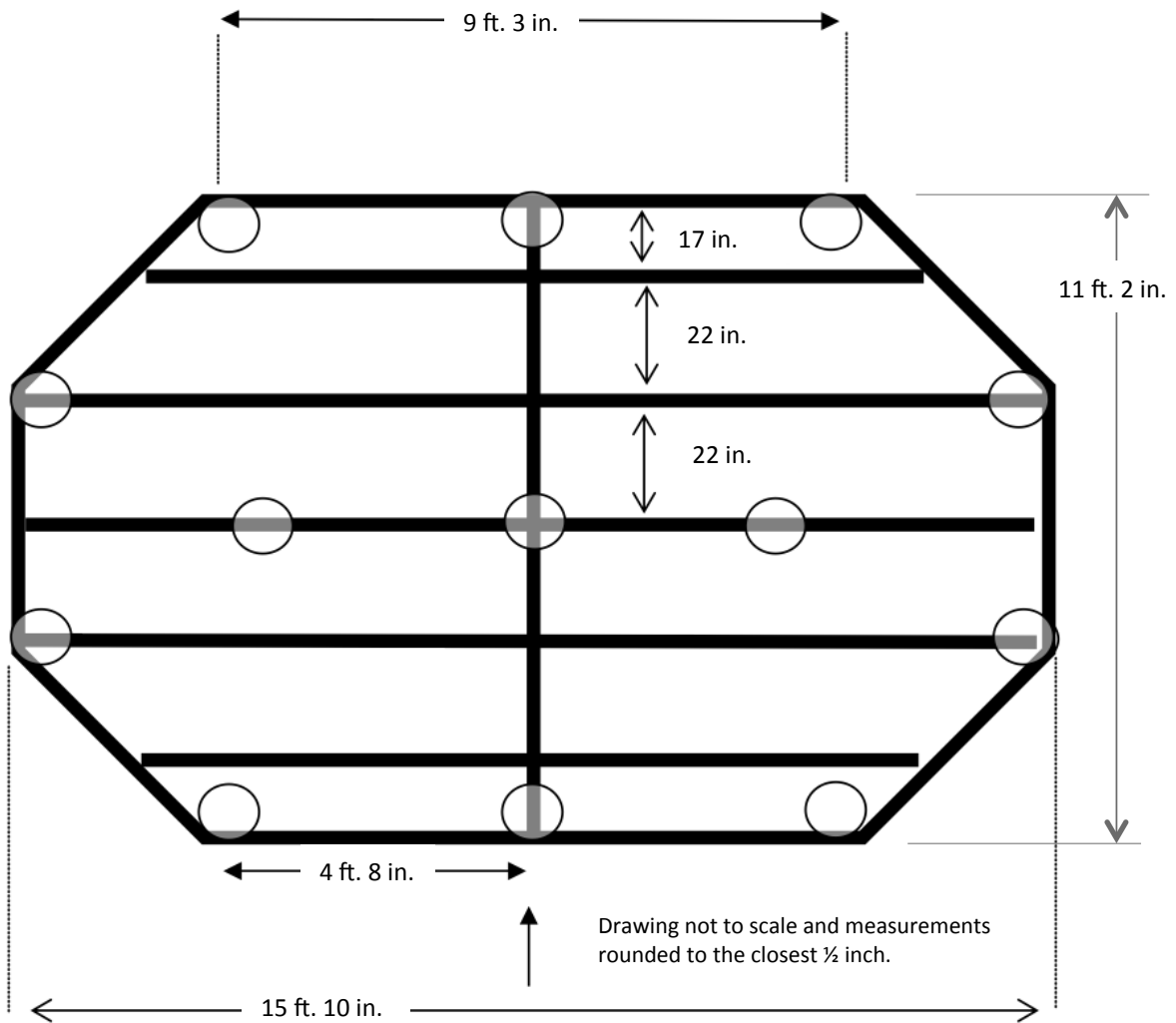


Scandinavian Garden Pavilions

Orangerie Foundation Preparation

This document helps explain the process of preparing a foundation for your Scandinavian Garden Orangerie and some of the choices that are available, depending upon your building site. More detailed information will be included in your assembly instructions, along with plenty of photographs to help demystify the entire assembly process.



Patio Stones On Gravel

Most common in Scandinavia – and most common in the United States for the construction of Accessory Structures (gazebos, sheds and greenhouses) on relatively flat sites – is to construct the building on patio stones positioned on a bed of crushed rock or compactible gravel, allowing for drainage. Check with local sources for the best materials for the job.

Before the gravel gets laid out and compacted, about 4 inches of soil will need to be removed from the site and it's a good idea to make sure your gravel bed extends beyond the perimeter of the structure about 12 inches. Once the bed is level, paving stones or concrete pier blocks can be laid out to support the rim and floor joists as shown in the photo to the right.



Cast Concrete Footings

If there are major differences in elevation on your building site, or if you are building on a grade, it may be necessary to use concrete footings. While concrete footings are more involved and more expensive than the patio stone method, concrete footings do make it possible to situate your Scandinavian Garden Pavilion in a wider range of settings and are often required for our largest structures when a building permit is required.

Unless you have experience with concrete footings, we recommend hiring a contractor or handyman to get the job done in accordance with local building standards. The work involves digging deep holes – below the local frost line – at each of the 8 corners of the building, with additional holes for footings across the centerline of the pavilion’s footprint to support floor joists.

Forms are then placed into the holes – typically Sonotube cardboard forms – to be filled with concrete, reinforcement and straps as determined by your contractor. To learn more about this process contact a local contractor or building professional.



If you look closely at the corners of this pavilion you’ll notice round concrete pillars supporting the corners. These pillars are concrete footings cast in Sonotube forms anchored into a granite hillside. The rocks you see are simply wedged into position as a finishing touch.

Applying Finishing Touches

There are times when a picture is worth a thousand words and we think this is certainly the case when it comes to applying finishing touches to the foundation of your pavilion.

If you look closely at these photos, or glance through the gallery on our website, you’ll see how some of our pavilions in Scandinavia have been enhanced over the years with finishing touches around the base.

1 Cobble Stones: Nicely arranged in three rows around the perimeter

2 Flag Stone: Structure appears to rest directly on the flag stone patio

3 Rockery: Carefully selected stones are arranged in compact gravel

4 Quarried Rock Stairs: Creating a super solid entry way stepping up to a pavilion raised on Sonotube footings with cobble stones wedged between

