

PRESENTING YOUR DESIGNS SKILLS SHEET

Once you've surveyed your site and established your brief, the next step is to develop a creative vision and make suggestions to improve the space.

Being able to communicate your creative vision to others is key to them understanding what you want to achieve for the space.

There are a number of ways to present your vision and you should choose a method you are comfortable with and that your audience will enjoy and understand.



VISUAL PRESENTATION SKILLS

Present a combination of any of the following to your audience to explain your garden design and show your thinking and planning process:



Mood boards: Use images of objects, planting styles, colours and themes to show the 'look and feel' you wish to achieve.



An annotated sketch: Use tracing paper to sketch designs over the top of photographs of the site. This is a quick way to show before and after images and does not rely too heavily on artistic skill.



Zoned plan: This will show the spatial arrangement of the site (how different areas will be used for different functions) and can help others imagine how they would use the space.



3D modelling: Some people respond better to ideas presented in 3D. Creating 2D images which look 3D is tricky - creating a scale model of the space is much easier.



Garden design software: Computer software is available to help create scale drawings and plans. This can help you to visualise a space and get a sense of what's it's like to move around it.



VERBAL PRESENTATION SKILLS

Make sure you can talk about and explain the planning and thinking behind your Green Plan It garden design.

- Practise your presentation before the celebration day. Make sure you are prepared to talk through your design before answering questions about it.
- Remember to introduce yourselves before beginning and keep your presentation within the set time.
- If you are presenting ideas from a laptop or tablet take some hard copies along too in case the technology doesn't work.
- Pitch the tone of your presentation to your audience. This may change depending on whether you are sharing your designs with people you know well, or with the Green Plan It assessors.
- Be confident in your design ideas and explain them using plenty of visuals. Remember that the presentation should enable your audience to picture what the garden will look like when it is finished.
- Discuss changes to plan and any problems you faced during the challenge. If you wanted to include something unrealistic (i.e. plants that like dry soil when you were designing for a boggy area), you can still discuss this and explain your thinking process.
- Be aware that the people you are presenting to will have questions. Their feedback is an important part of the presentation and will guide you in changing or consolidating your design.
- You might feel nervous before your presentation. Try and remember that your audience respects your work and is interested in your designs. It isn't an exam so try and enjoy yourself!

TOP TIP

To be able to present your ideas confidently you need to make sure that you can justify your design. What kind of green space have you designed? Where will it be? Who will use it, and why?

