



Fresh Perspective for your Landscape

A simple exercise to look at your space in a new way

Thank you for taking the time to read this today. This exercise can give you a key focus area in your landscape to improve your life now.

Once you complete reading the instructions, I want you to *actually do* the following exercise. Then consider how you feel after completion.

I know. I'm making you do homework. It's worth it.

1. Walk out into your most commonly visited part of your landscape – it could be front yard, back, walk, patio, garden, etc.

If you're feeling lazy or it's too cold, get up off your lazy... no I'm kidding haha.

Just go to the nearest window and imagine yourself experiencing the specific area.

2. Close your eyes for a moment and get a sensorial experience of the space.
 - a. What are the smells?
 - b. What do you hear?
 - c. Feel?
 - d. Is it windy?
 - e. Is the ground hard?

3. Now open your eyes, with a fresh perspective. Yes, you've been here a million times. But this time is brand new. This time you are a visitor, seeing the space for the first time.
 - a. What do you see that pops out?
 - b. Do you feel welcome?
 - c. Do you feel enclosed, claustrophobic?
 - d. Exposed, open?
 - e. Comfortable, cozy?
 - f. What colors do you see?
 - g. How far can you see?

4. You have just taken in a bunch of information. Now let's take a moment to let it all percolate before trying to process. Stay where you are, but perhaps close your eyes, take a deep breath, and try to clear your mind of too much outside distraction.

It sounds weird and your neighbors might think you're super cool, but this requires focus.

5. Now let's start digesting our inputs. Remember, you just experienced this space for the first time.
 - a. What is working with your space right now?
 - b. Can you navigate the space freely as needed?
 - c. Is the space appealing?
 - d. Does it look high maintenance or self-sufficient?

6. Pick one criticism that you currently have with the space.
 - a. What could make it better?
 - b. Why would it be better?
 - c. Can this same improvement be applied elsewhere?

7. How low-maintenance is this space?
 - a. Do you need to mow?
 - b. Does it need weeding?
 - c. How often does it need watered?
 - d. Is there winter maintenance needed?

8. How can we make it require less maintenance?
 - a. A little work now for less work later
 - b. What alternatives would be appealing?

9. What environmental impact does the space have?
 - a. Maintenance is a factor
 - b. Does it increase the heat load on your house?
 - c. Is there increased wind through this space?
 - d. Do you use pest control? Fertilizer?
 - e. Is there surface runoff?

10. How do we reduce impact?

- a. What appealing solutions are available?
- b. Is the space needed as used?
- c. Is the alternative any less functional?
- d. Is the alternative any less appealing?

Now you can take what you've learned from this exercise and determine what changes may be needed in your landscape. This process can now be repeated throughout your space to continually improve and redesign if needed.

I hope this is helpful in your journey to take back your time and have a space you can enjoy.

Make sure to come back after this exercise and let me know how it goes!

Do everything with passion, and make tomorrow better than today.

Cheers,
Ben Hale

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