

BACKYARD BLITZ

Country Charm



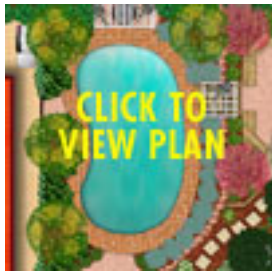
Blitz creates a contemporary country-style garden in memory of a wonderful Mum.

The light has gone out of the Joss family's home.

Some months ago Cheryl Joss, wife, mother to five children and cornerstone of the family, lost her life to leukaemia. Dad Fletcher and Auntie Lyndall keep the household ticking over, but nothing can ease the grief this family is suffering. While the family goes on a holiday Blitz builds this family a contemporary country garden, honouring Cheryl's vision for her backyard.

Design

Our design provides an intimate and private retreat within the garden, a circular garden and beautiful cool climate plants to enjoy. The existing pool divided the back garden and our design aimed to integrate the areas. The design includes provision for the kid's activities, a bike rack and a special place for everything.



Adapting these plans 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.

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.

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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.

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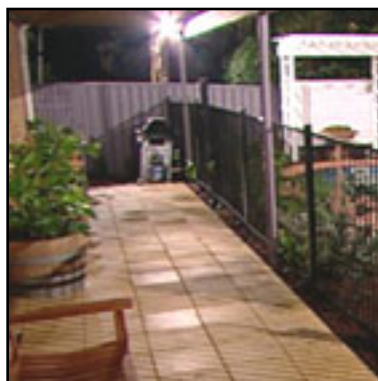
Getting started

We cleared out the site.

Garden elements

Paving: Our Blitz team were faced with a tired old concrete slab and decided to improve it with paving. After checking that the pavers will fit under the doors and will be below the damp course, Nigel paved over the slab and extended the area by bringing in roadbase and compacting to the same level as the slab.

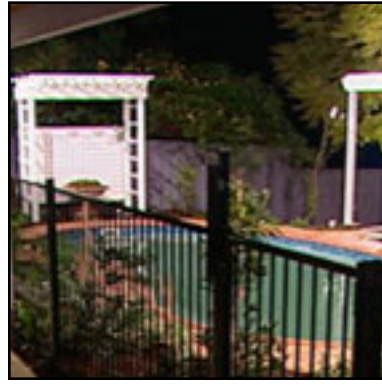
Nigel then laid 30-50mm depth of good quality paving sand. This is screeded to allow for water shedding. Nigel laid the pavers and mortared in the edges to stop the pavers from moving. This is called sparging or haunching. Ideally a good quality gap sand should be broomed between the pavers to lock them in.



Arbour: Scottie put in an arbour to improve the look of a 'dead' corner in the garden.

We placed H4 treated pine posts in ground (if we had used hardwood posts it would require stirrups). Scottie set out the arbour and augered holes 600mm deep x 400mm wide and concreted our posts in ground using a level to check they were upright. Scottie placed permitter beams bolted to the posts making sure they were horizontal and rafters were then nailed across the top of the beams and battens nailed to the top of the rafters to lessen warping and twisting.

Battens were used between the two end posts to decorate and add a practical climbing frame for the wisteria. These were simply cut to size and nailed into position.



Retreat garden: After clearing the site, Jamie carefully set out the garden beds and seating. The garden retaining walls/seating were built of treated ACQ sleepers. Just like laying bricks, it is important that the first course of sleepers are level making subsequent courses easier to lay. We adopted the brick pattern, overlaying the sleepers making sure that every sleeper was spiked using 150mm galvanised spikes.

Stepping stones: These were laid on a mortar bed so that the paver remains fixed in a level stable position.



Tiles: A blueboard was attached to the arbour and braced with 90x45mm timber. Good quality flexible exterior adhesive was used to attach the tiles. It is always good practice to temporary attach a horizontal piece of timber to lay your first row of tiles on. This stops sliding and establishes a level and the timber can be removed later.

Garden

Jody suggested pruning the french lavender hedge by half to help thicken it up and to stop it becoming too woody.

Jody gave her five favourite hedging plants:

Naylor's Blue cypress (*XCupressocyparis leylandii* 'Naylor's Blue'), pittosporum (*Pittosporum* 'Silver Sheen'), lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii* var. minor), sweet viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum*), photinia (*Photinia* 'Red Robin')

To get soil and mulch into this extremely difficult garden, we used a soil and mulch blower truck from Western Sydney Blowers.

Trees: Claret ash (*Fraxinus* 'Raywood'), gordonia (*Gordonia axillaris*), ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), Bechtel's crabapple (*Malus ioensis* 'Plena')

Shrubs: Osmanthus (*Osmanthus fragrans*), Viburnum (*Viburnum tinus*), lilly pilly (*Acmena* 'Allyn Magic'), cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*), box (*Buxus microphylla* var. microphylla), wild iris (*Diets grandiflora*), fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*), french lavender (*Lavandula dentata*), creeping boobialla (*Myoporum parvifolium*), star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), agapanthus (*Agapanthus* 'Baby Blue'), may bush (*Spiraea cantoniensis* 'Lanceata')



Cost and availability

We used mature plants in this makeover to create an instant effect for television. As a result, our total cost for plants and materials was \$24,272. The use of smaller plants would have reduced the cost to \$21,900.

Our thanks to Beefeater and Western Sydney Blowers for their kind donation to the Joss family.

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.
- Most other materials are available from large hardware stores or building or landscape suppliers.
- Half wine barrels from Barrel Kings Australia; phone 0416 176 652 or visit www.barrelkings.com.au
- Bike rack from Mac Rac, phone (02) 9450 2577 or visit www.macrac.com.au
- Beefeater 4B S3000s Stainless steel barbecue (LP version) with roasting hood and gas cylinder supplied by Woodland Home Products, 3-5 Birmingham Avenue, Chester Hill, NSW. Phone: (02) 9724 3322 or visit www.woodlandhp.com
- Soil and mulch blower from Western Sydney Blowers, phone (02) 9606 8900 or visit www.wsb.net.au

Holiday details

Accommodation:

Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort
158 Ferny Avenue, Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217
Phone: (07) 5592 9800

Sea World
Sea World Drive
Main Beach, Gold Coast, Queensland 4217
Information Line: (07) 5588 2205
Web: www.seaworld.com.au

Movie World
Pacific Motorway, Oxenford
Gold Coast, Queensland 4210
Information Line: (07) 5573 8485
Web: www.movieworld.com.au

Outback Spectacular
(next to Warner Bros. Movie World)

Oxenford, 4210 Gold Coast, Queensland
Phone: (07) 5573 8315
Web: www.outbackspectacular.com.au

Mirage Charters
Mariners Cove(Marina Mirage)
C Jetty, Seaworld Drive
Southport Qld 4217
Phone: (07) 5591 2553
Web: www.mirageboathire.com.au

Benihana Japanese Restaurant
Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort
158 Ferny Avenue, Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217
Phone: (07) 5592 9770
Web: www.benihana.com

Acknowledgements

Our design by:
Osmosis Design
Phone: (02) 9344 4154
Web: www.osmosisgardens.com

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

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