



# suffolk

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## landscapes

The importance of attention to detail in achieving award-winning standards and lasting customer satisfaction cannot be overestimated, says Jason Lock, a director of Notcutts Landscapes. As East Anglia's leading design and build landscaping company, Notcutts is committed to high-quality landscaping and customer satisfaction



## trust the real experts and you won't be led up the garden path

**A**s in any other sphere of business, sound advice and attention to detail is everything when it comes to landscape design.

Understandably, few people know exactly what they want from their new garden. They just know they want to improve the visual appeal and functionality of the available space and most, quite rightly, rely on the advice, experience and knowledge of their landscape designer. In common with many other areas of business, however, the customer's lack of specialist knowledge provides scope for the unscrupulous to profit

Not all who profess to be landscape designers have adequate knowledge to provide correct advice or a complete service. To allay customers' fears, Notcutts Landscapes are members of the Association of Professional Landscapers ([www.landscaper.org.uk](http://www.landscaper.org.uk)). Their designers are also Registered Members of The Society of Garden Designers ([www.society-of-garden-designers.co.uk](http://www.society-of-garden-designers.co.uk)), which guarantees members have all-round expertise in landscape design, from initial inspection, specification and design to construction, planting and maintenance.



Every situation is different, which is why it is vital the designer takes time to understand the client's lifestyle, determine what they want from the garden, how they intend to use it and what appeals to them. Clients often ask us to create a design that reflects the style and period of their property. While most still prefer a traditional approach, owners of newer properties sometimes appreciate more contemporary schemes that incorporate modern materials such as stainless steel, mirrors, decking and fibre-optic lighting.

A professional designer will ask plenty of questions to establish the customer's precise requirements. A family garden, for example, must provide a safe environment for children, avoiding plants that are poisonous or prickly. A garden used primarily to entertain might take a more adventurous, contemporary approach. Alternatively, a more traditional design could

be appropriate, or a combination may best meet the client's requirements.

Creating the right mix involves far more than just design, such as the correct use of plants to suit location and soil type. The designer will also demonstrate how, for example, a water feature or path might enhance the shape and character of the garden, or how lighting could augment its ambience after dark. They will also provide advice on planning issues, blend features from the existing garden into the new design and, vitally, respect the client's budget.

Achieving the right solution, from briefing to hand-over, will take at least three months, so our advice is to engage a landscaping professional as early as possible. This is even more important where complex constructions are required or the scheme will incorporate large 'bare root' shrubs and trees. By working closely with clients we ensure they enjoy years of pleasure from their new garden.

Further details on are available from **Notcutts Landscapes**, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF.  
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Top: Lighting can have a dramatic year-round effect on a garden, as this recently-completed town house garden demonstrates. Recent winner of an Association of Professional Landscapers' Awards, the garden provides a delightful oasis of peace and tranquility for its owners. The focal point is a stunning, illuminated water feature.

Left: Notcutts Landscapes achieved top honors in this year's Association of Professional Landscapers Awards for this garden. The clients wanted a drive entrance that was simple yet reflected the hidden grandeur of this attractive property. The house now sits more comfortably within its surroundings and the owners are delighted with the outcome.

