

Landscape With Architecture In Mind

YORK — Dressing up your yard with plants is similar to outfitting yourself with new clothes and accessories — it's a matter of taste, style and coordination.

Proper selection and placement of plants in your landscape design can make or break the total effect of your landscape. Landscapes that contain a balance of trees, shrubs and groundcovers are generally more attractive and functional. For example, trees can serve as a roof, smaller trees and

shrubs become the walls and ground covers create a textured surface below.

Optimum plant use involves an appreciation of plant qualities and site limitations. The interaction between these two components determines the success of a plant design.

Plants contribute to a landscape design in many ways. Each tree, shrub or ground cover plant has unique characteristics that set it apart from all others. Size is a

major factor; a landscape with plants pruned to a single size presents a dull and boring picture.

Trees offer the largest mass in a planting. In the right location, shade trees can grow 100 feet tall. Small, flowering trees generally reach heights of 15 to 25 feet. Plants classed as shrubs probably offer the greatest range of sizes from less than 3 feet to 15 feet in height.

The leaves of evergreens and deciduous plants add a seasonal

pattern to a landscape. It's important for a design to change aesthetic qualities over the seasons. With different forms of trees, shrubs and ground covers, evergreens and deciduous plants create a constantly changing picture in the landscape.

Evergreen plants add stability to a design. Their seasonal variation is limited, but it's possible to obtain short periods of flower color among selected broadleaf evergreens like the rhododendrons. Leaf size, texture and color are welcome variations among the broadleaf group. Narrowleaf evergreens tend to vary less, but color changes on the newly developing foliage each spring are interesting.

Deciduous plants make great contributions to a landscape because they constantly change over the seasons. Gardeners frequently select plants for their

flowering properties, but overlook features with a greater, longer aesthetic value. Foliage color, bark quality, fragrance, fruit type and even thorns can all add to the variation and create an interesting landscape design. Many of these plant characteristics persist longer than flowers. Selecting plants for their flowers alone often results in a one-sided display of color.

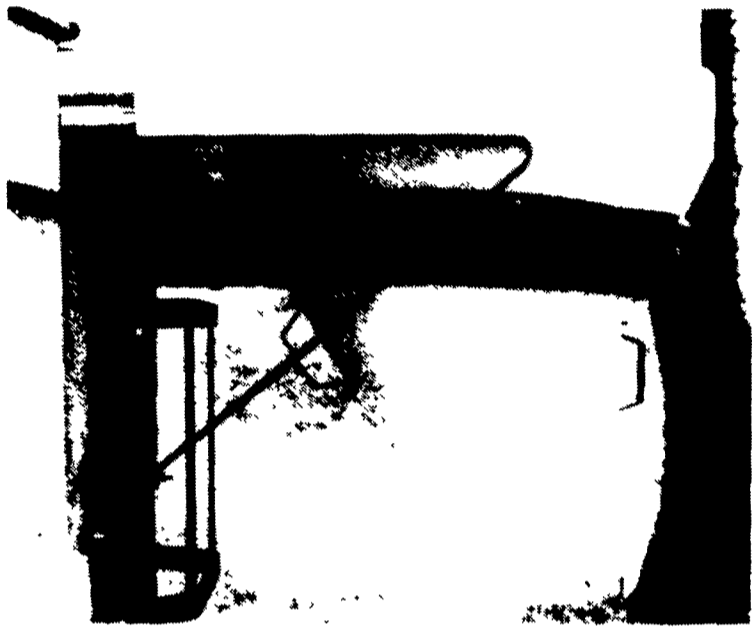
Home Architecture

Lastly, the architecture of your home is important before you select shrubs that accent and play up that style. Certain shrubs are good with certain styles of architecture. Well pruned hedges and evergreen plants are excellent with the colonial styles. For a modern or contemporary home, the informal viburnums are the best plant choices.

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Swivel

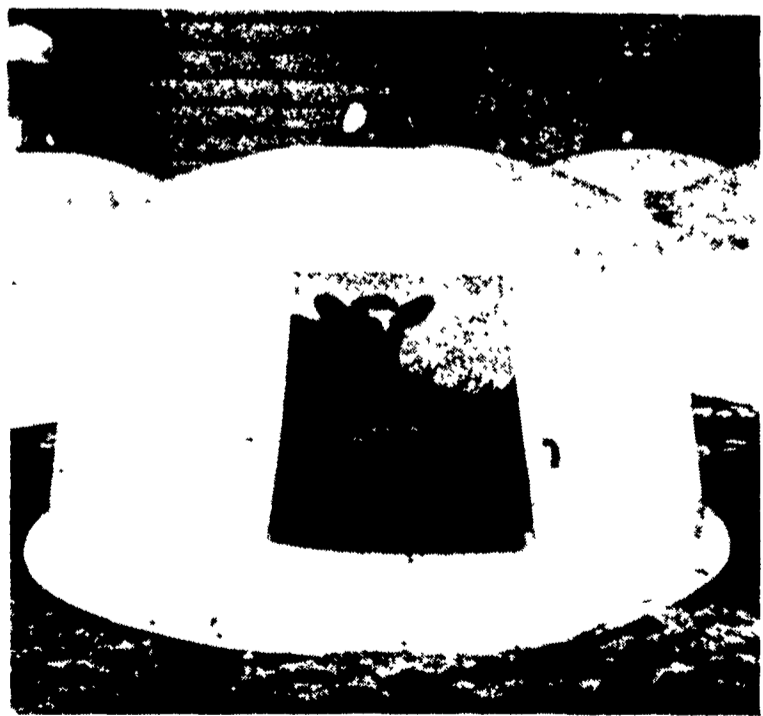
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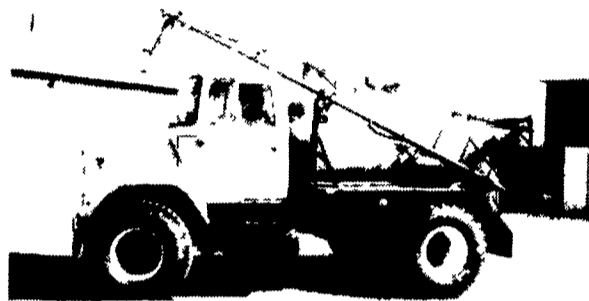
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