

# TIPS TO ENTER

# Landscape Ohio!

## *Fight the Urge to Procrastinate*

- Keep designs current and show the job as it was actually installed.
- Take pictures throughout the different seasons-especially if entering for seasonal color!
- Always carry a camera with you. It is easier than finding time to get back at a later date and missing that perfect photo opportunity.
- Take plenty of shots so that you can submit the very best.
- Take pictures early enough so that you have time to shoot again if needed.
- Take before and after shots from the same location.

## *Let the Picture Tell the Story*

- Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.
- If you framed a great view, created an outdoor room or have a great focal point, allow the picture to show it.
- Use appropriate lighting - Judges can't make out details of dark or bleached out pictures. Morning, late afternoon, or cloudy days are often better for your photo shoot.

## *Allow the Jobs to Mature*

- Sometimes a season or two of growth on plants or aging of fresh cut stone can make an average job a great one. (Make sure that the project is maintained.)
- Projects that are up to 5 years old qualify to enter.

## *Help the Project Look "Lived In"*

- You created an outdoor room. If the grill is in the garage, move it out to the patio. If the table umbrella is closed, open it.
- Also, an empty bench or table looks better with a pitcher of iced tea and a pair of drinking glasses on it.

## *Tidy Up Before You Shoot*

- Remove any debris or clutter such as litter, leaves, garbage cans, children's toys or hoses.

## *Shoot High - Shoot Low*

- Sometimes the angle of a shot can make a nice picture even better.
- Be creative - take aerial shots from a ladder or rooftop, but remember to put safety first!
- Shoot low to the ground or from inside a planting bed with the tops of a tree, shrub, or some flowers framing the picture.

## *Sell the Project*

- Explain how you solved a unique problem, met some unusual challenge, or worked out a difficult client request.
- Be sure to note if you feel one part of the garden is of questionable taste, but was a client's desire or own addition.
- If you enter a project in more than one category, always write a new description that relates to the category and describes details relevant to that category.

## *Make the Judges' Job Easy*

- Your photos and descriptions should represent the work you did on the property. Work done by others should not be the focal point of your entry photos and descriptions.
- Be very concise and to the point in the descriptions of your project. Do not exceed the word limits, but do tell your story. However, be sure to explain your project thoroughly. Saying only "view from the east, view from the west, etc." does not help the judges understand your project.
- Make sure that designs are readable and that the photos are in their proper sequence.

## *Think BIG*

- Even the smallest of jobs can be an award winner!
- Occasionally, it may be advantageous to enter a particular section of a larger project.
- Be confident! If you have never entered in the past, don't be intimidated.

## *Never, Never, Never Quit*

- If at first you don't succeed, try again.
- Network with association members and others who have entered projects in the past.