb</i>	Tuesday 25 th March
Tuesday 11 th Feb		Tuesday 1 st April

Summer term (2025):

Tuesday 29 th April		Tuesday 10 th June
Tuesday 6 th May	<i>half term break</i>	Tuesday 17 th June
Tuesday 13 th May	<i>private tutorials on</i>	Tuesday 24 th June
Tuesday 20 th May	<i>Tuesday 3rd June</i>	Tuesday 1 st July
Tuesday 27 th May		Tuesday 8 th July

Timings

Students arrive from 10h00 for tea & coffee – a chance to socialise or relax after travelling to the school.

The first lecture in the morning starts at 10h30.

On certain days there may be an (optional) portfolio presentation by a graduate student which starts at 10h00. Client presentation days also start at 10h00.

Lunch is usually around 13h00. Students bring their own packed lunch.

The teaching day ends at 16h00 – this may vary slightly.

Qualification Specification Summary

A copy of the full qualification specification is available upon request and will also be sent to enrolled students in the digital welcome pack.

This is a higher level course and the qualification provides a route to employment and self-employment in professional garden design by developing knowledge of the creative principles underpinning design practices and supports career development for those already working in the horticultural industry. It also provides a foundation for further learning or training in the field of garden design.

The qualification is externally assessed by Bridgwater & Taunton College with whom we partner for the quality control of teaching methods. Marking is also internally moderated by qualified lecturers.

The qualification is designed to be studied on a part-time basis with most practical work completed at home.

The course runs on one day per week for 30 weeks and there are 5 hours per day teaching time (excluding breaks and lunch) making a total of 150 taught hours. Practical coursework and independent study are an essential part of the course and will require an additional 250 hours. All work completed away from the school will be discussed in a continual on-going method via group tutorials and receive on-going feedback. One private tutorial is available per term on request. Formal assessment will take place for each project with written feedback.

As lead tutor, the school Principal will oversee continuity of teaching by qualified tutors through the duration of the course. Various visiting lecturers will augment the teaching within their particular area of expertise.

The course is based around four live projects selected by the lead tutor. Each project has seven mandatory units:

1 Surveying and Assessing a Site. Understanding and Interpreting a Client Brief

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of site appraisal and site surveying. The unit will ensure that the processes of carrying out and drawing up a survey to scale are understood. Additionally, students will understand how to work with professional surveys and make use of additional materials such as Land Registry documents, Google Maps and Ordnance Survey maps.

2 Sketchbooks and Creative Research

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of the use of sketchbooks for the gathering of visual research. The unit will ensure that the processes of creative research and the progression of ideas are understood. Additionally, students will understand the difference between primary and secondary research whilst using the sketchbook for the evolution of original creative ideas. The unit also enables students to use the sketchbook as a tool for the research of technical information, materials and suppliers.

3 Mood Boards

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of the use of mood boards either in a digital or paper copy format or both. The unit will ensure that the mood boards are used not only as an important means of client communication but also as a method of design development.

4 The Master Layout Plan

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of drawing and designing the master layout plan as a bird's eye view of the total concept of the garden design that clearly communicates that concept to the client and the landscaper in an industry accepted manner. The unit will ensure that the need for accuracy of pen work is understood and that scale can be used with confidence and understanding. Neat drawing skills are practised and mastered as part of this unit alongside the competent use of desktop publishing software for plan labelling. Landscape graphics are mastered as part of this unit and the effective colouring up of the completed printed design. The unit also ensures that learners experience collaborating with a reprographic centre close to their own location in order to establish a working relationship useful in their future careers.

5 Planting Plans and Plant Schedules

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of drawing and designing a planting plan for part of the planting in the project garden that clearly communicates that concept to the client and the landscaper in an industry accepted manner. The unit will ensure that the need for accuracy of pen work is understood and that scale can be used with confidence and understanding. Neat drawing skills are practised and mastered as part of this unit alongside the competent use of desktop publishing software for plan labelling. Practical considerations to be explored will include style of planting, choice of plants, colour palette, soil structure and pH, climate, aspect, maintenance and any other specific site requirements. The unit also ensures that learners experience collaborating with a reprographic centre close to their own location in order to establish a working relationship useful in their future careers.

6 The Three Dimensional Visual of the Garden Design or Part of the Garden Design

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding of the theory and practice of drawing a three-dimensional representation of the garden design or part of the garden design. Several options and methods for doing this will be explored during the unit. It is usual for some methods to suit some learners more than others and it is acceptable that each learner selects the method that best suits themselves and their own personal style. It is however also vital that the method chosen also suits the garden design being described and so learners are encouraged to develop and practice more than one method - so that they have greater versatility for their future client communication. For the purposes of the unit as long as the chosen method clearly and accurately describes the design in three dimensions it will be deemed appropriate.

7 The Plant Portfolio

This unit will enable candidates to develop an understanding and intimate knowledge of fifty chosen plants. This will involve the close study of 50 plants, their physical attributes, cultural requirements and potential design uses. The plants will need to fall into a range of pre-determined categories and choices should represent those plants that will be most useful to the learner in their future careers as both desirable and practical. This plant selection is intended to establish a firm foundation for the continued development of plant knowledge throughout the learner's future career.

Course topics

The course schedule will be sent to enrolled students on a half-termly basis. The list below gives an overview of topics typically covered during the course – not in chronological order. Certain topics depend on tutor availability and may be replaced by a similar topic where possible.

- Introduction to the course and T's & C's / house rules / fire safety. Course overview.
- Establishing an Individual Learning Journal (ILJ) and private tutorials.
- Discussion about grades and marking.
- Discussion on necessary drawing equipment.
- Scale and graphics.
- Good design principles.
- Sketchbooks and creative process.
- Pattern and shape work.
- Mood boards.
- From shapes to master layout plan.
- Planting plans.
- Traditional planting theory.
- Plant costing.
- Advanced and contemporary planting.
- Marking out and trade suppliers.
- Plant spacing, height and numbers.
- Nifty fifty & plant portfolio.
- Plant families and Identification.
- Planting for structure and emphasis.
- Vertical gardens.
- 100 best plants by season.
- Nursery visit.
- Colouring up the design.
- Basic surveying and site analysis.
- Creative use of levels. Tricky and extreme levels.
- Hard landscaping inspiration.
- Hard landscaping within the garden design.
- Hard landscaping specs and costings.
- Working with contractors.
- Order of works.
- CDM
- Construction and use of paving steps and ramps.
- Construction and use of walls, fences and enclosures.
- Construction drawings.
- Garden structures.
- The importance and practicalities of drainage.
- Building water features.
- Ecology and wildlife.
- Ponds.
- Garden lighting.
- Desktop Publishing (Affinity Publisher). Labelling up.
- Axonometric drawing, perspective and computer models. SketchUp.
- 3D visuals using Photoshop (demo only).
- Introduction to Vectorworks Landmark (demo only).
- Managing the client relationship.
- Billing and managing your business, websites and social media.
- Marketing.
- Building a show garden.
- Submitting an SGD awards entry.
- Regular homework feedback sessions.
- Case studies throughout the course.
- Project site visits and client presentations.