

BACKYARD BLITZ

Fairy Wonderland Special



In this Blitz Fairy Wonderland Special, the team re-visit their childhoods and stretch the bounds of their imagination in an attempt to create the ultimate fairy fantasy garden for one very special little girl. Morgyn Glyndwr is two and a half years old. Her favourite colour is pink, she loves to play with her little sisters, and is fascinated by fairies. Morgyn is like many other little 2 year olds, except that she is fighting for her life. Currently undergoing treatment for cancer, the year ahead is full of pain and illness and uncertainty. Who could be more in need of a fairy wonderland than this little girl?

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 amounts of materials you will require.

Blitz tipz: use graph paper (already scaled) and pencil.

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.

Permits and approval: check with your local council regarding regulations about earthworks and drainage. If you are changing existing levels or installing drainage ensure no water run-off is directed toward neighbouring properties. Any water entering the storm water system must be free from debris and sediment.

Getting started

Start your garden by clearing out all unwanted plants and materials.

Design your garden to scale using graph paper and a pencil.

Fairy tipz: Use pencil instead of a pen because you can rub out any mistakes and use survey paint to mark out your design in the garden.

Blitz tipz: Use a professional arborist to remove any unwanted or diseased trees – get local council permission first.

Fairy tipz: Check that no fairies are living in the hollows of the trunks.

Design intent

The idea was to transform a dusty and barren yard into a whimsical and child friendly fairy glen that the resident fairies would never want to leave. Particular note was taken to include Morgan's favourite colour – pink.

Design: Myles of Garden Design Studio, Melbourne achieved this by creating separate areas interconnected with winding paths. Garden beds were mass planted with over-sized and woodland plants which were used to create a sense of mystery and to encourage the visitor to explore further.

Throughout the garden, references to fairies were placed: butterflies, ladybirds, toadstools, mushrooms and fairy statues.

Paving: Pavers were laid on a bed of 100mm compacted roadbase with a 50mm sand screed over.

Blitz tipz: Check your levels and make sure the water runs away from the house.

Tea house: The floor for the teahouse was constructed with a treated pine frame and hardwood decking boards. The frame for roof and walls was constructed from pink primed timber. Use 65x45mm timbers. The walls and roof were clad with 12mm plywood, nailed into place. Our teahouse roof was covered with thatch, you could just paint or maybe shingle yours. See 'Product details' below for the paint colours we used.

Blitz tipz: Suggest you build the teahouse where you want it. You probably don't have a strong cameraman to help you carry yours.

Construction plan: [click here](#)



Fairy tipz: Don't make your teahouse too big or the fairies will get lost. Give the roof a steep pitch so the fairies can use it for a slippery dip.

Fairy tipz: Only fairy bread and fairy cakes should be served in fairy tea houses.

Jamie's fairy bread recipe

Lightly butter some fresh white bread slices and with a star shaped scone cutter, press out shapes.

Lay out shapes on a plate or platter and sprinkle with hundreds and thousands.

They are now ready to eat.

This recipe is so easy, even Scotty could do it.

Slatted screen: A slatted hardwood screen on treated pine posts was constructed between the house and perimeter fence to restrict the dog's access to the fairy garden. A hinged gate was included to retain access between the areas.

Fairy tipz: Fairies may be scared by boisterous dogs

Garden edging: The garden beds were separated from the gravel paths with recycled plastic edging fixed to timber survey pegs.

Blitz tipz: Plastic edging is best pre-drilled for fixing to pegs as this will prevent splitting.

Fairy tipz: Fairies may not come to your garden if everybody is too noisy.

Fairy log: We sourced our log from a country property – you may be able to construct your own from cardboard tubing or similar. Windows and door cut outs should not be too large and in scale to the size of the fairies. The door and window openings were cut with a chainsaw.

Alternatively a jigsaw or a key hole saw could be used.

The windows were framed with 10mm quad and glued and tacked into place. Thin perspex was cut to size and held in place with a second set of quad.

Decorate the interior of the log by spraying the walls and floor with aerosol glitter.

Furnish with scaled doll's furniture.

Low voltage lights were used to illuminate the inside of the log.

Shelves were built of thin plywood so fairies could play and sleep at different levels.

For the roof, a triangular plywood pyramid was made and covered with thatch. The peak was crowned with the cap of a glazed mushroom.

Fairy tipz: You may need some giants to carry the fairy log and put it

into place.

Fairy tipz: Do not use glass for the windows, as fairies can cut themselves.



Sand pit and swing: The sandpit was a 800mm plastic dish with drainage holes. Our swing frame was specially constructed from 60mm galvanised pipe and an Aust. standards rubber swing was fixed. Artificial flower garlands were entwined around the support post to blend it into the garden setting.

Blitz tipz: This kind of swing should only be used by toddlers under the age of five years old or fairies.

Fairy tipz: Sand pits should always have drainage holes so they don't fill up with water. Fairies can't swim.

Paths: Compacted roadbase was used as an underlay, then a decorative gravel called 'Hillview' toppings was laid over. This was then seeded with a small decorative pebble and lightly compacted.

Blitz tipz: When mulching mass planted garden beds, cover the small plants with their pots so they don't get smothered.

Fairy tipz: When removing the pots after mulching, check there are no fairies inside before throwing away.



Moss fairy garden: A special garden was built outside Morgyn's bedroom window so she could see the fairies dancing for her day and night, without her having to leave her bed. The ground was mounded with an organic mix and laid with a carpet of special moss.

Fairy tipz: Never let your moss completely dry out – a regular misting will keep it moist.

Lighting: Decorative low voltage lighting was strung throughout the garden. Low voltage LED lights were inset into the pergola rafters.

Fairy tipz: Use low voltage lights, as too bright a light will shock fairies, and remember, no fairy garden would be complete without fairy lights

Plants

Trees and shrubs: Native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*), dwarf native frangipani (*Hymenosporum 'Gold Nugget'*), escallonia (*Escallonia 'Iveyi'*), puka pukani (*Meryta sinclairii*), native hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*), dwarf spotted gum (*Eucalyptus 'Little Spotty'*)

Grasses: lomandra (*Lomandra 'Tanika'*), mini mondo (*Ophiopogon 'Nana'*)

Perennials: blue statice (*Limonium perezii*), jonquil (*Narcissus tezetta*), canna lily (*Canna x generalis* Hybrids), brachyscome (*Brachyscome 'Mauve Delight'*), cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*), nemesia (Nemesia Confetti Series) salvia (*Salvia 'Indigo Spires'*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)

Climbers: chinese star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), Clematis (*Clematis* hybrid/cv)

Fern: soft tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*)



Product details

- 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.
- The teahouse was painted with a base white tinted with Dulux 'Rosey', 3:1 (3 parts white: 1 part 'Rosey'). The trim was a tint using one part white with one part Dulux 'Horizon Blue' (1:1).
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores or building or landscape suppliers.
- All tools used are commonly available for hire, including the mini loader and the nail gun.
- Timber supplied by Midcoast Timber Centre. Web: www.midcoasttimber.com.au
- Finding your own stump could prove difficult, try pet suppliers as bird enthusiasts use large logs for breeding.
- 'Coco' 500x500mm pavers supplied by Eco Concepts (NSW & Vic). Phone: Vic (03) 9427 5911, NSW (02) 9698 7355. Cost \$60 m2.
- Swing supplied by Moodie Outdoor Products Pty Ltd. (NSW). Phone: 1300 666 343. Cost approximately \$180.
- Recycled plastic edging 2400mm supplied by Moodie Outdoor Products Pty Ltd. Phone: 1300 666 343. Cost approximately \$16.50 per length.
- White cone flower, butterfly and ladybird low voltage garden lights including transformer supplied by Living Ideas Imports Pty Ltd. (NSW). Cost approximately \$65-\$80 per set. Phone: (02) 9555 5290. Website: www.livingideas.com.au
- Ringgrip low voltage deck and eave lights supplied by Bunnings Hardware - all states. Cost: approximately \$73 set of four.
- Large red and white fibreglass mushrooms supplied by Animation and Display (Melbourne). Phone: (03) 9720 5676. Cost approximately \$350 each.
- Glazed terracotta mushrooms supplied by Quasimodo's Garden (Vic). Phone: (03) 5978 8777. Cost: approximately \$17 each.
- Glitter butterflies and flower garlands supplied by Oswald Sealy (NSW and Vic). Web: www.oswaldsealy.com.au
- Moss supplied by Flowers on Board – Melbourne Flower Markets. Cost: approximately \$16 a box. Phone: (03) 9537 1699 or check with your local florist and they should be able to order it for you.
- Fairy furniture was supplied by Hocus Pocus Fairy Shop – Bondi Junction. Phone: (02) 9389 9651.
- Bed canopies supplied by David Jones in all states. Cost approximately \$199.
- Tea party set supplied by Toys-r-Us – all states. Cost \$24.95 ea.
- Fairies and accessories were supplied by the following retailers: Uncle Pete's Toys, Castle Hill. Phone: (02) 9680 3493.
- Pamela's Craft & Fantasyland, Dural. Phone: (02) 9651 5955. Lincraft; phone (02) 9899 9736.
- A good source of fairies and accessories is your local \$2 shop and Variety stores.
- Bronze fibreglass fairies supplied by E – Fairies USA. Web: www.efairies.com

Awen of the Apple Trees (17")
Ellen of the Elder Trees (15")
Catkin of the Willow Tree (5.4")
Maye of the Hawthorn Trees (5.4")
Blossom of the Apple Trees (4.75")
Bello-Ello (Limited Edition) (6")
Ink pen (Limited Edition) (5")
These fairies cost between \$A60 - \$A200
Shipping US to Sydney (7days) cost \$140

Fairy Shops - [Click here for list](#)

Holiday details

The Cumberland Resort
150 Mountjoy Parade
Lorne Vic
Phone: (03) 5289 2400
Web: www.cumberland.com.au

12 Apostles Helicopters
9400 Great Ocean Road
Port Campbell Vic
Phone: (03) 5598 6161
Web: www.12apostleshelicopters.com.au

Pier Restaurant
Pier Head
Lorne Vic
Phone: (03) 5289 1119

Acknowledgements

Garden Design Studio Melbourne
Phone: (03) 9421 5067
Email: info@gardendesignstudio.com.au

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

For more Step by Step Constructions click here

