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Landscaping an Elevated Home

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Landscaping an elevated home

Elevating one's home doesn't have to result in ugly pilings or concrete. Elevated houses can use the added height as a canvas as a part of your landscaping. Use creative landscaping to help hide your safety features or draw attention to your garden, not your foundation.



As a canvas

This Mid-City home used lattice-work to create a canvas for its garden. While lattice-work is the most common, local homes are using painted concrete, ornate pilings, tiles or brick facades to add color or create a background for their gardens or as an interesting backdrop for sitting. Lattice work also can be used to train vines.



Build landscape in

Features of this elevated Tulane-Gravier home make it ideal for growing shrubs or a flower garden. Coordinating-colored pots worked into the stairwell allow for a mix of color. Other options include adding an iron fence or an arbor to train plants and vines.



Hide it away

The hedgerow in front of this Tremé home keeps the raised foundation hidden. There are other methods of disguise, including a single large bush or tree on either side of stairs or a thick shade tree. A deep garden can hide the foundation and give you something pleasant to gaze upon from your porch.

Change the focus

This Gentilly home brings the focus forward by planting away from the home, drawing attention away from the foundation while developing a layered look with a circular garden in the front yard. Other options include edging the walkways and driveways, landscaping the yard near the road, drawing attention to a side yard or adding flower boxes high up.



Suggested plants

The plants in this list are low-maintenance, affordable and thrive in Coastal Louisiana.

Common Name	Botanical Name
<i>Edible</i>	
Satsuma	Citrus reticulata
Fig	Ficus carica
Sweet Olive	Osmanthus fragrans
White Ginger	Hedychium cororarium
Rosemary	Rosmarinus Officinalis
Spearmint Mint	Mentha spicata
Honeysuckle	Lonicera x heckrottii
<i>Weeping</i>	
Weeping Yaupon Holly	Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula'
Yellow Bells	Forsythia xintermedia
Lilyturf	Liriope muscari
Weeping Willow	Salix babylonica
<i>Trees</i>	
Crape Myrtle	Lagerstroemia indica 'Natchez'
Little Gem Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana 'Little Gem'
River Birch	Betula nigra
Sago Palm	Cycas revoluta
Queen Palm	Syagrus romanzoffiana
Red Cedar	Juniperus virginiana canaertii
<i>Bushes</i>	
Indian Hawthorne	Rhaphiolepis indica
Wax-leaf ligustrum	Ligustrum japonicum
Bridal Wreath Spirea	Spirea cantoniensis
Dwarf Bottle Brush	Coallistermonnrigidus 'Dwarf'
Loropetalum	Loropetalum Chinese
Camelia Sasanqua	Camelia sasanqua
Bird of Paradise	Strelitzia reginae
Mexican Heather	Cuphea hyssopifolia

Common Name	Botanical Name
<i>Non-flowering</i>	
Caladium	Caladium x hortulanum
Pittosporum 'Dwarf'	Pittosporum toira 'Tuner's Dwarf'
Aztec Grass	Liriope muscari 'Aztec'
<i>Flowers</i>	
Marigold	Tagetes species
Salvia	Salvia splendens
Frost-proof Gardenia	Gardenia jasminoides 'Frost Proof'
Liriope	Liriope muscari 'Big Blue'
Shi-Shi Camellia	Camellia hiemalis 'Shi-Shi'
Lily of the Nile	Agapanthus africanus
Pansy	Viola x wittrockiana
Azalea 'Encore'	Autumn Embers
Snap Dragon	Antirrhinum majus
Dwarf Gardenia	Gardenia jasminoides
Alyssum	Lobularia maritima
Oleander	Nerium oleander
Hibiscus	Hibiscus moschuetos
Lantana	Lantana camara



List and guidance provided with gracious assistance from Delgado Community College Horticulture.



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Tips

From planning to budgeting and making sure your yard is ready for landscaping, these tips will help you prepare like a professional .

- Consider a theme garden, such as a butterfly garden or an edible garden.
- Change the shape of the beds; even with the same plants can change the look of your garden.
- Choose one type of plant as your focus and spend more on your featured plant, and less on the others.
- When purchasing a tree, select one that is roughly as tall as you.
- Factor mulch and fertilizer into your budget.
- Make sure you call your utilities before you dig for a large plant or tree. Residents may be held responsible for damaged pipes and wires.
- Get your soil tested. It can be done through the LSU Ag Center Soil Testing and Plant Analysis lab. For more information visit http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/departments/SPESS/Service+Labs/soil_testing_lab/contact/ or call 225-578-1261.
- Raise your bed to keep your garden from getting soaked. Maintain a 2-foot buffer without plants around your house to discourage termites and moisture.
- Use a variety of leaf colors and heights to get a textured look.
- Pay attention to the sun needs of a plant. Some thrive in sun and others in shade.

Maintenance

Once you have a landscaped garden, you must maintain it. Local landscapers say that by the time they get a call for maintenance, the garden has become a jungle. Here are some tips to keep your garden looking like a garden.

- Consider the mature size of a plant when you choose them. This information should be on the tag. Plant according to the size they will be once mature.
- Cheap fill from the spillway or a construction project may lack necessary nutrients. Know what you have.
- Weeding and trimming is part of any garden maintenance plan; if you can't spare the time, consider paying someone who can.
- Shade trees shouldn't be planted so close to the foundation so as to cause damage as their root system and branches grow.