

Mediterranean Garden Design Course

From Site Observation to Planting Design

In collaboration with Iris Garden

This practical course is designed for anyone wishing to learn how to design a Mediterranean garden using the methodology applied by professional landscape designers.

Throughout the course, participants will work together on the design and implementation of a real public planting bed located at the **Camporosso Roundabout**. From the first site visit to the final planting, every stage of the design process will be explored.

The course combines design theory, site observation and hands-on practical experience, allowing participants to develop both technical skills and a deeper understanding of Mediterranean landscapes.

Maximum number of participants: 8–12

Duration of each session: approximately 2 hours 30 minutes

Course Programme

AUTUMN

Session 1

Observing Before Designing

Before any successful landscape project begins, it starts with learning how to read a place.

Topics include:

- Introduction to the landscape design process
- Site analysis
- Site measurements and surveying
- Sun exposure
- Wind conditions
- Soil characteristics
- Drainage
- Landscape context
- Learning how to understand a site before drawing

Objective

To develop the ability to carefully observe a site before making any design decisions.

Session 2

Understanding the Needs of the Site

Every landscape has its own character and requirements. During this session participants will begin translating their observations into design ideas.

Topics include:

- Developing a design concept
- Functional analysis

- Circulation and pathways
- Volumes and spatial organisation
- Proportions
- Choosing a Mediterranean design style
- First conceptual sketches

Each participant will begin developing their own design proposal.

Session 3

Mediterranean Plant Palette

Nursery visit

An introduction to the plant species that define Mediterranean gardens.

Topics include:

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Ornamental grasses
- Perennials
- Groundcovers
- Seasonal flowering plants
- Water requirements
- Plant combinations
- Colour composition
- Texture
- Maintenance

Participants will begin selecting suitable species for their own projects.

Session 4

Designing the Planting Scheme

This session transforms the initial concept into a complete landscape proposal.

Topics include:

- Developing the final design concept
- Producing a scaled drawing
- Plant composition
- Studying volumes, forms and colour combinations
- Selecting materials such as gravel, natural stone and edging
- Preparing the final presentation board

Objective

To transform the site analysis into a coherent and professional landscape design.

Session 5

Presentation of the Projects

Each participant will present their design proposal, explaining the concept, plant selection and design decisions.

This will be followed by a group discussion, providing an opportunity to compare different approaches, exchange ideas and evaluate the strengths of each proposal.

Together with **Iris Garden**, a final shared design will then be selected for implementation during the practical spring sessions.

SPRING

Session 6

Bringing the Design to Life

Participants will discover how a landscape design is transferred from paper to reality.

Topics include:

- Presentation of the site prepared by Iris Garden
- Setting out the design on site
- Positioning the plants according to the design

- Checking spacing and proportions
- Adapting the design to real site conditions
- Final adjustments to the planting layout
- Planting the selected species

Objective

To understand how professional landscape projects are implemented on site and how every design evolves according to real conditions.

Session 7

Watching the Garden Grow

A garden continues to evolve long after planting.

During this final session participants will learn how to observe, evaluate and guide that evolution.

Topics include:

- Observing the development of the planting scheme
- Assessing plant health
- Evaluating plant establishment
- Reviewing the composition after the first weeks
- Relocating or replacing plants where necessary
- Refining balance, proportions and perspectives
- Maintenance recommendations for the first year

Objective

To understand that a garden is a living system that constantly evolves, and to learn how observation and thoughtful adjustments contribute to its long-term success.

The Value of this Project

This course offers a unique learning experience.

Rather than completing a theoretical exercise on paper, participants will contribute to the design and creation of a **real public Mediterranean planting scheme** at the Camporosso Roundabout, helping to showcase the expertise of **Iris Garden**.

Throughout the course, participants will experience every stage of a professional landscape project—from the first site analysis to the long-term development of the garden.

In the months following completion, they will be able to return to the site and observe how their design evolves through the seasons, gaining a deeper understanding of plant behaviour, growth and composition.

The planting bed will become a lasting example of the value of landscape design while highlighting Iris Garden's contribution to the local community.

To further celebrate the project, an informational sign could be installed on site featuring the Iris Garden logo together with a brief description explaining that the planting scheme was designed and created as part of this course.

For every participant, there will be great satisfaction in being able to say:

"We designed and created that garden together."

This transforms the course into far more than a training programme.

It becomes a shared experience that creates a lasting connection between the participants, Iris Garden and the local landscape.

What You Will Learn

By the end of the course, participants will know how to:

- Analyse and understand a landscape site
- Develop a professional landscape concept
- Select suitable Mediterranean plant species
- Create harmonious planting compositions

- Prepare a site for planting
- Produce a professional planting design
- Understand the practical implementation of a landscape project
- Monitor, evaluate and maintain a newly established Mediterranean garden

Course Schedule

The course will take place on **Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm** on the following dates:

- 26 September
- 3 October
- 10 October
- 17 October
- 24 October

The **two practical spring sessions**, dedicated to preparing the garden bed and planting, will be scheduled together with the nursery during the **fifth session**, based on the most suitable planting period.