

Finish front garden after removal of some trees with a coherent flowing structure and fitting added details for maximum usability



Curved Benches



Existing Slab Steps

New Levels

The main changes to existing levels are fairly minor including added stone edgings as part of grading the grass linking slope to connect upper and lower areas and removing undulations of lower lawn areas for easier maintenance and more even drainage

New Turf Lawn Drainage

To achieve a better lower lawn performance, grade out all undulations and low spots to form an evenly graded surface using sandy loam topsoil and a sharp sand top dressing before laying new turf lawn over all areas to be more easily maintained.

Added Smaller Tree Planting

To complete the woodland character and need for added privacy to enjoy this large garden area plant small trees like Rowan, Cherry, Apple or mature evergreen shrubs like Photinia, Laurel, Camelia etc. inside the line of the new hedge

Wire Mesh Boundary Fence

Use a simple rylock, rural character wire mesh 1.1m high boundary security fence as a fitting character of discreet barrier, hidden in hedge line to keep dogs and children in garden, safe from roadway or from entering the public accessible road

Overall

The overall design for this small scale parkland front garden is to find a nice balance and blend between the contemporary character elements of the house area and the established mature rural setting. Elements of both character are reinforced, repeated and mixed to achieve a sympathetic coherence.



Suds Area

There is a large and important sustainable urban drainage system facility beneath the lower north end of the front garden, made up of large porous crates of stone which is overlaid by a permeable membrane and around 1m depth of topsoil which allows use of the ground over the SUDS including for some planting of hedging, small trees and shrubs that wont threaten damage to the SUDS system. Despite this limitation the proposes garden planting still offers scope to develop a woodland character complementing the surrounding conservation area

Wilder Areas

Some areas can be left uncut beyond the maintained lawn area to offer variety of texture and structure as drifts of informal longer grass, wild areas, with wild flowers and bulbs, strimmed annually to keep down weed invasions.

Tree Removals

A few ugly specimen remnant trees and shrubs in wrong locations for new layout will need removed to make the most of this site including the line of conifers near upper lawn where far more attractive, interesting and valuable stock including wildlife interest can be added.

Tree / Shrub Pruning

To create a consistent character and remove dead or damaged limbs and overgrowth from previous maintenance neglect most retained trees and shrubs will need some treatment

Island Bed

Create an island bed with added planting around retained shrubs after removal of one poor specimen tree

Stone Edging

Re-use historical site stone and removed old wall to create an informal fitting new detail of bed edging soil retention around the big trees allowing import of added soil if needed and mulch finish to bed area ready for later planting

New Steps

The dark grey limestone paving used around the house is used to create a suitable scale of 1.6m wide steps connecting the upper and lower garden with a suitably grand access complementing the house and the scale of the garden / property.

Fitting Structure

Beyond the crisp contemporary lines and detail of the architecture the complementary paths give way to neat curving lines of brick edge beds and outward into increasingly informal lines and structure that blends into the surrounding landscape gradually for a fitting structure.

Upper Lawn Area

The upper lawn area is a valuable, sunny level space asset which can be used variously in combination with the large driveway setting of the house and so it is kept as large as possible with only an effective minimum of lawn area used for added beds and completion of a balanced structure



Hedge Planting

A double staggered row of Hornbeam hedging has been planted all around the boundary to begin creation of a private enough sheltered site that is more useable. This hedge will also offer some scope to absorb and dissipate gathered moisture in the SUDS facility

Retained Trees / Shrubs

Most of the existing trees and mature shrubs are in sufficient quality of condition and appearance to be built into the final layout of the garden where they can form starting points of the structure

Grass Slope Link

Removing the line of conifers and old remnant wall offers scope to create a graded grass slope link between upper and lower lawn areas as a nice unifying feature, added play asset and potentially easier one piece lawn area for maintenance perhaps later using a large robot mower.

Existing Mature Trees

After the development of this site, possible root disturbances and damage plus removal of other site trees creating more exposure, the retained mature site trees may benefit from some tree surgeon work to thin crown, and remove dead or injured limbs to safeguard stability and vitality of the biggest trees

Removed Conifers and Old Wall

Remove the old remnant stone wall that is no feature and re-use stone on site to create an informal edge definition to the new grass link slope and bed area soil and mulch retention, keeping historical material on site. The odd line of old hedge conifers is also not a high quality feature, interferes with the growth of the high value specimen beech trees and their removal creates scope for far better and fitting coherent use of the same area

No Linking Paths

Avoiding link paths out into the front garden leaves a more flowing informal structure, with less maintenance and more useable unbroken space

Neighbour

Added Bed Areas

In addition to the existing bed area next to front door ramp two further suitable scaled but minimal beds are proposed, edged by same driveway mono-blocks to continue the house area fabric but into a soft curving form that begins to relate to the front garden curves and offers a nicely balanced completion of the setting of the house

Need For Privacy

This large front garden is the majority of the garden area of this property and therefore needs designed to have sufficient privacy and security to be enjoyed and useable, especially given the scale of maintenance involved in this space. The added hedging and tree planting are vital improvements to needed privacy to achieve this.

Mono-block Driveway

Added Fruit Trees
A pair of old variety small fruit trees could be added to upper lawn area beyond shade of beech tree canopies to replace removed conifer tree cover and frame house view

Garage

Front Door

Existing Paths / House Setting

The high quality very modern large architecture with dark grey anodised metal and dressed timber cladding combination is reinforced by a fitting scale of broad dark grey limestone paths and ramp plus the new set of garden steps. Added elements need to complement this scale and quality.

Neighbour

Scale 1:200



Design by Martin Watt BA Dip
Copyright January 2021
Telephone 01506 834 109

Front Garden Sketch Design for
Mr and Mrs Walker
32d Manse Road, Linlithgow

Design Note: This drawing is a sketch design guide for the coating and construction of this project. All sizes and heights of finished works are the responsibility of the contractor and are to be checked on site during construction according to the details of any agreed quotation. Martin Watt is not responsible for the details of any quotation for any work or quality of workmanship and performance of any materials chosen. In fairness to any contractor, the final agreement details between contractor and client is the only contract.

