**Intro Page:**

**Combo Designs**

**Architectural Plants**

Design a simple plant palette with bold, architectural plants. For shade or sun these plants complement any modern garden style.

**Architectural Plants**

**Intro Paragraph:**

While many gardeners in the Pacific Northwest seek a complexity and style closer to that found in nature, there are other garden styles whose character is much simpler. Modern garden design, in particular, favors a limited plant palette and bold, architectural plants. A modern garden design using architectural plants (strong in shape and form) works well with mid-century homes and simple hardscaping materials (e.g., concrete or metal).

**SHADE:** Disporum c. ‘Green Giant,’ Athyrium niponicum (Japanese painted fern), and Ophiopogon p. ‘Nigrescens’ (black mondo grass).

Disporum ‘Green Giant’ is tall, shiny green and has a lot of structure.

The Japanese painted fern (available in a number of varieties) adds good color and texture.

The black mondo grass is clean and modern in appearance and ties the combination together with its neutral color.

**SUN:** Yucca f. ‘Golden Sword,’ Eryngium ‘Big Blue’ and Sedum ‘Angelina.’

The Yucca f. ‘Golden Sword’ has wonderful structure and color making a great focal point in the garden, year-round.

The Eryngium ‘Big Blue’ also has an unusual architectural structure and an additional shocking blue color.

Sedum ‘Angelina’ is an evergreen groundcover which ties the combination together with a bold chartreuse/gold color that burnishes towards orange in winter.

**Special Considerations:**

During the wintertime the Disporum c. ‘Green Giant’ and Athyrium niponicum are dormant. They should be protected with mulch or compost once they go dormant in late fall. When the disporum breaks dormancy in spring it has a wild beanstalk-like growth, making it especially cool to watch. In terms of the sun combination, Eryngium ’Big Blue’ dies back in the winter but the flower stalks of the dormant plant can be left alone for quite awhile because it looks nice dried in the garden.

**Care and Maintenance:**

Provide well-drained soil and all-purpose fertilizer during planting time and annually, thereafter.

**Plant Spacing/Repetition**

Plants look most natural planted together in threes. This is a longstanding landscape design principle. Hence, when planting, group your three plants together. Remember to account for their ultimate size and place the largest plant in the center. Disporum’s height is 4’-5,’ while Athyrium’s is 1.5’-2’ and Ophiopogon’s is 1.’ Yucca f. ‘Golden Sword’ is 2 feet tall, while the flower stalk can be upwards of 6 feet. Eryngium ‘Big Blue’ can reach 3 feet tall while Sedum ‘Angelina’ is a groundcover. If there is more room in the garden, the combination of three plants can be planted multiple times in a row or evenly spaced throughout a larger area.