

MEMORIAL GARDENS

What is a memorial garden?

A space dedicated to the memory of loved ones.

What are the parts that make up a memorial garden?

- 1) Space, Location, Size / Scale
- 2) Symbolism – Representation of life and spirit of loved ones
Reflection and remembrance
Events & Characteristics of loved one's life
- 3) Processional Passage – Pathways & Movement
Life is a journey. (What is around the corner?)
How do people physically move through the space?
How does this affect them emotionally?
- 4) Monument – Dedicated symbol to represent the person(s) or scale of
of people lost.
- 5) Simplistic Representation of BIG IDEAS. (Indirect Representations)
- 6) Plants & Materials
Plants are life. Plants represent life and the lives touched
by our loved ones. Plants grow and change just as our
lives and 'after-lives'. Plants provide the relationship
that helps us to remember our relationships with our
loved ones.

Materials should be selected to best represent the symbolism chosen. Simplicity is the key for creating strong symbols and strong meanings. Black and white are strong colors that help to keep the message simple and strong. Larger quantities of a few varieties of material types provides a stronger symbol and impact than smaller quantities of a larger variety of materials or plants.

How do we start to design a memorial garden?

- 1) Choose a space – Consider size, location, maintenance, plant
plant requirements, movement, journey to and from.
- 2) KISS Keep it simple stupid
 - Use diagrams to convey concepts.
 - Choose simple ideas that can be represented strongly.
- 3) Transform concept into space.
 - Convey 2 dimensional ideas (diagrams) into 3D world.
 - Select materials (large quantities of a few types).
 - Find objects from peoples lives to include or represent.
 - Get users involved in the process of creating the space.

- 4) Create the space.
 - Start with the structure then add details.
 - Details can be continuously added over time.
- 5) Maintain the space and form relationships with the plants.

Questions for the audience?

How do you use memorial gardens?

How could they be used?

Could we start memorial gardens for loved ones before they pass?

Could our loved ones help in the production and care of a space that will eventually be dedicated to their memory?

How many people ask you about memorial gardens?

How many people do you voluntarily share your ideas of memorial gardens with?

Does a memorial garden have to be outside?

Should a memorial garden be something that is designed and built without thinking about maintenance?

Questions for those who we build memorial gardens for?

What are your strongest memories of your loved ones?

Can you think of some objects that symbolize your thoughts of your loved ones?

What are some words or short phrases that simply and describe memories of your loved ones?

What is a place that your loved ones really enjoyed to be in?

What is this place like?

Can the garden be located there, or can we recreate that space symbolically?