



## FIND YOUR PLANTING STYLE

If you're new to planting design, words like "rhythm" or "repetition" might sound daunting, but planting doesn't need to be complicated. If you do a little research and prepare a moodboard, you'll be able to create a garden that captures your individual personality.

Although there are lots of defined planting styles, for me a garden should reflect someone's personality. So, as you are drawn around your space don't just think about styles, it's also good to also think about mood or emotion. Your planting shouldn't be dictated just by how it looks, but also by how it makes you feel.

### CREATING YOUR PLANTING WISH LIST

As you start to build a wish list of ideal plants for each layer (see pp92-93), keep your planting moodboard handy. Planting design isn't an exact science, but as you note down the individual plants you'd like to include in your garden, your moodboard will help remind you of the bigger picture – what you want your planting to achieve as a whole – and help make sure that the plants you choose will fulfil your goals.

The best way to identify your planting style is to build a moodboard (see pp82-83) specifically for your soft landscaping. Books, magazines, Pinterest, and television programmes are a great starting point for planting inspiration, but don't forget to head outside, too. Check out a local garden centre to see what's on offer. Head to a park or a local garden open day and take a look at the borders.

Whenever you spot something you like, try to work out what it is you like about it exactly. Are the plants tumbling into each other? Do the vibrant colours catch your eye?

Do the formal lines and symmetry stand out to you?

Wherever you go, take photos and make plenty of notes. Write down words that describe the atmosphere you'd like your garden to evoke, and how you want to feel when you spend time in it. You might notice one underlying theme shining through your notes, or perhaps a few themes that could influence different areas of the garden (a quiet, contemplative space that links to a lively area for entertaining, for example). The theme(s) that you finally settle on will hopefully show a little of your personality.

“ Look at the themes and moods that emerged from your moodboard to determine your planting style. ”

### COMMON PLANTING STYLES

While I don't believe you need to be familiar with well-known planting styles in order to plant a garden, you may find it useful to look up a few online as part of your moodboard research. Here are a few to get you started:

- Romantic
- Formal or informal
- Minimalist or maximalist
- Contemporary
- Traditional (e.g. cottage garden or English country garden)
- A particular climate (e.g. exotic, coastal, or tropical)
- Ecological/wildlife-friendly



1

**1 Strong leaf shapes** work against the straight lines of the concrete edge.

**2 These lavender beds** evoke memories of Provence.

**3 This mixed border** offers more than just flowers – there's texture, movement, and a feeling of a modern English country garden.



2



3

