

BACKYARD BLITZ

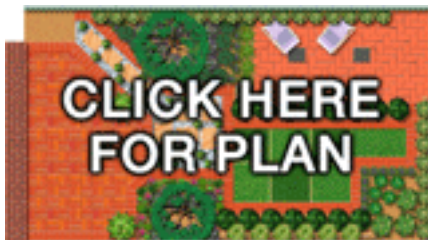
Shabby but Chic



Ray 'aka Sugar Ray' Good has been working late nights as a resident DJ in a Sydney nightclub for years. As a parent to young baby Tiger Ray, Ray works when most of us are asleep. He's been working on the house, but hasn't a clue about gardening. To thank his wife Judy for putting up with all the late nights, Ray has asked us to give his wife a garden she would love.

Design intent

The challenge was to create an entertainment area that could double as a carpark as this backyard is a very tight area, and a carpark will add a lot of value to this property. Designer Harriette Rowe of Patio Design has turned a wilderness garden into an entertainment/relaxation area for Ray and Judy by creating paved areas with outdoor furniture where Judy can sit and enjoy her flower garden and a lawn area for young Tiger to play in in full view of his parents.



Design ideas

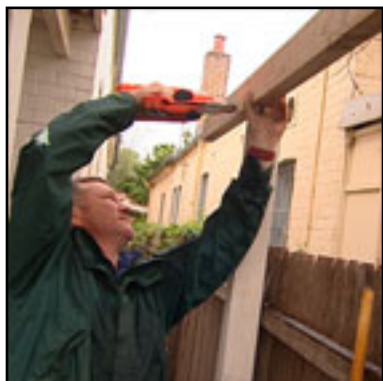
There were a few issues with the old brick paving such as sunken bricks and some being laid the wrong way up. Instead of wasting the bricks, they were lifted and relaid the right way up on the rear patio. The old timber fence was given a facelift with a coat of paint and an existing chain drain was incorporated into the water feature. All this was achieved by 'recycling, re-freshing, and re-inventing' the backyard and therefore giving the whole place a shabby but chic atmosphere in the best possible sense!

Adapting this plan to your garden

Make a detailed scale drawing of your backyard (eg 1:100) showing the location of the house and major features, then incorporate the desired elements from our makeover. As your garden will be a different size, you will need to estimate the required amounts of materials.

Note: On your plan show the locations of any services (water pipes, sewerage, power, phone, etc) so you can avoid damaging them during the makeover.

Garden elements



Climber framework: 11 posts (H4 90 x 90mm) were installed by Scott vertically in-ground in rapid setting concrete immediately in front of the fence. A top rail (90x45mm) connected to the top face of the posts acts as a brace to prevent the posts from sagging when under tension. A row of wires was attached between the posts with saddles and tensioned with galvanized gripples and a gripple tool. **Blitz Tipz:** In small spaces, use vertical structures to provide another growing area.



Entertainment/carpark area: Nigel and Jamie lifted the existing paving manually to make way for the funky new design that will double as a carpark and an entertainment area. A compacted layer of road base (100mm thick) provides a solid foundation for the new paving. Coarse washed river sand was spread to a depth of 50mm and screeded to make it level for the bricks. New bricks (Austral bricks - 110mm x 230mm) were laid as a header course. Inside the header course 2 panels of brickwork sitting adjacent to each other were laid made up of a series of squares that gradually became smaller. In the middle of each square panel, two pieces of granite were set as a decorative center-piece. A rapid-setting concrete haunch was set around the edge of the job to lock the whole area in place and prevent bedding sand from washing out. **Blitz Tipz:** A common house brick measures 230x110x76mm in size. A common paver measures 230x115x40mm in size. The different ratio between the two means that some patterns do not work as well with bricks as they do with pavers. Speak to your paver or brick supplier before you place an order.



Water feature: Jamie utilized an existing chain drain as the source of inspiration for his water feature. This water feature uses no electricity, pipes or pumps. He set a white glazed water pot next to the patio just under the guttering. When it rains, water comes off the roof, straight down the chain which acts as a down-pipe, into the bowl and overflows into the stormwater system. To complete the picture, Jody placed a potted water lily in the pot. Sandstone pavers (1000mm x 500mm x 50mm) were placed around the pot as stepping stones and recycled Decor pebbles in between the pavers highlight the white pot. **Blitz Tipz:** These decorative pebbles cost approximately \$40 for a 20 kilo bag.

Lawn: In a small area, every design element has to count, so Scott decided that the lawn area needed to be different. He gave it a checker-board effect by using two different types of lawn to give it contrasting textures and colours. Scott separated the two types of turf with strips of treated pine edging to create squares. He applied a layer of turf underlay to a depth of 100mm and laid the blue-green turf grass called Empire Zoysia and a soft leaf buffalo called 'Palmetto'. **Blitz Tipz:** 100mm x 20mm H4 treated pine edging costs about \$3.50 per metre.

Garden plants: Before planting, Jody loosened the soil in the proposed garden beds and incorporated an organic garden mix. Sugar cane mulch was then laid on top to a depth of 75mm. Jody painted the fence a light green to show off the yellow flowers of the banksia roses that she had planted along Scott's wired posts. Lavenders and blue-eyed grass around the water pot complement the yellow roses and give colour at a lower level. Louisiana iris provides accent with upright foliage as do the junipers by the fence. The Korean box gives the whole informal romanticism a hard-edged framework that brings the whole design together.

Potted plants: Jody added good quality potting mix to two cream coloured festival pots (53cm diameter) and planted two standardized calamondin citrus in them and arranged them on the newly-paved patio within easy reach of the kitchen. **Blitz Tipz:** Planting out pots in one location keeps the mess in one area. Roll pots into place on a trolley, skateboard, or on their bottom edge.



Plants

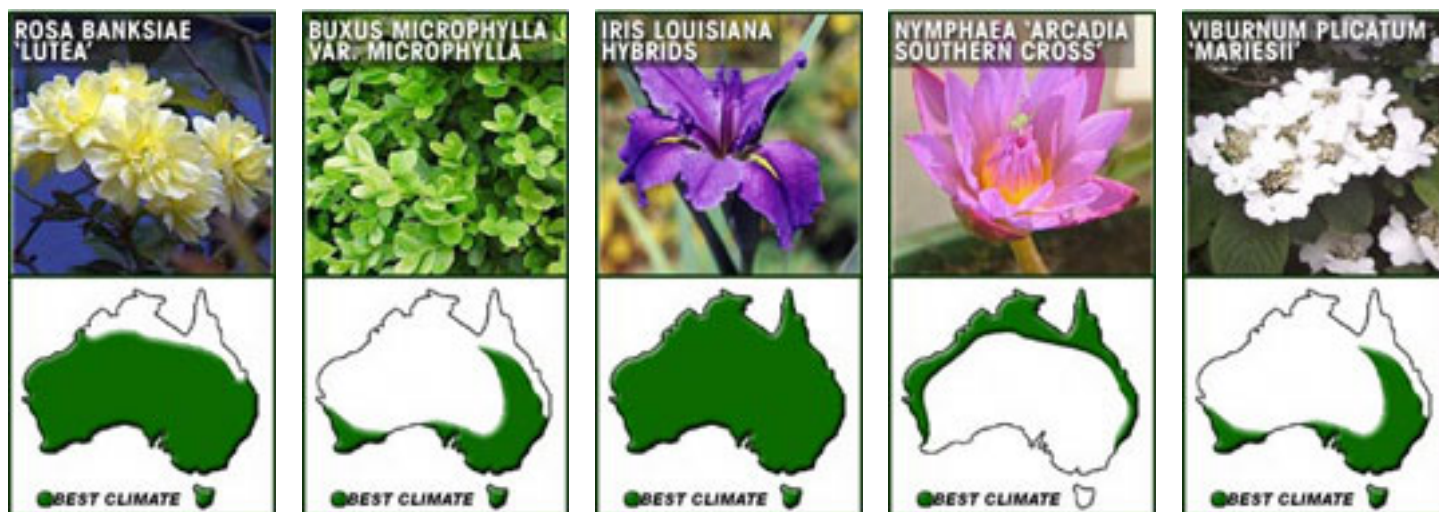
A romantic, semi-formal feel will give Judy colour and interest all year round in this small inner-city courtyard

Trees: Skyrocket juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Skyrocket'), calamondin (*x Citrofortunella microcarpa*)

Shrubs: viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii'), Korean box (*Buxus microphylla* var. *microphylla*), Italian lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*)

Perennials: sweet violet (*Viola odorata*), Louisiana iris (*Iris Louisiana* hybrids), seaside daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium* 'Devon Skies'), waterlily (*Nymphaea* 'Arcadia Southern Cross')

Climber: banksia rose (*Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea')



Cost and availability

We used mature plants in our makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$7,460. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$6,135.

Product details

- The treated pine posts (90mm x 90mm x 2.7m H4) cost \$13.50 per metre or \$35 each. Treated pine posts are available in rough sawn or rougher header which describes a smoother quality of finish.
- White glazed water pot cost about \$165 and is available from Decorator Terracotta in Sydney. Phone (02) 9450 1944 for more details.
- Both turf varieties cost \$7 per square metre roll and are available from A-bulk Pty. Ltd. Phone (02) 4577 5912.
- Bricks for edging and paving are available from Austral Bricks. Contact your nearest Austral distributor in your state.

- Most of the plants we used are readily available at, or can be ordered from nurseries. Nurseries can also advise on similar varieties suited to your area. You may need to contact specialist nurseries for some plants. Your local nursery should be able to provide you with contacts.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores or building or landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the gripple tool.



Getaway details

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Acknowledgments

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Construction by the Backyard Blitz team (all gardens are a gift from Backyard Blitz).

For more Step by Step Constructions click here

