



**If you are thinking of selling your home remember that first impressions really do matter.....**

If you are thinking of selling your home you need to remember that a garden is one of the most important features that a new buyer will look for and it can add to the value and saleability of your home.

The amount of value that a well designed garden can add will obviously vary. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors estimate that an attractive garden alone can add 5% to the value of your house. A well designed and professionally landscaped garden can increase the value by 10% or more.

Equally a poorly presented garden can be a real turn off for prospective purchasers. The outside of your house is the first and last thing a buyer will see. First impressions really do count, so it is important to create a good and lasting impression.

To put this in context, at the end of last year the Halifax Building Society reported that a recent survey showed that the average house buyer was prepared to spend an extra £10,000 - £30,000 more for a home with a garden.

Home insurance specialist Saga commissioned a survey in 2006 which revealed that an overwhelming 82% of Britons say the garden is the most important feature when house-hunting.

According to Andrew Goodsell, Chief Executive of Saga, "Whether you're improving the curb appeal of your house in preparation for sale or enhancing your living space purely for pleasure, this research shows that the impact a garden has on both property prices and emotional fulfilment can never be underestimated."

Plants in particular are a valuable addition to the garden, especially trees, which increase in value as they mature. Again the Halifax survey revealed that nearly two thirds of respondents cited trees and shrubs as the best features of a garden.

Whatever the size of your budget you need to make sure your money is well spent. This is why it makes sense to use a small part of your budget on the services provided by a professional garden designer. A garden designer will produce an overall design and advice you on how to bring it to life in a timescale that suits you.

As the fees charged by most garden designers account for a surprisingly small part of the total budget it makes sense to invest in their services from the beginning.



**For more information or a free consultation please contact me,  
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