

# Landscape with a Professional



**Assessment Organizations** including site assessment and testing, various measuring services, surveyors, soil testing services and even Google Maps are available to help. Property measuring and surveying companies can develop more detailed plans with elevations, sighting of trees and landscape amenities, irrigation, etc. If you get out into the yard with a measuring tape and the guidelines we've put into this book, you should be able to make a serviceable site plan to scale.

**Planning and Design** professionals can help you develop a working plan and budget for your landscape. The plan should include drawings, a list of resources, and an outline of the techniques to be used to implement the plan. Licensed landscape architects and licensed landscape contractors can assist you in developing a plan and budget. Landscape designers also can help you create a conceptual design. Working with a licensed professional (architect, landscape architect, landscape contractor or civil engineer) is recommended if you have hillsides and slopes or complicated structures. [www.apldca.org](http://www.apldca.org); [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org); [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)

**Landscape Installation and Construction** professionals are licensed landscape contractors who specialize in building landscapes, and are able to work on all aspects of the sustainable landscape plan. If you are handy, and feel comfortable with the techniques outlined in this book, there is no reason why you cannot install your own garden, especially knowing that if you get stuck you can call upon the expertise of a landscape professional. Find licensed contractors at the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA). [www.clca.org](http://www.clca.org)

**Certified Arborists** are specialists trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Find tree consultants at the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org)

**Rainwater Catchment** specialists include people certified by the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) to design and install rainwater capture systems. These professionals can bring a lot of specific expertise to your project, particularly if it involves the installation of an active capture system such as a cistern. [www.arcsa.org](http://www.arcsa.org)

**Greywater Action** can assist you on an as-needed basis if you are attempting a DIY renovation. Their expertise is in the design and installation of laundry-to-landscape greywater systems. [www.greywateraction.org](http://www.greywateraction.org)

**Irrigation Systems Consultants** include people who have been certified by an EPA WaterSense® labeled certifying organization to provide irrigation system auditing, design, and maintenance. These professionals can bring specific expertise on improving the efficiency of irrigation systems. [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)

**QWEL** certified landscapers have knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices, including water management and preservation of other valuable resources. [www.qwel.net](http://www.qwel.net)

**Watershed Wise Landscape Professionals** are people who are certified to provide site evaluation and consulting on using the watershed approach to landscaping in design, construction, and maintenance. [www.greengardensgroup.com](http://www.greengardensgroup.com)

**Plant Selection** specialists include your local retail nursery and garden center, native plant societies, Master Gardeners, and professional gardeners. The best plant selector, however, is you! Do the homework to select plants that are both climate-appropriate and locally native to your place, and you will be rewarded with a better understanding and appreciation of your garden as it evolves over time. Plus, you can advise your friends on their plant selections!

**Maintenance** of sustainable landscapes requires an understanding of the watershed approach to landscaping and water management. While there will be less mowing of lawns and blowing of leaves, there will be more fine pruning, irrigation flushing and tuning, cleaning and checking rain barrels and other water retention devices and soil building. Maintenance people should demonstrate an ability to think critically, be open to the techniques and ideas outlined in these guidelines and understand how to implement IPM, mulching, basic irrigation tune-ups, and native plant husbandry.

