LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE
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Landscape analysis can be broken down into three areas. First are considerations of the site itself. These are the topography of the site, existing vegetation, soil, and climate.

Second, the house itself must be considered. Questions to be answered here deal with the proximity of neighbors, noisy roads, lot size, house materials, and the plan of the house itself. Locations of doors and windows, and the types of rooms that contain them (i.e. main living areas versus private living rooms), the orientation of the house's rooms in relation to the portion of the lot they join, and differences in floor level and the ground level are all things that must be considered in making landscape decisions.

Third are the needs of the people living in the house. The list of items to be considered here is extensive and includes the various types of outdoor entertainment areas, food growing areas, utility areas, specialty gardens, and structures. Special needs and attitudes toward outdoor living and garden maintenance must also be addressed.

In the following questionnaire answer those questions that apply to your site, your house, and your needs.

I. Site Analysis
   A. Topography
      1. How much does the lot slope?
      2. Where are the erosible slopes?
         a. How do you want to deal the erosible slopes (retaining walls (rock, wood, brick, other), groundcovers, dry walls, erosion control netting)?
      3. Is there enough usable level area for all that you envision? If not, how do you want to create more level areas, by decking, terracing, or some other way?
      4. Where does the water go?
   B. Soils
      1. How good is the soil?
      2. Where is the best soil on the site?
      3. Is there enough good soil to support those types of gardens that require it (lawns, flower beds, vegetable gardens)?
   C. Existing Vegetation
      1. Does your site have existing native vegetation that you wish to preserve?
      2. Are you remodeling and existing garden? If so, what do you want to save?
D. Climate
   1. What is the compass orientation of the major wall of the house?
   2. If you are on a slope, what is the compass orientation of the slope?
   3. The answers to the above two questions will determine the microclimate around your house. If the summer sun is going to overheat your house, how will you want to minimize it (solid shallow overhang; lath overhead covered with deciduous vine: by using deciduous trees)?
   4. How do the various microclimates relate to the location of rooms in the house (i.e. what are the HOT rooms)?

E. Fire vulnerability – fire safe landscaping analysis

II. The House
   A. Adjoining lots and roads
      1. Where and how close are your neighbors? Is there a problem with them (you don't get along, messy yard, noisy dogs or children)?
      2. Is the road fronting your house too close, noisy, or so busy you have little privacy?

   B. Lot size and shape
      1. Is the house in proportion to the lot?
      2. What is the shape of the lot?
      3. Do you have a long street frontage?
      4. Does the location of the house leave you with too much front yard and not enough back yard?
      5. Are there CC and R restrictions on what you can do?

   C. House materials
      1. What are the outside walls made of?
      2. What color is the house?
      3. What is the roof made of? What color is it?

   D. House plan
      1. What do the main rooms of the house face?
      2. Which rooms have doors to the outside?
      3. Is the ground level different from the floor level at any exterior doors?
      4. Which rooms have good views?
      5. Which rooms have poor views or lack privacy?
III. Your family's needs and attitudes
   A. Outdoor entertainment areas and uses (check those that apply)
      1. deck
      2. patio - brick, concrete, other
      3. lawn - seed, hydroseed, sod
      4. play yard
      5. pool
      6. spa
      7. BBQ or picnic area
      8. outdoor games such as horseshoes, badminton, croquet, basketball, etc.
   B. Functions areas and uses
      1. vegetable garden - how big?
      2. orchard - how many fruit trees and what kinds?
      3. strawberry, brambleberry patch
      4. clothesline
      5. RV or boat storage
      6. garbage can/recycling storage
      7. burning site
      8. dog run
      9. stables, paddocks for horses
   C. Specialty gardens
      1. rose garden
      2. flower bed
      3. other
   D. Garden structures
      1. potting/storage shed
      2. play house
      3. gazebo
      4. fountain/pool
      5. grape arbor
      6. other
   E. Garden style
      1. traditional formal
      2. traditional informal (rustic)
      3. Mediterranean/Spanish
      4. natural
      5. asian
      6. artistic
      7. avant garde
F. Paving materials
1. concrete
   a. what finish (broomed, exposed aggregate, etc)?
2. paving stone
3. masonry
4. brick
5. wood
6. compressed decomposed granite
7. loose aggregate with steps
8. loose aggregate
9. dirt

G. Special needs
1. drought tolerant
2. low maintenance
3. fire retardant
4. attractive to birds
5. family member allergic to bees/pollen
6. specific shrubs or trees that you like? dislike?

7. colors of plant foliage that you like? dislike?

8. do you want flowers? what colors?

9. outdoor lighting - intimate versus security

H. Personal
1. If you have children living with you what are their needs now and for the next five years?

2. Do you want to complete your landscape in several years or in one or two?

3. Which part of your landscape do you wish to complete first?

4. How much money do you want to spend?

5. How much of the work will you do yourself?

I. Summary questions
1. What features of your landscape or site do you like?

2. What do you see as the biggest problem in your landscape or site?