AN IMAGE-TO-QUOTE DESIGN STUDY

The garden *table.*

A sample brief for a household that wants to carry dinner outdoors, seat six near the kitchen and keep a clear patch of lawn for play.



Existing project photograph · The deck and fenced lawn at the Mississauga residence.

DESIGN DIRECTION

Bring dinner outdoors.

Explore a table just beyond the door, a planted edge and a bench facing the house.

ONE DECISION TO MAKE

Where should the table sit?

Compare a shorter serving route with better shade at dinner. Measure the deck before choosing.

STARTING POINT

Read the garden from both sides.

The glass connects kitchen and garden. Outside, a furnished deck opens to a fenced lawn. The brief keeps the centre open and tests planting at one edge.



Actual home · Island and garden door



Actual home · Looking back from the lawn

PLANTING INSPIRATION FROM ANOTHER PROPERTY



Arlington rain garden · Before



Same Arlington yard · After planting

These documentary photographs show how planting changes a lawn's depth. Here, the proposal places the planting along the fence to preserve the family's play space.

Before photo · After photo · CC BY-SA 2.0 — Arlington County. Both photographs cropped. Adaptations share the same licence.

PROPOSED MATERIAL PALETTE

Warm timber

Compare with existing deck.

Pale stone

Sample at the door.

Dark bronze

Test with the glazing.

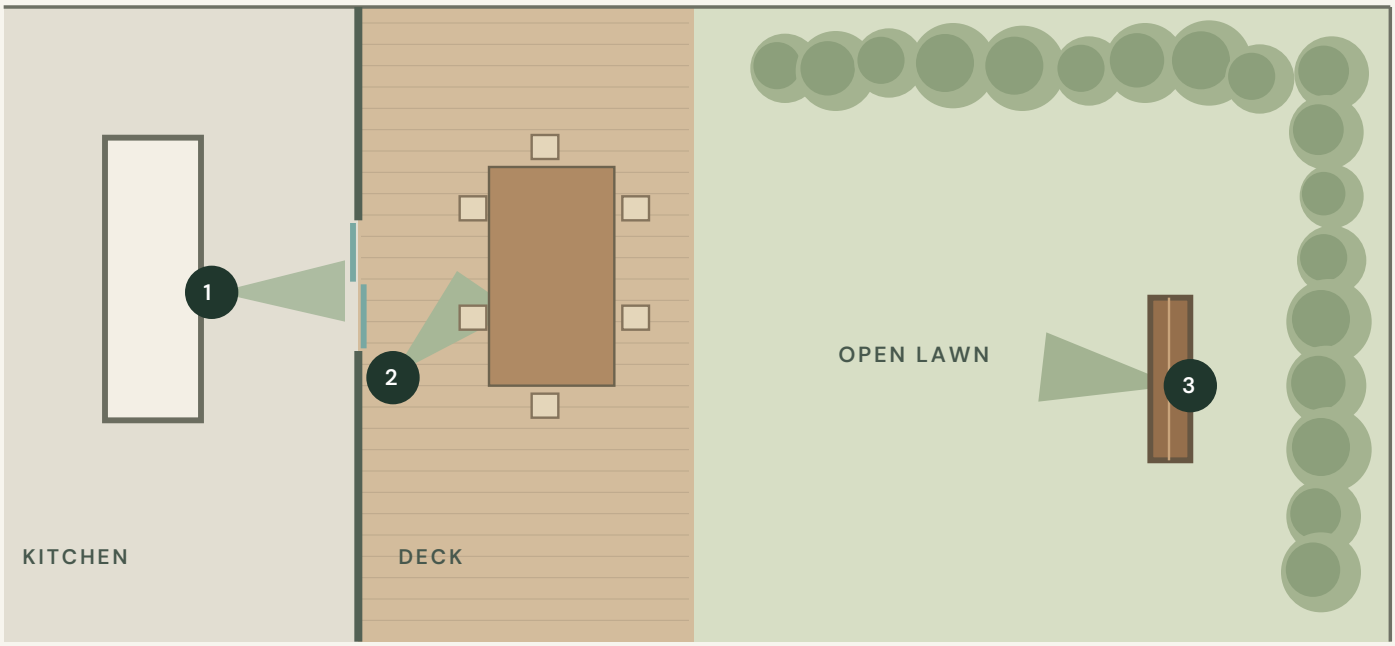
Layered green

Review year-round cover.

THREE PROPOSED VIEWS

Walk the route before choosing.

The diagram is an unmeasured design study. The opening, furniture and planting positions are proposed. The three viewpoints give the designer a consistent set of views to prepare.



CONCEPT PLAN / NO DIMENSIONS

VIEW 01

From the island

Frame the open door, table and planting beyond. Keep a clear sightline to the lawn for someone preparing food.

VIEW 02

At the garden door

Show the chair furthest from the table with the door open. Test the route from the island with a tray in hand.

VIEW 03

From the bench

Look toward the house. Compare a seat against the fence with a position further forward for shade and privacy.

PRELIMINARY QUOTE EXAMPLE

What goes into the first quote?

The sample assumes a table on the existing deck with an optional bench and planted edge. Each work line receives its own quantity, unit, price and written assumptions after a site review.

PRICING STATUS

Priced after measurements and selected specifications.

PROPOSED WORK LINE	QUANTITY TO CONFIRM	PRICING BASIS
Retain or adapt deck	Measured area to retain or change	Base scope after inspection
Dining position	Table footprint and chair clearance	Layout review only
Bench and planted edge	Bench length and planted area	Separate optional prices
Final clean-up and care	Area disturbed and care notes	Identify responsible party

Included in this planning scope

Measured layout, furniture clearances, finish comparison and separate options for the bench and planting.

Excluded unless added

Furniture purchases, new glazing or structure, lighting, gas, irrigation and ongoing gardening.

RESOLVE ON SITE, IN THIS ORDER

1. **Confirm the route** — Measure door opening, deck footprint, step, chair pullback and the clear path to the lawn.
2. **Compare the two seats** — Observe dinner-hour shade and privacy at the table and bench. Note the season and hour.
3. **Confirm what the ground allows** — Record grading, drainage, service access and which finishes or planting need a specialist review.