

THE MIDDLE EAST'S BEST HOME GUIDE

HOME OWNER

APRIL-MAY 2013 #4

All for HOME, VILLA, OFFICES

Eco-Style

Eco-Style (or Natural Style) allows combining noble simplicity with the latest frills

Your Expert

CLASSIC HOME DECOR
to
FURNITURE

Deira Dubai: Reference Point

Dubai is considered to have risen from the right bank of the creek – Deira



24 Hrs
VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE

**KVADRAT
SYSTEMS LLC**

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GARDEN & LANDSCAPE



You're Garden, A haven

Our Garden is the one place where we can interact with nature in peaceful solitude. We can encourage Birds and wildlife by choosing the plants which attract the various species. Should we require one large open planned area or alternative 'smaller' 'separated' areas which in turn can be designed with various conflicting themes. Then this can all be achieved within the parameters of accepted design practices. There is now an abundance of materials (artificial and natural) available for pathways, Patios and any other hard surface. Also due to substantial plant availability it is now possible to procure an item for any occasion. All the senses can receive a treat just by what we decide to implement in our Gardens



GARDEN & LANDSCAPE

Sound

We may consider the relaxing affect which the sound of running water has on ones mood and may invest in the idea of adding a specialized water feature, stream or Rill to ones Garden. The placement of a well designed and located water feature will enhance any space. These now come in many shapes and sizes in addition to what you can choose to construct individually in your chosen location.

Formal water

One can choose from Grand fountains to a small bubbler surrounded by cobbles over an invisible reservoir. One may also consider other options like drilled natural rock, Vases, Pots, Well effect fabrications, Copper cylinders or innumerable cascade pieces constructed from moulds designed to follow any route and enhance and multiply the sound of running water to meet with individual requirements. Practically any container object can be modified for use in a water feature with sufficient knowledge. There is also a substantial availability of 'wall mounted' water features which are particularly useful in smaller areas. These usually come 'complete'. All one has to do is fix, add water and plug them in.

Natural water

Additionally a specific palette or design may require the implementation of a larger and more 'natural' water feature to blend with surroundings. The variables of these types of construction are limitless. Artificial rockworks or its natural counterpart can be formed or organised to make Waterfalls, Rivers, Streams or Rills with the aid of a good quality liner which would remain obscured. These water courses can be directed towards a fabricated lake or pond which would act as a reservoir where the water would be continually recycled from.



Sight

Our sight is the sense with which we receive most of our information. There are so many things we can create in our gardens which is 'pleasing to the eye' or appeals to our style and makes us feel fulfilled. Individuals should be fully involved in the design of their landscape and not blindly (no pun intended) trust a design. Ask questions, make suggestions, receive answers and consider all the information carefully. Ensure you are receiving a design that you are 'completely' comfortable with because long after the contractor has departed you will be left with what has been created. There are many varieties of plants both colourful and architectural which are widely available. Choose plants which 'you' like but 'do' take advice on their suitability and location in your garden. Structures are also a useful 'eye stimulant'. These can range from decorated sheds, Pergolas, Trellising, Statues, Arbours, Sculptures, and Plant Pots to Totem Poles and sheltered seating. There are also many materials which can be procured for paving and cladding both natural and fabricated. In my opinion it is always better to use natural materials due to the 'weathering effect'. This is where over time natural materials will appear to have aged where as fabricated materials will seem to become stained and un-clean. Natural materials usually have an irregular quality that is impossible to recreate in man-made materials.



GARDEN & LANDSCAPE





Smell

Our smell is one of our lesser senses but should 'not' be ignored. What we smell can react with our sub-conscious and assist in our feeling of wellbeing. Many plants are available with fragrant attributes as well as having colourful or/and strong architectural displays. Choose well and plant them all around your garden so that when there is a slight gust of wind the various aromas waft effortlessly in your direction and gently bathe you in their fragrances. Scented Candles are also an excellent addition to any garden.



Touch

Touch is an important sense but one that we may not often use. To stimulate our sense of touch it is considered beneficial to work in our own gardens (but don't overdo it) with weeding, pruning, re-stringing climbers, cultivating vegetables and if required watering. Maintaining one's own garden can be both therapeutic and rewarding. Many professionals are convinced nothing helps them unwind more than 'a few good hours' spent toiling away in their gardens.

Combine

In a good design all the above elements (or variations of) should be implemented to work harmoniously. Give special attention when locating paths and walkways to ensure fluidity of movement to all areas of the garden. Good planting coupled with superior quality paving materials implemented with a competent standard of workmanship will stand the test of time as the main structure of the garden will remain without notable effort. Along with careful and regular maintenance one's garden should be constantly kept at 'show standard' and be a constant source of positive comments from visitors and guests alike. Additionally when one requires a more solitary moment, One can relax in one's private space and retreat into an imaginary world where everything you hear, see, smell and touch pleases you. I believe this is the closest to Utopia that any of us are likely to get.

Daniel McNamara

