

FIRESCAPING

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NOT A STYLE



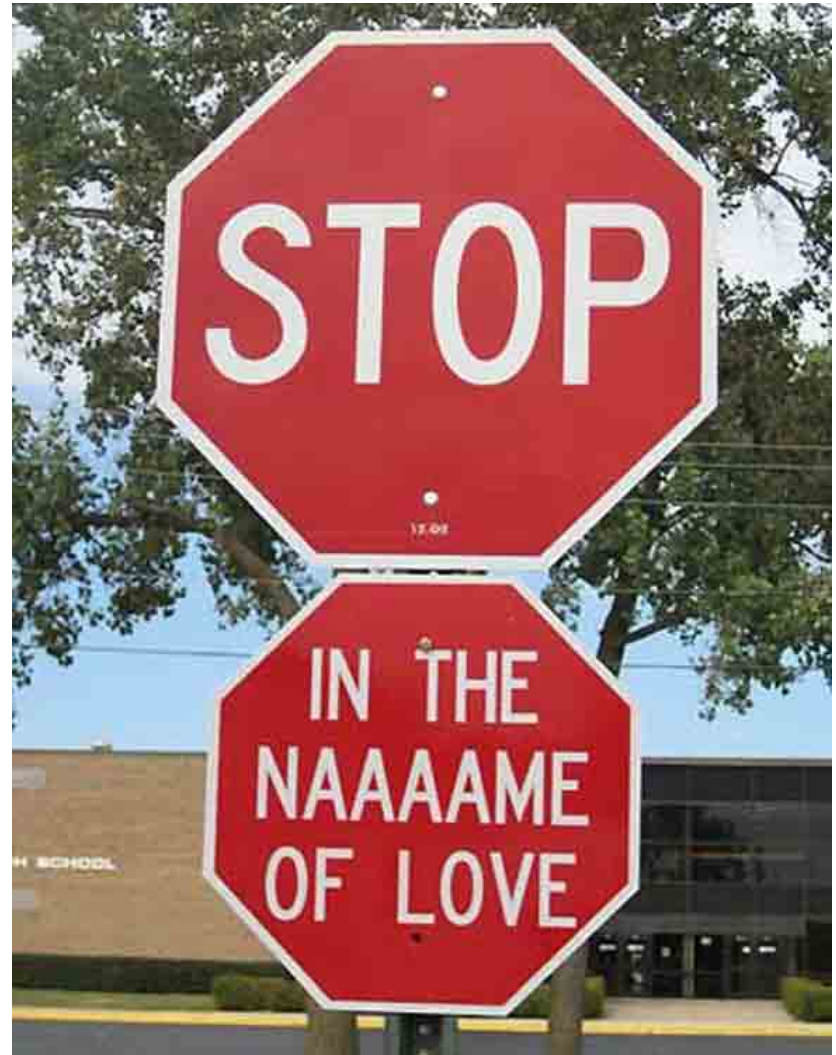
Firescaping isn't a style!

- Informed design
- Defensible zones
- Healthy plants
- Good garden hygiene
- Proper pruning and care
- Intelligent watering

FIRST CHECK

Local ordinances & Codes

- Fire
- Planning
- Building
- They rule over any model, list, or article



DEFENSIBLE: TBHS MODEL

- 0-5'
- 5-30'
- 30-100'



- Non-combustible hardscaping
- Low combustibility plants such as non-woody, non-resinous, perennials.
- Take special care with planting near vents, windows, interior corners.

DEFENSIBLE: TBHS MODEL

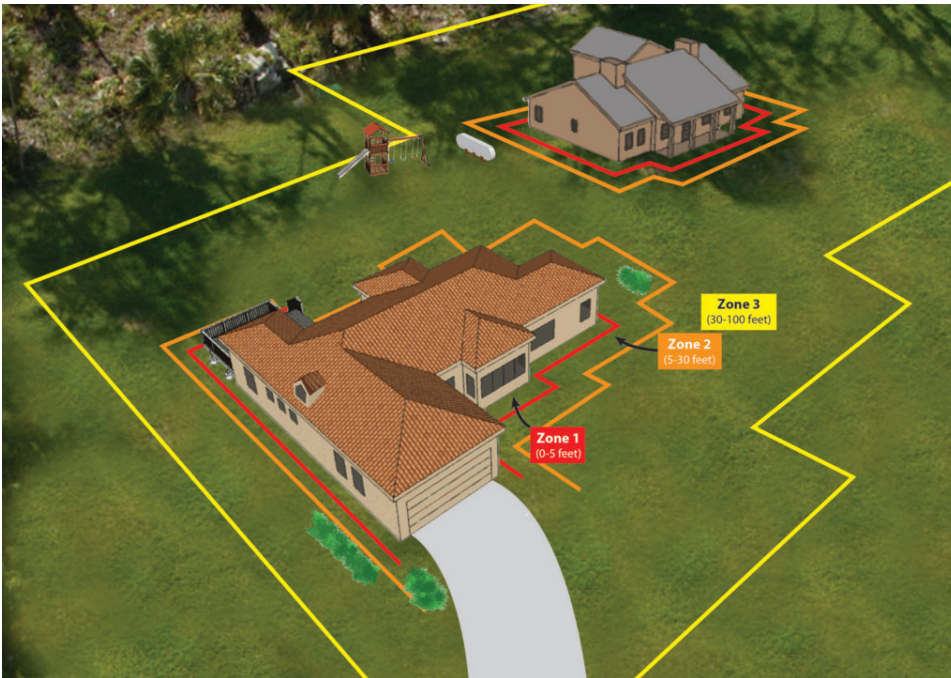
- 0-5'
- 5-30'
- 30-100'
- Flames can climb 3x the height of the fuel.
- Keep sheds or other out-buildings out of this zone
- Avoid fire ladders
- Separate groupings of plants to keep them from sharing and spreading flames.



DEFENSIBLE: TBHS MODEL

- 0-5'
- 5-30'
- 30-100' (or PL)

- Use plant spacing to keep fire returning to ground-level
- Min. 10' spacing between mature size tree canopies
- Site homes away from ridgelines and top of slope or increase fuel modification zone depth.





FOCUS ON CA NATIVES

- CA Natives help preserve and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Las Pilitas totally geeky leaf burn times study:

[http://
www.laspilitas.com/
classes/
fire_burn_times.html](http://www.laspilitas.com/classes/fire_burn_times.html)



GENERALIZATIONS

- Non-resinous
 - Deciduous < evergreens
 - Broadleaf < needles
- Moist, easily bent < stiff or leathery
- Thick leaves < fine
- Slower growing
- Fewer branches, leaves
- Less leaf litter



Bamboo

GENERALIZATIONS

Less flammable cont.:

- Open branching habit
- Watery sap < gummy thick sap
- Fragrance-free foliage
- Hairless, non-fuzzy
- Silver foliage except native sages.....



Stachys byzantina

CONSIDERING WATER

- Amount of heat needed to ignite a plant is partly related to moisture content in plant.
- A Licensed Landscape Architect can help you navigate the CA water budget ordinance (WELO)



CONSIDERING WATER

Appropriate application method - put the water where it is needed

- Use the right amount for the plants
- Install smart controllers
- MWELO
- Hire an irrigation designer or approved professional per code.



MULCH

- Conserves water in the soil - up to 70% saved from evaporating with a 3" layer!
- Evens temperatures in the soil which helps keep plants healthy.
- Leaf litter totally counts, especially under native oaks



COMPOST

- Conserves water
- Enhances water availability to plants
- Enhances nutrient availability to plants
- Enhances soil health which is critical for plant health.



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Shearing is:

- Stressful
- Creates a fast, weak response
- Leads to more flammable growth habits
- Use proper PRUNING instead to support good structure and health!



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Trees

- Hire a Consulting Arborist to evaluate a tree. ASCA-consultants.org
- Hire someone trained by in arboriculture to do any pruning work: ISA-arbor.com

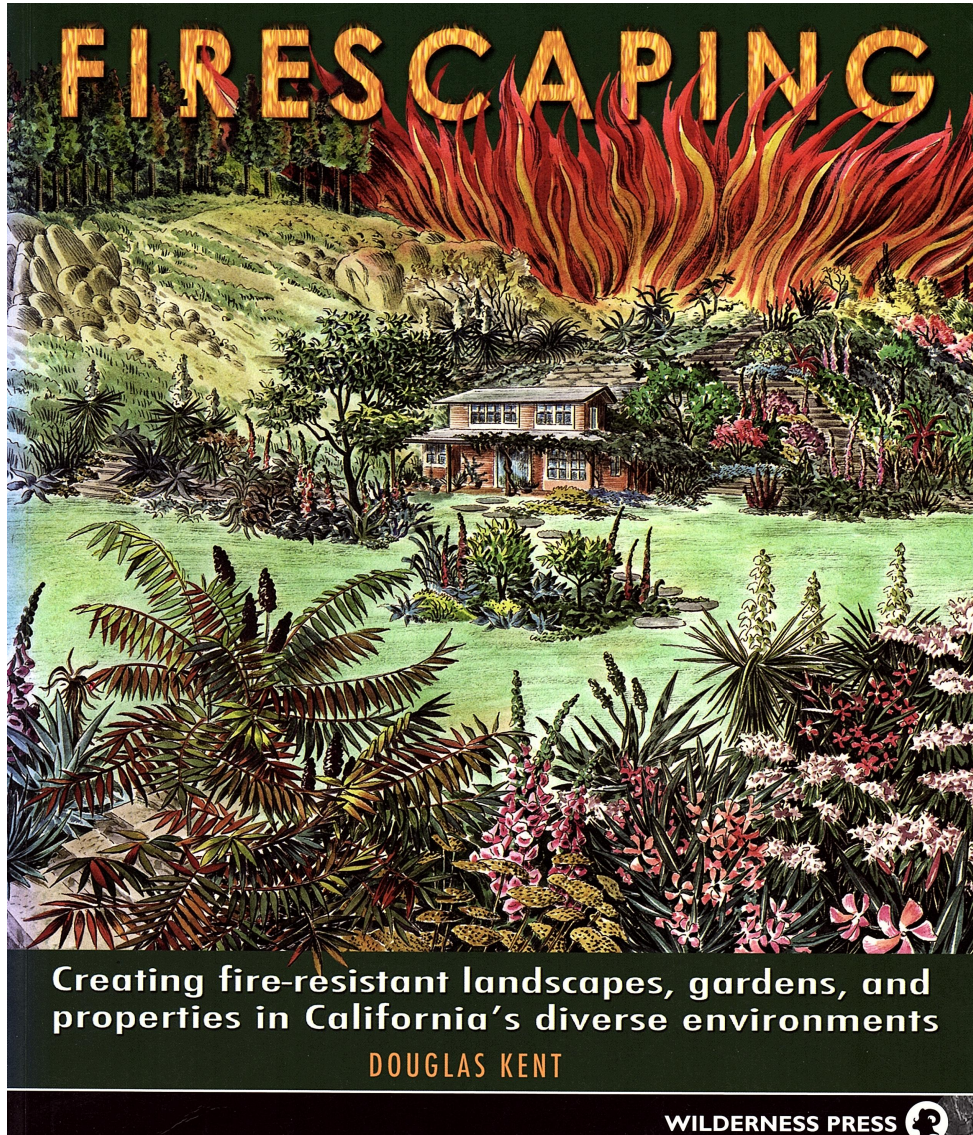


IN A NUTSHELL

- Hire a professional to help generate a thoughtfully considered approach to all design aspects:
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Architecture
 - Materials & furnishings
 - Plant selection
 - Irrigation design
 - Environmental benefits



RESOURCES



- FIRESCAPING
by Douglas Kent
- UC ANR pubs
- CalFire.CA.gov
- Fire Safe Sonoma
- ReScapeCA

A FIRESCAPED GARDEN IS NEVER CREATED ONCE, BUT MAINTAINED OVER A LIFETIME

-Douglas Kent



Photo credit: University of Wisconsin
Ecosystem and Landscape Ecology Lab